

WHOLENESS FOR HURTING LIVES

INTRO

God's will for His children not only include a home with Him in Heaven, but a life on earth growing and maturing with Him. God's whole plan for His children after accepting Jesus as their Lord is to bring them to maturity Ephesians 4:12, 13. God's idea of maturity is to the stature and fullness of Christ, or as the Amplified Bible says, "Nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection." God's plan is also wholeness for the whole man—spirit, soul, and body 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

I. Major Area Where His Work of Maturity and Wholeness is—the Soul of Man.

- A. Basic areas of the soul are the mind, will, emotions—where man thinks, decides, feels.
- B. More detailed functions of the soul are:
 - 1. Reason - Thinking, conceptualizing, meditating.
 - 2. Emotion - Feelings, passion, and affections.
 - 3. Volition - Will and decide.
 - 4. Memory - Recall, remember, reflect.
 - 5. Imagination - To create, envision, dream, picture.
 - 6. Conscience - Discern/judge right and wrong.
 - 7. Curiosity - Inquire, search, seek.
 - 8. Perception - Interpret, sense, understand.
- C. All these functions can malfunction, suffer hurt, damage, and brokenness.
 - 1. Even though saved, we can carry hurt, damage, and brokenness beneath the surface in our soul. There is often a carry-over of the effects of our past through:
 - a. Memory.
 - b. Wounds/hurts/damage in our souls.
 - c. Unforgiveness.
 - 2. God's work of salvation was instant in our spirit but is to be ongoing in our soul.
 - a. Our minds need to be renewed, our souls need to be saved Romans 12:2; James 1:21.
 - b. Every Believer, without exception, needs this to happen.
- D. The renewing of the mind and saving of the soul Romans 12:2; James 1:21.
 - 1. Is an ongoing process/work. It is not an instant, one-time shot/zap from God doing a number on you.
 - 2. It is not automatic. It will not happen by chance or accident but by desire and diligent effort.
 - 3. It is the key to bringing a noticeable change. It will bring a radical alteration and noticeable change to how you think, feel, decide.
 - 4. It is personal and up to each individual. It is up to you to present your body to God and renew your mind.
 - 5. The devil will throw a thousand roadblocks, detours, and sidetracks to get you off of God's path of maturity/wholeness. You must know how to secure a line of defense against him 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

II. Recognizing Your Need to Renew Your Mind.

- A. When Jesus spoke to the fig tree and cursed it Mark 11:12-21:
 - 1. There was an area of the tree you could see.
 - 2. There was an area of the tree you could not see.
 - 3. He cursed it from the roots, and v.20 says it dried up from the roots, which is beneath the surface. It was this area you could not see from where it gets its life.
 - 4. There is a degree of cause/effect between a present condition you can see in a Christian's life to a root cause beneath the surface.
 - 5. The Word of God is designed to get to the root Hebrews 4:12.

- B. Roots produce things that show up James 3:10-14.
 - 1. V.11.
 - a. If the water in the fountain is bitter, it sends forth bitter.
 - b. If the water in the fountain is sweet, it sends forth sweet.
 - c. It all depends on the source beneath the surface.
 - 2. V.12.
 - a. If the root is a fig, it does not produce olives.
 - b. If the fountain is fresh water, it does not yield salt water.
 - 3. Roots cause things to spring up Hebrews 12:15.
- C. Symptoms that indicate roots and need for mind renewal.
 - 1. An inferiority complex - Feeling of unworthiness, low value.
 - 2. Inability to concentrate - Starts things but never finishes or follows through. The mind wanders, is scattered and inattentive; a drifting mind.
 - 3. Empty mind - Directionless; mind taken up with worthless things Ephesians 4:17.
 - 4. Inactive/passive mind - It is one waiting for some external power to activate it; mind becomes blank and inactive. Mental inactivity leads to laziness.
 - 5. Prejudice - A preconceived, unreasonable idea, judgment, or opinion.
 - 6. Compulsion to perfection - Never at peace, satisfied, or content but obsessively driven to perfection often unrealistic (cannot sit on the furniture, live in the house, touch the tools, walk on the carpet, etc.)
 - 7. Forgetful mind - Cannot remember. Bad memory can cause a lack of confidence.
 - 8. Vacillating/shifting - Easily takes opposite views; thoughts generate in one direction, quickly go in another, unrelated direction; constant shifting.
 - 9. Unrestrained/unrelaxed - No restraint, affects sleep, cannot relax; affects listening; overtalkativeness.
 - 10. Undisciplined - Flashing thoughts, uncontrolled mind pictures; unclean, uncontrolled, vile imaginations; impure pictures.

III. God's Commitment to Your Maturity and Wholeness.

- A. Renewing the mind and saving of the soul is an ongoing process. You must not lose sight of God's commitment to the process.
 - 1. God will complete what He started Philippians 1:6.
 - 2. His plan is to conform you to Jesus; it is to go all the way. Do not give up or get frustrated in the process Romans 8:29.