

Chapter 18

MINISTERING TO DEEPLY TROUBLED CHILDREN

Many people ask if the principles in this book apply to children. Yes. During times of ministry there are occasions when we lead even young children to forgive a father or mother for abuse, or to forgive someone who has sexually molested them -- explicit language does not have to be used. We may also lead them to ask God's forgiveness for lying or stealing or hurting another child. Then in a calm, soft voice, we may break curses, cut soul ties, and even cast out demons. Jesus' liberating of a demonized child, the daughter of the Syrophenician woman in Luke 7:24-30, illustrates the Lord's ability to heal a tormented child, as does His ministry to the demonized boy in Matthew 17 and Mark 9. His familiar statement to His disciples, "Let the children come to me and do not forbid them," demonstrates his timeless compassion on all children. The child doesn't have to understand the words that are used during such times of ministry, as long as they understand that they are in a safe place and sense genuine concern and love. When one is breaking curses and commanding spirits to leave, one is not talking to the child anyway. If the child is old enough, we may lead him to say, "In Jesus' name I tell anger/fear/confusion/perversion to leave me." At times we have seen a child start manifesting (evidencing) the reality that God is cleansing him. It is also important to note that spirits are not hard of hearing and volume does not equal authority. We must always be gentle when ministering to children, and ministry should always be done in the presence of one or both parents or guardians.

Since my experience of ministering to children has been limited, following are some insights from other ministries, from whom I am learning:

MINISTERING TO CHILDREN WITH FEARS, PANIC, COLIC, SCREAMING FITS, ASTHMA, OR ALLERGIES

I am getting some great insights from Art Mathias, from Anchorage, Alaska, who has an inner healing ministry, books, training centers, etc. He has found that kids with problems of fears, panic, etc., listed above, always have spirits of fear, rejection, abandonment, and trauma. He has had tremendous success in seeing the Lord heal these children, instantly, on many occasions, by first, ministering to the parents, and then having the parents minister to the kids, as follows:

1. **Have parents repent to the child for their sins - (you can adapt this for children from 2 years old to 42)**
 - For not wanting them when they were conceived or born.
 - If the child was born or conceived out of wedlock.
 - If parents strongly wanted a boy but got a girl, or vice versa.
 - If mom or parents attempted/thought about an abortion.
Suggested presentation to a young child: "Sally, mom/dad wants to talk to you. I love you so much. You are so precious to me. You have been sick with asthma,

and I think maybe I am responsible. When you were born, mom and dad did something wrong. We were not married when you were conceived/or we wanted a boy. You don't understand, but that was not right. Please forgive mommy/daddy for that, will you. We are so sorry we hurt your feelings, and we would not trade you for anybody now!" Etc.

2. Give a father's/mother's blessing

- Ask permission to speak to them as a father/mother (Do this for your own children, but also if they are adopted).
- Repent to them for things done and not done by you or their blood father and mother.
- Touch them in an affectionate way.
- Say, "As a father/mother, I bless you! I give you life! I am proud of you! (Art has found that saying "I am proud of you" is more meaningful most times than saying, "I love you.").
- In the name of Jesus, I command all spirits of fear, rejection, abandonment, and trauma to leave you now and not return! (done firmly).
- (Listen to the Lord for personal words from Him, and report something like this:) The Lord Jesus is telling me He is proud of you, that He loves you, that He wants a close relationship with you. He knows you have had a lot of pain in your life, but this was not His doing. He says, "Well done, my son!"

3. In the name of Jesus Christ, I command fears, colic, allergies, asthma, rebellion, allergies to go! (Done firmly.) Then hug your child and comfort him.

If you are interested in ordering some of Art's material, website is: www.akwellspring.com and e-mail at akwellspring@aol.com The father's blessing is patterned after what is done in the Jewish community at Yom Kippur, and is very powerful.

MINISTRY TO KIDS

I recently studied a set of DVD's regarding the counseling ministry at Bethel Church, in Redding, California. They title their ministry, "SOZO," which is the Greek word for salvation, and that word actually translates, "Salvation, healing, and deliverance." One of the tapes addresses ministry to children, and unfortunately I can't find the name of the lady who presented the teaching. The following is not a full ministry model, but I think it has some helpful insights:

- Before ministering to the child, thoroughly interview the parent. Minister to the parents, if they will allow it, and many times this will take care of the child's problem without even ministering to the child.
- Remember that kids don't get a Junior Holy Spirit.
- Don't talk down to the kids. Don't use Christianese, such as having them say, "I renounce such and such." Have them say, "Go away, fear/anger." Or, "I disagree with those thoughts that I am a bad kid."
- Don't put their parents down, and don't have the child put their parents down, even if the child was badly abused. Lead the child to forgive: mother, fathers, brothers, sisters, etc. Ex.: "I forgive Joey for being mean to me."
- The child's past is recent: last week. Children need forgiveness, healing, deliverance.

- Don't ignore or dismiss your child when he says there are monsters under his bed or in the closet. Those monsters are real to the child, and they may be literally real! Kids see into the spiritual real much more easily than we adults. Ex.: A 4-year old girl asked her father to tell a monster in the closet to get out. He did, and asked, "Is it gone?" She said yes, and was ready to go to sleep. Ex.: A 3-year old boy told his parents he was not going down the hall because there was something scary hiding there. They took it seriously and commanded it to leave, and the situation was resolved.
- Regarding imaginary friends: The teacher said she had never met one she liked. They come when kids are afraid or lonely and say, "I will protect you." As the child grows to trust that "friend," eventually they tell the child to do bad things. They provide the child protection and power. If the child does not want to tell that friend to go, negotiate with him: Suggest that Jesus will come in and make a trade of His friendship. Ask aloud, "Jesus, will you come in and protect Joey?" Then ask Joey what Jesus said. Then ask Jesus to come and make that imaginary friend go away.
- It is not uncommon these days for teachers to introduce children to spirit guides in exercises at school. This has happened on occasion even in Christian schools.
- In some ministry times, she had the child ask Jesus to come and do something fun with him; Jesus has come to a child as a skateboarder or a hopscotcher (and He is really good!). To a child who hated homework, she had him ask Jesus to come and help him with his math, and He did.
- Kids from bad homes are angry and acting out. Don't take away their walls, their methods of coping with scary, painful situations. But do get them connected with Jesus. Ex.: To a child describing how he and his sister hid behind the couch from their cursing, violent father, she asked the child to remember that scene, and asked, "Jesus, where are you?" The child said he then saw Jesus behind the couch hiding with them.
- Our kids are getting infiltrated by the enemy through all the witchcraft in our culture provided to little ones as entertainment. "Three Little Witches, Do, Re, Mi," teach kids how to cast spells. As does our ubiquitous friend, Harry Potter. Kids regularly participate in "harmless" seances. When she asks if kids have been in séances, they all say no. But when she asks if they have played, "Light as a feather, stiff as a board," many say yes. One boy developed the habit of carrying an 8-ball around to ask directions for his life. Others use Ouija boards. Have the child repent and renounce involvement in these activities in age-appropriate words.

MINISTRY TO DEEPLY TROUBLED CHILDREN DESCRIBED BY THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMS: ATTACHMENT DISORDER, RAD, ADD, ADHD, TOURETTE'S SYNDROME, BIPOLAR

These insights are from the ministry of Nancy Thomas, who is identified below.

For a variety of reasons, the normal development of these children was interrupted and their healing is at best a difficult, long-term process. Can't God heal them through faith and prayer? Of course, nothing is impossible with God, and faith and prayer are essential. However, the normal God-given process of human development cannot be circumvented without profound consequences. The Bible indicates that God's method of teaching knowledge to His children follows a process similar to that used by all parents: "Therefore the word of the Lord will be to them (merely monotonous repetitions

of) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; rule upon rule, rule upon rule; here a little, there a little...(Is 28:13, AMP) And Proverbs 3:13 says that “For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

The normal process is conception, gestation, birth, babyhood, childhood, and adulthood. A baby learns to trust, to talk, to walk, to be a human, in loving interaction with a mother and father. If a baby were isolated in an attic room and never loved, never taught to talk or walk, and was found by the authorities at age 6 or 8, if Christians prayed for the developmentally deprived child, could God instantly enable him to talk, walk, and communicate, as if he had been raised normally? Again, nothing is impossible with God, but I think that to expect God to do such a thing is unrealistic. What would be needed would be for someone to take the child and start patiently teaching him to talk, crawl, walk, and so forth.

Many children (and adults) are deeply, profoundly troubled. They may know how to walk and talk, but they never learned to love and trust. In fact, they may have learned that if you love or trust anyone they will inflict terrible, horrible pain, on you. Consequently, they are filled with fear and anger. They are dead to normal human empathy. They are manipulative and controlling. They are without shame or conscience. They are on the way to becoming sociopaths who are a terrible danger to themselves, to their families, and to society. Some of us cannot comprehend this scenario, but others of us understand all too well the situation I have described.

God is raising up precious people who have paid the price with tears and suffering to learn how to help such children. Nancy Thomas, who lives in Rifle, Colorado, is one of those people. She is a deeply committed Christian who, with her husband Jerry, spent 25 years as a parent and as a foster parent of disturbed children. She shares her insights in books, tapes, seminars, and is now sought out around the world by parents, teachers, and other professionals who are desperate for answers.

Following is a quote from Nancy Thomas' material regarding deeply troubled children and a list of resources from her and from other experts in the field:

What is Reactive Attachment Disorder?

RAD is a condition in which individuals have difficulty forming loving, lasting relationships. They often have a nearly complete lack of ability to be genuinely affectionate with others. They typically fail to develop a conscience and do not learn to trust. They can be surface compliant for weeks if there is no loving relationship involved. With strangers they can be extremely charming and appear loving. Unknowing adults misinterpret this as the child trusting or caring for them. If they cannot trust and love their own loving family, they will not trust and love others.

Suggested Reading

High Risk: Children w/o a Conscience by Magld and McKelvey
Bantam Books

Therapeutic Parenting/Attitude by Deborah Hage
www.DeborahHage.com

Ghosts from the Nursery by Karr-Morse and Wile

Adopting the Hurt Child by Keck and Kupecky
Pinon Press

Holding Time by Martha Welsh MD
Simon & Schuster

When Love is Not Enough - A Guide to Parenting Children with RAD
by Nancy Thomas
(970) 984-2222

Research Information www.attqachment.org

For more information

ATTACH Association for the treatment and training of Attachment Disorder in Children
www.attach.org

Our great sight www.DeborahHage.com
www.sylix.com/adsg

I also suggest the classic book, Healing the Wounded Spirit, by John and Paul Sandford, Bridge Pub., Inc.

Concerning the material listed below, I suggest that you first order the books, When Love is Not Enough and Dandelion on My Pillow by Nancy Thomas.

The following material is available from: **Families by Design**
P. O. Box 2812
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602
(970) 984-2222

When Love Is Not Enough (a guide to parenting children with Reactive Attachment Disorder)

Rebuilding the Broken Bond (4 hours of humorously presented parenting plan for RAD)

Video/Book

Dandelion on My Pillow. Butcher Knife Beneath (True story of an amazing family that lived with and loved kids who killed!)

Circle of Support (Explains RAD & gives great support ideas for friends and family) 60 minute video

Healing Trust: Rebuilding the Broken Bond (Two humorous audio cassettes, 3 hours, explains RAD & many "how tos")

Captive in the Classroom (3 ½ hour video set, presents powerful techniques & tools to ID and redirect disturbed students)

Give Me a Break (2 ½ hour video set, information babysitters need to be highly effective to provide relief.)

Building Brilliant Brains (60 minute video, understanding and healing traumatized children's brains. Shows PROOF!)

Biology of Behavior (audio cassette, shares effective nutrition treatment ideas for attention and aggression)

Handbook of Attachment Interventions (12 authors - including Nancy Thomas - share clinical interventions for RAD)

99 Ways to Drive Your Child Sane (booklet by St Clair at Wild Ideas to add hysterical humor to a home with a disturbed child.)

Therapeutic Parenting (book by Deb Hage MSW, wisdom from experienced Mom and attachment therapist)

Me and My Volcano (anger management workbook by Deb Hage MSW)

So You Want To Be A Princess? (insightful children's book by Deb Hage MSW)

Neurofeedback & QEEG Questions & Answers (audio CD by Attachment Therapist, Larry Van Bloem, LCSW)

Broken Hearts: Wounded Minds (250 page book by Liz Randolph PhD of past and current research in a power packed manual)

Children Who Shock and Surprise (booklet by Liz Randolph, MSN/PhD, leading research, parenting & treatment ideas.

In addition to the material above related to deeply troubled children, people sometimes find themselves dealing with these children after they have grown into adulthood, physically but not emotionally. Psychology terms such people as victims of BPD, or Borderline Personality Disorder. The following might indicate that you are living with someone with BPD:

- * Do you feel that anything you say or do will be twisted against you?
- * Do you find yourself concealing thoughts and feelings to avoid horrible arguments?
- * Are you the focus of intense, violent, and irrational rages, alternating with periods when they act normal and loving?
- * Do you feel manipulated, controlled, or lied to?
- * Are you accused of things you never did or said?
- * Does no one believe you when you explain what is going on?

I suggest the book Stop Walking on Eggshells by Paul Mason, New Harbinger Publications, Inc. This is a book of psychology which offers many practical insights for understanding and living with people with Borderline Personality Disorders. It does not obviate the need for continued prayer for God's help and intervention, nor does it negate the Scriptural insights drawn together in my book.