

# **“Walls of Our Heart”**

by

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**“The Walls of Our Heart”**

## Foreword

For several years, I have been leading a weekly Bible study known as, "Help for Hurting Women." The basic foundation of the study is a series of lessons entitled, "The Walls of Our Heart." Although the teaching is already available on audio and video tapes, we have had numerous requests for written material--even exact transcriptions--for the hearing impaired as well as women who prefer to read and study the material at their own pace. To my joy and amazement, God has provided the talent to do just that.

And so, what follows is a transcription of the teaching as presented to the "Help for Hurting Women" group. Very few changes or additions have been made, only to add clarification where we felt it was needed. Sometimes there will be questions or comments from the group--many of those are included. Some are not, because they are of a personal and confidential nature.

No attempt has been made to make this "like a book." That will be obvious! What has been transcribed is exactly as the Holy Spirit led us to open up our hearts to the miraculous teaching work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To God be the glory for the things He has done and continues to do!

Some of the material included has been taken from a book entitled, "Walls of My Heart" by Dr. Bruce Thompson. Most of it is from the Holy Spirit as He has been our teacher and our comforter.

My prayer is that you will believe and receive what Jesus Christ has done to set you free, heal your hurting heart and make you whole in every way.

Ask Him, now, to open your heart as you begin to read.

In His Amazing Love,



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# "The Walls of Our Heart"

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## "The Walls of Our Heart"

### Introduction

The wonderful news is, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!" Galatians 5:1 In other words, it's to have the freedom--it's to be in that freedom that He sets us free, because being set free is just the beginning--it's just the start.

We are going to talk about the "Walls of Our Heart." This is really the introduction for the "Walls of Our Heart" teaching. What happens every single time that I teach it, is that the Lord has different things to say to my heart. It may be that we will have many different versions of "Walls of Our Heart," at some point in time.

The reason that I'm talking about bondages and being set free is to explain what happens when the walls start to come down. The walls have been strongholds, they have been bondages in your life and they have held you in bondage. You will see that they are holding in bondage some people who you barely know and others you know very well. You start recognizing that bondage and those strongholds, but, when the walls start coming down, that is just the beginning.

There can't be a beginning until the walls do come down. Walls keep you from hearing God. The walls keep you from the place where God can minister life that will change you and get the process going. I have seen a lot of women do this, and it frustrates me so much. I know that they are going to go out and walk around the same mountain. They will come here and something wonderful will happen. They will be set free, the cloud will lift (a wall will fall). Something will happen, and then they're gone and that's it.

Comparatively speaking, how they feel **NOW** compared to how they **DID FEEL** is so wonderful, so free, and so much better, that it's as though they are saying, "That's it, I'm fixed, I'm whole and it's done." I taught a message about a year ago called, "**Breakthrough is Not Victory**." Breakthrough is just that . . . as the walls start to come down, that is breakthrough. That is just the beginning of the process of coming to a place of victory. If you sense your walls coming down, if you sense God really doing something in you--that's NOT the end . . . that is the beginning.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of

comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." That's what we were just talking about--comfort.

The Word may be a rebuke to you, or it may be a discipline to you. When you hear the truth and you have been living in sin, it doesn't necessarily sound like good news to you when you first hear it. The good news of the Gospel is that if you will come to know the truth, that truth will set you free. In that, there is comfort . . . the only comfort that is really comfort. You have to know the truth of where you are--and in that you find comfort.

So, "Why Are We Here?" Well, obviously, we're here--either because we're hurting, or we've been hurting--or we know someone who is hurting, or we have a heart for hurting women. I can ask women to come here, and I know that when they walk into this room, they will feel the love of Jesus Christ. I know that. I feel it when I walk in.

I have never, ever (not one time) had a woman come afterwards to tell me that she did not feel welcomed or did not feel loved (or that she did not feel compassion). It is because we are, have been or have a heart for hurting women. With the Holy Spirit working to bind us together, we find comfort and power in that.

The comfort is that you are not alone. The world says, "misery loves company," and it does. When you start getting free, and you have worldly friends, they don't want you to be free. I'm sorry--they may say that they love you--but they don't want you free. Not really. The other side of that is, in the Word and in the bond of the unity of the Spirit, God does not want us to be alone. That's why we're together. If I have been comforted, somehow, in my life (and I have been comforted in so many ways in the past years . . . even in the past few days; God has comforted me--not only through His Spirit, but through other people who have comforted me) then He wants that comfort to overflow.

What I am asking you to do is take an honest look at yourself. When we start to go over "The Walls of Our Hearts," you are going to see other people. You cannot help but see other people. The important thing is to see yourself, see your heart, and be open and honest enough to admit it. This is not easy. What we do in our lives is to put an encasement around ourselves. You can call it whatever you want. You can call it a wall, a shell, whatever you want, but we put something over us. The more hurting that we are, usually the more that we do it. Otherwise, we cannot function.

So, in order to go out and make some semblance of functioning in this society, we just put this wall up--just put this shell up. It's as though you are saying, "I can go out, I can 'stuff' this hurt, I can 'stuff it' down in and I can put up a wall and I won't be hurt, and I won't be vulnerable--and I can go on and I can live my life." What happened to me a few years ago, was that I realized that I was doing this. Everybody thought that I was just the most joyous, happy and blessed woman, that my whole life was just dandy, and everything was wonderful, because that's how I came into church and "acted" (acted being the operative word). I came into church and acted that way (while I was at church) and then went home and dropped the "act." I knew that, if I was doing it, and if I was capable of doing it, that there were women all around me who were doing the same thing. With some, it's very transparent, but, with others, they're just being very good actresses (with Academy Award level performances).

I've heard people say that the working of the Holy Spirit in us is like peeling the layers off of an onion. You all know about onions, right? You have all peeled onions and you can take the analogy pretty far. It's a rare person who can peel an onion and not cry. You start taking off those layers--and the tears start flowing. The other thing is that it is in layers. I don't know what we'd do, if the Holy Spirit just cut to the quick, and laid everything that's in our hearts bare all at one time.

We would give up, I think, because what we would see inside us would look so overwhelming and so "mega-messed-up" that we would think, "There can't be any hope for me." That's not how the Holy Spirit works with us. He takes us one step at a time, one layer at a time and begins to peel it off.

You will start to let the walls comes down . . . will start to let the peeling come off (however you want to look at it) and you'll be going along pretty well, and then, all of a sudden, something new shows up. You wonder, "Where did this come from?" Things start to come to the surface, they are exposed to the Light of the Holy Spirit. So, what I always ask of you is NOT to stuff it. If something is coming out of you, if it's READY to come out of you, LET it come out of you. While we study, there will probably be a lot of tears. If any of you breaks down and starts crying, then I'm going to say, "Cry on." There is a time when the tears are tears of cleansing. Many of you may have cried barrels of tears, and all they were, were manifestations of the spirit of grief and sorrow. It gives you a temporary release. You feel a little bit better. You have released something. Then, you're ready to go and do the same thing all over



again. That doesn't accomplish anything. But, there are also God-given tears.

The Word says about them, "Weeping will endure for the night, but JOY comes in the morning." That is weeping --THAT is weeping from the Holy Spirit. That is weeping, wherein, there is a cleansing. If you are in here, if you're at home, if you're with God, if you're walking the streets, whatever, and it starts to flow . . . let it flow. Cry on. That is not going to be the time when I walk up to you and put my arms around you and say, "Oh, it's 'OK,' honey, don't cry." I'm going to say, "Cry on." I can remember a couple of times when there was literal wailing . . . WAILING. Then, what so often happens afterwards, is that you're embarrassed, and you say, "I'm sorry." Don't be embarrassed and don't be sorry. There's deliverance in this.

The Greek word for the wall, the partition that I'm talking about is "phragmos." From it, we get our word partition, which means a "fencing in." That's what the enemy does to you--he walls you in--he fences you in. It's a barrier--it's a dividing wall.

Ephesians 2:14 "For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." He takes the walls that divide us--walls that create hostile environments, walls in which we are doing one thing on the inside, and God is trying to do something else on the outside. The Holy Spirit is trying to do something else. That's what is happening. The Holy Spirit can penetrate those walls, but we have the opportunity to put those walls right back up again. There is a dividing wall of hostility . . . and Jesus broke down that wall. That's what He came to do--He is our peace. The opposite of hostility is peace.

The way I think about this is really not as an onion. God gave me a vision when I was praying about putting this teaching together. He showed me thatched huts. For those of you who ever watch National Geographic or Discovery, or you get National Geographic magazine, you have seen people out there in the elements building their houses. How are they building them? They're using clay and water and dirt, and they're putting all these different things in the mixture. They are building these walls . . . these huts with the thatched roofs on top. When they're first putting them together, they're very soft, very workable. You let those huts sit there for a while, you let some time pass, and the walls become just like concrete--as hard as concrete.

It's the same way with a wall in your heart. The longer you have carried it, the harder it is to penetrate through it. The time that it is easiest to tear it down, is when it's first starting to be built. That's why you have to keep short accounts with God. We can go through all of this in here, and we can get dividing walls of hostility torn down, and it's only going to be a short amount of time until you're going to have the opportunity to start building them back up again.

About the time that I first began teaching this, the most amazing thing that people had ever seen with their natural eyes took place: The Iron Curtain came down in a day. In one day! That was the coolest thing. We had the ability to see what God could do even with our natural eyes. It's just how the walls of Jericho fell. We had read about that, but we saw the Iron Curtain fall! The thing that "everybody" said couldn't happen--happened! It happened.

God is a God who tears down strongholds. Do you think that the people of Eastern Europe, behind the Iron Curtain, had been praying for just one day? Hardly, and ever since it had gone up (ever since the partition had gone up) some had been praying. So, let that give you courage. You may have been praying for something, for someone in your home . . . something in a marriage--something in yourself. How long does it take God, when the time is right . . . when the time IS the TIME? When the time is at hand . . . when the time is right, it takes an instant. Suddenly! Hallelujah! . . . there's good news in that!

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons that we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." We do not fight with the world's weapons. We fight with divine weapons, and, praise God, those weapons are able to demolish strongholds, they are able to come in and do a supernatural work.

Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom should I be afraid?"

I've got a stronghold. The LORD is the stronghold of my life. Of whom should I be afraid? You can't intimidate me (you might be

able to do so for a few minutes). I'll rise up. You might be able to knock me down, but you can't knock me out! [Laugh] AMEN.

Psalm 144:2 "He is my loving God, and my fortress. He is my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield in whom I take refuge. . . "

When we studied the "Pool of Bethesda," John 5:1-15 we read that Jesus said to the man, "Will you be made whole?" That's still the question. Will you be made whole? . . . Do you want to get well? . . . Do you want to change? . . . Do you want to let go of this stronghold? . . . Do you want the walls of your heart to come down?"

Trust me--if you are hurting and really hurting, there are walls. Trust me--I know about this. I know because I have been there. In order for these walls to come down, there has to be a willingness in your heart to be honest, open and to be vulnerable--and, then, He is going to start to tell you to do some things. You've got to be willing to do them. Salvation means wholeness, soundness, deliverance, completeness, nothing lacking . . . and He is our salvation . . . and today is the day of salvation in your lives.

#### ENDING PRAYER:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You and I praise You for the opportunity, Lord, to begin this again. Father, I thank You, that no matter how many times that I begin to go through this study, your Word always gets through to me. It is alive . . . it is fresh . . . it is full of power. You always remind me of how strong you are . . . that You are my fortress and You are my strong tower. I can run into You and find refuge. No stronghold of the enemy will ever be more powerful than my God, and the power of my God. So, Father, I thank You and I praise You that we're going to come into this with willingness and openness to let our hearts be open before You, to let You minister to us--into the inner depths of our inmost being and we're going to lay bare our souls to You, Lord, for You to come in and do some surgery. Father, I thank You and I praise You for every woman whom You have brought into this study. I ask You to take them out with the power and reality of this work going on deep within them. AMEN.*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Galatians 5:1

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Psalm 27:1

Psalm 144:2

John 5:1-15

Ephesians 2:14

# **PERSONAL NOTES**

## "The Walls of Our Heart"

### **Walls of Rejection - Part One**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort that we, ourselves, have received from God."

He IS the Father of compassion and the God of ALL comfort, and there are a lot of "alls" in that verse. I am just telling you this is true. It's absolutely true. He is the Father of compassion. He birthed compassion. Compassion is a verb. I have stated that over and over again. The reason I say that, is that you have to understand when God, Jesus, is ministering to you in compassion, that means that He does something. He's not just feeling something for you, He does something.

That's why, in the Gospels, when we talked about Jesus (and you see Jesus in the Gospels), it always says that He was moved with compassion, so He healed. He was moved with compassion, so he fed the crowds. He was MOVED with compassion. It never just says, He felt compassion. If you don't believe this, check it out. Go read the Gospels. Compassion does something. So, since He is the Father of compassion and wants to minister comfort to you, that means that He's ready, willing and able to do something in your life. He's not just having feelings towards you, He wants to DO something in your life.

In the previous lesson, we talked about strongholds and walls, and building up walls in our hearts and how this whole ministry was birthed. We finished with three scripture references: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Psalms 27:1, Psalms 144:2, and basically, they all say exactly the same thing, which is, "The Lord IS my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" So, yes, we can have walls, we can have strongholds--and they're to be God. He is my fortress . . . He is my wall, but we've got to get the old walls (the walls that have been dividing us from Him) torn down--so that He can come in and really be our fortress and be our stronghold.

John 5:1-15 This scripture speaks of the Pool of Bethesda, where a man laid for 38 years. He went every day to the pool. Jesus said the most interesting thing to him when he walked up to the man. He asked him, "Will you be made whole? Do you want to get well?" The strangest, most ridiculous question it seems, and, yet, it is so valid even today. When it is a physical ailment, of course, that's pretty obvious. But, Jesus never dealt with just the physical. He always dealt with the whole person: spirit, soul and body. Your soul is your mind, your will and your emotions. Obviously, although we pray for physical healing, what this is really about with us, right now, is our soul (our mind and our will--and especially our emotions--our hurting hearts.) Jesus will say the same thing to us that He said to the man at the Pool of Bethesda, "Do you really want to get well?" . . . Do YOU? Do you really want to be made whole?

If you answer, "Yes," then, Hallelujah! All I ever pray is, "Lord, bring women who are ready for You to do a work in their hearts." The name is self-explanatory. Just by walking through the door, you are saying, "I'm hurt," or "I have a heart for someone who is hurting." So, by walking through the door, God has already begun to do something through His Holy Spirit. He's begun to draw and woo you through His Spirit. So, praise God, the work has already begun. But then, as we start through this, you are going to start seeing some things. You're going to start seeing some things in your heart. You may not like what you start to see.

The question, "Will you be made whole?" becomes so much more valid--because I don't know how else to tell you this, but we become familiar with, and comfortable in, our hurt. By comfortable, I don't mean that we're just relaxed and happy there. A place that is comfortable--is a place that you know, a place with which you are familiar, like the old "homestead" (no matter if it was good or bad there). Have you been really, really hurting through your life, and really, really rejected, or have you had a lot of difficulties, and the only attention you ever got from anybody was when you were in a crisis situation, or when you were manifesting something having to do with that hurt? If that's the only attention you ever got from the people you loved, are you willing to let that go in order to get well, in order to get whole?

Let me give you an example. I ministered to a woman a couple of years ago who said, "You know, Connie, I was chronically ill, seriously ill, and I allowed it. I knew when it would start. I would let myself get completely debilitated on the couch--unable to

function. Because, when I did, my husband HAD to take care of me, and I felt that was the only attention I ever got from him. And it just became a chronic way of life. I was trying to be ill."

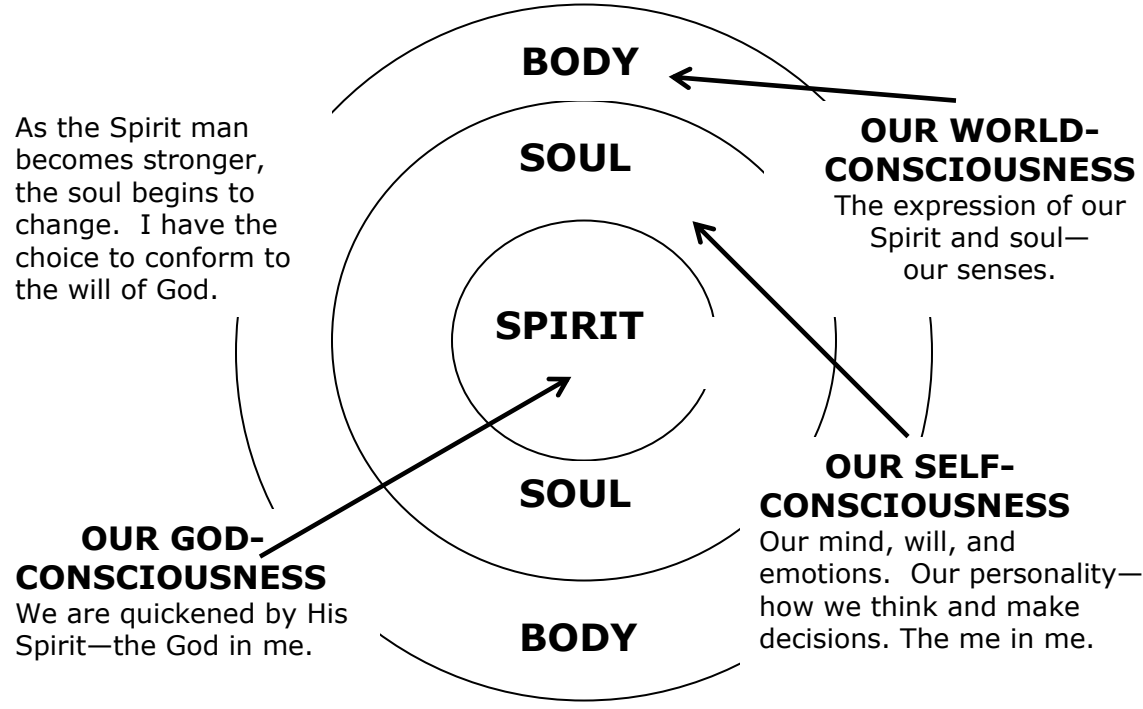
Do you want to be made whole? If the answer is "yes," then just as He said to the man at the well, Jesus is going to say, "OK, then we need to change some things. You need to roll up your mat and walk out of this place and change some things." That is probably what the Word is going to start saying to your heart.

**Do you want  
to be made whole?**



The following chart is compiled from The Spirit of Christ by Andrew Murray.

### SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY



The healing that the Lord does is from the inside out. We are spirit. (Using Chart) We have a soul, and we live in a body. My spirit is the God in Me (my God-consciousness). My soul is the Me in Me (my self-consciousness--my mind, my will and my emotions). All of my senses relate to the world in my body (my world-consciousness). The good news is: when Jesus Christ comes into your heart, your spirit is made alive. It was dead. You were dead in your trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:1-6 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have

been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." . . . You were dead in your transgressions and sins. When His life came in you were, technically, "born again." At that moment, your spirit was saved John 3:3, John 3:16. Your body, one day, will either be raptured or raised from the dead when Christ returns. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

We will get our glorified bodies . . . that is when your body shall be saved .

Right now, we're talking about our soul. Your soul is being saved. Salvation means wholeness, soundness, completeness, lacking nothing. I am being saved . . . my mind, my will and my emotions are being transformed through the power of God . . . are being transformed (taking off the old man, putting on the new man). The good news is: as the walls come down, and the Spirit of the Living God ministers to your soul, the healing comes from the inside out . . . all the way through . . . it shows up.

When God is working in your spirit and then you give Him the freedom to start working in your soul, it shows up on the outside. The way you look changes, the way you act changes, the way you speak changes. You don't use words you used to use. You don't act the way you used to act, and Praise God, you don't react the way you used to react. This is a process. We know Christians who stop right at the Spirit being made alive in Christ. That's why people ask me all the time, "Hey, why don't they act like a Christian?" If you stop at the Spirit, that is all that's going to happen. That's not what God has planned for us. He has something so much richer, so much fuller, so much more. You can be free from the bondage, free from the garbage, free from the walls--and healing can be yours from the inside out.

John 4:29 The woman at the well . . . "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." This was a hurting woman, this was a lost woman; this was a rejected woman (with generations of bigotry--and having suffered rejection by five husbands). This woman was a hurting mess. Jesus did not talk to her about what had been done to her. He talked to her--about her.

That's what He wants to do. He wants to talk to you about your heart--about what has happened in your heart. I cannot change the situation that hurt you, I cannot change the person that hurt you or even IS hurting you. But, I can certainly minister the power and love of Jesus Christ to you so that YOU can be changed in the midst of it. It no longer has to control or destroy your life. This is not about THEM, it's about YOU and about ME. This was the greatest lesson I learned when God first began to minister this in my heart. I wanted to change the people who were hurting me and have hurt me--and that was going to fix everything. It wasn't going to fix everything. I was still going to have the same hurt in my heart. Even if they suddenly became perfect, I was still going to have the ages of hurt in my heart. So, this was about ME. This is not easy. What God's going to ask you to do in here . . . what the Lord's going to ask you to do through His Holy Spirit is not easy. I jokingly say, "OK, here's the Kleenex box."

Sooner or later, as we start going through this and you begin to start seeing yourself, you are probably going to start crying and that's OK. I said last time, "Cry on." There are times when tears can be cleansing tears. Many times tears are just wasted tears. We just cry over and over and over again, and nothing happens. But, when the Lord begins to do a healing, there can be tears that really do bring joy in the morning. They can bring cleansing to let that hurt and pain just wash away. So, open yourselves up and say, "Lord, work in me." If you begin to cry in here, do not apologize. You probably will. We've all done it. The healing is done from the inside out. It has to do with "changing me--not them." It's not easy--but it's worth it. It's from "getting" to "giving."

Let me explain. This takes you from "getting" to "giving." You don't realize when you are in your hurt, how often you are focused on yourself (how self-focused you are, how needful and weak you are). That's why, when we are really hurting, when we are really in the depth of despair, we are almost incapacitated when it comes to the point of trying to reach out to other people to minister the love of God to them. We are doing everything we can to "tread water," to just barely "hang on" the edge of the cliff--where your nails are just barely hanging on. When you are in that situation, you are needful . . . you need to "get." You need to get . . . you need it real bad! So, this healing has to do with being transformed from that needful situation--that situation of getting . . . needing--to a place of being able to give of yourself.

That same scripture that we shared at the first part of the lesson, says that God is all comfort . . . Who comforts us in all the

troubles that we have--why? It is so that we can give that very same comfort that we've received from Him to other people who need it. In the process of going from getting to giving, you go through a process of **forgiving**. There may be a lot of you sitting in here tonight who, basically, are saying, "Are you kidding? I can't forgive him. I can't forgive her. You don't know what's been done to me. You don't know what's happened." All I'm asking you to do at this point, is just to open your heart up and let the Lord begin to start ministering.

### **BREAKTHROUGH ISN'T VICTORY**

I'm not telling you that you have to do anything except open up your heart to the Holy Spirit and let Him start working. It works. It takes awhile . . . it's a process . . . but it works. One other thing is that healing is not done overnight. You may feel a cloud lift, you may feel a burden lift, you may feel yourself delivered from a stronghold, you may feel a sense of freedom like you haven't known before--or peace that you've never known before. Trust me--breakthrough is not victory. Breakthrough is just that . . . it's breakthrough--it's the beginning--it's not the end. It's the start . . . not the finish. Something is going to happen, and some of you are going to feel so fantastic and so different from how you've been feeling, that you are going to say, "It's a done deal. I'm fixed, it's over." It isn't. I've been doing this for too many years. I've gone around the mountain with too many women. Breakthrough is just that--breakthrough. This is the time to press in to the Lord, and let Him get the walls down. Then you can let Him really begin a restoration process. God's a redeemer. He wants to take what's been fouled and He wants to re-purchase it. He wants to re-buy it. He wants to make it whole again. Amen?

I want to talk about how this hurt takes hold. I am just going to talk about it from a woman's standpoint, because that's the only standpoint I know. I have thought about how it is when we are little girls, and how it is when we are teenagers, and how it is when we are young women, and how it is when we are wives (for those who are wives--or have ever been wives). Christ's way for women is wonderful. God's way for women is wonderful because it is the place of covering and protection, security, and love. It's a neat place to be--it's a neat place to live. It's a neat place to have your life . . . God's Way.

## **LOVE - GOD'S WAY**

Jesus said that if you've seen Him, you've seen the Father. John 14:9 Also, in John 14, He says that He and His father are One. Now, just think, for those of you who know the Father (even a little bit)--think about Jesus in the Gospels and how He related to women, starting with His mother. With His mother, He cared for her all the way even while He was hanging on the cross--to make sure that someone was going to take care of her when He was gone. Think about how He went (over and over again) to Mary and Martha's home. Martha gets a bad rap for being a server. But, when their brother died, Jesus was right there ministering to Martha. It was Martha to whom He was ministering. When Lazarus was in the tomb, it was Martha who came out to meet Him, and He ministered to Martha.

You think how He treated the woman at the well (very gentle, very loving, very direct). How was He with the adulteress? John 8:7 "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

I called four of my wonderful theological reference people today . . . (when I have a theological question, and I do not have time to do a thorough study, I call them up and say, "Help me.") I thought and I thought about Jesus' life. I could not think of one place where He got mad or angry with a woman. I thought, "Wow!" . . . He says that if we have seen Him--we've seen the Father. Now, that really says something to me about the Father's heart. That grace that I was talking about, that love I was talking about, that unconditional love--that is how God loves.

Now, for the first time, I'm going to challenge you to look at your own heart. We are going to talk about the Father's love . . . God's way of love. I want you to also look at yourself.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

That's God's love. Where it says, "Love never fails," the Greek word is "pipto." What that means is "to fail or to lose its authority--or cease to have force."

So, what this scripture is saying is that this kind of love never ceases to have authority--never ceases to have force . . . it never fails. That's an amazing love. That's the Father's love and it is this love that has been "shed abroad" in our hearts. This is God's love. This is the love that we're supposed to be shown by our earthly fathers. Many of you never received this kind of love from your fathers. I didn't. That does a deep work in your heart to "mess up" your concept of God.

If your earthly father is the only father that you ever know about, that's the only concept of God that you're going to get. That's why a father's ministry is so important in a family. That's why children need their father--that's why they need their father present--in the home. That's why it's such a ridiculous concept for fathers to think that they can leave their families--divorce their wives and move away from their children--and it's not going to have any adverse effect on the children. Of course it is! Because the children are rejected from the moment the fathers leave, and lots of times, from before. They begin the rejection process even before they physically leave. They "leave"--before they leave.

And, yet, in Psalm 27:10 (one of my all-time favorite scriptures because of what it did in my heart) the Word says, "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." The King James translation says, "The Lord will take me up." Hallelujah! What a promise. If they BOTH fail me, if they fail me at the same time, if they fail me one at a time, if they have always failed me . . . though my father and mother forsake me--the Lord will take me up.

For those of you who have been rejected by your father, (you've never had your father's love or you never had him . . . or what you did have was bad and what you still have is bad), he didn't know anything about the love of God. That's rejection. Just accept it. He's rejected you. But, the Lord wants to take you up and He wants to teach you about the Father's love. Real love.

There's that wonderful scripture in Corinthians (and a couple of other places) where the Father is actually called Abba Father. We use the word "daddy." It just doesn't get it--the English is so weak in so many areas. Abba Father was a word that expressed such intimacy, such closeness of personal relationship, that it was so much deeper than just blood ties--a deep heart connection between father and child. That child calls the father, " Abba Father" (the father of my heart: the close, intimate, personal). That's what He is to us, our Abba Father. That's how it's supposed to be. That's

what a natural father's love is supposed to be to his little girl. I know that a lot of you as little girls never, ever got that kind of love from your father. You never got it. It created hurt then, and you've probably carried it all the rest of your life. It's time for some healing to be done.

One other example I want to give you is from Luke 15. There are three wonderful parables in Luke 15. There's a parable about lost sheep and there is a parable about a lost coin. There's a parable about a lost son. In every single case, there is only one thing on the person's mind--and that's to find the one that is lost. It doesn't matter how many they have--it's to find the one that is lost. That's the Father's heart. He wants to travel the highways and byways to find that lost sheep, he wants to find that lost coin, he wants to find that lost daughter or son. That's the Father's heart toward you.

Now, let's talk about how husbands are supposed to be. This is the way they are supposed to be and if they are not, it is creating pain in your heart:

Ephesians 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church." It never said love controls, love demands, love requires a servant, love requires a slave. It never said that, did it? No. It said, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

If a man is not loving his wife (if he is not loving you), then here's a tremendous insight from the Word: He does not love himself. He doesn't even like himself. I don't care how much he boasts. I don't care how proud and arrogant he may be acting on the outside. If he is not loving you, he does not love himself. But, I am talking tonight about you. What I want to say to you is what the Word says about this.

Isaiah 54:5 "For your maker is your husband." So, if your husband is forsaking you--or has forsaken you--the good news tonight from Isaiah 54 is, "Your maker is your husband." What a wonderful comfort for widows. I have had women tell me how real that verse has become to them over and over and over again. For your Maker is your husband. The Lord Almighty is His name. For

those of you who have rotten husbands right now, the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer. He is called the God of all the earth. What's a redeemer? What do you do when you redeem something? You buy it back. What's defiled, what's sick, what's destroyed, what's been sold to Satan, what's been hocked, pawned--He's a redeemer. In the meantime, He is your husband. He'll take up the slack. Glory to God!

The third thing about the love of God that I want to say to you is that (and this is so wonderful) He's our beloved. We are His beloved. Over and over again we are called His beloved. He loves us. Read the Song of Solomon sometime if you want to read a love story (a very sensual, sexual, passionate love story). That is the picture of Christ and His Bride . . . us. There's something about womanhood in the Song of Solomon that no man can ever get--they just can't get it. They can't relate to being the bride of Christ the way we can. That is the precious treasure--and until you come to understand that God really does love you, He really loves you with passion, personally and intimately, you can't get past the rejection and lack of love that all the rest of the world has thrown at you. He loves you--you are His beloved. This is God's way of love.

### **LOVE - THE WORLD'S WAY**

Now, the shame of it is, that the world's way of loving has everything convoluted. Everything is turned upside down. Little girls--from the time that they are born in families--are controlled (controlled by hurtful daddies, controlled by daddies who have left them, controlled by mean older brothers or uncles, or whoever). So often they are used, they are abused emotionally, physically and sexually. That's what they come to know of a father's love. So often it's those same women who looked for an escape out of that home situation and jumped right into a marriage where it was exactly the same way.

The world has the whole thing turned upside down. Even in high school, from day one, it's the boys that make all the decisions. They do all the "asking out." That was the way it was supposed to be to them--with the girl basically having no right to say, "Yes, this is the one," or, "No, this isn't the one." I had so many girlfriends who married the first one who asked them--for fear that nobody else ever would. It's just sick. It's control, it's painful control. God's got a better way. The world's way--always fails. Always. It may look attractive, it might look like shining light. It may look good in the beginning, but it always fails. God's way never fails. It never



fails. No matter how much love you do not, or did not receive, no matter what abuse you have received in your life, God still has a healing. The healing balm of Gilead is still available for you today. The healing is still there, and there can be a healing from this pain. You can let it go.

The walls of hurt in our hearts that we will be speaking about are broken down into two categories. Walls of Rejection--and Walls of Rebellion. We are going to go through some very specific identifying characteristics--and I want you to be honest if you see yourself. You will receive a healing work--if you will be honest and see yourself. The primary purpose is for you to make a self-evaluation. God wants to talk to you about YOU, but, no doubt, you are going to see other people. It is so you can pray for them . . . so that you can begin to accurately pray for them and give them some grace and also to help you understand what kind of hurt and bondage that they are in. It can help a wife to give grace when she realizes that her husband is not loving her, because he does not love himself. That starts a little bit of compassion flowing in her heart. Let compassion and understanding begin a work in you.

#### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that You are so faithful to talk to me about me. Every time I go through this teaching, You speak new things to me about my heart--about me. I thank You for that, Lord. Father, with all of my heart, I want to walk in the freedom--I want to walk in the love that You have made available to me. Lord, I want to feel this love, I want to know this love that passes all human understanding and I want to be able to minister this love. I want to be able to let this love flow through me. I know that there are other women who feel exactly the same way, and so I'm asking you, Lord, start a deep heart work in them. Let the seed of this Word go deep into their hearts and begin to bring forth a powerful harvest in Christ Jesus. Father, I thank You and I praise You for all that You are. You are our Abba Father. You are our father, our maker, our husband, the lover of our souls, You are everything to us, Lord. Help us to come to know what that really means. Lord, bless these women and give them comfort through the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

John 4:29

John 14:9

1 Corinthians 13:4

Psalm 27:10

Luke 15

Ephesians 5:25-29

Isaiah 54:5

Song of Solomon (suggested reading)

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

## **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

### **Walls of Rejection**

#### **Part Two**

When you have been hurt, (and it doesn't matter when in your life it happened, whether you were a little girl or if it happened as recently as today, then more than likely you are going to go right back home to it, and it is going to continue to happen in your life). Often, what we do with that hurt, (because we have flat-out not taken it to God . . . didn't know that we could take it to God, and if someone told us we could take it to God, nobody told us "how") is what the whole world does with that hurt and that's to "stuff it" and cope. You don't hear the "stuff it" part, you just hear "to cope," right? And the only way to learn to cope is by stuffing it. A lot of pressure is inside of you and all you have is something that is fairly, loosely capped and all it's really going to take is a periodic occurrence (something that reminds you of the pain) or something that reminds you of the anger, or something that reminds you of the incidents) and that cap is going to fly back off again, and everything is going to come spewing up again. You really don't know why it happens, you're sorry, and you try to stuff it all back in again, and that's not really God's way. Every time you try to stuff it back in again, all you are doing is building walls in your heart, thicker and thicker.

The whole point of walls being built in your heart is that you are trying to protect yourself, because no one wants to be hurt. Nobody wants to be rejected. Nobody wants to be abused. Nobody wants to be demeaned. We all go through it in certain times of our lives. If we don't know how to take it to the Lord, and just give it up and let it go and get a healing inside of us, then all we are going to do is start building up walls around ourselves to protect ourselves. It's a defense mechanism, just like a fortress.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 says that we have weapons that we can fight with that are not the world's kind of weapons. The world fights pain in your heart with alcohol, drugs (both legal and illegal), with psychology, psychiatry, with self-help groups (with a whole library selection of books on how to heal thyself or help thyself). Do not misunderstand me. I am not here to criticize prescription drugs, psychology, psychiatry or the things that doctors do to attempt to

help. All I'm saying is that without God, it will be futile. You will end up walking around the same mountain over and over again. I know that many of you have done it and not known why the world's way has not worked (really worked . . . helped for a while, maybe, but didn't bring a healing in your heart).

The weapons we fight with are not of the world. But the scripture says that the ones we fight with are divine (they come from God). They're supernatural. The greatest miracle I ever see God do--is heal a heart. And I see God do it. I've seen him change hearts spiritually, emotionally and physically when no doctor can explain why this heart is healed. This heart was so badly damaged that it could never be healed physically after a heart attack, but I've seen God do it, I've seen God heal it, when no doctor could explain.

The weapons that we fight with--the weapons that I'm going to talk about--are divine. They're supernatural. They're God's way. Hallelujah! The Word says that those weapons can tear down strongholds that we have in our lives, and they can.

The weapons are mighty, supernatural and divine to tear down those strongholds, and, Praise God, it does not take as long to tear them down as it took us to build them up! So, the walls that we have, the walls that we have built up (and I don't know how long you've had those walls -- perhaps from when you were a very, very little girl . . . it doesn't make a difference) those walls can come down! Hallelujah! God works very, very quickly when we will allow ourselves to be opened up to His work. God, then, will be our stronghold. We can have a stronghold. Oh, yes we can. And it can be God. And when you are held in God's stronghold, that's a safe place to be (that's a good place to be). That's why the Word says that He is a strong tower that you can run into--and be safe. That's what it says in the Psalms. So, there is a stronghold. For every good and perfect gift that God has given to us, Satan has a counterfeit (Satan has something to take the place of every good thing). So there can be new walls--good ones--that will hem you in and protect you from the enemy's devices. Let God tear down the counterfeits and build walls designed by Him!

I never put heavy-duty pressure on people to come into this class, because I believe that what needs to happen is that you need to be told that God has a way. The Holy Spirit really does the drawing. By the time a woman walks through the door, it usually means she's ready--or pretty close to being ready--to let God do something in her heart. The name of the class is self-explanatory.

Some women have been dragged in here--with both feet nailed to the floor (laugh) and God still works--it's amazing. In the Word, we see a man who had been going to the Pool of Bethesda for thirty--eight years--or at least we know that he had been a paralytic for 38 years. John 5. Jesus walked up to him and said the most interesting thing, "Do you want to get well?" This seems like a really dumb question to ask a man who has been coming to the pool every day for years to get healed. But there was a much deeper question in that. Jesus was going to heal him, but he also was going to tell him to do some things. He said, "Then, OK, I'll make you well. Pick up your mat and leave this place." He'd been hanging around this pool for many, many, many years--and that's where all of his friends were . . . that's the only lifestyle that he knew.

That's where all of his buddies hung out--all the old lifestyle was around the pool. But Jesus says, "Pick up your mat and walk." Then He goes and finds this man, and says to him, "You really are well . . . now, stop sinning . . . or something even worse may happen to you." And what He is saying is, "I have a pattern for you . . . I have a plan for your life . . . and it's wholeness." The King James version of the Bible says, "Do you want to be made whole?" That means everything: Spirit, soul and body. Everything. Then He says that He's going to tell you some things to change. There are going to be some lifestyle changes here. You're not going to be able to go back to that old pool . . . (or that pool hall--or bar--or any other place you have been hanging around) anymore.

There are going to be some changes in your life. And Jesus will come to say, "Hey, I really did heal you . . . I really did begin a work in your life . . . now, cooperate with me so that we continue this process." And, the healing is done--from the inside out. This is a heart thing . . . this is not a head thing--this is not a hard thing--this is a heart thing. And it is a process. Oh, if we could flip the switch and have it happen overnight! But, it doesn't happen that way. This is a healing process.

Now, a lot of you--when you get set free in here, think that He has "flipped a switch," because the dark cloud that has been hanging over your head has suddenly parted and for the first time in years you sense a little light, you feel some freedom, you feel like you can take a deep breath in the Holy Spirit. Some of you know exactly what I am talking about--but that's not it--that's not a done deal--that is just the beginning.

Remark from class member: "This is true . . . because I will go for a whole week and I'll feel so great . . . and then I'll start thinking about what a rat my husband was . . . you know . . . and I'll go a whole day . . . and oh . . . and then, I'll think . . . 'wait a minute . . . God is here to help you'--see it takes a long time to get used to that." . . .

And, I would say, that the older you are--and the more you have been used to a pattern of thinking--the longer you have carried this hurt around (you have really allowed your mind to be programmed to a certain way of thinking and reacting and coping or trying to--and feeling or not feeling or doing whatever to not feel the emotions or hurt). The healing process is there. And He will begin it . . . He will be faithful to bring you to a place where you will be stronger and stronger and stronger and the good times get longer and longer.

Remark from class member: "The first time that I ever sensed that . . . and I went along and I thought 'well, I don't have this or this anymore' and I wondered what was wrong . . . I mean I really did . . . I was so used to walking with garbage and I was beginning to see a bit of light and I thought something was wrong."

For those of you who hear me teach it, it's called the ministry of familiar spirits. The old junk . . . you're so used to the old junk because it's familiar . . . it's familiar junk hanging around in your heart. And when all of a sudden, it's not there--it's like, "Is this really me . . . what is really happening?"

Remark from class member: "It's like you wonder why you don't have anything to worry about."

It is not easy, but it is worth it. You may find yourself crying a lot but those will probably be cleansing, purging tears as God shows you your heart and your whole focus of things is able to change. It is going from "getting" (because when we are really in bondage, we don't realize how self-focused we really are). It takes us from that place of being so self-focused, so self-oriented. This is like trying to tread water . . . just barely trying to keep your head above water. . . taking all of your effort just to do that. You are able to get beyond that, to a place where, out of your heart, you begin to give to other women. There are lots of people who have been in this study for three years . . . not because they're still hurting. This is not a place to camp-out. This is not a place for hanging out for the rest of your life. This is a place for coming in and getting whole and going on to ministry areas that God has

given you. But to some women, this is the ministry that God has given them. They continue coming because they have a heart for hurting women. They love women. They are here to welcome and to care and to give comfort ...the same comfort that they have received, just like it says in 2 Corinthians.

We talked before about how this takes hold . . . about how fathers and beloveds in this world are in no way the way that God intended them to be. God's way is loving, so protective. You are so covered and protected as a woman when it's God's way. You can come to know what your femininity means, what it means to be the "Bride of Christ," why God made you female and why it is precious to Him, and why you are protected. It is a wonderful place to be and to live and to have your life--and the world has totally messed it up. The world's way is so convoluted, so controlling, so bad for women in the world that, in so many ways, they just rose up to take control--to protect themselves (to try to protect themselves). It's not working, but they're trying to just protect themselves from the hurt that has been inflicted on them by unloving fathers, brothers, or whoever. It is not being done God's way. God's way is loving.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." That's how love really acts. If you are not sensing that kind of love in your life yet, I have wonderful news for you . . . this is God's plan for you. This is a love that you can experience, that you can have and you can act-out in your life.

1 Corinthians 13:8 says, "Love never fails," and I want you to hold that simple scripture in your heart as we go through this teaching. Love never fails. And what the Greek meaning of that word is, is that it never fails, it never ceases to hold its authority, it never ceases to have that force that it needs to get the job done. That's pretty good. That's what the love of God will do. That's what makes the love of God so amazing. The world's love always fails. Always. But, God's love never does.

I never knew that love. I never knew that there was a love that wouldn't fail. Every love that I'd ever known failed. Even my mother's love failed (and I have got one of the most amazing mothers that ever walked the face of this earth). There were times when her love failed. She was so hurting and so devastated over



things that happened in her life, that she was not there for me. Her love failed--His love never fails. But, I didn't know that. I know it now . . . Glory to God . . . and you can know it, too.

The walls of your heart, basically, (and you're probably going to say, "How can she possibly say this?")--are broken down into two categories: Rejection and Rebellion. I just know that I know--that before we finish this study, you're going to begin to see yourselves in one of these two places. I am going to talk about identifying symptoms (real practical things in emotions and characteristics in the way your mind works and in the intellect). You are going to begin to see yourself, I believe, through the Lord opening up yourself to you. And that's what it's for . . . self evaluation. Now, you're probably going to see other people, too. You're probably going to see other people you know, other people you cannot stand. And the purpose of that is so you can pray for them. Not so that you can take this teaching and beat them over their heads and say, "See, I know exactly what's wrong with you." It is for you to have more understanding and have a little grace to pray for them. But, most of all, it's for you to begin to understand yourself.

I want to read a parable to you from Luke 15. I'm going to read to you from the Living Bible. We are going to see manifested here the spirit of rebellion and the spirit of rejection--and the Father's heart. So, this is going to give you a brief synopsis.

To further illustrate the point, Jesus told this story . . . when the younger son told their father, "I want my share of your estate, now . . . instead of waiting until you die." The father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later, this younger son packed his belongings and took a trip to a distant land and there wasted his money on parties and prostitutes. And about the time that his money was all gone, a great famine swept over the land and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs and the boy became so hungry that even the pods that he was feeding the swine looked good to him. And no one gave him anything. When he finally came to his senses (and this says to me--that he must have been out of his senses before) he said to himself, "At home, even the hired men have food enough and to spare, and here I am dying of hunger. I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against you and I am no longer fit for being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man.'" So he returned home to his father and while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming and was filled with loving pity and ran and kissed him. His son said, "Father, I

have sinned against Heaven and you and I'm not worthy of being called your son." But his father said, "Quick, bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him, and a jeweled ring for his finger and shoes, and kill the calf we have in the fattening pen, we must celebrate with a feast . . . for this son of mine was dead and has returned to life. He was lost and is found."

So the party began (Do you know that the Kingdom of God is a party? Hallelujah!)

Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard dance music coming from the house. And he asked one of the servants what was going on! "Your brother's back," he was told, "and your father's killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast to celebrate his coming home again unharmed." The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, "All these years, I have worked hard for you--and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to and in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast. Yet, when this son of yours comes back after spending your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have on the place." "Look dear son," his father said to him, "you and I are very close and everything that I have is yours. But it is right to celebrate--for he is your brother and he was dead and he has come back to life. He was lost and is found."

I want to briefly say to you, that if you will look at verse 12, you will see manifested the Walls of Rebellion. The younger son told his father, "I want my share of your estate, now, and I am going to do my own thing." And if you will look down at verse 28, you will see rejection. The son that stayed at home is saying, "Poor me . . . I stayed here all this time and did what you told me to do and you never killed a calf for me so that I could have a party with my friends." Because he feels hurt, he feels like his father has chosen the other one over him. Has he? No. And you see the father's heart. In verse 20, he is rejoicing because the lost one was dead and has now come back to life. So, when we get to rebellion, if you see yourself, just do what this guy did. Ask God to forgive you and run home to the Father. He is waiting there for you--to have a party, to celebrate your coming back home and your getting rid of that hard heart and your rebellion. And--in the same way, if you see rejection in you . . . if you know that you have carried those walls, then be willing to let them go and say, "Father, you're right. I have no reason to carry this rejection. You love me." And let Him love you . . . that's what He wants to do.

WALLS OF REJECTION  
Symptoms  
(How it Shows Up in Your Life)

Rejection in:

A. Your Emotions.

1) Sadness: Rejection will show up in your emotions through sadness. The Bible calls it "heaviness," and it may feel that way to you. You feel so sad, so down, that it just feels like there's a weight of oppression and heaviness that rests on you--like you are carrying it around, not just on your back, (although it may feel like you're carrying it around physically), but you are carrying a sadness and a heaviness around in your heart.

2) Self-pity: . . . and you may think, "Oh, I don't have self-pity, I don't feel sorry for myself," but let me give you the number one clue to whether or not you have self-pity. If you have a hard time finding something to praise God for, you are occupied with yourself. You feel so sorry for yourself that you can't get past it to get to anything that you can praise God for. If you have a hard time praising God, that's a big clue. Not only that, it's a big key, because the whole key to getting free from it is tied up in praise, because that's exactly what you don't feel like doing. The enemy knows just what he's doing in your life.

3) Self-dislike. And in some people, it goes just as deep as a self-hatred . . . you just don't like yourself--this is so common in women. I've gotten past that. My body is (using hand gestures) straight up and down . . . no waist . . . that's all right (laugh). But, I'll tell you this, this is a world that is directed (especially with women--and now more and more with men) to how you look, who you are in your self-worth is all related to "how you look." And we are surrounded with miserable men and women with eating disorders that are destroying their lives because they do not like how they look . . . because the world has told them that they don't look good enough, they don't look young enough, they don't look thin enough . . . they don't look "something" enough.

But it can go so much further than just the externals. It's an inside thing. I mean that there are women sitting in this room who were never, ever told by their mothers, for example, that they did anything right. No matter how they did something . . . it was

never quite good enough. It was never quite clean enough, it was never quite straight enough. You may have gotten a 98% on your paper . . . and what they talked about was the 2% that you missed . . . and not the 98% you got right. I know that there are some of you sitting in here that went through that with your parents. All I can say to you is that your parents were doing the best that they knew how to do. "Well, I was just trying to make her do better--do the best that she could." . . . The fact is, they were wrong. Because, every child that has tried his or her best needs and deserves praise for the trying . . . for trying to give the best . . . that's all that God asks of us . . . He does not ask for perfection . . . He sees our heart . . . the heart motive . . . and I know that there are so many of you who did not get that from your parents. In fact, you had parents that told you that you'd always mess up . . . you'd never be anything . . . you'd never develop into anything . . . I mean it hurts me to even let these things come out of my mouth because I know that this may bring reminders into your lives . . . but I know it's true . . . I hear it all the time from both men and women. If you hear it enough--you start to believe it about yourself. It becomes "self-fulfilling prophesy". . . and you start doing these things . . . you actually see it becoming true. Then you dislike, or hate yourself for what you see.

4) Depression. Depression is a spirit--it is also the number one emotional illness in the United States--and I could easily say--the world, no question about it. It is debilitating. The signs are: fatigue, withdrawal (you draw away from the places you need to be, the people you need to be with, and as soon as it comes over a woman--she will not be in church), difficulty concentrating and insomnia . . . (the night terror and agonies . . . the night just keeps going and going). Joy is a symptom of life and depression is a symptom of death. The spirit of depression is a stronghold . . . and the weapons are divine for breaking down the walls of depression. You can be set free from that depression.

5) Apathy. Pathos is compassion. It is an emotion of caring. Apathy is the absence of emotional compassion. It is a lack of excitement. You are just not moved with compassion. You see people suffering--you can see it, but it just doesn't move you, because you have become deadened, not to feel the pain. Usually, you may cry plenty, but the only crying you do is for yourself (for your pain, your distress, your hurt and your sadness).

## B. Rejection in Your Intellect (mind):

1) An inferiority complex. No matter who you compare yourself to--you are less. The sad thing about that is, many of us were raised to believe that was a real humble thing to do--to consider yourself lower than everybody else. There is such a spirit of inferiority, such a complex of incapableness, that you don't even try anything (because you are just so sure that you are not going to measure up and you are going to be criticized and rejected when you fail).

However, the Word says, in Philippians 4:13 (KJV), that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." How do you teach a child what the Bible says, and, at the same time, say to them, "Well, Susie, you really shouldn't try that--because you won't be good enough. . . . Mary's going to be a lot better than you at that." Do you see what I mean by God's way? God's way is to say, "Well, if I call you to do it . . . hey, you can do it. You can not only do it, you can do it well." We have parents saying, "No, you cannot do this, don't even try." It's your parent's fear that you will fail. Colossians 1:27 says to them, "God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious richness of this mystery, which is: Christ in you, the hope of glory." Christ is in you . . . if you have invited Him into your heart, or if you never have, don't let this time pass without actually saying, "Jesus, come into my heart." That is the only thing that you have to do is ASK Him into your heart. And He will come in. It's absolutely amazing. He will come in and begin to change things from the inside out. Christ is in you. Colossians 2: 8-9 "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." This scripture says all the fullness of God resided in Jesus Christ. Everything God is--Jesus is, and this Jesus is in us. Do you think that the tiniest revelation of that cannot change your life? That scripture goes on to say, "And, so, you have fullness" (you have completeness--you have everything).

Of course, if everything God is, Jesus is . . . and this Jesus is in me, then that sort of takes away the excuses why I can't do all the things that I can't do. Right? But if you don't know this--how can you even have the inkling to live that way, or walk that way or feel that way? I know this is a heavy concept. You are not a god. But, the power of this God is in you, if you have invited Jesus to come into your heart. Oh, we are so pathetic in the way we live, with our sad, pathetic lives, when there is so much more available

to us . . . for us. All the excuses for inferiority go away when you start to realize who you are in Christ Jesus and how special He has made you.

2) Fear-Insecurity. It manifests itself in all kinds of ways with people who are dealing with the Walls of Rejection. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

We haven't been given a spirit of fear (we act as though we have--we act like we "own" it). We act like it is part of us. We act like it is innate to our being, don't we? We haven't been given that spirit of fear--not from GOD. We've been given it by the enemy--he has given it to us. So often we have freely taken it, thank you, and what I am saying to you is that it is time and high time to give it back because it is not a gift that came from God. Now, a lot of you who deal with the Walls of Rejection have trouble with your mind (you know--trouble concentrating--the heaviness, the sadness, the inferiority--the not "liking" yourself)! This scripture: Write it on your mirror, if you have to. "God has not given you a spirit of fear, but power, love and a sound mind." There are times when I will say, "Wake up, Connie. God has not given you this mind of confusion. God has given you a sound mind. Now use it." A sound mind is a self-disciplined mind. It does not have to wander off in ninety-two different areas at one time (tangents). A lot of you may deal with this. I used to deal with this. I used to sit in church and make out shopping lists, and you know, part of this was that I was in a church with no anointing. Still, part of this was my mind, too.

God will renew your mind through the reading of the Word, your communion with Him and your praying. Some of you deal with so much fear (night terrors, fears during the day, debilitating fears, phobias, anxiety attacks). There are so many people who cannot get into a room, because if they got in there and saw a large number of women in there, they would have a panic-attack. It is real.

John 10:10 (KJV) says, "The enemy comes to steal, to kill, and destroy." That's it. Sums the whole thing up. If he cannot do it in one big swoop, he'll just gladly do it one day at a time. You will come to realize that God is not giving you this. This is not God's plan to somehow make you stronger. It's from the enemy. But God has given you power (to overcome that spirit of fear), love (that He

loves you and does not want you terrorized) and a sound/self-disciplined mind (that you don't have to let your mind dwell on the garbage). It is just as a child sees a bear in the corner of the room in the dark of the night. He can see that bear, he can smell that bear, his imagination is really going crazy. But when he gets a little bit older and a little bit smarter, he knows that it's probably not too logical that a bear could get in through the crack in the door. This is a sound mind, a self-disciplined mind. If you have night terrors, you need a prescription--you need it every night . . . it's the Word. (Read Psalm 91). It has to do with what He is doing for you, so that you do not have to be in fear.

3) Guilt. And the enemy will use guilt on you to keep you first, from ever coming to God. You must come to God and let Him do the cleansing. The other way that Satan will use guilt is if you have become a Christian, and then you have fallen flat on your face, you have backslidden or gone back to your old ways. Then the enemy is going to say to you, "See, you can't do this, you can't walk back in front of all those people--after all that you've done." But, that is not what the Word says. Romans 8: says, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

You try a little bit. You fail and then you feel guilty . . . and you feel so dirty . . . and you feel so rotten . . . and you feel so hopeless . . . and that's just as the enemy wants you to feel. He keeps you right where he wants to keep you--isolated and miserable.

### C. Rejection In Your Spirit

Discouragement--A heart overcome with discouragement and a heart of despair. If the enemy has his way with you (till it finally comes to the end), if the enemy has free course to do in your life as he wants to do, it will finally lead to suicide. The discouragement, the despair, the heaviness, the sadness, the loneliness and the hurt is so great that you just cannot take it anymore. It will lead to death -- because the thief comes to kill and destroy. But Jesus said, "I come that you might have life . . . and have it abundantly." The King James Version of the Bible says, "and have it **more** abundantly." and that means to the full. So, I want to say to you--to any of you who have ever felt suicidal, that's the enemy's plan to take you out. God has life for you--and

there is hope . . . there is another way--and it's a good way. I want you all to know that there is still hope in God. I don't care how bad things look, how hopeless your whole situation of life looks (you may feel like you are at the bottom of the pit and there is no way out), there is a way out. There is still hope in God. *It is never too late with God*. The enemy wants you to give up . . . and, yet, the Lord is offering a love that never gives up. I want you to know that this is true and I have seen God minister life in women's lives over and over and over. They thought that there was no life . . . and no hope . . . but there is always hope in Jesus.

### **Ending Prayer:**

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that your Word is so powerful and so true. And, I thank You, Lord, that we don't have to stay in the pain, we do not have to stay in our bondages. We do not have to stay "walled in" anymore. I thank You, Lord that your Word tells us that we can know the truth and the truth can set us free. Hallelujah! And it also tells us that it is for freedom that You set us free. It is so that we can live in that freedom and walk in that freedom--and walk out into the light of a new, clear light of day.*

*And, Father, I would ask you for women who feel hopeless, that, Lord, You would give them a ray of hope from your Holy Spirit . . . that maybe there is really hope in God . . . maybe there really is a way out of this mess . . . there is a way out of this heaviness and darkness. I am asking this, that through Your Holy Spirit--You will minister to these women. Now, Father, for any women who saw themselves in this study, I pray that they would realize that they are not "the rejected"--but they are "the accepted." Please, I am asking You--minister that to women's hearts. You made them, You love them, and You knew their names even before time began . . . You knit them together in their mother's womb. Show them that You really do have a plan for their lives--You really do.*

*Now, Father, in Jesus' name, I ask You to help women, if they have seen themselves--they've seen rejection, if they have these symptoms, that they begin by saying, "Lord, I want to be made whole, I want to be well, I want to let it go. Teach me Lord--how we can do this together, and I know that You will be faithful and do it." So I thank You, Lord, I thank You for this time; I thank*



*You for the presence of the Holy Spirit and I thank You that You have not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. And, I bind this spirit of rejection, and I bind the spirit of fear. I bind that strong spirit of depression that wants to hold women bound--in the name of Jesus Christ. And I tell you, Satan--and everyone of your ministering demons and cohorts--you are not going to be able to hold these women bound any longer. I am telling you that you MUST take your hands off of God's property. And, oh, Holy Spirit, I am asking You to loose over them the promise of God--Power, Love and a sound mind (a self-disciplined mind). Lord, I am asking You to help them even this week to make choices that they have not been able to make before. To have a sense of love that they have not known before, and a sense of power in their lives that they haven't known before. I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that You are a God that sets us free. And whom the Son sets free--is free indeed. And, I thank You for life abundant--to the fullest--through the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. AMEN.*

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5  
John 5  
1 Corinthians 13:4-8  
Luke 15  
Philippians 4:13  
Colossians 1:27  
Colossians 2:8-9  
2 Timothy 1:7  
John 10:10  
Psalm 91  
Romans 8:1

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

**PERSONAL NOTES**

## **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

### **Walls of Rejection**

#### **Part Three**

What I want you to understand is that Jesus was intimately acquainted with rejection. (Intimately acquainted with rejection). Now, for those who study the Bible at all, you can think about it and it registers. He was not accepted in His hometown. His townspeople said, "Huh! carpenter's son, who's HE?" The only place that He was not able to do great miracles was in His own town. Why? Because they rejected Him. He was rejected by the very people that He was sent to save. He was rejected all the way to the cross. I mean totally rejected. I mean rejected to the point that, when He was hanging on the cross, they were really all gone, except for John. He was rejected. His mother was still there. Praise God for mothers--spiritual or natural.

Isaiah 53:3-5 "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised and we esteemed Him not. Surely, He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, and yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted, but He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquity. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds, we are healed."

It's a whole deal. That's what Jesus meant when He said to that man at the well, "Do you want to be made whole?" It's a whole deal. It's not just for your body. Some people don't believe that it's even for your body. Trust me--it's for your body. He did it all. But, it is also for your soul. It is for your mind, your will, and your emotions. That's why it says here, "He was rejected--He was despised by men."

And by what He bore, the rejection He bore, by THAT we are healed. Some think that this is a lofty concept that may not have any application to our lives. But, I am believing by the Spirit of God--somehow the light's going to come on. Somehow, this is going to start to become real in your life and in your heart.

Isaiah 41:9-10 This is also God speaking through the prophet Isaiah. He's speaking to us, the seed of Abraham. "I took you from the ends of the earth, from the farthest corners I called

you. I said that you are my servant. I have chosen you and have not rejected you."

If you need to write this on your mirror, write it on your mirror. This is from God to you. He has chosen you and not rejected you. And if GOD has not rejected you, that's all that really counts.

Please don't let the walls start building up again when you feel rejected. That is not the time for you to start saying, "OK, fine . . . I don't need you. Who needs it?" Then you are going to start the thing all over again. That is the time to continue letting God heal your heart. Admit failures in relationships. But, let God heal your heart.

Isaiah 61:1-3 Again, the prophet Isaiah was predicting what Jesus would do when He came. I want you to hear what Jesus came to do . . . "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners . . . to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

This is what Jesus came to do. He came to heal, to do away with the spirit of despair that you have felt. No matter how long you have been carrying it, He came to do away with it. He did. The first thing that you have to do is admit where you are. Admit it. Admit it. That puts you in a place of being vulnerable and open before the Lord, so that He can begin to work in your heart and start again. I know this to be true because there have been a lot of women who have had the Lord do a wonderful healing in their hearts. I want you to read these scriptures.

Luke 4:14-21 This is where Jesus was standing in the synagogue. "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him. He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good

news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. To release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Jesus was saying: "I am the fulfillment of the prediction made by the prophet Isaiah!"

If you've been behind walls for a long time, or you are behind them right now, you are a captive. You may not realize it, but you are. You are in prison or you've been in prison, and it's high time to go free.

### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You and I praise You for Your presence. I thank You for Your Word. I thank You for the truth of Your Word, Lord. I thank You that You have come that we no longer have to carry the spirit of rejection, we no longer have to carry this spirit of despair. Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask You to come in such a fresh and new and revealing way into women's hearts--that they will truly have the light of the Holy Spirit shining on the innermost part of their being, so that they can truly begin to see themselves--where they've been--where they are--and, oh GOD, where it is that You want them to go and where You want to take them to higher ground, Lord-- whole ground. Not just "coping, women--barely making it," but, Oh GOD, what You have for us is so much greater and so much higher than that and I thank You and I praise You for it.*

*So, Lord, let this become so real in women's hearts. I thank You and I praise You, Lord, for the truth in Your Word. God, I just ask that You will take women out . . . restore and refresh . . . and take that knot, that a lot of them have in their heads--some of them have it in their hearts--and dissolve it, through Your Holy Spirit. Use it, Lord, this time to work a healing in their souls. And I will thank You and I will praise You that You will do it in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Isaiah 53:3-5

Isaiah 41:9-10

Isaiah 61:1-3

Luke 4:14-21

# **PERSONAL NOTES**

# **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

## **Walls of Rejection**

### **Part Four**

#### Opening Prayer:

*Lord, I would ask You to do an amazing work as we open up Your Word. And, Lord, I know that there are women who are so hurting--who are so bound by the spirit of rejection and the hurts go so deep. And, Father, I would ask You to minister through the power of your Spirit that transcends every hurt--what the enemy has meant for total and eternal and complete destruction.*

*Lord, I pray that the women will feel Your love as they have never felt it before. I would pray that they would finally realize that You really do care, that You really do have a plan to do them good and not harm, and to heal them in their hearts and their bodies and in their minds and their wills and their emotions. Father, I know that there are women in this room who have difficulty concentrating. They have difficulty remembering. They have difficulty pressing in. And, in the name of Jesus Christ, I come against every work of the enemy in women's minds that affects their ability to concentrate, their ability to understand, their ability to memorize. I come against that work in the name of Jesus Christ, and I loose the ministering power of the Holy Spirit over their minds.*

*Father, I thank You that we can have renewed minds through You and through Your Word. I thank You, Lord, that You've not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. And I thank You for that Word and stand on it. So, Father, I ask You to open up our minds, open up our hearts, open up our ears - let us HEAR the Word -and let the Word go deep within our hearts - and bring forth a MIGHTY HARVEST OF HEALING. Lord, I thank You and I praise You that Your Word is true. Lord, I would ask You in the name of Jesus Christ to anoint me one more time. Lord, enable me to minister accurately and concisely what you've put on my heart. And, Lord, I ask You to let the mantle of teacher rest on me one more time. Lord, we give this to You and I ask You to do a powerful work in women's lives. Amen.*



Walls that are formed in our heart are basically formed as a mechanism of protection. We just build walls in our hearts to try to protect ourselves from the hurt that people (or circumstances, or occurrences in our lives) have brought in. The walls separate us from God and from everyone that He might want to bring into our lives who could minister some healing or minister some love into our life. We just wall them out, because we don't want to let ourselves be vulnerable anymore or to be opened up to that hurt. The walls of the heart, basically, show up in two different ways. We have been talking about the Walls of Rejection.

If these symptoms speak to you, then let God speak to you. Emotional manifestations of the Walls of Rejection are: Sadness, heaviness, a self-pity (feeling sorry for yourself--you know that you have some evidence of that if you have a difficulty praising God), self-dislike, (that might even become a self-hatred), depression (which is far and away the number one emotional illness in the United States--and I firmly believe--in the world. It's probably the number one physical illness because it manifests fatigue, withdrawal, difficulty concentrating and insomnia). I said, in regard to depression, you have to understand that depression is a symptom of death . . . it is a symptom that the enemy is stealing your life from you one day at a time.

Depression is a symptom of death. Joy is a symptom of life. Lots of you will wonder how you can end up coming into a service or coming into a Bible study and you can be absolutely in the "pits." And, yet, somewhere during that time, you can actually have a laugh. You can actually sense a little bit of joy. And, that's because there's life in Jesus Christ, and JOY is a symptom of life. You may not be able to carry it a long time after you leave, but you do realize that you're opening up.

Rejection shows up in your emotions through apathy. Basically, you have a lack of passion and emotion and excitement about a lot of things. The only thing that you can really cry about is what relates to you. It's about yourself. You can't really feel for somebody else, you're hurting too bad to get past that.

Intellectually, rejection shows up in an inferiority complex, and I'm talking about BIG TIME inferiority complex. This is not God's plan for you. He has said that "Greater is He that's in you, than he that is in the world." I don't care how much your parents told you that you weren't good enough, that you weren't pretty enough, you weren't thin enough, you weren't tall enough--or you

weren't a boy. I don't care what you have been told by them. It's a lie. God made you and He made you special. He has a wonderful plan for your life.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." It's just that the enemy of your soul has been trying to steal it from you all of your life and telling you that "you can't do it." And, it's a lie.

The second way that rejection shows up intellectually is through fear. God has not given you the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

The one trait that I can almost be absolutely certain will be in any woman who is dealing with the Walls of Rejection and the spirit of rejection, is that she is going to have major BIG TIME fears. Sometimes it's a phobia. Lots of times it's so major that they cannot even get in the door to come into the class, much less get into the church where there are 1,800 people. Fear at night . . . just all kinds of different fears--fears of what people might do . . . fears of what people might say . . . fears of what might transpire in their lives (what might come about). All I can say is that none of it is from GOD! None of that is His plan for your life. There is healing--and there is deliverance from that in the name of Jesus.

The third way rejection shows up in your intellect is through guilt. And, man, does the enemy use it. He will grind you into the ground with guilt. He makes you believe that if you have ever "blown it," in your life, you don't DESERVE to be made whole, you don't DESERVE to ever feel good. And, once you start getting a little bit better--and a little bit "whole-er," then if you blow it, then, oh man, is he on your case.

I want to say to you that you must keep EVERYTHING in perspective. The blood of Jesus Christ will never lose its power. It will never lose its power to cleanse and make whole, bring forgiveness and bring uplifting of the heaviness and that cleansing. The blood of Jesus will never lose its power. I have women say to me all the time, "I have done so much, and I have hurt people so much that my family will never be able to forgive me." Yes they will. They're hurting. You're hurting. They are in the middle of living with the pain that is coming out of your life. But, as WE begin to get whole, the people who have loved us begin to recognize that.

It doesn't happen overnight. You don't flip the switch and have it happen. But, God has a plan. You've got to let Him free you from this condemnation. The Word says, Romans 8:1 "There is NOW no condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh." What happens is that you can get that forgiveness--and then, if you go out walking after that flesh again, if you go out gratifying the flesh (doing what the flesh wants) then that same condemnation comes back again.

So, the promise part of this scripture is: if you want to keep this wholeness, keep this freedom, keep this cleanness, then walk after the Spirit NOT after the flesh. But, the promise is still real. The blood of Jesus Christ will never lose its power. Every woman who participates in this study (I believe) comes because she's been drawn by the Holy Spirit. It's a divine appointment. Many times I will say, "There may be only one thing you hear." Suddenly, you'll think to yourself, "That's what I needed to hear." And that's why you're hearing it. Let the Son set you free.

Rejection shows up in you spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. It shows up in your spirit as discouragement--I'm talking about deep seeded discouragement. Finally it shows up as despair. If rejection goes to the end--where Satan wants it to go--it will lead to suicide--because Satan's plan is "to steal, kill and destroy." John 10:10 That's his plan. But, Jesus also said, "BUT I have come that you might have LIFE and have it ABUNDANTLY (KJV MORE abundantly; Amplified: to the full, overflowing)." The enemy has a counterfeit for everything that is true from God. What Jesus has for you is life (abundant life to the full). And, one day, it will come, regardless of the circumstances (if you will receive it). It will come into your life as joy, which is a symptom of life (a joy that transcends circumstances). Nothing may change--nothing may be different about your physical circumstances, but you can KNOW that something is happening in your heart and that God is wanting to take you to a new place beyond those circumstances and to a new place in Him.

Isaiah 53:3-5 This was about Jesus . . . written 712 years before Jesus was even born, and the prophesy about Him was, "He was despised and rejected by men." This was a man who knew about rejection. Jesus knew about rejection. He was despised and rejected of men. "A man of sorrow and familiar with suffering--like one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took up OUR infirmities and carried OUR sorrows. Yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by

Him and afflicted, but He was pierced for OUR transgressions. He was crushed for OUR iniquities, the punishment that brought US peace was upon Him, and by His wounds WE are healed." Now, that was the prophet speaking under the unction of the Holy Spirit, about Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah!! The Word says 712 years in advance that One is coming and this is what He is going to do. And the good news is, women, He came and He did it. It's high time that we started realizing that He has done it. He was wounded for my sins. He was a man acquainted with rejection, so I don't have to be, anymore. He bore my sorrows, so that I don't have to carry them anymore. Amen and Amen!!

Isaiah 41:9-10 This is the Lord, speaking through the prophet under the unction of the Holy Spirit, speaking about YOU. This is a letter to YOU. "I took YOU from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called YOU, and I said, 'YOU are my servant, I have chosen YOU and have not rejected YOU.' So, do not fear, for I am with YOU. Do not be dismayed, for I am YOUR God. I will strengthen YOU and I help YOU, I will uphold YOU with my righteous right hand." That's a love letter to YOU. Take it personally, directly from the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! He has NOT rejected YOU, but has chosen YOU to be his very own. God is so good.

Satan does not have any new tricks. It's the same, old methods and devices from the beginning of time. That's why I can tell you the symptoms. They never change. He uses the same schemes and his same methods and the same weapons over and over again. So, we have talked about the time-line of rejection. This is relating to you, and it also relates to other people in your life. If you are being rejected by someone, if someone is rejecting you, the major bondage in their life is rejection. That's what is wrong with their heart. Now, I'm not saying YOU necessarily rejected them. Maybe you did, but I'm not saying that. What I am saying is, no matter how much they push you away, no matter what kind of wall they put up, if they are rejecting you, the bondage in their heart is rejection.

Finally we say, "OK, that's it. I want nothing more to do with this person." We throw up the walls, we throw them up thick, we throw them up deep--and we say, "That's it, I'm done with this-- I'm done with this church, I'm done with this family, I'm done with this person, I'm done with this man, whatever . . . I'm done with it." The expression a friend of mine uses is, "'I'm over it." And, you know what? Satan "gets"--because he wins. He has you right

where he planned to have you . . . alone, and lonely and miserable--and rejected. He wins.

There are some of you women who are carrying hurts in your heart that happened (something happened way back there . . . a hurt or an incident or something) from childhood. And, I tell you, Satan won and he won big time. He was in control in that situation. But, God works through people. Jesus was there, too, trying to speak to someone--trying to say, "Listen, do something different." It takes someone to really hear and obey Him to change a situation. He was there, but He couldn't get control--because whoever was inflicting the hurts listened to the enemy. So, the enemy won. Now, the sad thing is that you are still carrying it, he's still winning. It's time, and high time that we take back what the enemy has won. Rejection is absolutely such a major source of hurt. It starts in children, I know it does. It started in me when I was a kid when my father left home. What a joke! I have people telling me all the time, "Well, we'll just get a divorce and it will be better for everybody--including the children." What a lie from the pit of hell! Because, from the moment that the father or the mother leaves, there's rejection of the children.

Whenever there is any kind of abuse . . . physical or sexual, you must separate yourself from that situation and let God work separately. But, as soon as it happens to be the convenient thing to do, or the "I just don't love you anymore; I just don't want you anymore" or the "I just need to go find myself" situations, and one of the spouses leaves, either the father or the mother, the child's rejected. Don't tell me that the child is not rejected. One of the parents is gone. There is rejection and there is abandonment. It starts with children. Of course, we are hearing more and more because it is becoming more and more out-in-the-open about physical abuse, sexual abuse--a lot of people are suffering from verbal abuse and sexual abuse. I know that. It came out in your family, in your friends. Some of you are victims of the hate or abuse--maybe more than one time. You've been left, you've been abandoned.

Maybe you've been left through death, and you don't understand it. You don't understand why this person that you loved so much, died and left you alone. You just don't understand it, and you get mad--even at God. Maybe you've been the victim since you've been an adult of flat out meanness on other people's parts. It happens with our loved ones, it happens with families, with friends--and, I'm sad to tell you that it even happens in the church. As Paul says, "These things ought not be." And, just

because somebody is in church does not necessarily mean that they are listening to the Spirit of God. Abandonment is such a powerful force to make you feel rejected. If you have ever been abandoned, through death or desertion by someone you really cared about, it plants deep hurt in your heart. If you don't know what to do with it, if you did not know how to take that hurt to God, you started to build up a wall, then, to protect yourself from being hurt more deeply.

Even with Christians, the faith that you had in people, the faith you had in God, just gradually begins to disappear and you become more and more fearful, because you don't want to get hurt anymore. So, what happens? You don't even try. You don't even try to open yourself up to new relationships, for fear that you may get hurt again. Satan has you right where he wants you . . . alone, lonely, rejected and miserable.

Like a seed. Jesus said that everything in the whole Kingdom of God works by the "seed-plant and harvest principle." And all these things that may have happened to you--all those things received in your life, like the rejection, the loneliness (if you were abandoned), the sorrow, the grief, the abuse, the abandonment, whatever; they were all seeds sown into your life by the enemy. None of it, perhaps, was your fault.

The other side of it is, maybe some of it was your fault. Maybe you did it. It doesn't make any difference, it's still seed sown in your life. It's sown in there. A lot of you didn't know how to allow the Holy Spirit to pull out those seeds sown. I didn't know how to do it. That's why that seed set down roots in my life.

Now, with anything that takes root, what is eventually going to happen? Something grows. What's that called? Harvest. What happens when the seed is planted in your life? You start bringing forth harvest. The seeds in our lives that we are discussing are all the hurts. We stuff them--they take root--and eventually we get a crop (harvest).

This is what it looks like: hardness, coldness, meanness, anger, rage, rebellion, bitterness, un-forgiveness, fear . . . big fear. The Word says that anything that does not come from faith is sin, Romans 14:23 and there is a simple word for everything that I just mentioned. I gave you all those titles, all those harvests. The word is SIN. It's sin. That's what keeps us miserable. SIN separates you from GOD. That is the definition of sin. Sin is separation from God. If you have any of this stuff in your life, I have good news for you.

You can admit it, and you can get cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

You don't have to bring forth this harvest for the rest of your life. God will do a miracle-working crop failure in your life. And, do you know how He'll do it? He will do it by pulling it out by its root. That's the only way that you can get rid of weeds. If you do not get the root, forget it. Maybe you cannot see it right now, because you broke it off at the top but it's down there. It's going to come up. That's not how God does things. God does things by getting to the root of the matter.

We have experienced tears. There's more than one way of crying . . . more than one type of crying. This crying is good. This crying is cleansing. This can be the best crying you ever did in your life, because when you allow the Holy Spirit to start taking that--first of all, if you just admit it's sin--that's a BIG step in the right direction.

See, so many of us carry around this sin and this harvest in our life, and we spend our whole lives looking for WHO to blame it on. "It's got to be somebody else's fault. Look at what was done to me. Look at what's been done to me. Look at what's being done to me." And, to that I'd say, "You're right. They were wrong." They are wrong. You shouldn't be treated this way. You shouldn't have been treated this way. It is from the pit of hell. But, what I care about is YOUR life, now. And the harvest keeps coming forth from that. It is separating you from God. So, until we get to the heart of the matter, there cannot be healing.

We can get to the root of the matter by confessing sin, so that it can be washed clean and the root of the hurt be taken out by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that no more harvest can come forth. In that can come healing. The first time that I taught this, I had people come up to me after the meeting, and say, "Connie, I could not actually believe that you could have a room full of hurting women and have the audacity to say to them, 'You're sinners.' " But, do you understand that I'm saying this in love?

All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. I realized that in my hurt, I was bound in my sin--because I had withheld forgiveness. As far as I was concerned, I was taking it to the grave with me, because I was justified. And, who do you think it was eating up? It was eating me up. It was destroying MY life. So, I'm telling you--there is a healing. There is a cleansing--here is a wholeness--and it's for you. Now, the ROOT SIN of this whole

deal is unbelief. The root sin of everything that has to do with rejection--all of this harvest that comes forth--is unbelief.

Unbelief is rejecting Jesus and all He has done for you, as being complete and sufficient for you. And, the key is FOR YOU, because there are plenty of you in this room who believe that what Jesus did was complete and sufficient for ME. Or, it was complete and sufficient for somebody that you are praying for. But, when it comes to you, you don't feel that you deserve it, that you are good enough, that you have accomplished enough, that you are worthy. But, really, you don't believe that God will do it at all. Not that He can't--you believe that He probably could, or you may even believe that He definitely could, but you don't believe He WILL do it for you. But, He will. He will because He loves you--and that's why He went to the cross--to do it for you.

Question: What do you do when you start to feel the harvest coming up--the bitterness . . . the unforgiveness, the hardness, the meanness, anger and rage?

Answer: The place to start, as you begin to sense it coming up, is to run to God. Not by stuffing it! Stuffing it will not make it go away. That's why so many people have a root of bitterness. Bitterness can make a root (a big, powerful root that goes deep, deep). Make a confession out of your mouth to God--and say that Jesus is your high priest.

Now, for those of you who are Catholic, it does not say in the Word that you have to confess your sins to anyone other than Jesus Christ. But, the Word says that Jesus is your GREAT HIGH PRIEST. Sometimes it helps to confess your sin, as it says in the Word, "One to another." Sometimes it helps to sit down with someone and talk about it, confess it and pray together. Sometimes that's very cleansing for both people. Sometimes it is very, very helpful.

It doesn't have to be done that way. If you are in the car somewhere (or you're in the mall, or you are out somewhere) and anger starts to come, run to Jesus and just say, "Lord, I give it to you. I confess this. I'm feeling this anger, I'm feeling this bitterness. It's coming up again, and Lord, I ask you to forgive me right now--forgive me and cleanse it--and take it away." In the beginning, you may have to do that a lot. A lot, because you may have carried it for a long time. The wonderful thing is that you can start to understand what you are doing. You can start to KNOW yourself and start to recognize when it's happening.



The key is YOU KNOWING YOU. You know your hot button. You know your triggers. You know your emotional situations. You feel it when it starts to rise up in you. The time to start to take it to God is THEN, NOT when it's gone all the way to the end--there's an explosion, there's a disaster in your life, and then you're on your face before God--the next day, begging for His forgiveness, AGAIN, and feeling mortal. He'll still forgive you, but there is a BETTER WAY. And, it comes from learning to know ourselves, coming to recognize ourselves.

Take it to Him, then. If you have to do it one hundred times a day, DO it 100 times a day. It will continue to get better and better and better as the sin nature is put to death and Christ's love starts to come forth.

Who can tell me what unbelief is? It is rejecting Jesus and all He has done and still does as not enough for you. What were the facts, folks, with Abraham and Sarah?? No kids for these folks. They're too old. So, Abraham didn't deny the fact (I'm not saying to deny that your circumstances are as they are. Wake up and smell the roses! They are what they are. You've got to give them to God and know that He wants to change them).

Romans 4:20 "Yet, he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised."

2 Corinthians 1:20 This is for YOU. The first time that I saw this in my Bible, I could not believe it. "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so, through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." No matter how many promises in Jesus Christ--they are not "Maybe" for you, they are not "Sometimes" for you--they are "Yes." What's your part? To say "Amen." What does "Amen" mean? It means "so be it." Amen means "I agree." You have a part in this. You don't just sit down like this is some "bless-me club" and say, "OK, God, just pour it on and bless me and I'll just sit here and do nothing while you take care of me." No. This says that we have a part. We are supposed to actively say out of our mouths, "Amen. I believe You, Lord. Your blood is sufficient for my guilt. I believe You, Lord. Your power is sufficient to deliver me from whatever bondage I have. Your blood was sufficient to bring the healing to my heart that You promised me that it would." No matter what it is, your hurt is NOT outside of this Book. It's in here. Your hurt, your needs, your bondage . . . it is in here. And, no matter how many

promises He made, they are "Yes," in Christ, and we are supposed to say, "Amen."

### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we come to You and, Lord, we are saying, "Amen. Amen." Lord, You have the promise for me. I know exactly what it is, and I know what I need. And, I am saying, "Amen, Lord." I reach out. I receive it. I will not waver in my unbelief. I will not look at my circumstances, and I will not be moved by facts and surroundings. But, I will be moved by what I see which is beyond my natural eyes. I will be moved only by my faith. And, that is the promise which You have given me, to honor what I asked You to do, because it is in Your Word and it is Your Will, and Your Will is Your Word.*

*And, Father God, I ask You that every woman will have the Holy boldness to reach out to know that she is worthy. She is worthy to receive her deliverance, she is worthy to receive her healing, she is worthy to receive her wholeness, her soundness, and the healing of her hurting heart. Not because of anything that she has done, but because of everything that You've done. You've done it all And, Father, I thank You and I praise You that You are doing a work in women's hearts. You are taking hurting, broken, desperate hearts--and You are doing a healing and a mending work.*

*The healing is going to come from the inside out in these women, the joy is going to show up, that symptom of life, and they are going to know that they came and they met God--that You showed up, Lord, with Your anointing and Your power . . . because it is Your anointing that breaks the yoke of the enemy over our lives. So, Lord, I am asking You that women will know that they can reach out and receive from You exactly what it is that they need for their lives and their hearts and their spirits and their minds and their wills and emotions and their bodies. Because that is Your plan, and for that, I say . . . AMEN. In the name of Jesus Christ, AMEN and AMEN. Hallelujah!*

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 10:10,  
Isaiah 53:3-5,  
Isaiah 41:9-10  
Romans 14:23,  
Romans 4:18-20

**PERSONAL NOTES**

## "The Walls of Our Heart"

### Walls of Rejection

#### Part Five

The reason that we have been discussing the Walls of Our Hearts is because of so many opportunities that we have for them to build up. There are so many ways that we build these walls that we need to recognize. The walls that we have been talking about the last few lessons have to do with rejection.

If you recognize yourself as being a depressed person, as a "down" kind of a person, as a person who has low ideas of herself (low self-esteem), if you feel lots of times that you are just kind of always hurting on the inside or the outside and wondering why, this probably is you.

There is some scripture that I've used disjointedly and I want to put it all together. One of the things that we have talked about is that the Walls of Rejection usually are built up in your heart, because a lot of things may have been sown in your life along the way. Maybe you have been abused physically, sexually, emotionally--all kinds of different ways.

Maybe you have been a victim of a crime. Maybe you have been abandoned. Maybe you feel rejection--even now--you may be going home to it, or you are feeling it from people you love and care for--even right at this moment.

There are all kinds of ways that rejection is sown as a seed into your heart--into your life. And, if you do not know how to take that rejection to the Lord, what happens is that the hurt becomes a seed that goes into your heart, the roots go down and you start to bring forth a harvest.

The harvest shows up as hardness, coldness, rage, anger, actions to overtly hurt people, resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness and fear, (lots of fears and lots of phobias). It shows up in all kinds of different ways as the harvest of that seed that has been sown into your lives. There's a name for all of that harvest--and it's SIN.

The good news is that for sin there is a cleansing, because the blood of Jesus Christ will never lose its power to cleanse and make whole. And we talked about sin, and I said to you that you have to realize that, if you are dealing with rejection--the Walls of Rejection in your heart--that the underlying sin (sin underneath anything else) is sin of unbelief. Unbelief is a sin.

We talked about what unbelief really is. Unbelief is rejecting Jesus and all that He has done for you as being complete and sufficient for you. Lots of people realize that God is big, that Jesus is big, that God basically does whatever it is that He wants to do as long as its in line with His character. The problem comes when it comes to a point of being personal.

Proverbs 29:1 Amplified. "He who being often reprov'd hardens his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy." Some people have a mistaken idea that when the direction of the Holy Spirit comes to them, they can just ignore Him for a while if they want to--and then obey Him later in their own good time. They think to themselves, "I know I'm doing this wrong. I know my lifestyle's not right. So, I'm just going to do it a little while longer, and then I'll get things straightened out with the Lord."

Let me warn you--this is an extremely dangerous thing to do, because God says that when you refuse His guidance, your heart grows hard. It's not that God's grace does not extend to you, anymore. It's not that He wouldn't forgive you if you turn to Him, it's just that sin will callous your heart to a point that you can't hear Him calling anymore. So--no remedy.

That's what happened to the children of Israel. God would tell them what to do--and then they wouldn't do it. When He was trying to bring them into the Promised Land, and He told them to go in to possess it, they flatly refused. Of course, they felt they had good reasons for refusing. They were so full of fear and unbelief that they actually thought that if they did what God said, that they would be destroyed.

But, you know, it doesn't matter how good your reasons are for disobeying God. That disobedience will cost you . . . it will still harden your heart. The children of Israel ignored God's leading so often, that he finally just sent them into the wilderness. They were so stiff-necked, He couldn't lead them into the blessings that He had planned for them, and He had to just let them wander around until they all died.

He had to raise up a whole new generation of softer-hearted people before He could take them into the land. Take a lesson from that, and don't play around with sin. When God tells you what you need to do, don't put Him off--thinking that it will be easier to do later. It won't be. It will be harder.

When the Spirit of God comes to correct you, follow His instructions and follow Him quickly. Keep your heart tender, obey the Lord.

What I want you to understand is that the longer this has been a part of your lifestyle, the more that your heart has become calloused to the fact that it's sin. Do you know what it means to sear a steak--(when you put a steak on a really hot grill or really hot skillet and sear it)? It sears it on the outside. The Word says that our consciences can be seared as with a hot iron. 1 Timothy 4:2.

The first time you blow up in a rage, you know it's sin--and you're sorry. The second time, it doesn't bother you quite so much. But, by the sixth or seventh time, you're pretty sure you're justified, and you've got your reasons. And, that's because your heart is getting hard.

Now, what happens as you begin to see what's happened in your life, and the walls begin to come down, is that your heart becomes vulnerable. You will be the most vulnerable that you have ever been, when those walls come down. When you admit to God that you need to change, that you need His work in your heart, it's the most vulnerable that you'll ever be.

It's a tender time . . . that's the soft heart that God can change and use. That's a soft heart that He will use for ministry. There are those of you who are called to ministry in one way or another. Some of you are called to full-time ministry. And, the sad thing is, if you continue on in life with your hard hearts, He will pass you by. He'll wait for another generation. He will wait for another to be raised up with a soft heart to do and be blessed in the way that He wanted you to be blessed.

Romans 4:18-21 "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--

since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." And, I want to make sure that you realize that against all hope--He hoped.

Did I tell you that there are two kinds of hope? There's the world's hope ("Gee, I sure hope so," or "Gee, that would be nice"--which is really "wishful thinking;" you're hoping--but really don't believe it at all). That's the hope that most of us know about, until we really come to know Jesus Christ. And then there's the God kind of hope: the kind of hope that says, "All things are possible to us that believe," "Nothing is impossible with God," It doesn't matter how bad it looks in the natural circumstances, God can do it. Not only that, He has the power to do it, He wants to do it--and, He promised that He will do it.

So, against all hope, he hoped and did not waver in his unbelief. It didn't matter that his body was dead. It didn't matter that Sarah's body was dead. God said that he was going to have, not only a child, but a nation. A nation was going to come out of him. That's a pretty tall promise, don't you think? But, after all, Abraham realized that this was God, and He had the power to do what He promised. I mean, give me a break, folks. How many times do you think Abraham heard God? Two times in his whole life? I don't know how many times. And, in between times, he lived on God's Word.

We've got the anointed Word of God written down, and yet, we don't live by it. The anointing is in the Word. If you would just start reading it and understanding that it is the Word of God and it will not return void but will accomplish what He has sent it forth to do. It will accomplish it in lives walking around out here. It will accomplish it in missing husbands' lives. It will accomplish it in the missing children's lives. It will accomplish what it has been sent forth to do. It will.

So, don't look with your natural eyes, look with your Spirit eyes--at the promises of God. And, don't waver in your unbelief. Everybody has opportunity to waver--almost every day, and it's tough. Don't waver in your unbelief, because Satan specializes in wavering circumstances and thoughts to make you waver.

The book of Isaiah was written approximately 698 BC. That's pretty close to 700 years before the birth of Christ. Correct? And, Isaiah the prophet under the unction of the Holy Spirit, wrote these words about one who was coming--the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One.

You know that Christ was not His last name, right? "Christ" means the anointed one. "One was coming--an anointed one-- (The most complete picture is given of the Messiah--Jesus Christ--the most complete and concise picture in the entire Word of God is in only one place--and that's in the book of Isaiah. Everything that He was, everything that He would be and everything that He would accomplish through His obedience is only in one book, Isaiah. Isn't that amazing? If you only get to choose one book, if they send you to jail and they say that you can only choose one--I'm telling you which one to take, OK?!)

Isaiah 61:1-3 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captive and release for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion. To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of the spirit of despair."

What a promise. Verse 4 continues: "They will be called the oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Listen to this--you are supposed to be an oak of righteousness. Oaks are the strongest, hardest wood. They're huge, enormous--with those huge limbs. Think of what kind of root system they have. There's equal amount under the ground with an oak as there is above the ground. I bet you don't think that your life is supposed to be designed so that you can display the splendor of the Lord. But, that's exactly what it is designed to do.

Even in the midst of your trials and tribulations--even in the midst of your hurts--you can display an amazing amount of splendor of the Lord. If you think that doesn't speak to the lost and dying world, you are blind, because what the world is used to seeing is "falling-apart" people. They're used to seeing so many people overcome with anxiety--so overcome by their sins, their bondages, their trials, their tribulations, their difficulties--that they're just falling apart over everything.



If you can rise above the pride mark, if you can walk out of the mire that Satan's put all around you, and you can have a peace on you in the midst of what's going on in your life, then, that speaks to people. That is a display of His splendor. Many of you are just not happy. These are your "trial and tribulation days," but there can still be underlying a peace that passes understanding and a joy of the Lord. If you have walls in your heart--if you are in bondage to sin--if you are in bondage to old thought processes--old ways of acting--old ways of thinking--if you are in bondage to rage, anger, un-forgiveness--YOU ARE FORGIVEN.

I'm telling you that the promise is--Jesus came to SET THE CAPTIVE FREE--to set the prisoner free. Hear His Word. He came to comfort all who mourn, and Hallelujah! to take them out of despair.

His promises are true. They may not show up today. They may not show before this night is over, but His promises are true and He has the power to bring forth what He has promised.

Luke 4:14 "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him." Luke 4:16-20 "He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him."

(Why? Because there was an anointing so heavy in that place that those people probably could not breathe. They'd never heard anyone read and have the sense of the presence of God in that place--that they felt that day. All the eyes were on Him--they were fastened on Him.)

And He began by saying to them, "Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Do you know what this means? It was done. It was fulfilled. He came to bring good news to the poor. Poor in spirit, poor, poor, poor, poverty poor--all kinds of poor. He came to set captives free, to give sight to the blind--to give

sight to those who were even asking Him for their poor eyesight, because they need to see in order to study and teach, to open up deaf ears, to set those free who are bound by alcohol, drugs, sexuality: fornication, adultery, homosexuality--it doesn't matter--it doesn't matter if it's the drug bondage--it doesn't matter--pornography. He came to set the captive FREE. That's why you can hear prisoners say, "We heard the good news of the gospel in jail and became freer in prison than we had ever been all of our whole lives walking on the outside." He came to set the captive free. It's done. It's all been done. That's what He meant when He hung on the cross and said, "It is finished." It was. It was finished. He did it. It's finished. A promise is not a promise true in your life--until you receive it. You have to not only believe it--but you have to receive it for YOU. Otherwise, you are rejecting what Jesus did as being full, complete and sufficient for you.

2 Corinthians 1:20 "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And, so, through Him the AMEN is spoken by us to the glory of God."

The believing part is the promise part. The believing is that the promises are "Yes." Yes, Jesus did everything. Yes, He finished it all. Hallelujah! He is a wonderful Jesus, and He accomplished everything on the cross that needed to be accomplished. It is not until you say, "Amen, it's for me--I receive it, I believe it, I come to agreement for MY life." Not until then is it going to become real to you.

I am telling you that there are two ways to live. You can be a Christian and live in total and complete bondage and defeat--and still be a Christian. You can become a Christian--and stop right there. Or, you can become a Christian and you can make a determined decision that you are going to believe God for all that he has for you.

A few years ago, I began saying, (and I think that there were some people who thought it was arrogant) "I want it all." And I still do. Every single thing that He has for me--everything that Jesus did for me--I want it all. And, I don't just want it when I get to heaven. I want it here. The reason why I want it all is because there is a higher way for me to walk. There's a higher life to be led. In fact, there is a "highest way"--there is a "best way"--there is an "overcoming way" that my life can be lived. And, when it's lived that way, my life will affect the lost. The shorter I come to hitting that mark, the more lives I do not affect. If I am not living to the fullest of the potential that God has given me, the anointing is not

on my life to accomplish the works that He laid down in advance for me to do.

Your hurts, your pain is not just to beat you up--it's not just to beat you down. It's to keep you from being effective in reaching out with the life and love of Jesus Christ to the other people that you come in contact with. It's not just about you. It's never too late for you to open your heart up to this, because God's a redeemer. He's a redeemer. That's what He means when He says that He'll restore the years that the canker worm has eaten, the years that the enemy has stolen from you and kept you miserable and kept you angry, in bondage.

Jesus is a redeemer. He wants to buy those years back for you, and take the remainder of your life, however much it is--if it's five years or if it's fifty years--if it's just for now or until the rapture. Who knows, maybe every one of us here will be raptured. Maybe tonight. Hallelujah! Glory to God, I'll vote for that. There's a divine appointment in our lives every single day. I know that I go in and out of places--and the only Jesus that people will see will be the Jesus that they see in me that day. If they do not see Jesus in me, they are not going to see Him anywhere . . . not anywhere.

There is a higher way to live. I want you to know that it's not just for your spirit. It's for your mind, your will and your emotions and, yes, glory to God, it's for your body. It's for all of you--the way that God made you. It's for all of you. But, it's not just for you. It's for your wholeness, and for you to testify of the wholeness of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in your life. This is real.

When I began to become a whole person, when zeal came over me, people kept saying to me, "Oh, it will pass." Oh, no it won't--in Jesus' name! This zeal is real, and no person and no circumstance and no trial and no tribulation is going to steal it from me. I know in whom I believe, and I know that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. And, I have committed my life to Him--every bit of it--every moment of it, and that is what I desire for you.

I know what it will do in your life. It will give you life that you did not even know existed. The whole world is doing a cheap imitation of life. They are merely existing and calling it life. There is a life where there is such fullness that can be lived from the inside. If you haven't got it, I am telling you, it is available. It is

available to every single one of you. I don't care what your situation is, it's available.

If you've seen your heart here, there are four things you should remember:

1) Admit it. It is a very vulnerable position. When I began to see the harvest that I brought forth in my life, I didn't like it, and sure didn't want to admit it to anybody, especially not when I had been a Christian since I was nine. You have to understand, I know that most women come to this class by invitation. Some are asked and never come. Some of you come and then leave--and then after a year--come back again, when you're ready. The reason that some women come and don't stay very long, is because this is a very vulnerable position. It takes "guts" on your part to be able to look at your heart. It takes "guts" to let the Holy Spirit take His scalpel and begin to open up your heart to do "open heart" surgery and heal you from the inside.

2) Repent of the matter. Call sin, sin. He'll not only heal your hurt, He'll cleanse your heart. Living free of that sin is the most wonderful way to live. Repent of the harvest and get cleansed. Sin separates you from God, it's just another wall separating you from your God.

3) Pray for relief. Jesus came to set the captive free. Relief does away with bondage. Take off the bondage--take off the chains. Pray for relief--for deliverance, healing, whatever it is that you need--pray. Once you have admitted and have repented--pray. Pray for yourself specifically: "Lord, heal my heart."

I have heard so many women say that they never pray for themselves. That is sad, pathetic theology. All through the Word, the men and women of God prayed for themselves. What about the Lord's Prayer? It asks the Lord to "Meet my needs," "Forgive my sins," "Lead me into the way that You would have me to go," What do you call that? It is praying for yourself. It is not an un-humble thing to do. Pray for yourself--pray for relief, for deliverance, for healing--and believe that you'll receive it.

4) Do some things to change. What did Jesus say to the man at the Pool of Bethesda? He said, "Do you want to be made whole?" He said, "Pick up your mat and leave this place." That's exactly what He said. He said to change some things. And, then, He went and found that man. Where did He find Him? He was at

the synagogue--at church. Now, I just think that man was there praising God. He may not have even known how, but he was finding out. He found that man and He said to him, "I really did heal you. I really did do this in your life. Now, stop sinning or something worse may happen to you. If you keep on in this lifestyle, you're walking out from under my covering--my protection, my anointing, my plan for you."

God's got a plan. If you feel that you have an instantaneous breakthrough, I remind you that breakthrough is not victory. Breakthrough is not the end. Breakthrough is just the beginning. If you think that in an instant, you have breakthrough with something in your heart, and you have complete victory over something that you have carried for--let's say--twenty years, no. You have breakthrough--and that's just what you have. And now you have a vulnerable open heart, and it is time for you to start to rebuild.

Let the Lord begin to minister life in there and teach you how to keep from building those walls back up again.

#### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You and I praise You that Your Word is sharper than any two-edged sword--separating soul and spirit. It really does pierce right to the heart, and I thank You for that. And, not only that, Lord, when it opens us up, once it reveals to us the power that is contained within it, then there is such a restoration. There's such a healing. There are such wells of salvation welling up within us giving never-ending life. Lord, I am asking You--as women are being set free, as they recognize this, as they begin to admit it, as they begin to repent, as they begin to pray and pray specifically for themselves--believing You, Lord, for deliverance and healing and wholeness and healing of this broken heart and hurting heart and those bondages that have held them all these years, that Father, You are just going to manifest within them the wonders of salvation--that they never even realized could be possible in them. Father God, I ask You specifically to begin to show them those things that You would have them to change and to give them the assurance that You will put within them, through your Holy Spirit, all the power that they need in order to live the life that You are calling them to. I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that Your Word is true--that Your promises are not "Yes and No," but they have always been, "Yes," in Christ*

*Jesus. And to that, we boldly say with all the power in the name of Jesus Christ, "Amen." And, Lord, I am specifically asking You to take women to exactly the promises in Your Word that You have given them, that cover the needs that they have in their hearts. Lord, give them a hunger for Your Word that they've never had before, and as they read it, Lord, let it become alive in them. Let the knowledge of the Word be revealed to them in such a way that they have never had it before, that as they read the promise, they will say, "Yes, that is for me. I receive it." God, raise up intercessors to pray for one another. Lord, I ask You to continue the work that I know You have begun. I know that You will be faithful to do it. And, now, God, I give it to You in Jesus' name. AMEN.*

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Proverbs 29:1,  
Romans 4:18-21,  
Isaiah 61:1-4,  
Luke 4:14-20  
2 Corinthians 1:20

**PERSONAL NOTES**

# "The Walls of Our Heart"

## Walls of Rebellion

### Part One

We hear of what is happening as a result of these classes. I know that it's vital--I know it's from God--I know God gave this to us, because we see what He is doing in ministry to lives. So, there is a reason why you walked through that door.

The name "Help For Hurting Women" is self-explanatory, and those of you who have been here for a while have heard the praise reports about what God is doing in lives in our midst. He wants us to be whole. Amen? And the walls have got to come down.

The walls that have separated us from every good thing that God has wanted to minister into our lives, those walls have GOT to come down. They have separated us from GOD and every laborer that He brought across our path and from hearing the good news of the gospel.

Jesus is our Savior. He is our healer, our provider, our comforter, He heals the hurting heart. He's El Shaddai, the Great I Am. Whatever the need is--that's what He is. But, we have to know that and open up our hearts to receive it, before it becomes real in our lives. We can believe it for somebody else. We can believe it for far-off, "Yea . . . pie in the sky wonderful." Just open up your heart to receive it as real for you.

I have told you that, if the enemy has his way in our lives, what comes true is what Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy." But He also said, "But I come that you might have life and have it abundantly (to the full)." But, the truth of that is that if the enemy has his way in your life and the Walls of Rejection and the spirit of rejection has ministered to you and is left to go all the way to the end, you will think about suicide. You may even attempt it, because Satan has come to kill. In some of your lives, it is happening one day at a time. You're dying one day at a time. But, praise God, we can turn it around and He is going to rebuild your life. And, praise God, it does not take Jesus as long to rebuild life as it took the enemy to destroy what you had. Hallelujah! He has come that you might



have life and have it abundantly. He will work supernaturally--as much as you will let Him--that's how much He will work. Amen?

We will start now to discuss the Walls of Rebellion. But, I want to say to those who see yourselves in the Walls of Rebellion that this may surface in you periodically. It may not be the underlying problem. I know that with most of you the Walls of Rebellion are not the underlying problem, It is rejection . . . it is the spirit of rejection--because you have been hurt.

Some people (and you may recognize it in some of your very strong-willed children, nieces or nephews) are rebellious almost all of their life. You are going to recognize the symptoms when we discuss them. With others of us, in our effort to protect ourselves from the rejection, we got the walls built up.

Somewhere along the way, your automatic protection mechanism just starts to kick in and you start going on the offense. The hardest thing that I ever teach in Help for Hurting Women is when I teach the Walls of Rebellion, because I've manifested so many of the characteristics, and they're so ugly. There are lots of times when you cry, so if I cry--you'll understand. I don't like remembering. I don't like admitting that I was this way in a lot of areas of my life. But, all I can tell you is that God can take a really hard woman and do an amazing work for change. He can take a woman who had taught herself not to show much mercy or much forgiveness, and He can do a really supernatural change in her heart. And, I am here to tell you that this is absolutely true, and the reason I know this is because I have lived it. I've lived it. So, if you see yourselves, Praise God. It means that healing is on the way. Amen?

So . . . "What is Rebellion?" I am going to teach you that a lot of what you now confess, you are not calling by its proper name. It's really rebellion.

Rebellion is to renounce or resist the one in authority. It is open defiance (defying someone). Just so that you are absolutely clear on this, it could be your parents, your boss, your pastor, your teacher (whether in school, in college, in Bible study), or any person that God has allowed to be set in place over your life in a place of authority. If you're living with someone, in their house, and they may not be your parents, but if you are living in their house--you are, in some areas of your life, under their authority. They do not have the right to tell you to do anything illegal or immoral or to

participate in any sin. I'm talking about a spirit of humble cooperation.

Psalm 78:1-8 I would suggest that you really read this as it is written. There's an interesting story that is told in this Psalm. "O my people hear my teaching. Listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with parables. I will utter things hidden as of old. Things that we have heard and known, things our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children. We will tell the next generation the praise-worthy deeds of the Lord, His powers and the wonders that He has done. He created statutes for Jacob, and established the law in Israel which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children so that the next generation would know them--even the children yet to be born. And they, in turn, would tell their children. (This sounds like an inheritance, doesn't it? Passed down from generation to generation.) Then, they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands. They would not be like their forefathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, (and here, we have a description of a stubborn and rebellious generation) whose hearts were not loyal to God and whose spirits were not faithful to Him."

It says, "We will pass down from generation to generation the WONDERFUL works that God has done and we will give Him glory and honor." That's part of why we do praise reports. That's what the heritage of a Christian family is supposed to be--to pass down from generation to generation. Let us tell you what God has done for us in this family through the years.

That's how God intended it to be--passed from generation to generation. I believe, with all of my heart, that my children will be stronger than I am in God. And, I believe that their children will be stronger than either one of us, because they are going to know more from the "get-go," AMEN? They are not going to have to wait until they're 38 years old to figure this thing out straight.

They're going to have the opportunity of knowing from the beginning. That's how it's supposed to be, every generation stronger. Then we have this interesting discussion all the rest of the way in Psalm 78 where we then get the description of this stubborn and rebellious generation. The psalmist is saying, "Don't be like them."

There is an amazing description here of rebellion. There is one thing typical of the Israelites in their rebellion. No matter what

God did, it was never enough. And, you can see it in the Psalm. No matter what He did, no matter how He showed His power, they'd be happy for about 48 hours, maybe, sometimes 24 hours. It was never enough, they were never satisfied with what God was doing.

He would take them through the most miraculous exodus out of Egypt, showing all the amazing signs and wonders in that exodus.

He would show His power in their deliverance, and in 48 hours, they're moaning and groaning, and it doesn't take too long until they're saying, "I think . . . I think we were better back in Egypt . . . I think it was better back there--back there in slavery--back there in bondage." And, we say, "Oh, no way." And we do the same thing all the time. We do it ALL the time. God delivers us and takes us away from our Pool of Bethesda, and what is our response? Just as Jesus went to the man at the pool (he'd been a paralytic for 38 years); He said, "Do you want to get whole?" Jesus said, "Pick up your mat and leave this pool." And, so, we start being delivered, we start getting whole, we start getting better, and then we start getting lonely. What do we do? We "go back to the pool." We've all done this at one time or another, in one way or another. Or, at least the yearning starts coming to go back to what's familiar--what's old.

We think that our "friends" are there. What He's trying to do is build new friends and new ways--it's just unfamiliar ground. We've not been this way before. It's not familiar--it's something new. So, as you read this Psalm, you will see that they rebelled over and over again. They were stubborn, they were demanding, they were complaining. The Word says that they "grieved God," they "provoked God," they "vexed God" (that's taking someone to almost their end). The next time that I say that you are vexing me, you'll know that I'm almost at my end. (laugh) In verse 56, it said that they even "put God to the test." Can you imagine? They tested God--tested His patience, tested His mercy. It's an amazing Psalm and it is written very clearly, VERY clearly. The Israelites did not trust, they did not believe, they couldn't remember what He had done and they did not obey.

Now, I want you to understand something. I'll be teaching the Walls of Rebellion differently. With the Walls of Rejection, we talked about the symptoms and then we talked about the scriptures. We are going to talk about what rebellion is first, then we'll talk about the scriptures, and then we'll talk about the symptoms.

DISOBEDIENCE IS REBELLION. If there is an area of your life where you know you are disobeying God, and it can be one of two ways . . . if you are committing sin (you'll hear the fancy title, "The sin of commission"), you're doing something that you know is sin and you keep going back and keep doing it. That is disobedience--that's rebellion. The other side of it (if that one didn't "hit" you, then this one may) is if you are omitting things that you know God has told you to do (He told you to go help someone, go do something, it may very simple--write a letter to a loved one, if you know He's told you to do it, and you are not doing it--this is disobedience) then it's the "sin of omission," because He told you to do something--and you are omitting it. That's also rebellion.

1 Samuel 15 This is a very, very sad chapter. This is a sad area of history. What is happening is that Saul has been king, and Samuel the prophet had anointed Saul (Saul had been called forth as king) and he had served as a very wonderful king, really. The time had come when Saul had begun to turn his heart away from God and to be disobedient. That is the context of this scripture. I want us to read specifically starting at verse 22.

Samuel, the prophet, replied to Saul, because Saul had said, "Well, I basically did what God wanted me to do." (God had given him some very specific instructions about battle and what he was supposed to do with the spoils, and he disobeyed . . . he just willingly disobeyed God . . . and Samuel had come to Saul, and said, "You did not obey God. Don't give me any excuses, you did not obey God.") And in verse 22, Samuel the prophet replied, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" And, then there's this wonderful scripture . . . "To obey is better than sacrifice." We will try to make up for what we have done, and we will say, "God, I'll do this . . . I'll give up this . . . I'll give you this . . . and I'll give you that." He wants us to love Him enough to want to obey Him. That's what He wants. Because, if you love someone, you'll want to please them--you want to obey them. That's what He wants. And, that's why He says, "Obedience is better than sacrifice," because it shows a heart of love. And to heed is better than the fat of rams--which is what they burned as a sacrifice to go up before God.

Verse 23 says, "For rebellion is like the sin of divination and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king, Saul." Whew! And then, what usually happens is exactly what happens here--Saul is going to blame somebody. Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, I have violated the Lord's command and your instructions.

I was afraid of the people. And, so, I gave in to them." A lot of the sinning in your life has to do with giving in to somebody, or being afraid of something. Right?

I want to make sure that you understand why rebellion is like divination. What the word divination really means is "witchcraft." Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft or divination. Now, why would that be? When people are involved with tarot cards, fortune telling, horoscopes, séances, when they are involved in searching after the things that have to do with witchcraft, they are trying to find out the future. They are trying to find out what is coming. They are looking to some thing other than their Heavenly Father to tell them what's coming. In other words, they are willing to open themselves up to make something else god. They are looking for another way to get the answer other than through their Heavenly Father.

When you do tarot cards, when you go to a fortune teller, you are giving control of your life over to other spirits. You are inviting them to come and lie to you and tell you what's going to happen in your life. And, if you think that they can't hit right on what's going on in your life, you are wrong. Because the enemy does know what's going on in your life.

So, if you think they can't say to you some things that are actually happening, you are deceived. And, when they say to you some things that are actually happening in your life, you say, "Oh, this must be the Holy Spirit." No it isn't. Your life is an open book to the enemy. For every good and perfect gift--there is a counterfeit. Just like horoscopes.

What happens in rebellion? What happens is that I say, "I will do this my way. Yes, Lord, I know what I am supposed to do. Yes, Lord, I know what you want me to do. Yes, Lord, I know what your Word says that I am supposed to do. However, I am going to do this MY WAY." So, now who is god? So, I become my own controller of my destiny. And, that is why it says that rebellion is the same as witchcraft.

If you open yourself up to witchcraft, you are opening yourself up to other spirits to be the guide--to give you direction. With rebellion, you are saying, "I will give direction . . . I will decide what I am going to do." You don't say it overtly. You aren't saying, "No, God, I don't want to do what you want. No thank you, I'll not have You, today, God, I'll go my way." You don't do it consciously or overtly . . . but that's exactly what you are doing, anyway.

You are saying that you are choosing your way. That is why arrogance is like idolatry. It's an idol. "I have become like God, I am arrogant enough to say that I will do this MY WAY. That puts ME on the throne and makes me an idol." I want to make sure that this is totally clear.

1 Samuel 16:7 says, "But the Lord said to Samuel the prophet: 'Do not consider his appearance or his height--for I have rejected him.'" (He was looking for the one that looked good). The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance--but the Lord looks at the heart--the Lord sees your heart. I want you to take this whichever way it applies to you, because it is going to be good news or bad news.

If you are in a time in your life--in an area of time where you are really struggling, yet you are really trying and you really do have a desire in your heart to get to know God better and want to serve Him, God sees your heart. He knows your heart. God sees your heart. And, there is wonderful forgiveness, grace and mercy in that.

God knows your "shells"--that you are trying to come out from and come into--and He wants to take you every step of the way. He sees your heart. So, when you mess up--if you fall flat on your face--ask Him to forgive you--He'll be gracious enough to do exactly that and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. But, the other side of this is--don't lie to yourself. You can be acting like "Miss Pure and Holy," you can be acting like "Miss Super-Religion," you can be acting like the finest Christian woman that ever walked the face of the earth--and if you are harboring un-forgiveness and hardness and coldness and bitterness in your heart, **GOD SEES YOUR HEART**. God sees your heart.

Remember that. It will give you so much grace in ministering to people. Just don't judge a lot because unless God has revealed their hearts to you clearly, you really aren't sure. You really aren't sure. God knows. So, you take them as they present themselves to you and you pray for them.

Read Psalms 78 and spend some time in the Word. Be ready next week to open your heart up--open up yourself--because there are areas of rebellion in every single one of us. I can assure you that you will see yourself in some of the characteristics of rebellion, just like you did in the Walls of Rejection. I can assure you that those of you who are being hurt by people in your lives who are

strong and controlling, you will see them in these characteristics. I don't want that to discourage you--I want it to encourage you, because what it is going to enable you to do is start praying for them a whole lot more accurately. It's going to help you to understand the work that the enemy is doing in their lives, and it is going to help you to be able to pray for them.

#### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I know that we have just really laid ground work, but I know, Lord, that eyes were opened about rebellion. I know that eyes were opened about witchcraft. I know that there came a clearer understanding of things that we dabbled in, in our past, thinking that it really didn't make any difference--but it did. We need to renounce it. We need to get rid of it. We need to stop messing around with the enemy's opportunities that he gives to us to give control of our lives over to another spirit other than Your Holy Spirit. So, Father God, I ask you to make this real and alive and easily understandable to these women. And, Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask You that You will continue the amazing work that You have begun in so many women's lives. I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that Your plan for us is to make us every bit whole in spirit, soul and body. Oh, Jesus, when You hung on the cross and You said, "It is Finished.", it was. You have done it all. Help us, help us, Lord, to understand the fullness of all that means. AMEN.*

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Psalm 78  
1 Samuel 15  
1 Samuel 16:7

## **PERSONAL NOTES**



# **PERSONAL NOTES**

## **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

### **Walls of Rebellion**

#### **Part Two**

This is our second lesson in the series of discussing the Walls of Rebellion. I would like to give you, once again, the definition of rebellion. Rebellion is to renounce or resist the one in authority. It doesn't matter if it's your parents, if it's the people who are in spiritual authority over your life, a teacher, a boss, the one whose home you happen to be living in . . . it doesn't matter what the situation is . . . there are certain people who are set in authority over our lives.

Anytime that you are resisting or renouncing that authority over your life, you are in rebellion. That's rebellion. The bottom line is that we do it a lot with God. We resist HIS authority in our lives, and this is really serious. In Psalm 78, the Lord is actually speaking and we are also getting a description of the Israelites. We get a big clue there about the Israelites and their life, because we are reminded in there, that it took them 40 years to go a distance that should have taken 11 days. That's exactly what we do in our lives when we are in rebellion.

The Lord is wanting to take us from a to b--it's an 11 day journey. We keep saying, "Why is it taking me forever?" "Why can I not get through this?" The concept is because between a and b we are going to c, d, k, i, & z--and He's letting us, because it is our will--it is our self-will. We are going on all of these tangents. Yes, sometimes Satan is right there to open up this path. Sometimes he is taking us by the hand. Sometimes he has bound us in chains and dragged us there, and sometimes we walk there all on our own.

The bottom line about Psalm 78 is that no matter what God did for those people, it was never enough. It was never enough. I hear that in people who are in rebellion over and over again. It doesn't matter what God did yesterday, they want to tell you about what the problem is today, what their gripe is for today and what was done to them today. It doesn't matter what God has done--it's not enough . . . it's never enough. We read in Psalm 78 that the Israelites rebelled over and over. They were stubborn, demanding,

complaining, they grieved God, they provoked God, they vexed God, and they even tested God. That's pretty "gutsy." The Israelites did not trust Him, they did not believe Him, and they couldn't remember what He had done for them. They did not obey Him. THEY DIDN'T OBEY HIM. In the psalm, it says that over and over again. Disobedience IS rebellion.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 speaks about disobedience being as the sin of witchcraft and idolatry being as arrogance. Rebellion is like witchcraft because you are saying, "I am going to be in charge. I'm going to run things." It is the same way with arrogance. When you are operating in arrogance, you are saying, "I'm going to do this MY WAY. I know that there is another way, that I am under someone else's authority, and there is another way that I am supposed to be doing this, but I DON'T CARE . . . I'm going to do it MY WAY, thank you." We do the exact same thing with God. That's what makes arrogance like idolatry. It sets me up like God.

In witchcraft, you are looking for a plan in your life. You are opening yourself up to an alternate plan for your life--and believe me, Satan has a plan for you. He'll be happy to tell you what his plan is. But, as in the scripture, we are told that God looks at the heart. That is such an encouraging scripture. You have to take it seriously both ways, because if you are having struggles and difficulties, and you are dwelling in it, but you are trying (and you know in your heart that there is a love for God and you are yearning to do it God's way)--the encouraging thing about this scripture is that GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART. Praise God--aren't you glad?! That scripture has been an encouragement to me over and over again.

The other side of this, though, is if you are acting like "Miss Goody Two-Shoes," and living your life like "Miss Pure and Holy and Miss Super-Religious," and in your heart you are hanging onto bitterness, unforgiveness, and anger, no matter how far down you've got it repressed and pushed, if you have wrong motives and poor attitude in your heart, God sees that heart, too. It doesn't matter how good you're acting on the outside, God sees your heart. So, it's good news--and it's bad news. But, God does see your heart.

I said to you before that I seriously doubt that there are very many of you, if any, who have the root problem in your heart as the Walls of Rebellion. Usually what happens with a class like "Help for Hurting Women," is that women have come in here because

they have been hurt, rejected (perhaps long ago when they were a children, maybe all through the years, maybe recently, or perhaps one incident). Usually the women who end up coming in here are dealing with the Walls of Rejection. If the Walls of Rejection are left to go to the very end, if Satan has his way-- all the way to the end, it finally leads to thoughts of or attempted suicide--ending your own life, because the pain is just so much that you cannot deal with it anymore. Somewhere along the way, without God's ability to intervene, something "kicks-in"--in most of us, and it's rebellion. It's a rising up to protect ourselves. So, we start building up these walls to protect ourselves and we go on the attack in a lot of cases, or we become very hard-hearted in order to protect ourselves from any more hurt. We are just not going to let ourselves be hurt anymore.

With many of you, the root in you will not be rebellion, it will be rejection. But, what happens in so many of us, is that rebellion just shows up. Periodically, it just rises up and takes control. The other thing is that many of you are living in such difficult situations, especially if you live with someone who is a drug addict, or those who have extremely controlling, hard and difficult personalities, then you are really going to see that person in this teaching. The point of this is to help you understand what they are dealing with, and it will help you to pray for them and yourself. Understanding helps--but that is not enough. There is something beyond understanding. Beyond understanding is taking it to God and doing something about it.

Galatians 6:7-9 The scripture says, "Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please the sinful nature, from that nature, will reap destruction. The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit, will reap eternal life. Let us NOT become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP."

Again, we have the good news and bad news. The good news is, if you are sowing things of the Spirit, you are going to reap them, and it's never too late to start sowing. The bad news is that a lot of you may be in a phase of your life where you are reaping destruction. And, some of you may be in a phase of your life where, out of your sinful nature, you are still sowing some destruction. I have news for you--you had better get right with God! Otherwise, it's going to take a supernatural act of God--or what you are sowing even today, is going to bring forth a harvest. It is. God cannot be mocked. The whole kingdom of God works by the seed-plant and harvest principle.

Sometimes we end up in a situation where we are just dealing with "Junk" in our life that comes out of what we have sown. That's where we are now. It is often NOT pleasant. Just to give you an example, you think of all of these blended families in divorces (on both sides), and if you have step-parents, natural parents, you have "this" and you have "that," and you have all kinds of "things," and out of it you get really confused kids. They do not know who they are supposed to honor, they do not know who they are supposed to respect, they do not know who is right and who is wrong, they do not know who is the hurt one--and who is the abuser and the abused--I mean, you just end up with a mess in everybody's life.

That's harvest. That's what the "junk" is, when people decide that they are casually just going to go and get a divorce, and there are children involved (even if there aren't--but especially if there are children involved). Do they think that that's going to be "the end?" What a joke. That's not the end . . . that's not the end of anything. It's the beginning of more trouble. It's sowing more bad seed after bad seed. This is going to increase the harvest of destruction. "Mocked," in this particular case means "to turn up your nose at," that's the literal translation of the word "mocked." Where it says, "Be not deceived, God will not be mocked," i.e., you cannot turn up your nose at God. When you are in disobedience and you are in rebellion, this is exactly what you are doing, and you think that you are getting away with it, but YOU'RE NOT, because you are going to reap what you sow.

### SYMPTOMS OF THE WALLS OF REBELLION

You may not display them all, and even if you do, at one time or another, display them all, you probably won't display them all of the time. Neither will the people that you deal with or who are driving you "around the bend" or "over the edge"--they won't display them all of the time. What I want you to recognize is whether you ever bring them forth. In your feelings, IN YOUR EMOTIONS--this is how rebellion shows up. . . .

1 ) Hostility. When I speak of hostility, I mean strife. People who go around, basically, with a "chip on their shoulder," they have this amazing way, that wherever they go, there is turmoil. Turmoil follows them around. They are a "fight" or an "argument" looking for a place to happen.

2) Conceit. These people have, generally, an excessively high opinion of themselves. That's where the arrogance comes into play--that haughty attitude.

3) Sophistication. They are not truly sophisticated, it's a mannerism--an attempt to act sophisticated in speech or actions. Their actions say to other people around them, "You're below me." If you can see this in people, they are actually the least-sophisticated, but that's not the way they see themselves. It's as if they are saying, "Hey, I have got it together. I am above you."

4) Wild Mood Swings. The best way to describe people who are really controlled by the Walls of Rebellion, is that these people are INTENSE. When they are "high," they are so "high," you are almost scraping them off of the ceiling. When they are "low," they are so low that they are lower than "a snake's belly." These people can do depression in capitals. They can do euphoria that way, also.

Question from class member: "If you have a high opinion of yourself, can you still have no self-esteem?"

Answer: "Sure, because most of the people who have the Walls of Rebellion, have low self-esteem. If you could get into the heart, it's all a wall. The only way they have to feel good about themselves, is to try to put somebody else down, so that they feel better about themselves."

How does rebellion show up IN THE MIND, in the thought processes? It shows up as . . .

1) Superiority. When people have what is called a "superiority complex," it is not just that they feel that they're above people, but in their minds they reason things out in such a way that they are superior to everybody else. They think that they have it all "together." That is a stronghold in their minds.

2) Extremely Competitive. In these households, there are no fun family games. You don't sit down for a fun night of Monopoly. It doesn't happen in these households. When you play a game with one of these people, we're talking about "blood." This is absolutely real. They just HAVE to win. No matter what they do, it cannot be fun. It has to be competitive.

3) Domineering, totally Controlling

4) Rigid, MAJOR Stiffness. They will NOT be moved.

5) Stubbornness. It doesn't matter if they know "flat-out"--100%--that they are dead wrong. It doesn't make any difference. They are going to defend their position to their death. Do these people not drive you insane? You cannot REASON with these people, you cannot TALK to these people. The truth is, folks, you are wasting your breath, trying to reason with these people.

6) Un-teachable (the most dangerous characteristic). What makes this so dangerous is when it is in the Body of Christ (with children of God, so-called "believers"). Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind." Then you can KNOW what God's Will is, His good, pleasing and perfect Will. You cannot know what God's Will is if you won't let your mind be renewed. If you won't let your mind be renewed, you are UN-TEACHABLE, folks. There is very little hope for change. Un-teachableness is probably the most serious difficulty having to do with the Walls of Rebellion. Why? Because you have yourself set up as god. You think that you don't need to be taught. You know, "a better way." So what if it's not working. You just have a better way.

How does rebellion show up SPIRITUALLY in your heart of hearts?

1) Delusion. These people have delusions. A delusion is a false belief. What you need to understand is that these people believe the false belief. They believe it to be true. It might be an illusion, a hallucination, a mirage--all of those things fit in it. Let me give you an example: Have you ever been in a situation with a person of this type (or perhaps you have been the person of this type), and there has been total strife with someone, and you have had an argument (not just a heated discussion, but you have had an all-out argument--and you have both lost your "cool," and things have been said) and then, afterward, you discuss the incident with this person. You remember the things which you have said--and remember things which they have said. They start telling you about this conversation that you had, and it is as though you were not even there. Your reaction is "they are lying--just flat-out lying to me." It's a falsehood, but in many cases, they believe it. It is reality to them. That's what makes this so strong. That's the deception of the enemy. When the enemy is deceiving you, you think it's true. It IS scary, but allow this concept to help you understand what is happening.

2) Resentment and Bitterness. Everything that happens to you, every time you are attacked, every time you are in a position

where you are the "catch-all" of someone else's punishment or attack, you have got a choice right there. You have a choice, right at that moment. Two things--you are either going to forgive them or you are going to resent them. It's one of the two. The choice happens right at that moment--when you are being attacked, when you are being abused (I am not saying that forgiving them makes them "right"--not at all). But you have a choice as soon as it happens, that you are either going to forgive them and give it to God--or, you are going to build up resentment in you-- and you are going to hang onto it. It is THAT resentment that builds in you the root of bitterness. The root of bitterness is powerful.

Hebrews 12:15 This is such a powerful scripture. "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." When there is a bitter root growing in you, you are missing the grace of God. You wonder why grace is not manifested in your life? You are wondering why you are not graceful? It is because there is a bitter root in you, a bitter root of un-forgiveness and hardness. It has gone deep. A bitter root actually means an attitude of intense animosity or resentment. When you are the one catching the brunt of the punishment, the one being attacked, the one being "beaten up" or "on." You have a choice right there as to whether you will forgive and let it go and give it to God--or, start to resent it. As soon as you start to resent it and carry the resentment, the root starts growing. The interesting thing about this is that "defile" means to corrupt, to make dirty.

Something that is defiled is corrupted. It is dirty. Does the scripture say that it just defiles YOU? No, it doesn't JUST defile YOU, it defiles MANY. How do you like people who carry a grudge? How do they affect your family? Can you think of any bitter old "biddies?" They are the bitter ones. Their bitterness defiles just about everyone with whom they come into contact. I can just be in a great mood, and there are certain ones that I can be around, and I feel defiled, corrupted and dirty--just by being around them. This is strong. See, this spiritual stuff is strong.

Comment from class member: "Well, when we are bitter, we don't like ourselves, either. I mean I can feel it when I'm carrying around that bitter root."

Answer: "That's right--you don't like yourself. How can someone who does not like herself, like anybody else--or spread the fragrance, the wonderful fragrance of Christ, anywhere?"



Question from class member: "When you are around 'that type of person,' how do you control yourself? How do you manage not to get angry? "

Answer: "I react by getting REAL quiet."

Question from class member (continued): "So, you try your best to avoid them?"

Answer: "If possible. If I cannot avoid them, I am just real quiet, I just don't say much."

But I finally learned that, there is nothing you can say to turn these people around, because they won't receive it. I mean, you can try. You can say a couple of things, and you'll know right away that they're either going to receive it--or they're not. If they are not going to receive it, you are basically wasting your breath--at that particular moment. The thing is--you pray for change. You just pray for them, you pray for God to soften their hearts, for the walls to come down, for opportunity. Sometimes, you will be with these types of people, and it is like that particular time that you are with them--that the fog lifted or something--and you have an actual sensible conversation. That is your window of opportunity. I waste so much breath--not waiting for God's timing for what needs to be said.

There is no place in the Word that you can find resentment or bitterness as being something from God. It is not given to you by God. If you have bitterness or resentment, that is sin. It is being disobedient to God . . . continuing to carry it IS disobedience, and disobedience IS rebellion. I had a discussion, today, with someone over attitude. What I say is, "Check your heart."

If that soul is as precious to God as yours is (and it is), and that person is now at the point when they start reaping what they have been sowing--this is NOT the time when you should be enjoying it. That is the time for saying, "Lord, use it to bring them to the end of themselves--to bring them to a place of repentance."

If we have been wronged, defiled, and we have been the "brunt" of somebody's garbage, when they start "getting theirs," we have a habit of saying, "YES!" That's the time when you need to check your heart. Where would WE be, if there were not someone praying for us who had a very different attitude than that? Praise God that I did not get all that was coming to me. Praise God, I didn't. THAT'S the ATTITUDE that you must keep straight. Say, "Lord, please, take this animosity, this resentment . . . I DON'T

WANT IT." That is the beginning--that is the prayer that is the beginning. To tell God, "I don't want this anymore . . . I don't want to feel this way, anymore."

Do you know what you are doing when you carry a grudge? Do you nurse it? Do you "baby" it? Do you pamper it? You serve it, you know? It is a heavy weight to carry. And, Jesus said, "Take MY yoke upon you." We are supposed to take that yoke, that burden, and give it to Him. I'd love to be able to say to you that you could "snap your fingers," and it's done . . . it isn't. And, the longer that you carry it--and the deeper that it is in your heart, the more that it deters God from taking it, cleansing you and washing you. For those of you who are living in this kind of situation, do you know what can happen? You can sense a victory, you come in here and have a supernatural move of God, and you can go out of here and say, "Praise God, I'm free, that bitterness is gone--that anger is cleansed and that resentment is over. Hallelujah! Glory to God," and you walk in your front door--and "WHAMMO!" (Here comes a conflict with that bitterness and resentment again). That's why I have said that we have continual opportunity--continual choice--to choose to forgive or resent. It starts right over again. The wonderful scripture in Deuteronomy 30:19 that I love so much says, "This day I put before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, you choose life so that you and your seed may live." The spiritual seed that you have been planting can continue to grow and bring forth life if you choose life. You can continue to let it go, and it will continue to get better and better. As the opportunities come, and you know what's happening in you, CALL somebody. We have a room full of people who care. Just say, "It's happening. It's starting all over in me again." Pray with somebody, and as an act of your will, CHOOSE to ask God to take it. Let it go, by an act of your will. See, what's been going on in you, in a lot of cases, is that you haven't wanted to let it go. You have wanted to carry it to your grave and see "justice done," according to your plan.

Question from class member: "Does this let you know that you truly haven't forgiven?"

Answer: "I'm not sure, because even when we do forgive, there are still opportunities. When you live with a heathen or you are surrounded by controlling, mean people, it's just that continual opportunity to be hurt all over again. That doesn't mean that you haven't forgiven them. Because Jesus said, "How many times a day do you forgive?" So, did He say that 489 times? His answer was 70 x 7 or 490 times we are to forgive. So . . . you didn't forgive? No,

He said that you DID forgive. But, how many times did you really let it go?"

Question from class member: "Isn't forgiveness a choice?"

Answer: "Of course it is. One of the ways that I got the 'forgiveness ball' rolling in my heart was by an act of my will. I began to pray forgiveness for particular people--just confessing out of my mouth--telling God that I forgave. By an act of will, I forgave. I asked Him to make it real in my heart, to take out the animosity and bring in the love. I asked God to (please) do it, because I couldn't do it on my own."

When we have had lousy fathers, our whole God concept gets messed up--really messed up. The lousier they were, the more messed up our God concept is . . . because what concept can we have of "father?"

I was praying the Lord's Prayer at home and I was using it as a basis for prayer in a class that I was teaching. All of a sudden, one morning, I said, "Our Father . . ." and it was just like I could hear the Lord telling me, "I AM YOUR FATHER." No matter how terrible your father treated you, no matter how bad the memory, remember that GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE. He loved you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ--just for you.

Yesterday morning, during the church service, I prayed with several people at the altar. We had a powerful service. And the teaching from the sermon had to do with the crazy man--the man who was filled with legions of demons. And the story from Luke 8:22-39 is that Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and went across the lake (the Sea of Galilee, which is no little baby "row," because they did not have motors in those days!) and went all the way across to the other side and this man was there. He was literally insane. He was demon possessed, and that's the one through whom the demons asked if they could have permission to go into the pigs. These thousands of demons leave this man, go into the pigs and run off the cliff and into the water.

Then it goes on to say; after Jesus ministered to him that the man was found seated, clothed and in his right mind, i.e., he was set free. The next thing that happens is that Jesus and His disciples get back into the boat and they leave. They go back across the sea. So much of that spoke to my heart, but the one thing that the Lord kept saying to me over and over again, as I went to the altar to pray with people, is that Jesus went across that sea for ONE

MAN. All twelve of His disciples went all the way across the sea (that's where they had that storm--and they thought they were going to die and said to Him, "Don't you care?" And He spoke to the sea and calmed the waves) and he only ministered to one man--a man who was demon possessed, crazy, filled with demons.

That's how much He loved ONE. That's how much He loves YOU. God is on your side. He's on YOUR SIDE. He wants to work in all of our lives, so that we realize that no matter what happened and when it happened, no matter what fathers were doing, brothers were doing, uncles were doing, mothers were doing, anybody was doing--He was there--and He didn't want it to be that way. He wanted to change things. He was there all the time, trying to get somebody to listen--to make a difference. You should continue to pray and ask God for a revelation in your heart. You need a discovery of how much your Heavenly Father loves you and what a GOOD Father He is and that He is on your side. You ask Him for that--and He'll give it to you.

#### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You and I praise You, Lord, I do thank You for knowledge that doesn't come from our heads, for knowledge that doesn't come from books that men have written--but for a knowledge that comes from the very heart of God. I thank You for that. It's that knowledge of Your love that changed my whole life. I thank You that You changed me. I thank You that I'm not that hard-hearted, sharp-tongued, unforgiving woman that I used to be, who carried around a facade on the outside--looking like such a nice woman. I thank You, Lord, that You have done a heart surgery in me, and it helps me to know that You can do the very same thing--and You are longing to do the very same thing for every woman who has stepped into this room, tonight. Lord, I thank You that You have given us wisdom to be able to talk about symptoms and how these things show up in our lives--and along with that, we don't just have understanding, but we have the encouragement to know that we can be free of it--we can let it go. We can have it removed from our lives and it can be put to death in us. I thank You and I praise You for that. So, Lord, I thank You for the work that You are doing in here, and I ask You, Lord, that women will go out of here tonight with a new work beginning in their hearts of understanding that just as Jesus crossed all the way across the sea, He is there just to minister to them--just to set them free--just to make them whole--just to renew their mind--just*

*to give them new clothes to wear . . . a robe of righteousness. I thank You and I praise You for it. I thank You for what You do in our midst. We praise You and thank You for all that You are--and You are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name. AMEN.*

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Psalm 78

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Galatians 6:7-9

Romans 12:2

Hebrews 12:15

Luke 8:22-39

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

# **PERSONAL NOTES**

# **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

## **Walls of Rebellion**

### **Part Three**

#### Opening Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, we come here with praise and thanksgiving. Lord God, I ask through the power of Your Holy Spirit--for You to take total and complete control. Lord, I would ask that You would cause women to feel the agape love of Jesus Christ, that they would feel it tangibly . . . actually feel it. Lord, I thank You and I praise You--that we don't live by feeling--we live by faith--but that You have made us feeling women. You have given us the ability to feel--to feel pain and to feel comfort. I would ask You, Lord, that women would be able to feel Your love, feel Your comfort, feel that You are working--and that You long to work in their lives to bring a healing and a wholeness into their lives that maybe they have not known in a very long time--maybe since they were little girls. Perhaps they have never known it. But we ask You to let them know that You want to do something in their lives. So, Lord, I ask You to help women to cast down all imaginations, to bring every thought into captivity to the knowledge of Christ. Lord, that You will just break the power of every distraction, every bondage that any woman might be carrying--that the power of that would be broken through Jesus Christ--and that You would loosen, Lord, the power of Your Holy Spirit to minister life and love and wholeness and soundness--the full meaning of salvation into women's lives. Lord, I ask You to open up their spiritual ears--open up their spiritual eyes--break open their hearts, Lord, no matter how callused or how hard the hearts have been--break them open, Lord. Begin to do a mighty and eternally vital work in them. Father, I would ask You that Your anointing would rest on me. Lord, enable me to minister accurately and clearly what you have put on my heart. Father, I would ask You to let the mantle of teacher rest on me one more time. Lord, I don't have a thing to say that will make any difference in anyone's life unless it has come from You. So, Lord, I ask You--if I am not doing it right--go around me, Lord. Speak directly to women's hearts with that still, small voice. If I am getting it, Lord, then work through me and minister to women. Lord, we give You this time, we give You ourselves. We ask You--do not let us go out the same way that we came in. Let us go out,*



*Lord, changed according to Your eternal purpose and Your eternal glory. And, I will thank You and praise and believe that You will do it, in Jesus' powerful and mighty name. AMEN.*

Over the last few lessons, we have talked about crying. Every woman comes into this study because the name is totally self-explanatory. It's "Help for Hurting Women." So, every woman who comes for the first time has either been drawn by the Holy Spirit, invited or "dragged in" by someone, because someone feels that they see a heart that is hurting and feels that the Lord will meet a hurting heart and minister hope, healing and comfort there--where nothing else has. Most people who are hurting have already tried some methods--some of their own, some through other groups, some through books, some through drugs, alcohol, prescription and non-prescription drugs, all kinds of ways, looking for some way to fill up that empty spot and heal that hurt in their heart.

One of the things that happens (the Word has really spoken to my heart in different ways over the last couple of weeks--of the importance of our tears), is that we cry. We have women just wailing--sobbing. A friend of mine describes it as "crying from your toes." It just comes from so deep inside.

Nearly every time someone cries like that, they end up apologizing. There is absolutely nothing to apologize for--because it is a gift that God has given you. He has given you the ability to cry. There are some times we cry when the tears are wasted. It is just a release of grief--the spirit of grief--we cry--and we feel a little bit better for a little time--and then we begin to feel the same thing all over again. The entire cycle just starts all over. That's chemical. There are chemicals released in your body as you cry. The chemical brings temporary relief of the sorrow, but with God's way, there is a crying through which God can give you healing. I want to read to you a couple of things that really touched my heart in the last few days. First, from a devotional that is called, "Quiet Times." Then, I want to read a particular scripture to you. The reason that I want to include this in this teaching on the Walls of Your Heart, is that when you decide to let walls come down in your heart, for the first time in your life since you were a little, little child, you come into a place where you are the most vulnerable that you have ever been.

It takes a lot of "guts" to let the walls come down--to just let them come down, so that you can take a good look at your heart

and you can allow the Lord to really change your heart and to do wonderful, healing things.

A lot of times you will find yourself crying--especially people who have had Walls of Rebellion--which is where we are now in our study. People who have Walls of Rebellion have become real good at blocking their hurt and blocking out the tears. They just come to a point and say, "That's it, I'm not crying anymore." There are incidents where you will see children who have had a lot of abuse in their lives, making a decision at a very young age, not to show their tears. They seem to say, "That's it. I'm not going to give that person who has been abusing me the opportunity--the satisfaction--the pleasure--of seeing me cry. I'm not going to let it happen."

So as those Walls of Rebellion begin to come down--the hardness of heart is broken--there is crying that comes out of it.

Psalm 56:8 "You have collected all my tears and reserved them in Your bottle, You have recorded every one in Your book."

*'Tears': . . . from "Quiet Times"  
by H. Norman Wright*

*Did you know that God notices your tears? He created you with the capacity to weep, knowing that crying is a major part of the healing process for your body. Some people cry silently and inwardly; they stifle their tears. Others are more fortunate and can let their tears flow. Charles Swindoll tells us, "A teardrop on earth summons the King of Heaven. Rather than being ashamed or disappointed, the Lord takes note of our inner friction when the hard are oiled by tears. He turns these situations into moments of tenderness: He never forgets those crises in our lives where tears were shed."*

*Tears can express many feelings. There are tears of joy and happiness, tears of heartache and sorrow, and tears of frustration and anger. Tears often communicate your feelings in a way words cannot.*

*What prompts you to tears? Perhaps it's the joy of a newborn baby. The singing of a much-loved hymn may bring back a flood of memories. Some people cry when they pray. Others cry when the memory of a loved one comes to mind. Do you consider tears an enemy rather than a friend?*

*When was the last time you cried in front of someone? When do you feel like crying but fight to hold back the flow? When have you cried together with someone?*

*Jesus wept. So did David when he lost his son Absalom. In other words, strong people weep as well as weak people. It is a sign of strength and wholeness to cry over something that deeply moves you. Don't apologize for your tears. After all, why apologize for a wonderful gift from God? Your tears are an important part of your communication. Let them flow.*

*Max Lucado wrote:*

*"Tears. Those tiny drops of humanity. Those round, wet balls of fluid that tumble from our eyes, creep down our cheeks, and splash on the floor of our hearts. They are miniature messengers; on call 24 hours a day to substitute for crippled words. They drip, drop, and pour from the corner of our souls, carrying with them the deepest emotions we possess. They tumble down our faces with announcements that range from the most blissful joy to darkest despair.*

*The principle is simple, when words are most empty, tears are most apt."*

"Happy are those who are strong in the Lord, who want above all else to follow your steps. When they walk through the valley of weeping it will become a place of springs where pools of blessing and refreshment collect after rains! They will grow constantly in strength and each of them is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion." Psalm 84:5-7 (TLB)

Isn't that wonderful? And, I love the Living Bible translation, because when you read it in the other translations, you don't know that the Valley of Baca means the valley of weeping. When we go out, we may see water collected after the rain, right? That's what happens--there are pools of refreshment that come to the valley of weeping. There is another side. That's why the Word says, "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning." Your night will come to an end and joy (pools of refreshment) will come in the morning. "They will grow constantly in strength and each of them is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion. Hallelujah! If you need to meet with God, receive this Word of the Lord. There is no question--He gave that to us. Amen.

We are continuing on with the Walls of Your Heart, and we have been doing the Walls of Rebellion for the past few lessons. What happens is:--when we are hurt, we end up building walls in our heart to protect us from more hurt, to protect us from the pain that has been inflicted--or is being inflicted in our lives. We build up Walls in Our Heart. I have become certain that, after three years of this study, the walls that are in our hearts break down into two categories: Rejection--(big time rejection) or Rebellion.

We have gone through the Walls of Rejection and all of the symptoms in a life--and what we are doing now is the Walls of Rebellion. We are right in the middle of how this shows up in someone's life (what the clues are in your life to let you know this is where you are--and that this is the stronghold that the enemy has in your life).

One of the things that I have said, and I still believe it with all of my heart, is that most of you who come in for this study do not have the root problem of rebellion. That's not where you started--you were hurt and hurt badly, and you started with the Walls of Rejection. The Walls of Rejection, if left to go all the way to the end, without the intervention of the Lord, or some intervention in some way, finally lead to suicide.

I know many of you, many more than have ever told me or have shared with me, have contemplated suicide at one time or another--the enemy brings the thoughts from time to time, "Maybe it would be better if I just gave up--I wouldn't have to do this anymore." Or maybe even some of you have attempted suicide. But, for others of us, in order to keep us from finally getting to that point, something else kicks in, and that is hardness of heart--that rebellion starts to rise up in us as a defense mechanism, because we don't know how else to cope with what's going on in our hearts. We are in the third lesson of the series of the Walls of Rebellion.

We are in the midst of discussing the symptoms of the Walls of Rebellion. You may not display them all, you may display almost all of them, but not all of the time, or, you may recognize someone in your life who has inflicted a great deal of hurt into your life--or still is. You may recognize these characteristics and symptoms as identifying these people in your life. If that happens, the Lord is showing you something. He is showing you so that you can understand--and He is showing you so that you can pray. You don't have to be controlled by that type of behavior in your life anymore.

So, in review, the symptoms of the Walls of Rebellion in your emotions are:

- 1) Hostility
- 2) Conceit
- 3) Sophistication
- 4) Wild mood swings

It shows up in the thought processes (in the intellect) as:

- 1) Superiority
- 2) Competitiveness
- 3) Domination
- 4) Rigidity and stiffness
- 5) Stubbornness
- 6) Un-teachableness

In your spirit ( in your heart of hearts):

- 1) Delusions
- 2) Resentment and bitterness
- 3) Criticalness (a critical spirit)

I want you to understand that there is a difference between a critical spirit and evaluation, honesty and love--someone who you are accountable to--or someone who loves you, in the Spirit, giving you an honest evaluation of your actions or thoughts.

Question from class member: "Explain that to us again."

There is such a thing as an honest evaluation in love from a fellow Christian or another person. They can evaluate something you are doing and say, "Hey, this is not good for you, this is not going to do you good, here," or "I know that you are trying to approach this problem this way, but have you considered that perhaps you could try this way." Even, when people are trying to grow in ministry . . . did you know that when you are trying to start out in a ministry that you don't start out perfect?!

For example, I was talking to you about an opportunity. If you don't have a ministry, to come on Saturday mornings to the church and pull weeds . . . do you know that if you have never pulled weeds, you actually have to be taught to pull weeds? Otherwise, you end up pulling flowers. It is the most amazing

thing! The other thing is that if you break off the head, one day later--the weed is back up again. We all have to be taught. So there is loving instruction and loving correction. That is honest evaluation, evaluation in love--that sharpens us. That makes us better. That is what we should be able to do with friends, with one another in honesty and love. We should be able to honestly talk to one another and honestly "tell it the way it is." That's not what I'm talking about here. What I am talking about is a critical spirit--a spirit that continually cuts down. No matter what the situation is, they have something negative to say about it, continually looking for the negative--continually coming through with cutting criticism. I will tell you that there are more people's lives destroyed while they are children through a critical spirit from their parents than probably any other way because it brings shame on the children. They are ashamed. No matter what they do, it's never good enough. No matter how hard they have tried. What the parents point out is what they didn't do, not what they did do.

If you had a parent like this, if you sat down with your parent now and tried to talk to them about it, they would probably say, "Well, I just wanted to make you the best that you could be. It was because I loved you so much and wanted the best for you." That's what they would say.

So, what I am saying is--don't go back now and get on their case. I'm not talking about their life--I'm talking about your life. What happens is that when you have been raised that way or when you have come out of that kind of background, you don't even realize it--but that same seed has been sown in you--to look for the negative—to look for what's wrong and not what's right.

That is why a critical spirit is so often manifested with the Walls of Rebellion. People who manifest this kind of problem only know one way to make themselves feel better, and that is to make someone else feel worse. They only know of one way to lift themselves up and that is to cut somebody else down. It is exactly opposite of the way the Lord tells us that we should do it. What we are supposed to do is to humble ourselves. If we humble ourselves before Him, He lifts us up. So many of the world go about trying to lift themselves up--and the only way that they know how to do it is to try to cut everybody else down.

If you live with an alcoholic, if you live with someone who is controlled by substance, if you live with someone who has a severe emotional problem of some sort (they've just "gone weird"), this will go on over and over and over again. When you are with them,

they will criticize you so much. Do you know what they will pick on more than anything else? Your Christianity. They will go out of their way to tell you what you are not as a Christian.

If you do not affirm everything they do, no matter how foul or how wrong, or how sinful it might be, if you don't affirm what they do--"Well, you are not a 'loving' Christian! Look at your testimony, look at you. You don't walk around here like 'Miss Joy and Peace and Love.' " (In other words, you don't affirm everything that I want to do and then tell me that it's good). The more that you try to serve God, that's the area where you will be criticized the most.

Don't let the critical spirit be found in you. If you have this problem, admit it and take it to God and ask Him to put a watch guard on your mouth. The Word is clear, we are supposed to say words to build one another up, things to encourage one another. The Word even says, "Let no idle chatter come out of your mouth." There is not supposed to be any idle talk, really. Fruitless talk. Ask the Lord to put a watch guard on your mouth, just as David did. Start looking for areas where you can encourage someone, because, believe me, nobody wants to be around anyone who is going to continually talk negatively or continually criticize. Nobody. In contrast, the most amazing thing happens, whether it's your children, or whoever, the more that you are able to encourage them in certain areas, the more it helps them to grow.

4) CONTROL. This is the "biggy." The Walls of Rebellion show up in the spirit as control. There is one symptom with alcoholism or substance abuse that absolutely appears in every single person--and that is control. In every situation the focus gets turned to that person. Everyday, in every situation, in all the emotional upheaval, no matter what is going on--the focus somehow gets directed on this person. They are totally self-directed. Everyone in the family, whether it's the wife, the children, friends that live in the same household, or whoever, everybody adjusts their lifestyle to "not upset" the one who is "off the wall." Everybody adjusts--they "tip-toe" around in their lives, they adjust their schedules. They think, "I have to be there or not be there, I've got to do this or not do this, I need not to say this in this way or this will happen, or I have to say this exactly this way or that will happen." Everybody gets sick, because they are all adjusting their behavior. This IS the dysfunctional family. All it takes is two people to have a family. Do you know why everybody feels as if they have to adjust? Because they are desperately trying to keep some wholeness. They are trying to keep some

sense of peace, some kind of serenity, because at any instant, there is an explosion and another storm. These people are "fighters" looking for a place to happen. Hostility follows them around. Strife is a part of their life. So, what I am saying to you is: what you are trying to do is impossible. You cannot ever adjust enough to make it "OK" because no matter how you adjust, no matter what you try to do to make it right, they're going to throw it off--what you did right yesterday will not be right tomorrow. They'll see to it, because if it were, the focus wouldn't be on them. I'm sorry if this sounds hard, but this is just practical teaching. I want you to understand it.

Everyone works around the controller's actions and attitudes. Here are some examples:

No matter what the situation is, whether it's a special family gathering, if it's a wedding, if it's the birth of a baby, no matter what wonderful kind of celebration you might be trying to have, some way or another, this person is going to get control of the situation.

Two examples: You'll be in a restaurant. There'll be a big party of people and it's obvious whose birthday it is--because that's where the balloons are! In this group of people, somehow during the evening, will be some person who keeps getting louder and louder and louder. There's more of a ruckus there. Everybody gets uncomfortable, everyone knows that this party is disturbing everyone else in the restaurant. Everyone is wishing that they could find some way to keep this person quiet or get him out of the place. Meanwhile, he is ordering more martinis, beers, or whatever, one after the other. You know what's going to happen, it's already been destroyed. So, the person who is having the birthday knows that it is already being destroyed--because all of the focus has already gone to the controller. Of course, they cannot order dinner until an hour after they sit down at the table, because there has to be plenty of time for him to have as many drinks before dinner as possible.

Another example is . . . it's your child's birthday, and more than anything else, you want this to be a wonderful birthday party for your child. All that has to happen is that Daddy has to get home by 7 o'clock. That's all that has to happen. He gets off at 5:30, what's the big deal? Surely he can get there by 7 o'clock, but does he? No. And, no matter what you try to do to make the birthday wonderful for the child, Daddy's not there. You can't make it run right if Daddy's not there, because the child loves Daddy. Or,



maybe you're the Mommy--and you just cannot get it together that day, and you say to the child, "You just have to understand that Mommy is hurting, or Mommy is having a bad day." If you see yourself, that's OK. God has a plan. God has healing for you. This is not fun stuff, and I know it, but it's true.

5) MANIPULATION. The last way that the Walls of Rebellion show up in the spirit is in manipulation. Webster's dictionary definition of manipulation is "to control the action of--or to manage artfully and fraudulently." There is something that I want you to understand: LOVE GIVES AND MANIPULATION GETS. It's not too hard to look at your relationships with other people and figure out what is really going on. Are you the "giver"--or are you the "getter?" Or are they the "giver"--or the "getter?" In healthy relationships--whether they are friendships--whether they are parental--whether they are spousal, did you know that two people could spend their entire lives just giving and giving and giving to one another? That's exactly how God intends it to be.

I would venture to say that there are women who do not have a clue as to what love is, because every relationship in their life has had some manipulation involved, either on their part--or they have been the manipulated one. God has a love (do you want to know what it sounds like?).

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 I have written in my Bible the word MOTIVE alongside this scripture. What is your motive? It says, "And now I will show you the most excellent way to live. If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love--I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mystery and all knowledge--and if I have a faith that moves all mountains--but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all that I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I gain nothing."

This is why you can be with people in the body of Christ, when they can be saying to you that they are Christians, and yet you do not see love . . . they can be serving . . . serving, . . . but where is the love?? And, where there is no love, resentment, anger and bitterness will eventually take hold. It doesn't matter whether it is within the body of Christ or outside of it. The lack of love will finally result in anger of some type.

There is such a thing as righteous anger. What the Word says is, "In your anger, do not sin." It doesn't say that you are never going to be angry. In fact, it says not to let the sun go down on

your anger. That means, evidently, that we are going to be angry. There is righteous indignation. Jesus got angry and tore up things in the temple, and He was without sin. He went through that place and tore it up. He did. We get this impression that the only way that we can be a Christian is to be like milk toast and let everybody just "run herd" over us. That's exactly how we have gotten to this place in our country in my opinion.

We let everybody else exercise their rights over our rights. There is a way to stand up for yourself. There is a way to be tough. This is something to be learned--that there is a way to stand up for yourself with Christians or non-Christians and say, "This is it! The line is drawn here. I do not have to take this treatment from you. I do not have to allow you to abuse me or speak abusively." We could go off into a hundred different scenarios, but the Lord will show you how to rise up in defense of yourself, for your God-given rights and still operate in real love.

Just look at Jesus' life. The Gospels will show you how absolutely up-front and honest He was. He could express His opinion and just cut right to the quick with very few words. That was Jesus. You have no question what frame of mind He was in at that time. Correct?

Now, let's discuss the root of rebellion. Do you remember what the root sin of rejection is? It is unbelief. The root sin of rejection is unbelief. You just don't trust God enough to be able to make you whole, make you well. You just don't believe that God loves you enough--or that you are good enough to even deserve what God would do for you. With the Walls of Rebellion, it is exactly the opposite. There is so much pride, that you are not even sure you need God. Or when God is in the picture, you are convinced that you have it straight--as to how Christianity is supposed to be--what religion is supposed to be. The root sin of rebellion is pride. The problem is that we are made in this way: spirit, soul and body. We are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body. My spirit is "the God in me" (if I have asked Jesus into my heart). My soul is "the me in me." What is supposed to be happening is that, with the body of Christ, God is supposed to be so big in me--that the "me in me" is dying. With the Walls of Rebellion, what is happening is that the "me in me" is so big, that the fear of God in me is dying. There is no opportunity for the life of Christ to be exercised in me, because I will not listen to it.

If you look at the word PRIDE . . . what's in the middle? "I"--me. That's exactly what is in the middle of sin . . . it's "I" (ME). It

started in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:1-5 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

Remember that rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft? Arrogance is like idolatry, like "I am becoming my own god." Pride started right there, and it has been a stronghold and difficulty ever since.

Proverbs 8:13 This is about as clear as it gets. This is the spirit of wisdom speaking. (Proverbs is the most wonderful book. If you want a book to live your life by--this is it. I know lots of people who do Proverbs as their daily devotional--because it just happens to have 31 chapters, they read a chapter of Proverbs that coordinates with the day. They read a chapter every day. It will change your life, because there is more wisdom for daily living in Proverbs than in any book of the Bible. It is a manual on how to live).

"To fear the Lord is to hate evil. I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech." Perverse means deviating (differing) from what's right, true and correct. You hear about people speaking about what's perverted--that is what deviates from what is right, true and correct.

Proverbs 11:2, 13:10, 16:8, 21:2-4, 29:23. Read these for the next lesson.

I told you that rejection left to run to the end of itself leads to suicide. Rebellion left to run its course all the way to the end finally leads to homicide--also death. But, Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest." There's only one way to get to that life, and that's also a way of death--and that's the way of the cross. There is a place to come to in your life, where you can be crucified with Christ. Even though you are crucified with Christ, you will live. In 1 Timothy 6:19, it says that you can live the life that is truly life. What the world is doing is a cheap imitation of real life . . . a pathetic, cheap imitation of life. But there is a life in which your old sin nature can die. I want you to be encouraged--I

don't care if what you have heard in here is "you" right down the line. A lot of you have recognized people who have brought hurt into your life. But, in a lot of characteristics, you may have seen yourself. You may have realized now--just how much rebellion is in you. I am telling you that it can be put to death. It can be killed. It can die, and out of you can come an amazing new life in Christ. Until it dies, things in your life are not going to change. They might change temporarily, they might change for a little while (it might get a little bit better), but it will end up going right back to the same old way that it was.

Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask You, Lord, to take what has been shared and use it, please. (You know how hard it is for me to teach this.) Somehow use it in women's lives--so that they will realize that if they see themselves--it can end. It can die--they can let it go. It doesn't matter how long they have been this way, they don't have to go on this way. It doesn't matter how long they have carried around these characteristics (maybe from when they were little girls), it does not have to stay this way. There can be a life that is truly life that can come out of them through Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior. So, Father, I ask You, despite all of these symptoms that have been so negative and so hurtful and so harsh, somehow, Lord, transcend this and come through this with a spirit of hope. Lord, let hope go down in their souls. If they saw people that they care about, I would ask You, Lord, to enable them to pray in a new way, in a more insightful way . . . in a more accurate way. It is with the accuracy and the power that we pray, that we see things change in the Kingdom. Father God, I thank You that the fervent prayer of a righteous woman availeth much--and that we can pray with fervency and accuracy. Use this in our lives for eternal purposes--to pray for those whom we care so much about. Father, I thank You and I praise You and I pray that somehow women would be, through Your Spirit, encouraged. Let them see that we are not at the end of anything here, we are in the middle of something--and we are going all the way toward life that is really life . . . show them how they can choose life out of the midst of the depredation and the ugliness and the hurt. Out of it can come a life that's really life. I will ask You to do that, Lord, please, through the power of Your spirit in Jesus' name. AMEN.*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Psalm 56:8

Psalm 84:5-7

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Genesis 3:1-5

Proverbs 8:13

Other referenced material:

"Tears" (from Quiet Moments) by H. Norman Wright

"The Final Week of Jesus' Life" by Max Lucado

# **PERSONAL NOTES**

**PERSONAL NOTES**

# **"The Walls of Our Heart"**

## **Walls of Rebellion**

### **Part Four**

We have been ministering on the "Walls of Our Hearts." Sometimes it takes a while for us to really "get it," and completely understand what God is teaching us in this study. God's plan is that we "get it." I say, a lot of times, that you carry it in your head, but, sometimes it seems like the "longest eighteen inches in the Universe" for it to get from the brain to the heart. That's a very long distance, sometimes. God doesn't intend for it to be that way. We are bound up in our heads, though. When we have Walls in Our Hearts, that's keeping the Word from getting from our head to our heart, too. So, as the walls begin to come down, we begin to open up to hear the Word.

We have been talking about two kinds of walls that are built up in our hearts. One has to do with the Walls of Rejection. The most amazing thing to me is that we never, ever know what is going on with each woman who is involved in this study unless she begins to share with us. The big deal in the world today is not with God. I've tried things myself--I've tried self-help groups--it just does not work, because God did not design us to be able to help ourselves. We run out of strength and run out of ability. We sure run out of knowledge, but God has empowered us in such a way that, if we have the love of Christ within us, there will be power so that He will work through us, and we will be helped. It is not through what we are doing, it is through what HE is doing.

The Lord brought to my mind the incident at the Pool of Bethesda in [John 5](#). This story from the scriptures is probably the heart of our study. There was a large group of people waiting there for the water to be stirred. When it was stirred . . . what happened? Every man was for himself. It was a big "self-help" group. That's exactly what was going on.

When Jesus came on the scene, He said to the man (who had been an invalid for 38 years), "Do you want to get well? Do you want to be made whole? If so, let Me do it for you, because you cannot heal yourself." That's what God is doing within you and others in this study. I thank God for the ones who have continued in this study (they have allowed God to pull the walls down that



were around their hearts), who have continued to come because they have a heart of love for other women who may start this study for the first time. It is nothing that I do, and I am always humbled when you come to me and say, "Thank you, Connie." I appreciate that so much. I know that God has raised me up for this particular ministry. It is very unique.

I know that He has called me to do this, and I will teach this as long as I feel the calling and anointing on my life to do it. Nothing will happen, though, unless we are willing to allow the Lord to use the "Walls of Our Hearts" to bring forth a transformation within us. I see so many women who have changed so much--and I praise God for it. For those of you who think that you have a long way to go in this study, I must say that "It's not over till it's over!" Don't give up--"Just keep on keeping on." God is working. God has a plan.

The Walls of Rejection that we discussed before, if allowed to go all the way to the end, (and if the enemy, Satan, has his way in your lives with rejection), will finally lead to thoughts of--or even attempted suicide. That's where it ends. The Walls of Rebellion, on the other hand, if let go to the very end, if the enemy has his way and God is not given the opportunity to intervene in your lives, will lead to thoughts of--or even attempted homicide.

There are probably some of you participating in this study that have had thoughts of suicide some time in your life (and maybe even today). You probably wouldn't even admit it if homicide had come into your minds. Some things I share with you, and some things I don't. I don't know if I have ever told you any of this. This is something that is hard for me to admit. I can remember when I was involved in my first marriage (and a lot of you don't even know that I was married before). I was married when I was 21 years old, and was married less than 3 years. There were times during that marriage that I wished him dead. I didn't make a plan, I didn't set out to kill him, but I wished he would die. I wished he were dead. I would venture to say that there are probably many of you who have thought this very same thing, who have had the same feelings. But, I would never ask you to tell me.

What I want you to know is, that's exactly how the enemy works in your head. That's straight from the pit of hell. Don't think that when those thoughts have come into your head, that you are so foul, so lost and so horrible that it's not something which you can ever admit to someone. Those are the thoughts planted by the enemy. The thing to do, rather than not admit it, is to admit it in

order to get it cleansed and taken care of. It took me a long time before I was even able to actually admit such a thing out of my mouth--that I would ever have such foul and horrible thoughts over someone. Well, I did, but, praise God, I have been forgiven, cleansed, and I am free of even the guilt of such thoughts! So, rejection can finally lead to suicide and rebellion to homicide--both lead to death.

In the last lesson, we talked about another death, but it is a death that brings life. 1 Timothy calls it the "only life that's really life," and it's to be crucified . . . crucified with Christ. This is what we are going to discuss in this lesson. This is a very intense Bible study, and we refer to a lot of scripture.

I don't really care how many times people tell me that this is hard. I don't really care how many times you tell me that it's your old self, it's your old way and it's your old nature. What I am saying to you is that YOU CAN CHANGE. The reason that I know that you can change is that I thought that I could never change. I am changed. I am a changed woman. When I opened up my heart to let God begin to work in me, He began to change me. There are ways that I think about things and feel towards people, now, that amaze me. But, this IS me, and the old me was ME, too.

Sometimes I think about going back to a class reunion. Then I think, "Well, that's not a good thing for me to do." Why am I going to go back to that class reunion? I am not that person. I'm not saying that it's a sin to go to a class reunion. If I were to walk into the reunion, I know that people would have preconceived ideas of how I was. I would not be able to say anything to anyone, except, "That Connie died." Does the old Connie ever want to rise up again? Yes, she does. Do I ever want to go out in the yard and "dig up the old dead bones?" Sometimes, I do. Yes, I think about acting the old way, thinking the old way.

What I am saying to you is that YOU CAN BE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. You can take your old self nature, you can take your old actions and you can take your old reactions and change. I listened to a tape the other day when I heard someone say, "You know, the true sign of holiness in your life is NOT your ACTIONS--it's your REACTIONS." Your reactions can change. Everything that is in you that is NOT OF GOD and not pleasing to God--can DIE. I would like to be able to tell you that we could "flip a switch" and all the old you--and all the old me--is going to be dead. That's not true. I CAN tell you that, when you invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your life, that you become a new creature in Christ Jesus; that

within your spirit you are made alive and made new in Christ. But, I can also tell you that your soul (your mind, your will and your emotions) is not instantaneously made over. That is a process and that takes some time.

The renewing comes through the Lord and the Spirit of God and it takes some time. It's a process. That's where we often miss it. We will begin--and then we will quit or we begin--and then we backslide. Some people never even begin. God help them, but they don't. They just don't even start out on the process of letting their mind, will and their emotions be renewed.

The good news is that, in the same way the darkness out of your self nature has been showing up in your actions and reactions (coming out of your mouth, out of your body and coming out in your attitudes), as you are being made over (as you are taking off the old nature and putting on the new), that also will begin to start showing on the outside. Praise God! The Word says in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that "We are being changed from glory to glory . . . ever increasing glory" until we come into the true reflection of Christ Jesus--transformed into His likeness!

Romans 8:1-2 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." A lot of people use this scripture to just "get off scot-free" for whatever they are doing. They are making sin a practice, a lifestyle. If they claim to be Christians, and you try to talk to them about the sin that is their lifestyle, they will come back with, "There is now no condemnation . . . THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION." Some of the versions of the Bible say, "No condemnation for those who BELONG to Christ Jesus," or "No condemnation for those who live not according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit."

This is talking about a lifestyle lived in the Spirit of God. There is a way to live in Christ Jesus. The other side of this is, if you are not living your lifestyle in the Spirit, if you are not living in Christ Jesus, are you in condemnation? Yes, you are. Even if you are a Christian, until you have repented (turned around, changed--a heart change), until there is "heart surgery" and a heart change, you are going to feel condemnation. The enemy is going to beat you up one side and down the other with it, and you are going to be "letting" him, because you are living after your sinful nature and not after the Spirit.

Remember that GOD SEES YOUR HEART. If you are endeavoring to walk, live and have your being in the Spirit, then the enemy has no right to beat you up, . . . NONE! The blood of Jesus Christ will NEVER lose its power. If you will run to Him with a

heart that is truly repentant, ask His forgiveness for whatever has been in your life, or is in your life NOW, there IS a cleansing that will take place. Some of you wonder what this has to do with hurting women. It has EVERYTHING to do with hurting women.

What happens when we are hurt is that, whatever has been inflicted in our lives became the seeds that were sown. For some women, it happened a long time ago. For some, it has been an ongoing thing--they go home to it. For some, it is one single traumatic event when they were a victim--or they were traumatized. For some of you, it was a situation where YOU were the abuser (the one inflicting the pain). In all cases, a traumatic event happened in your life--a TIME OF HURT. That's the seed that was sown in your life.

Unless you know how to let God come in there and take care of that seed (dealing with that hurt: getting it out and maybe even doing it on a moment-to-moment basis), you will begin seeing unbelief, a lack of trust in God, i.e., "Can I really trust God after this has happened in my life?" You will see unforgiveness, anger, rage, hardness, callousness, all kinds of things. All that--is SIN. None of that is from God. What happens is that we cannot get to the heart of the matter (to the heart of the hurt), until we come to God and say, "Yes, this is how I feel . . . this is it," and admit it. That's the place to start.

The bad news about self-help groups is that they will tell you about what you are feeling--or how you are feeling, but they do not tell you how to be healed. It's just a lot of sharing, "Yes, that's exactly how I feel. That's it . . . you're right . . . you've got it. Yes, there's somebody else that feels just like I do!" And there is some comfort just in knowing someone else understands your pain. Then, you walk out, and after about two hours, you're saying, "So what!" There is nothing but hopelessness in that. There are twenty other people in the room who have the same problems that I do! Is THAT supposed to make me feel better? I don't think so. Well, maybe it will help for a moment, because, "misery loves company." There are some good feelings, and there is even help in having the opportunity to express what is in you. There is good in that. But, there has to be MORE than that . . . there has to be more than understanding and sharing. You have to be able to go on to a healing . . . on to something MORE. Only God can do that. When there is sin--praise God--there's good news in sin--YOU CAN GET A CLEANSING. Hallelujah! The Blood of Jesus is for cleansing, and you can get a cleansing. You can get a "clean slate." You can begin again.

Again, Romans 8:1-2 says, "Therefore there is NOW no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus BECAUSE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE SET ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH."

What that is saying is that there are two spiritual principles in operation . . . there are two laws. One is the law of the spirit of LIFE. The other one is the law of SIN and DEATH.

First, we will discuss the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. When you are feeling rejected (Walls of Rejection), when you are feeling hurt, when you are feeling put-off by people you love (and maybe even rejected by GOD), the root sin of that spirit of rejection is unbelief. You believe that God might be a real great God (up there--out there--up there in Heaven--wherever He is), and yet, you may tend to get this feeling in your heart that "my hurt and my heart problem (and my heart difficulty) is so big, that I don't really think that God can come in and fix things."

You cannot imagine how many times I have women say to me, "Have you ever talked to a woman with problems as serious as mine . . . with a hurt as deep as mine? You have no idea how much more serious my situation is compared to theirs." They seem to be thinking that no one else's problems are as serious as theirs. Oh, yes they are. The same God is the God who ministers to every single hurt. When people come and say that things are impossible, I say, "Great, I love it," because that hooks me right in with the promise of God, that says, Luke 1:37 "NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE with (God) HIM."

In Mark 9:23 Jesus said, "EVERYTHING is possible for him who BELIEVES." The key is believing, because when you are feeling rejected--you DON'T BELIEVE! So, if you don't believe--if you don't believe that you can trust Him, start THERE. That's the root sin . . . that's the difficulty . . . UNBELIEF--The Word says that "Everything that does not come from faith is sin." Romans 14:23 Unbelief is SIN. The Israelites were wandering around for forty years in rebellion and unbelief. They didn't believe that the same God that did a miracle 48 hours before, could do it again. They were wandering around in unbelief and hard-heartedness. This paints a perfect picture of it, because they went on and on in rebellion.

With the Walls of Rebellion, the root sin is PRIDE. It is the "I will be my own God." We discussed this at length. The reason that I am discussing this, now, is that the only way to get to the healing of the broken-heartedness is to get to what is blocking you. The

very literal meaning of sin is SEPARATION FROM GOD. That's exactly what it does . . . it separates you from God. So, if you can get to the point of admitting what's in your heart, you are on the right track, to that place where a cleansing can come and a healing can begin in your heart.

1 Corinthians 11:31 says that we are to judge ourselves. This is when you are taking communion . . . this is where so many of us "miss it." Paul wrote here concerning that time when you are taking the cup that represents the blood of Jesus Christ, and the bread that represents His body that was broken for you. It is at THAT TIME that you are supposed to examine yourself. You are supposed to look at your heart and you are supposed to look at your actions. The whole purpose of that is, then, to use the blood for exactly what it was shed for . . . for a cleansing, and to use the body for exactly why it was broken . . . to bring a healing. But we just blatantly take communion and do not consider what we are doing, we don't judge ourselves--we don't judge our hearts. The Word says, "Judge yourself," because out of that will come a cleansing and a healing. Verse 30 says that many of us are sick, and then we die because we do not judge ourselves. Isn't that an interesting concept? Listen with "spirit ears" to what the Word of the Lord is speaking to you here.

I want to discuss two kinds of sorrow in this world. One is worldly sorrow, and the other is Godly sorrow. You may wonder why somebody whom you love deeply goes out and "messes up" colossally and hurts you and everybody else in their life. After it is over, they are sorry. There is no question they are sorry. They cry, they ask for your forgiveness, they beg you to give them another start, they promise you (on everything that is Holy) that it will never happen again, and you know that they mean it, they really mean it. They are as sincere as a person can possibly be . . . two weeks later . . . they do it again.

Have any of you been around this mountain with any people in your life that you care about? I know you have. I don't even have to ask. Then, you wonder, over and over again; if they are serious, if they are really sorry, then why do they keep doing it over and over again? This scripture is going to be a wonder to you, because there are two kinds of sorrow. This makes it so clear.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 Paul says to the church of Corinth, "Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter (the previous letter that he wrote to them which was quite scathing) I do not regret it. Though I did regret it, I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a

little while, yet, now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

### **WORLDLY SORROW**

Now, if you think back to Romans 8 where I said that there were two principles in operation. One was the principle of life, and the other was the principle of death. That's exactly what we are discussing here. There is a sorrow that has nothing to do with God. People may think it has to do with God, but do you know what they are sorry for? They are sorry because they got "caught," they are sorry because of the consequences that they have to face, and they are sorry because what they've done has honestly and truly hurt people who they really do love (that they really do care about). Do you see that all of that is selfish? Worldly sorrow is, "I'm sorry because of the way this is making me feel." Worldly sorrow brings death. Do you know why? It's because you keep walking around the same mountain. You walk around the same mountain until you die. Every time you go around the mountain, it hurts more--and more dies (more of your relationships die, more of your feelings between people die, more of you dies . . . you are dying).

### **GODLY SORROW**

There is another sorrow . . . Godly sorrow. Godly sorrow brings repentance. What does repentance mean? It means to "turn around." When you are truly sorry before God, and truly repentant before God, a supernatural miracle can take place. A miracle can take place! You can be empowered to literally "turn around," to make different choices. It leads to salvation (salvation, in itself, means life). Salvation means "wholeness, completeness, soundness and deliverance." Jesus referred to it as LIFE ABUNDANTLY (more abundantly). He said in John 10:10, "I have come to bring you life and that more abundantly," i.e., "to the full (overflowing)." Now, look again at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Do you see that the scripture says that Godly sorrow "leaves no regret?" Some of you don't even know that this is possible. You don't even know that you can get to a point, with the healing love of Jesus Christ, that you can have no regret for some of the things that you have done and thought and said in your life. That is a miracle, folks. THAT'S A MIRACLE. ONLY GOD CAN DO THAT. God can do a healing and take that horrible, horrible regret that you have been carrying

around all of your life. This is God's miracle-working love and life in operation. He specializes in true cleansing. Well, what IS Godly sorrow?

Psalm 51 This psalm gives you the most accurate picture-- the most complete and whole picture of a repentant heart in the entire Bible. Thank you, Lord, for putting Psalm 51 in the Bible, because God said that David was a man after his own heart. David was a "colossal mess-up" in a lot of areas . . . and I mean David sinned "big time" in a lot of areas! Psalm 51 was written after his adulterous affair with Bethsheba. David went to God. I am not reading the entire psalm, but if you need to do some "heavy-duty," healthy and healing repentance, this is the Psalm for you. Take Psalm 51 to bed with you at night, and it will change your life, if you mean it.

Verse 1: David is talking to God. He says, "Have mercy on me, Oh God" . . . which is really the place to start, when you know that you are in a mess and that you have sinned. "Have mercy, God, according to your unfailing love," because what you need is not judgment. Trust me . . . you do not want your "just" God at that moment. You want your merciful, loving Heavenly Father. And, David starts out and says, "Have mercy on me, God, according to your UNFAILING love, according to your great compassion. Blot out my transgressions." That's what the blood of Jesus Christ is able to do--BLOT OUT--make clean, make white. "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me." He had regrets--deep regrets.

Verse 4: Here's the key. The difference between worldly sorrow and Godly sorrow . . . "Against YOU, and you ONLY have I sinned and done what is evil in YOUR sight." That is the key. People who are going around the mountain with worldly sorrows-- they're apologizing to me, they're apologizing to their family, they're apologizing to everybody all over the place whom they have hurt, they're apologizing to their employers, and all of that is fine. That is important, that's part of restitution, but that doesn't CHANGE ANYTHING, because it is not against ME that they have sinned. I'm not the judge. I'm not the one that they are supposed to be obedient or disobedient to . . . IT'S GOD . . . and He's the ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. It's God and GOD ALONE. I can tell you that you know when someone is repentant. You'll know, or if you are wondering or dealing with a person who is telling you that they are sorry, you'll know if God is in it. There will be brokenness. There will be a willingness to say, "I HAVE LET GOD



DOWN." You will know if it's Godly or worldly, and you will know it in you, too. You know it in your heart. What I am saying to you is, that when it is God, when you know you've sinned against HIM and HIM ALONE, and you confess it just that way, then comes SALVATION and NO REGRET. It's a miracle, a miracle.

Verse 10: "Create in me a pure heart, God." When you have sinned and you know that your heart feels dirty, you need a cleansing from God. David says, "Create in me a pure heart, God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." When you are sinning, when you are falling into sin, when you are walking back into sin, your spirit is not steadfast (it is not holding on, it is not standing strong). David is saying renew in me that steadfast spirit that will not waver, will not go back (will not backslide), that will not quit, will not give up.

Verse 11: "Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. Then, I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You." When you let Him do a cleansing, when you let Him give you a steadfast spirit, when you let Him make a difference in your heart, it doesn't just leave you with salvation and no regret. It then enables you to minister that same life to other people.

You can then share, "Let me tell you what God did for me. You think that you can never get over this, you think that you can never be healed or do you think that you could never feel clean, again? Let me tell you what my God did for me . . . let me tell you!" Then, they'll say to you, "Oh, but what you did could never be as bad as what I did!" Do you want to bet? God does not differentiate our sin. Sin is sin. We differentiate it, but He doesn't. We are the ones who decide what we did is worse than what they did. No . . . no . . . no! God is merciful, hallelujah, and He is no respecter of persons. Aren't you glad? Praise God.

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Romans 8:1-2

1 Corinthians 11: 30 & 31

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

Psalm 51:1-11

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

**PERSONAL NOTES**

## "The Walls of Our Heart"

### **Conclusion: Choose Life!**

Romans 8:1-4 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

#### Brief summary of previous lessons:

When we are hurting, we have built up Walls in Our Heart, and we have come to understand that when hurt is sown in us, unless we know how to let it go to God, unless we know how to get it removed, unless we know how to get a cleansing, a harvest is going to come from seed that has been sown in us. The two basic harvests that end up coming forth from being rejected are: not trusting and not believing. The bottom line is that we end up not trusting or believing that God is able or willing to do a work inside our heart (because we don't think that we are worthy of it). The other side of that is, that if we are rebellious, the root sin of that is pride. That is as if we are saying, "I will do my own thing, and I will live my own way, and I will think my own thoughts about this, thank you." It's not conscious, but that's what is going on in our minds.

I said before that you can know the truth--and the truth will set you free. A lot of people say that the truth will set you free . . . no it won't. You can be told the truth all of your life, and if you only have it in your head, it is NOT going to set you free. What we are talking about is knowing the truth. Jesus said, "I AM the way, the truth and the life." So, when we are talking about knowing this truth, we are talking about coming to a place of knowing Jesus. There are a lot of women who end up coming to "Help for Hurting Women" who are just as I was, and that is that they knew a whole lot about God, and a whole lot about the Bible. But, until you come to a place of knowing God, of coming into an intimate, personal

relationship with God (when you start to fall in love with Jesus Christ), you are not going to ever get free. Until you start to fall in love with Him, you will not know how incredibly much He loves you and how precious you are--and how uniquely you have been made. Freedom starts to come from that.

I say a lot of times, "Breakthrough is not victory." You see, what happens is that women will suddenly taste some freedom . . . the clouds will part, the bondage will lift, the light comes on and it feels so good compared to how they had been feeling, that it is as if they are saying, "This is it, this is it, I'm 'fixed!'" You are not fixed. Freedom is the beginning, because God has made us spirit, soul and body. And, although your spirit is miraculously made whole and new when you invite the life of Jesus Christ inside you, your soul (mind, will and emotions) needs to have a process performed. The major part of the process is renewing your mind. Until you come to a place of sensing a freedom and beginning to know that freedom, you don't even have an openness in your heart to be able to receive a change which God wants to bring into your mind, your will and your emotions. That does take some time.

The key is THE WORD. It is the WORD, because the Word of God is full of life. It is life, and it is life-giving. We have it written down. When I pray for my class during my devotion time, I pray that you will be starving for the Word. Why? Because the Word will change your life. There's life in it. What happens when the freedom starts to take hold is that your heart is being ripped open so that the Word can be planted in there. The ground has to be ripped up for the seed to be planted. So, I want your hearts to be open. I want us to be ground that will be fertile--so that the seed of the Word can be sown. Until you realize what the harvest is that's come forth in your life, until you realize what that hurt has caused you to do and the things that you have done in cooperation with the enemy of the soul (until you are able to just admit it), you are going to get nowhere. But, when you will admit it, not admit it just to your friends or to the people that you've hurt, but admit it to God and ask forgiveness, you will get a cleansing--then you are on track, then the process has really, truly begun.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 We have discussed the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. We saw what it means when you have been sorry for things 952 times in your life, and then the next week did the same things again! You cannot figure it out, because you were really sorry. Then the next week you do the very same thing again. You just keep walking around and around the same mountain. This is worldly sorrow. But, there is a sorrow that comes from God. That's when God has gotten to your heart and you have a repentant heart. That's Godly sorrow. To get a

really good picture of a repentant heart and how you are to go to God when you really do have sorrow in your heart (Godly sorrow), read Psalm 51. We discussed that scripture previously.

We are now at the point in our study where we are discussing Romans 8, and we will continue with verses 5 and 6. "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is LIFE and PEACE."

Continuing with verses 7-13, "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit, you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

How do you put to death the misdeeds of the body? Do not do what your sinful nature leads you to do. How do you do that? You cannot do it yourself, out of your own strength. That is why you have the Spirit of the living God inside you, to help you. That's why "self-help" never works. It is a death cycle. It never works. You cannot ever try hard enough, you can never get it straight enough, you can't ever start over enough times--to get it right. Never. You will go along for a while, and then fall flat on your face again. Only by the Spirit of the living God which is in you, can you do this. That's why, when you are falling back into old thought patterns, old angers, old unforgiveness, old desires for sin, old sin action, old whatever garbage--you need to say, "Jesus, help me!" It's a wonderful prayer. It ushers you into the very throne room of God. "Help me, Jesus, I cannot do this on my own." The moment that you cry out, He will be there.

Refer to the Spirit, Soul and Body Chart on page 16. We are made Spirit (and this is God in us). We have a soul, which is our mind and our will and our emotions. All of that is housed in a body. All this body does is what either the Spirit tells it to do--or what the soul tells it to do. This whole passage that we just read is asking, "Who's in charge?" Is God in me . . . in charge--or Me in me? The

me in me is my old sinful nature. The good news is that the Spirit of God can get so strong in you that the God in you actually takes charge, and the you in you -- DIES. It dies.

### **A DEATH THAT BRINGS LIFE**

Colossians 1:27 This scripture speaks of an amazing thing: ". . . Christ in you, the hope of glory!"

Galatians 2:20. "I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. " What are we talking about? I am dead . . . but I am alive? Exactly. The me in me can die so that the Christ in me can live. When the Christ in me lives, the body lives, too. The body "goes along for the ride." When the God in me gets so strong that the me in me shuts its mouth and cooperates, the body goes along for that "ride," too. That's a "joy ride," folks!

We are talking about cycles, here. If you have been in a cycle of living by your sin nature, it is a cycle of sin and death. If you are in a cycle of living by the Spirit of God that is in you, it is a cycle of life. Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

God is a supernatural God. He is a miracle-working God. The same God who could bring forth a miracle harvest, can bring forth a miracle crop failure. So, if you have sown bad seed out of your life, if you have sown hateful words--if you have sown things that you wish you never had done, God can bring forth a miracle crop destruction. He can. That doesn't mean that, miraculously, everybody who has ever been hurt is never going to be hurt anymore. There are going to be some repercussions, but God can come in and do the most amazing thing to begin to mend hurts, relationships, and put things back together. He can use for His glory what Satan meant for total destruction. He can turn it around and bring something good out of it, if you will let Him. The whole thing is a cycle. Don't mock God, don't be deceived. We tend to look at other people who are involved in very blatant, overt external body-type sin. We think, "Oh, they're going to be in trouble."

What I am stressing is that we should be looking inside our own souls to see what is going on in our hearts, because God sees every thought. We will stand in judgment for every thought that we take into our hearts. The reason I am emphasizing this, is because this is where the freedom comes. There is never a healing

that comes from a broken or hurting heart, unless we can get through this and say, "God, let's You and I do this; let's You and I talk about my heart. Let's get some things settled here." I know about hurt because I have been there, too. What was on the inside of my heart was not nice. It was not holy and it was not pure or lovely. It was nasty. God can bring you cleansing--a true cleansing. But, I had to ADMIT IT first. Then the healing began.

Galatians 6:7-8 Amplified . . . "Do not be deceived and deluded (believing something that's not true) and misled, God will not allow Himself to be sneered at, scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretensions or professions or His precepts being set aside. He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God. For whatever a man sows, that, and that only is what he will reap. For he who sows to his own flesh (his lower nature, his sensuality) will from the flesh reap decay and ruin and destruction. But he who sows to the Spirit, will, from the Spirit, reap life eternal. Let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season, we shall reap--if we do not loosen and relax our courage and give up."

Some of you are in situations where you have come through a time of cleansing. You are in the process of God really doing a healing in your heart, and you are still being abused and hurt. You still see people in your life (who are close to you) who are attempting to wreak havoc (pain and hurt) in your life. What I need to say to you is that God is a just God. You can trust Him. You do not have to take matters into your own hands. You do not have to be the righteous judge and you do not have to render punishment or judgment.

Here is a specific personal example: Walt (my husband) got a letter today that I ended up intercepting, because it was a certified letter--I signed for it. I got it. I did an interesting thing after a great deal of prayer. I called the person (who sent the letter) and spoke with him personally. I confronted that person. All of the things in that certified letter were based on lies. He is threatening to sue "major league." He never expected to hear from me. This person is a non-Christian. He was shocked to hear from me. I told him two things. First of all, I told him that I received the letter--and not my husband--and I am not going to give it to him. And he said, "You're not?" And I replied, "No, I'm not. So, if you want to attempt to deliver another letter to him, you are going to have to send him another one, because I am not Walt--and I received the letter. I signed for it. And the other thing that I want to tell you is that you had better seriously think about what you are doing, because you know that these are lies." I came so close to saying, "Don't be deceived. God is not mocked." All I was saying to him



was that he should "beware," and I just prayed all day that God would do something in his heart. He will reap what he sows. And he has already sown a tremendous amount of destruction. I do not, in any way, wish this man destruction. But, I do know how God will work. I know. That's why I prayed today for him, for mercy. Don't be deceived--God is not mocked. We don't have to do anything, we just need to wait and let God work.

So much of what we are discussing has to do with choice. I want to express the importance of you choosing LIFE. We are talking about choices, cycles. We are talking about a cycle that can lead you right straight to destruction or straight to abundant life (the life that Jesus Christ promised). Some have shared how they are learning that in the middle of a situation, they can react differently than before. They can actually do something different -- and that is choice-making. That comes out of having our will (our choice-making mechanism) changed, because we have been so programmed to react the way that we have always reacted (or react out of our hurt, our defenses).

We have been programmed to think that we can never change this--and that's a lie. It can change. We can be reformed--no longer conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our mind. That's what the Word does. That's what we are accomplishing in this study. You have a choice. Let's talk about your choices in dealing with the Walls of Rejection. Here's the scenario . . . you're hurt. Somebody rejects you, they say something mean, they leave you out, they verbally attack you, or your family attacks you for your Christianity (for something that you think is wonderful). Say, for instance, you have a vacation planned so that you can go on a mission trip. They inform you that that is the stupidest thing--and they cannot believe that they have raised a child who would actually do such a dumb thing.

Or, you go home, and you have just absolutely decided that this "stinking jerk" husband (the way he is now, who has not yet been renewed in Christ) is at home, and you are going to love him regardless of his ways, but no matter what you try to do--he is mean. He just will not receive that love. You are rejected in these cases.

Well, what are you going to do with it? The choice is . . . Can I really give this to God? Is God big enough to take care of this? Can I really let this hurt go? Do I have the right to stew in what they have said to me this entire day? Can I rehearse those foul words that they have said to me over and over . . . don't I have a right? Let me tell you what they did to me. If I have rehearsed it 952 times in my head, then I can tell it to you pretty accurately.

Can I not do that? Can I not let that tape recording go in my head over and over? . . . Can I not recall that scene? Can I not take this personally--when it was such a personal attack and went right straight to my heart? If I don't step in and get control of this situation . . . to get control of them and get things back on track, can God possibly ever come in and straighten this around and fix it?

### **YOU CAN "LET IT GO"!**

Do you ever have these conversations in your head? Can you relate to what I am saying? Of course you do. What's the bottom line? The bottom line is: Do I *believe that God is big enough to handle it?* If I let it go, if I really let it go, can God take care of it? The other aspect of it is: Do I *believe that I can really let it go?* Is there a way to do this? To all of these questions, I have the most glorious answer for you. The answer is: "YES." You can let it go . . . you can let it not penetrate in your heart, even if you have already taken it on. You can let it go. You can not react. You can do it differently, but you have to choose a different way. When you realize that you are falling right back into the same old pattern, you are doing it the same old way, you have got to admit it, and call somebody and say, "I'm doing it. Help." And who are you going to call, first? Jesus. "Jesus, help me. I need your life." The grace, love and power of God is sufficient. He is big enough to handle it!

The Word says in 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love casts out all fear." Perfect love that only comes from Jesus and His perfect life--casts out all fear. What is happening when you are not believing and not trusting God, is that you are afraid to do so. You are afraid that He can't come in and do it for you, afraid that He cannot fix it, that He cannot set those people straight, that He cannot turn this around, YOU'RE AFRAID. You can get free in here and walk out, and before you hit the parking lot, you are probably going to have a choice. A thought is going to come back, or somebody is going to attack you verbally, or the one that you thought was your best buddy is going to walk right by your shoulder--and not even say "goodnight."

I encountered something like that with someone in church yesterday. We were walking through the church and she is saying, "They just walked right by me and didn't say a thing . . . didn't they even see me . . . don't they even care about me?" And (God has such a wonderful sense of humor) from half way down the hall, someone said, "Hey . . . you (calling her name)," to chase her down to say "hello." We do it. We have continual opportunity to either be rejected--or realize who we are--accepted in Christ Jesus.

That we are somebody special, and that He loves us and cares for us. We are going to see it acted out from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Sometimes, yes, they are going to be complete "jerks." But, God is never going to be that way.

What is the choice in rebellion? The bottom line in that is, Am I going to do this my way or, am I going to do this His way? There are those of you whom I know, without a shadow of a doubt, are called to the mission field. I know you are called into Christian service in one way or another. The Lord made it very clear that we are to forsake everything else and pick up our cross and follow Him. He even said, "It's going to be like hating your mother and your father, sister and your brother." It will divide families. It is not that you hate them the way that we understand the word 'hate.' What the scripture means is that you love God so much and you have so fervently put your heart to doing what He has called you to do, that everything else that you love, in comparison, almost seems like hate, because you owe Him so much more. You are so "sold out" to God. If there are some of you who know that you are called to that, but, then you are putting your work, your home, "your stuff," your friends, your family ahead of what God has called you to do--you are choosing YOUR WAY, not HIS WAY.

I know that there are those of you who are still tempted by bondages. I am talking about serious bondages . . . drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, desires for bodily things, and you are bound by those. Every time that those desires come--you are making a choice. Every time that there is a choice, are you going to pick your way--or His way? Nothing just happens. It starts in your mind. It begins by your thinking about it--entertaining a thought. What do you do when you entertain someone in your home? You invite them in, you make them comfortable, you ask them to settle down, you give them your full attention, cater to their every whim, right? That's what you do when you entertain a thought.

Once you begin to entertain and meditate on that thought, the seed is sown for the action. The whole kingdom of God, Jesus said, works by the seed, plant and harvest principle (that means everything that happens in your life). So, the bottom line or root sin of rebellion is PRIDE. What it so often comes down to is, "Am I too proud to admit that I have a problem in this area? Am I too proud to admit that I know that I am called to do something for God--and I don't want to let go of what I have? Am I too proud to admit that I have a problem with this?" Where are you going to get help? "Help me, Jesus, I need MAJOR help!"

The time that you need to begin seeking help is not when you are already there doing it. The time that you need help is when

you first start thinking about it--that's when you need help. And, HE'S THERE. I am talking to you about making choices. Where pride comes in, we think that we ought to be strong enough to be able to change it and do it on our own. You are not, nor will you ever be, strong enough. Satan will let you be deceived. He will let you try it your way and you may be strong enough for a little while--until he has you totally deceived. Why do 30-day treatment centers not work? Give me a break--30 days--\$30,000.--"You're cured." Right! Why don't they work? It is because there is only one way to get free and stay free. There is only one true freedom. It is in Christ Jesus.

Deuteronomy 30:11 This is one of the most wonderful passages of scripture in the entire Bible! Hallelujah! There's great news here. The heading in my NIV Bible says, "The offer of Life or Death." That sounds like what we are discussing, don't you think? We are talking about the life cycle and the death cycle. What I really am talking about here is LIFE. The offer of LIFE.

Verse 11-13: "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' No, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."

How do you get the Word in your mouth? You must plant it in your heart. The Word says that "From the abundance of the heart, the mouth will speak." Evidently, what you say out of your mouth must be pretty important, don't you think? If you are going to obey it--don't you think that there is a clue here--a connection?

Continued with verse 14 . . . "No, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess."

Someone said that this is a new day. It is. You stand on the brink of a new land. A new land in your heart that you can enter in "to possess." You stand on the brink of that today. He wants to give it to you--new ground.

## **CHOOSE LIFE**

Deuteronomy 30: 19-20 . . . "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life . . . "

The Lord is the way, the truth and the life. He is your life. The promises in this passage of scripture that are yours for making the right choices are:

1) "You may live." Every time that I read this scripture, I am reminded of the game that we used to play when I was a child called, "Mother, may I?" You had to ask correctly, "Mother, may I?" If you asked correctly, the answer was, "Yes, you may." It is as though I see the Lord standing there and saying, "Here it is-- life, death . . . choose life." And I am saying, "Father, may I?" And He is saying, "Yes, you may." Glory to God! And then . . .

2) "Your children may live." For your children, there's life. "May my children have life?" And He says, "Yes, they may." I don't have any natural children. I have only one step-child and many spiritual children. I have a bunch of them. It's as though He is saying, "Keep making the right choices, Connie. Keep making the right choices, and My life is going to flow through you into them-- they're going to have life." It goes for your natural children and your spiritual children.

3) "You may love the Lord." I want you to fall in love with Jesus. I want you to love the Lord. And you say to the Lord, "Lord, may I love--may I really love You? May I fall in love with You?" And He says, "Yes, you may. You may love Me." What does it mean to love somebody? When you love somebody, it is intimate. It's personal. When you are loving somebody who is good, the more you know them, the more you love them. Right? He is saying, "You may love Me."

4) "Listen to His voice." You ask, "God, may I really hear Your voice? May I listen? May I really listen to Your voice, may I, Lord?" And He is saying, "Yes, you may. I will speak to you. You are my sheep. My sheep know My voice. And, guess what? I am going to be speaking to you all the time. The choices are always going to be there, and you can hear My voice--you can listen-- and you can respond."

5) "Hold fast to Him." There are times when I am hurting, when I am really hurting--and I am really lonely, you know what I want more than anything else? I want someone to hold me fast. Hold me fast. Shut out the rest of the world and hold me fast. What this scripture is saying is . . . "Father, may I hold fast to You?" And He says, "Yes, you may. And you don't even have to hold onto Me that strong, because I am going to hold onto you."

This is what He wants to do for us, as we make the choice to CHOOSE LIFE. It is available to us. 1 Timothy 6:19 says that we are offered the life that's truly life. It breaks my heart, when I go all over Ft. Myers and I see people living a cheap imitation of life. They are doing everything that they can to get stuff (physical things and substance stuff) to feel "high" or to "not feel" . . . to either kill the pain or be on a "high." They are looking for life, the high life. What does the enemy do, but give more and lower imitations of real life? But Jesus said, "I have come so that you may have the life that is truly life."

You can make a decision to allow the Lord to give you a new life. You really can, because if there is one thing that I want to make sure that you understand, it is that you can't fix it and neither can I. A lot of people will call me, they will never show up for class, they'll never press in to know God, they'll never really get involved in a Bible study, and periodically, they'll just call me. They call me to pray, and I do pray with them. But, do you know what they really want? They want me to "fix it." They want my prayer to "fix it." My prayer is not going to "fix it." It may make them feel better temporarily, but it is not going to "fix it." It's only through the changes that take place in their life (through their falling in love with Jesus, and their being crucified with Christ so that they can live) that the healing and the wholeness will come.

We have a choice. We can choose rejection to be allowed to go all the way to the end and it will finally end in suicide. It is going to lead to death. We can choose rebellion to be allowed to go all the way to the end and it will finally end in homicide. The prisons are filled with people who can testify to that. And, I am sad to say that churches have plenty of people in them who have thought about it. But, there is another way. We can be crucified. We can say, "Yes, Jesus, You died and You died for me. You died for me so that I don't have to live this old cruddy way anymore." It can change now, if You will let it.

Galatians 2:20-21 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live

by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

You didn't earn this. You will never earn it. This is by the grace of God. I'm crucified with Christ. But, until I know it, I cannot live it. Until I know that I don't have to go on in this pain, in this hurt, in this bondage, I cannot live it. The reason that I don't have to go through all of the bondage is that Christ died for me, right now. Not just to do something for me when I get to heaven, but for right now. Salvation means wholeness, completeness, soundness, deliverance. It's everything--a complete package. It's for right now. Please open your heart to receive it, right now.

#### Ending Prayer:

*Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that You have done it all. That when Jesus went to the cross and said, "It is finished," it was. It was finished. Not only was our eternal salvation secure through the blood of the Lamb, so that we might have eternal life, but it was finished so that we might have a new life in Christ Jesus right here on this earth--so that we no longer have to live in our old ways--that we don't have to live in our old sin, that we don't have to be bound, anymore, to that old garbage that Satan beats us up with anymore. We don't have to live with the hurts of childhood. We don't have to live with the physical, sexual, mental or emotional abuse. We do not have to live the lifestyle of degradation that we lived before. We do not have to live with the adultery, the homosexuality, with the deviant lifestyles--with the desires that we participated in, in our previous days. We don't have to live that way, anymore. And, I thank You and I praise You for it, Lord, that whom the Son sets free is free indeed, and that we can know that Christ died for us. Christ died for me. What You did, Jesus, You did for me, personally. Personally. God help us to open our hearts to believe You. Help us to open up our hearts to trust You. And, Lord, give us the honesty deep down in our guts that when we know we are starting to walk back into the old junk again, that we will reach out and say, "Help me, Jesus. Help me right here where I am. Help me. Help me."*

*Lord, I ask You, Father, please, in Jesus' name, let the Word--the truth of this Word--go deep into women's hearts. I thank You that your Word says that it will penetrate into our hearts--it will divide joint from marrow. It will penetrate to the*

*very deepest points of our heart. Lord, give women revelation knowledge of the truth of this. And, God, I would ask that You would send women out with a new determination in their hearts that they are going to choose life.*

*They are going to choose to let the garbage go--they are going to choose to let the bondage go--they are going to choose to let the hurt go--choose to let the rejection go--choose to let the rebellion go--so that the life can come--the peace--the peace of God to guard their minds and their hearts--that the anxiety and the turmoil and all that is wrapped up in the bondage of the enemy will just go from their lives--and in its place will come the most amazing life. Lord, I would ask You that women will go and breathe in the fresh air of freedom. I thank You and I praise You, Lord, that Your Word says in Galatians that "It is for freedom that you have set us free." You don't just set us free so that we can walk around that mountain right into that bondage again. But, it is so that we can live and move and have our being in that freedom. And, I thank You and I praise You for it. Now, Father, please take this Word and do something vital and eternal in women's lives. In Jesus' name, AMEN.*

Scripture References:

Psalm 51 (in review)  
 Romans 8:1-4  
 Colossians 1:27  
 Romans 12:2  
 Romans 8:5-13  
 2 Corinthians 7:8-10  
 Galatians 6:7-8  
 1 John 4:18  
 Deuteronomy 30:11-20 CHOOSE LIFE!!  
 1 Timothy 6:19  
 Galatians 2:20-21



**PERSONAL NOTES**