

WHAT HINDERS HEALING
PART 9
FINAL THOUGHTS ON POWER

What kind of Christians are we?
Do we really know?
Because it makes a great deal of difference.
Why? Because of HIS PLAN.

We need to live lives that count, that tell His story, that make a difference for Jesus 7 days a week.

The Master's plan is the master plan. It is this:

That the world should be won (reconciled to God) not by preachers, (even though they are great teachers and leaders for us) but by you and everyone who knows the Jesus story - telling someone, not just with his lips but with his life.

The question is this, "Are we living the story of love and power out among them (the world)?"

It makes a big difference to God and to them (the world) if we are or if we're not.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN YOU ARE?

There are three who do know what kind of Christian you are

1) SATAN

He knows.
He knows if you're interfering with his plans.
He knows some of us neither hinder Satan nor help God.

2)NON-CHRISTIANS

They know.
Many of them are hungry or searching only to look to a "Christian" and be disappointed to find that their life is much like their own or like those who profess nothing.

Yet when they meet the one who reflects the fruit of the spirit in the midst of all circumstances, they recognize it. They(the world) appreciate the "real thing."

3)JESUS

He knows.

He died for us.

We bear his name.

We plead His blood, yet, if Jesus had control of our lives He would move through us with tremendous power, but we're too absorbed in other things.

These three know what kind of Christians we are; Satan, The non-Christians, and Jesus.

Do you know what kind of a Christian you are?

There are two kinds of Christians

- 1- Those with POWER.
- 2- Those without POWER.

Both kinds are depicted throughout the scriptures.

John 3:1-9

- 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
 - 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
 - 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 - 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
 - 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
 - 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
 - 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
 - 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?
- (KJV)

Nicodemus; obviously curious and impressed by Jesus, yet unwilling to expose himself to criticism, came to Jesus by night.

John 7:45-53

- 45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?
- 46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.
- 47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?
- 48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.
50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)
51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?
52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.
53 And every man went unto his own house.
(KJV)

Before the Jewish like Senate Nicodemus made a lawyer-like comment in Christ's defense, yet without professing Him as the Messiah. A Pharisee blurts out a comment and Nicodemus shrinks back.

John 19:39-42

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.
40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.
41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.
42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.
(KJV)

He must have loved him dearly because he purchased very expensive embalming spices for Jesus after His crucifixion.

Nicodemus loved Jesus, but he had no power for Him.

He was timid.

Afraid of what others might say or think.

He had a grand opportunity to talk about their evening together.

He could have admitted to their reasoning together, and how he had questioned him.

He could have shared his satisfaction that He was their Messiah, avowing his personal allegiance to Jesus Christ; the anointed one.

And then there was Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin. Also a follower of Jesus, who was quite possibly influenced by Nicodemus. It was Joseph who asked Pilate for the body of Christ. According to the book of John, "A disciple secretly for fear of the Jews."

Nicodemus could lead Joseph no closer to Jesus than he was willing to go.

You will lead no one closer to Jesus than you are willing to go.

John refers to this type of Christian 5 times (Jesus suffered from these fearful followers)(John 3:1, 7:50, 9:22-23, 12:42, 19:38)

John 11 Tells another story of a powerless Christian.

In Bethany - Lazarus was dead. Jesus cries, "Lazarus come forth." And Lazarus came forth with LIFE. Lazarus was alive and healthy, but bound - hand, foot, and face.

This is like some Christians, Jesus has spoken life to them, and they are still bound even though very much alive.

Something; sin, bad habits, a wrong relationship or something is hindering your Christian walk.

Maybe you are without power because you compromise, or something in your life is questionable or blatantly wrong.

If you are willing, the light of God's Spirit will illuminate this area of your life so it can be removed and power can flow.

God's Spirit and His power must flow freely to be the kind of Christians that glorify God.

What do I mean when I say "must flow freely?"

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

(KJV)

It was the feast of Tabernacles and multitudes of people were living in the streets in temporary booths. Priests would pour jars of "living water" symbolizing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at this feast.

Jesus said, "Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Water is essential for life.

Absence of water means death.

Abundance of good water means life!

The history of our world centers around water; bodies of water, rivers, ports, oceans.

The "living water" poured out at the feast was from Israel's prize water, the Jordan. Here in the scriptures though Jesus doesn't just refer to a Jordan in our lives, but rivers (plural), like a Nile or Euphrates, a Rhine, or a Mississippi.

Ezekiel had a vision of a river flowing forth from God's throne to the Dead Sea.

Ezek 47:1-9

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ancles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

(KJV)

Everywhere this river went was:

abundant life

prosperity

beauty

healing

food

continual harvest - fruit every month.

The natural term is - it flows into the dead sea.

Most Christians are like this, the power and life of God flows into them and lies stagnant or dormant.

Jesus words were, "Out of your belly shall flow..."

THE FLOW IS - INTO - THROUGH - AND OUT OF!!

And there must be a vital vertical connection for the free flow of God's power inward, to get it through us and then out of us to others. Rivers of life are what a dry world needs. Our churches name, Living Waters Christian Church of Hopkins, MN is prophetic. Let the power of God fill you up, heal you up inwardly and with the excess, we overflow or flood out to people who are in need.

Janet Brazee says, "If God can get it through you, He will get it to you!"

Only from fullness and wholeness within and overflow being the result can we bring refreshing to others.

Joshua 3:15b

"For the Jordan overflows all it's banks throughout the time of harvest." (amp.)

IS THERE A HARVEST OF SOULS IN YOUR LIFE?

Here in the United States we've had some great floods over the years which yielded unprecedented crops from these flood lands.

The blood vessels in the body are vitally connected to the heart.

The human circulatory system looks much like a geological map of our streams and rivers and oceans. As blood takes life to every cell of the body, so everywhere water flows there is life.

For us as believers, the stream of life's vital connection is "He that believeth on me."

John 6:47-51

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

(KJV)

Like the Crimson streams and the water streams...

John 15:1-9(read out of the amplified)

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

(KJV)

Read story on page 28 of "Quiet Talks on Power" by Gordon