



Sunday June 28, 2009 Inner Wholeness (Part 1)

Why Inner Wholeness?

weaknesses, strongholds, bondages in our inner-person can limit us and even hinder us from fulfilling our destinies - being all that God designed us to be. Life's conflicts can leave their wounds and scars on our inner-person, which if not healed can cripple us for years. These affect our interactions with people, our performance in the workplace, our behaviours and capacities as individuals, etc.

Proverbs 27:19

As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man.

Your inner-person is the real you. Who you are on the inside is the real you. We can mask this with superficiality and pretense – but sooner or later the real person on the inside will emerge and begin to affect our choices and behavior.

Give some examples of how inner-brokenness affects us in every day life.

- Withdrawal from people because of a sense of unworthiness
- Resentment toward men resulting in constant conflict with men at the workplace.
- Unwilling to take on assignments because of deep sense of inadequacy
- Extreme competitiveness due to feelings of rejection
"I have an awful relationship with my father. He says I'm useless and that I'll never amount to anything." This leads to an embedded sense of rejection. You try to mask it by trying to be successful in business, or extremely competitive. Your aggressive nature is rooted in a fear of failure because you've lived your whole life trying to win the approval of your father through performance.

While all of us may not have experienced severe emotional trauma or abuse - all of us do need inner wholeness. All of us need

- to have our minds renewed because by default we've been trained to think like the world,
- to dislodge lies (deceptions) that we believe and which therefore effect us in our walk with God,
- to change thinking patterns which in some cases may not be wrong – but steeped in false religion – and yet these affect our priorities, behaviours and choices.

God desires for us to be holy and whole...in all areas of our person – spirit, soul and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (Message)

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit (*Greek 'pneuma'*), soul (*Greek 'psuche'*), and body--and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ.

Our over all prosperity in life, our health, our well-being is connected to our soul (mind, will and emotions) also being in a state of well-being.

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul (*Greek 'psuche'*) prospers.



Series Overview

- Rebuilding Your Self-Image (Sun June 28)
- Uprooting Issues (Sun July 12)
- Healing Deep Wounds & Hurts (Sun July 19)
- Reorienting Inside Out (Sun July 26)

Receiving Healing for Inner Wholeness

As we go through this series we must keep in mind that we are not attempting some psychology, or emotional therapy or something that comes from human effort.

As believers our inner-wholeness comes from God.

He is the restorer of our soul.

Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul;

There are two main causes of damage to the soul: (a)Sin (b)Lies

Sin – our wrong doing, our living in the flesh, cripples our soul (mind, will and emotions)

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Proverbs 6:32

Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

Lies (deception) – the lies we believe cripple us. Lies is one of satan's most potent weapons against the believer.

Both sin and lies (deception) have a progression, as described in 2 Corinthians 10:4,5:
thought → argument (reasoning) → imagination → stronghold

God administers healing and wholeness through the Cross of Christ, the Word and His Spirit.

1, The Cross of Christ

Isaiah 53:5 (Message)

But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him--our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole (*Hebrew 'shalom'*). Through his bruises we get healed.

The Cross brings wholeness in areas where sin has caused damage.

On the Cross the Lord Jesus took all our sins, all our wrong doing. He bore not only the judgment for our sin, but the effects of that sin – so that we can not only be forgiven, but also be made whole.

2, God's Word – the Truth

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 8:31,32



31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The entrance and embracing of the truth of God's Word displaces the lies that have crippled us.

James 1:21

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

3, God's Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit alone reaches in to areas and regions of our inner-person where no one else can reach.

Through the Cross of Christ, God's Word and His Spirit you and I can be made whole. You and I can come to a place of total wholeness – being made whole from lifelong fears, guilt, shame, anxiety, rejection, anger, hurt, and pain. We are brought to wholeness - a place where people and circumstances do not dictate our emotional status.

Today: Inner Wholeness Part 1 : Rebuilding Your Self-Image

Our self-image - is how we perceive our selves, our value or worth, our acceptance by people, our place in the world, our standing before God, our standing before our spiritual enemy – the devil.

This is the inner-image you have of yourself, which often dictates your choices and behavior.

We tend to base our self-image on externals such as our family, our place of birth, our upbringing, our wealth, our education, our accomplishments, etc.

Our self-worth is very often based on our net-worth.

Our self-image is also affected by what gets imbedded within us – through words that were spoken in to us, experiences that we may have gone through during our formative years, etc. These become memories – paradigms or frameworks or images – within us which affects our thinking and our functioning.

None of us have a perfect self-image. We all struggle in one or more areas.

As believers, we must all come to a place where we learn to establish our self-image based on who we are in Christ.

Who you are in Christ is who you really are.

Your true worth is described by what God has done for you and what God has made you to be in Christ.

You are who God says you are!

You see a true reflection of your self in God's Word.



James 1:23,24

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

You must consciously choose to believe who God says you are in Christ, rather than allowing opinions, experiences, etc. to determine your self-image.

Philemon 1:6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Numbers 13 : The 12 Spies

Even though God has spoken to the people of Israel promising them the land, ten out of the twelve spies still has a grasshopper image of themselves when they saw the giants. Joshua and Caleb, instead, through the promise of God, saw the same giants and saw them as "bread" – ready to be eaten, ready to be conquered.

Acknowledge – recognize as a fact – every good thing that is in you in Christ.

- ✓ You are blessed
- ✓ You are accepted by God in Christ
- ✓ You are justified and righteous before God
- ✓ You have authority over the enemy
- ✓ You are seated in heavenly places in Christ
- ✓ God hears and answers your prayers
- ✓ God always causes you to triumph
- ✓ Your sufficiency – ability to rise to any situation – comes from God
- ✓ You are more than a conqueror in every situation
- ✓ God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-control.
- ✓ You will be like a tree planted by rivers of water, you will bring forth fruit in its season and whatever you do will prosper
- ✓ The blessings of God will overtake you in all things
- ✓ You are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Jesus
- ✓ ...etc...etc..

Illustrate to people how to practically choose to believe who they are in Christ, in different situations.

A word of caution:

There is a difference between recognizing who you are in Christ and also recognizing your flaws as an individual. We should not go in to a state of denial of our character flaws that need to be corrected, while we are acknowledging who we are in Christ.

Examples:

- It would be wrong for a person to be living in sin, and simply acknowledging that he because of being a believer is righteous before God
- It would be wrong for a young person to rebel against proper parental or governmental authority while acknowledging that he is seated in Christ in heavenly places above all other authority ☺

This whole process of choosing to believe what God's Word says about you, instead of some thing else – is called renewing of the mind.



Romans 12:2 teaches us that we are “transformed by the renewing of our mind”.

“Mind renewal occurs as the truth of God replaces the falsehoods people believe. When truth is experientially realized, perfect peace follows. As truth is embraced, what was emotionally painful as a consequence of lie-based thinking becomes peaceful, transformed by the Lord’s light and freedom. Once the lies are removed from a painful memory, a true metamorphosis/life transformation should be evident in that memory.” – Ed Smith

The renewing of the mind is an ongoing and life long process.

“To facilitate emotional renewal, we need to identify the three basic elements in the renewal process: (1) the present emotional pain, (2) the original memory container and (3) the original lie(s) implanted in the memory container.” – Ed Smith

Walk people through this process of renewing their self-image. Expect the Lord to do a powerful work at this time:

1, the present emotional pain – what is it that you are struggling with in your self-image

- a feeling of poor self-worth
- a sense of rejection from dear ones
- a sense of inability – I won’t be able to take up this responsibility
- a sense of failure – won’t be a success in life
- a sense of being used by people
- a sense of insecurity – others want to take over, others want to control
- a feeling that no one appreciates you
- ...etc..

2, the memory container - what event or experiences have led you to this place where your self-image is marred

- ..think through on what you experienced, which have caused your inner-person (soul) to become affected...
- ...perhaps it was your own actions, mistakes you made, wrong decisions, etc.
- ...perhaps it was what others did to you.

3, the lies in the memory container - what are the lies you are believing which came out of that experience(s) – which need to be replaced by the truth

- For each lie that you are believing, replace that with the truth of God’s Word by acknowledging the good things that are in you in Christ.
- See that on the Cross the Lord Jesus took all your sins, all your wrong doing. He bore not only the judgment for your sin, but the effects of that sin – so that you can not only be forgiven, but also be made whole.
- Welcome the Holy Spirit to reach in to your inner-man to make you whole.

From now on continue to acknowledge what God has said about you.

ALTAR CALL FOR SALVATION



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>