

Break Your Sexual Stronghold With This Freeing Choice

Biblical Principle Two: Know Where the Healing Is

I'm going to get a little theological for a moment to explain where your healing and freedom is and why. I want to share with you a revelation that helped me make sense of why I needed to confess to another person to be made free. This is why "just Jesus and I" wasn't working, and why I couldn't get free earlier in my life.

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he visited earth a few times. He was on the road to Damascus with two men, then with ten disciples, then with eleven disciples, and then with 500 of his followers (1 Cor. 15).

Now, Jesus was with 500 people prior to the medicine era. Surely there was an opportunity to heal, but there's not one recording of the resurrected Christ doing any healing.

However, turn to the last page in the gospels and you'll find yourself in the book of Acts, and healing is happening everywhere (Acts 3:1-10). Amazing healing miracles happened through the apostles and other believers in Jesus. Why? The healing power of Jesus transferred from the head of Christ to the body of Christ. If you wanted healing or recovery, it was (and is) found inside other believers. I had been ignorantly going to the head of Jesus for what he places in his body. I was banging my head against the wall, thinking God didn't hear me or want to set me free. All along, I was simply going to the wrong place or using the wrong principle to get the results I truly needed, which was healing and recovery.

You see, like so many other Christians who have addictions, I was forgiven but I wanted healing or recovery. When I started to use the principle of confession, the healing and freedom in

Christ's body was able to flow through my roommate to me. I was then able to get healed, get free and stay free.

If you and I are 100 percent willing to get honest with another person of the same gender, we can heal and be free. If we protect our pride and our perceived spiritual reputation, we are guaranteed to stay sick. One of the major things I have learned in counseling people for more than 25 years is that "What you love is what you protect."

If you love your addictive choices and behavior, you will protect them. You will lie, minimize, blame, get angry, sulk, or do whatever you have to do to not be 100 percent honest about your participation in your addictive choices or behavior. If you love real people in your life, including yourself, you will be 100 percent honest about your addictive choices and behaviors, protect the people you love, expose those choices and behaviors to the light of another believer, and walk the path of recovery.

As an American or Western believer, culturally we are trained to appreciate the instantaneous in our lives, whether it be instant coffee, instant microwaveable food or popcorn, instant internet access, instant cell phone access and more. How many times a day do we push a button of some type and something occurs instantly?

When we come to Christ, we sometimes carry this desire for immediate freedom. We see the many instantaneous, physical miracles in the Bible and wonder, "Why can't Jesus just touch me and get me free? Why do I have to do all of this recovery work to experience freedom? Why must I go through a process?"

In the Bible, we see both types of miracles: instantaneous and those that occur over time as a process. We see the instant healings of the blind being made able to see (Acts 9:17-18), the deaf being made able to hear (Acts 5:15) and even people being raised from the dead (Acts 20:7-10). However, the Bible

also describes physical healings that occurred over time, particularly in Jesus' early ministry.

Recall the 10 lepers Jesus told to go show themselves to the priest (Luke 17:11-15). They had to obey and put action into their obedience. As they obeyed, they were healed. Theirs was a process healing. Remember the man Jesus told to go wash in the pool of Bethesda. As the man bathed there, he was healed (John 5:1-8). In yet another example of obedience in action resulting in a process healing, recall the man Jesus told to stretch forth his withered hand. As he stretched it forth in obedience, he was healed (Matt. 12:9-14).

Jesus decides if you'll experience an instant miracle or a process miracle, but both are true miracles. In the former, He does all the work, while in the latter, we have to participate for the miracle to occur. For me, freedom from alcohol and drugs were instant miracles. God took them away, and I have never desired them since. Overcoming sex, pornography, caffeine and sugar were process miracles for me. I used to ask why he had not just instantly delivered me from all of them. I have come to understand that process healing that leads to recovery from addiction has several added benefits over the instant miracle we might desire.

This *Recovery for Everyone* miracle gives you a humility that can last a lifetime: You know deep down you are a sinner and that you have been forgiven much. This process gives you genuine compassion and deeper love for others and yourself. This process allows you to give and receive from your brothers and sisters in Christ in an authentic manner. Process healing allows you to grow up spiritually, morally and emotionally in the very areas where your addictive choices and behaviors stunted you. In many cases, this process gives you a ministry of healing and recovery you would likely not have had if you had been set free instantly.

God sometimes allows us to go through a miracle process

because this way is actually better for us than an instantaneous healing might be. On this side of the process, going through it, learning it, teaching it and duplicating it globally, I am grateful I was chosen for the process of the recovery miracle. {eoa}

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