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WHY DO PEOPLE SELF-DESTRUCT?

We are surrounded by people who act in ways that are destructive to themselves as well as to others. They act as if they are insane, but it is not because of a lack of intelligence. Last week an internet sting operation was set up in Grand Junction and a 30-year old man named Yaron Segal flew in to have sex with a mother and her 6-year old daughter! The man was a Ph.D., a Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher. He was arrested and transported to a jail in Denver, and this morning the paper reported that he had hung himself in his cell. Absolutely heart-breaking!

And I could give a list of other self-destructive things people do involving alcohol and drugs, anger and violence, pornography, pedophilia, etc. Of course, as people of the Bible we understand that all those people we read about, and people in our own families, and the person in our own skin, are afflicted with "sin," which causes us to act insane. We also know that Christ is the only answer to that problem. But if Christ is the answer, why do we Christians continue to act in crazy ways?

Following is a little study that I recently shared with our Ministry Team:

We come into adulthood and into the Christian life with **WOUNDS**, **SINS**, and **LIES** in our hearts. (Take a blank sheet of paper, write those three words, and draw the outline of a heart around them.) Everyone, including you and me, had a number of wounds, sins, and lies in our hearts before we became Christians, and we are still dealing with some of them. I assure you. Now, outside the heart write the words, "Bad Roots," and in another place write the words "Strongholds in the Mind." These are two ways of describing the same phenomena. Wounds, sins, and lies in the heart or mind ("heart" and "mind" are at times used interchangeably in the Bible) are what we call "Bad Roots" in the Inner Healing ministry, and also what the Bible calls "Strongholds in the Mind" in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

- These are some beliefs of our hearts, and they do not automatically change when we become Christians.
- We are **pre-programmed** to act the way we believe. *Out of the heart come the issues of life.* (Prov. 4:23) *Search me O God and know my heart, and show me if there is any wicked way in me.* (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Our heart is our **AUTO-PILOT**.
- Psychology calls it our **SUBCONSCIOUS MIND**.
- **EXAMPLE:** a "root of bitterness" in a person's heart can "*cause trouble and defile others.*" (Heb. 12:15)
- **ILLUSTRATION:** (I display a drinking glass level full of dirt.) God loves us desperately, but unfortunately this is how we appear to God. You don't believe it? Let me share a few Scriptures: Romans 3:9-18 (selected) - ***Everyone, both Jews and Gentiles, are under sin. There is no one righteous no one who does good, not even one; no one who seeks God. They are all worthless! Their tongues and lips are like poisonous snakes, full of cursing and bitterness; ruin and misery mark their ways.*** Isaiah 64:6 says that ***All our righteousness is like filthy rags.*** It doesn't say that our selfish, sinful acts are filthy, but that our highest and best acts are in God's eyes utterly filthy and despicable. Ephesians 2 says that before Christ came, and before He comes into a person today, ***every single person on earth was ruled by the devil, following the ways of the world, and utterly dead to God.*** That includes you and me, brother. Imagine a preacher going out to the cemetery and telling the corpses that "You can be your best you" if you only realize that God loves you just the way you are. Or maybe he tells them that if they come to church every week and tithe and try harder then they are on their way to heaven. They are dead, for crying out loud! And there is nothing they can do about it. But the Good News is that God has done something about it through Jesus' death on the cross, that He became our substitute.
- So what happens when we repent and receive Christ as our Savior and Lord? (I start pouring a pitcher of water into the glass full of dirt. Dirt starts being washed out.) Life, Christ's life, is being poured into this life and resuscitating the corpse! Now the person who was dead has been brought to life. Glory Hallelujah! The glass is now full of water, but note that a lot of dirt is still in the bottom of the glass. (I pour some more water and more dirt is washed out.) This is called "sanctification" or coming to maturity, and it is a lifetime process. As we hear the Word, read the Word, pray, get

ministry and prayer, repent, get more revelation, we are washed more and more.

▪ There are some "Bad fruits" that are coming to the surface of our lives as we are becoming more "Christlike," more sanctified. These are some possible bad fruits:

Fear, anger, depression, addictions of all kinds, distrust God, sexual obsessions, mental and emotional sickness, hearing demonic voices, compulsive lying/eating or talking, self-hatred, distrust men or women, homosexuality, physical sickness, jealousy, loneliness, sadness, self-condemnation.

▪ (Notice that as I pour more water into the glass that more dirt is being washing out, but that some rocks in the bottom of the glass are becoming visible and they are not being washed out or dissolved. What in the world are those rocks representing? They are **BAD ROOTS** or **STRONGHOLDS** that are resistant to the water.) Following are some possible bad roots:

Unforgiveness/bitterness; judgments against others.

God, or self; generational curses; witchcraft (control) curses; word curses; inner vows; ungodly soul-ties; occult involvement by family or self; idolatry or false religions; traumas of all kinds; cursed objects or buildings; demonization.

▪ How do we minister to people and discover these bad roots? We interview them, and listen to them, and listen to the Holy Spirit.

▪ We uncover the **sins**, and lead them to **repent**. *God's kindness leads us to repentance.* (Ro. 2:4)

▪ We uncover the **lies**, and lead them to **renounce** and **repent** and **cast out** these strongholds in the mind or heart.

▪ We uncover the **wounds**, and lead them to **forgive others, God, and self**. *I came to heal those whose hearts are broken.* (Luke 4:18) We pray for God to heal their wounded hearts.

BREAKING WORD CURSES AND INNER VOWS

Now let us zero in on a particular set of "rocks" that are stuck in the hearts of many people impeding their growth as Christians:

"CURSE" - Definition: **To call down evil on someone.** (*The tongue has the power of life and death.*) - Prov. 18:21.

The word "curse" is used 230 times in Scripture.

FIRST: Consider curses, put-downs, insults, demeaning words spoken to you or about you. Example: **Stupid, lazy, worthless, idiot, loser, fat, ugly, pervert, etc.** These are "curses" that allow Satan to accuse you and torment you. You may hear these words in your mind over and over, and you may develop the habit of saying them to yourself. (These are "rocks" in your mind or heart that will not dissolve or wash away. They must be renounced, broken, cast out. You may be unaware of their presence and power, but they will continue to negatively affect your life until they are dealt with.)

Ministry: Forgive the person or persons who spoke these words to you. Renounce the words themselves and break their power over your mind and life. Repent for agreeing with the devil and repeating these curses. Renounce the devil and his work in you. *Christ became a curse for you when He died on a tree.* (Gal. 3:13)

▪ One experience of ministry may be life-changing, but normally the enemy will continue to attack and accuse you with these words, and you must recognize that this is an ongoing attack. Resist and renounce him, and stop agreeing with him.

▪ Find Scriptures that speak God's truth, which will be the opposite of what the devil has been speaking to you; memorize these powerful truth-words, and declare them when you are attacked.

▪ Speaking from a medical/scientific perspective, the neurological pathways in your brain must be changed. The study of epigenetics is demonstrating the reality of these changes that can be made in the brain.

SECOND: If you spoke curses against your father or mother, against God, or against yourself, those curses will come back against you. *Whatever you sow (plant) you will reap (harvest).* (Gal. 6:7) And see Psalms 109:17-18 - *He loved to pronounce a curse, may it come on him.....it entered his body like water and his bones like oil.*

Ministry: Repent for speaking those words, ask God to forgive you, and renounce them in the name of Jesus.

THIRD: **Inner Vows and Judgments.** An inner vow is a vow or promise or declaration made to yourself. These vows are usually made with deep emotion, probably repeatedly, in response to an offense or wound by another person. These vows come out of deep judgments and condemnation that we make toward others.

Examples: I will never be an alcoholic like my dad!; I will never trust anyone again!; You can't trust God to protect you or answer your prayers!; A husband/wife will always betray you!; If you really love and trust someone, they will abandon you and break your heart!; I will never be poor like my parents!; I'm a loser and will never be successful!; No one will ever love me or marry me!; My father is a liar and never keeps his promises. I will never treat my kids like that!; My teacher is not fair. I hate her guts!; Boys don't cry!

Matthew 7:1 - *Do not judge or you too will be judged...and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.*

Romans 2:1 - *I have found it to be a law that whoever judges another dooms himself to do the same thing.*

Example: One time in Mexico I ministered to a lady named Juanita. She gave her testimony in front of about 50 students and visitors at the Bible School near Mexico City. Following is her story: "My father was a violent alcoholic who beat my mother and cursed and beat me and my siblings. We went hungry because he spent all his money on alcohol and other women. I hated him and said, 'I will never marry a man like my father!' At 16 I ran away from home with a boy and married him. He turned out to be just like my father. After several years and two children I left him for another man. We had a child, but he turned out to be just like my father. I left him, and after a few years I moved in with another man, but he turned out to be just like my father. I finally kicked him out. Then I became a Christian and thought my life had changed. I met a nice man at church, we got married, but he started drinking and running around and being mean, so I kicked him out. What's the matter with me? Am I under a curse?"

You have heard stories like this time after time. What was Juanita's problem? She had an inner vow and judgment against her father, and Romans says, *I have found it to be a law that whoever judges another dooms himself to do the same thing.* And so people who have parents who are alcoholics or drug addicts tend to become the same. People who are abandoned tend to abandon, etc. Understand: this is the devil's game, not God's, and God has provided the means for his children to get free of this generational trap so that we don't pass it down to our children.

- The only one of the Ten Commandments with a promise is the Fifth: *Honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.* (Dt. 5:16)
- In any area of your life in which you honored your parents, in that area life will go well with you. To honor means to obey as children, to respect as adults (with God's help and grace), to love and cherish and forgive, and to financially and emotionally support them as they have needs and you have the ability. Note: Some parents are not honorable, but if we will pray God will enable us to keep this commandment.
- In whatever area you could not or would not honor your parents, life will not go well with you. This will not happen immediately, but like a seed planted in the ground it will lie dormant until the right season arrives.
- To honor does not mean to submit to ongoing abuse, cursing, or defilement. We have the right and obligation to establish boundaries for ourselves and our children in such cases.

INNER VOWS MAKE US LIKE A TRAIN ON ITS TRACK: WE CANNOT GET OFF UNTIL WE FORGIVE AND BREAK THE VOWS.

1. We will do those things we say we won't.
2. We become like the one we judged and made the vows against.

THE MOST POWERFUL INNER VOWS SEEM TO BE THOSE THAT INVOLVED JUDGMENTS AGAINST OUR PARENTS.

1. Vows against our mothers will come into play with our wives.

Example: During the course of over fifty years, I have ministered to an uncounted number of men who were mistreating their wives terribly, but who, in many cases, were completely blind to what they were doing. In many instances I learned that these men had been abused, battered, tortured, or abandoned by their mothers. (The reason their mothers acted this way toward their sons was because that was the way they had been treated by their fathers or mothers.) Some of these men were gloriously set free, but some were not willing to acknowledge that a big part of the problem was in them, in their own hearts, and they continued down the path of destruction of marriage and family.

Another Example: A number of years ago Doris and I were in a prayer group with a couple who had moved to this area from Pensacola, Fla. They had been involved for many years with the revival that broke out in Pensacola. They had seen miracles and healings right before their eyes. They had scores of CD's and DVD's of some of those great services. But the

husband had a problem. Every time he got a job and had a woman supervisor he would blow up and either quit or get fired. It happened three times in the short time we knew this couple. He gave up trying to get a job and stayed home and lived on his wife's income. Since I understood the principle of Inner Vows, I knew the man had a "Bad Root" involving a judgment against his mother, but he would not allow me to minister to him. Why? Because he had been right in the middle of a big revival for 8 or 9 years, he was "filled with the Holy Spirit," so he certainly did not have any spiritual problems that needed to be resolved. The problem, you see, was all those dominating women he kept running into. THE POINT: A lot of dirt had been washed out of his glass by his exposure to all that great ministry, but a rock had been exposed that was not responding to the water of the word. That rock was a Bad Root, or a Stronghold in the Mind connected to Wounds, Sins and Lies which came out of his bad relationship with his mother, and it needed to be excised before he could get free. He chose to live with the rock.

2. Vows against our fathers are often transferred to God.

Example: My father was a great man who loved me with all his heart, but he was very disappointed in me because I was not like him, I was like my mother. He never expressed that in words, but I sensed it over and over, and it wounded me deeply. When I became a Christian, guess how I viewed God? I knew that He loved me and sent His Son to die for me, but I was convinced that no matter what I did that He was disappointed in me. This drove me to perform, perform, perform, but I could never feel peace since I believed that it was never good enough. I had to forgive my dad and change what I believed about God in my heart in order to arrive at a place of rest. (At times I still slip back into that painful belief.)

3. If you have judged God that He is not good or fair or trustworthy, no matter how much teaching and Scripture memorization you do, you will continue to believe in your heart the judgments against Him until you repent and renounce those false beliefs and cry out for deliverance and truth.

4. If you have judged yourself that you will always be rejected, or that you will always fail and never be a success, that is what will happen.

Example: A friend gave this testimony. His parents were loving and affirming, but when he was about ten years old he overheard a remark that changed his life. One day during a birthday party he found that the ice cream was frozen as hard as a brick. He put the frozen ice cream into a plastic container and put it on the stove directly on an electric burner. Of course, it melted the plastic and made a big mess. After it was cleaned up, he overheard his mother say to the other women, "I think I trust Johnny's five year old brother more than I do him. He can't do anything right." Those words crushed Johnny's heart, and from then on he judged himself that he was stupid, a failure, and could not do anything right. Even when he was middle-aged, when someone would praise him for a job well done, inside he would deflect the kind words and say those same negative curses to himself. (By the way, Johnny has been set free and is now effectively ministering to others.)

MINISTRY;

- (1) Curses that have been spoken against me;
- (2) curses that I have spoken against others, and
- (3) inner vows and judgments I have made _____

-
- (4) Forgive, repent, renounce the curses and vows.
 - (5) Pray for God to heal your heart.
 - (6) *Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING AND EXPANDING MAN

On a recent trip to the doctor's office the nurse measured my height and weight. I had not had my height measured in many years, and I was surprised to learn that I have shrunk from 5 feet 11-1/2 inches to 5 feet 10-1/4 inches. I have shrunk one and a fourth inches! At the same time, I have gained over 4 inches around my stomach. This is a great mystery. Why does one inch in height equal over four inches in girth? It doesn't make sense. At this rate, if I lose another six inches in height, I will gain 24 inches around the middle! Holy cow! If I live long enough, I will look like a pizza!

On a more serious note, the reason I went to the doctor is that for some little time I have been having a problem with vertigo and have started walking with a cane to help my balance. This is not a serious problem, especially in view of the health problems that many of my friends are having, but it is troublesome and I would appreciate your prayers. Someone asked me how the situation felt, and I told him it caused me to have the symptoms of being high without the fun.

THE MISSING GUARD

In the news this week there is a story about the Secret Service detail that was assigned to protect President Obama on a trip to Colombia, but apparently a number of the agents got involved with prostitutes. This story got into the news media, and now a Washington insider was quoted as saying that they were in the kind of trouble that would never go away.

This story reminded me of a book I read awhile back about Lincoln's assassination. According to the author, when President and Mrs. Lincoln attended Ford's Theatre on that historic night, one solitary soldier was assigned to guard the door of the box where they sat. During the evening, that soldier decided to take a quick break in order to run to the saloon across the street and have a little drink. It was during that time that John Wilkes Booth slipped into the box and shot President Lincoln in the head. As I recall, that soldier was executed for his malfeasance.

Every husband, father and mother has been assigned to be the soldier at the door, the watchman on the wall, for their family. Every leader, every intercessor, every Christian has been assigned to that responsibility for their church, community, and nation. We are exhorted in the Bible to be alert and watchful, for there is an enemy who is prowling around looking for a chance to seize anyone who is vulnerable: the children, the weak, and the careless.

If we go to sleep, or if we get distracted by our thirst, our appetites, our lusts, and allow some predator to sneak in, we might get in the kind of trouble that will never go away. I realize I am not taking into account the grace of God, but I simply want to emphasize that now is not the time to take a little break and leave our place on the wall without a watchman.

Blessings to you all,

Glenn

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