

Healing Begins in the Heart

Review of last week:

- **I John 5:14, 15** – “**confidence**” – cheerful courage; unreservedness in speech.
- **Matthew 8:16, 17** – *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”*
 - “If Jesus took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses, then why am I still sick?” Because you don’t believe it yet. [Not at a heart level.]
- **Matthew 16:16, 17** – *Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not **revealed** this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”*
 - **This kind of knowledge** comes only by revelation – revelation knowledge.
 - “**revealed**” – to disclose what before was unknown; an internal disclosure, to the thinking (meditating) believer, and abiding. This “unveiling” precedes and produces the “manifestation”.
- **To find life & health we must obtain revelation knowledge. But how?**
- **Proverbs 4:20-22** – *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²²For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.*
 - **Do whatever is necessary** to get the Word – “in the midst of your HEART!”
 - **Why?** Because God’s words are LIFE & HEALTH!
 - * **Life:** the same thing God breathed into Adam’s lifeless body. [ZOE]
 - * **Health:** MARPE (a derivative of RAPHA) a cure; a medicine.
 - **For who?** Those who FIND THEM! “**find**” – to find after a purposeful search.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 – *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

- **Quote:**

- Any thought, idea, inspiration, doctrine or fear that would refute what the Bible tells us about the victorious death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and how we share in it, is a stronghold.
- The only cure for this is to subjugate that thought – argument – imagination to the obedience of Christ. In other words, I need to obliterate that stronghold by reminding myself of all that Jesus obtained through His obedience to God.
- A renewed mind will not entertain that which opposes the finished work of Jesus. A carnal mind will always seek to compare the circumstance to the promise, attempting to reach an intellectual understanding that “makes sense.”
- **Breaking it down:**
 - In the finished work of Jesus we see our LIFE & HEALTH.
 - He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.
 - A stronghold develops because we “tried it and it didn’t work.”
 - This stronghold “exalts itself against the knowledge of God.”
 - We deal with this stronghold by reminding ourselves of all that Jesus did.
 - We’ll have to take any contrary thoughts captive.
 - This is called “renewing the mind.”
 - A renewed mind will not entertain that which opposes the finished work of Jesus.
 - A carnal mind will always seek to compare the circumstance to the promise, attempting to reach an intellectual understanding that “makes sense.”

Another way to look at it

Mark 4:13-20 – *And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴“The sower sows the word. ¹⁵“And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷“and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. ¹⁸“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹“and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”*

- Each type of ground is a heart issue.
- “People with heart issues become their own cause and effect.”

- I.e., these aren't caused by demons or other people.
- Wayside heart – won't let the truth in.
- Stony heart – receives the truth until pressure arises.
- Thorny heart – too easily distracted.
- Unless we change the beliefs of our heart, we will keep getting more of what we have ... good or bad.
- **Illustration** – the seed is GOOD, but even more seed won't solve the problem! [It's a HEART PROBLEM]

Proverbs 11:20 – *Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, but the blameless in their ways are His delight. [NLT] – The LORD hates people with twisted hearts, but he delights in those who have integrity.*

- **“perverse”** [KJV: *froward*] – twisted, distorted, crooked, perverse, perverted.
- If we have struggled in an area without getting a victory, it tends to bend our heart. Since we see life through the lens of heart, truth – like light – gets bent. Until there's a change of heart we can't see the truth.
 - We're offended by truth that could set us free.
 - Teaching feels like criticism.
 - Correction feels like punishment.
 - God gets accused of causing our pain.
 - A crooked heart sees God as the problem and cannot trust Him.

Solution: beholding the glory of God – reality! As we behold Him our limited perception loses its grip. We can see clearly. We discover that the door to our prison is already open.

Plan:

- Identify the pain or fear that has caused you to make bad decisions.
- Give it a name: embarrassment, failure, shame, etc.
- Say this: “Pain, I don't want you. You are not from God. You are bringing no benefit to my life. I will no longer allow you in my heart.”
- Now acknowledge Jesus as the healer of your heart. Thank Him that He is now healing you from this pain and its power to influence your life.