

# It is the LORD's Will to Make us Whole

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When Adam and Eve sinned against God, their creator, there were immediate negative effects from that act of disobedience that has been passed down through all the generations of mankind. Genesis chapter 2

Satan approached Eve and asked a question that was intended to make Eve question God's provision for his children. "Did God say that you shall not eat of every tree that is in the garden?" Eve answered that they could eat of all of the trees except one that was located in the middle of the garden. She added to the commandment and you can be sure that Satan picked up on that. God didn't tell them not to touch it; He specified that they were not to eat of it. Satan used his craftiness to persuade Eve to focus on the one thing that God had withheld from them rather than all the blessings and provisions that He had created special with them in mind. Satan promised Eve that she would be as knowledgeable as God if she ate of that tree and God didn't want her to know as much as He does so he was withholding that from her and Adam. "You will know good and evil" was the promise. Wouldn't it be a wonderful place to only know goodness? That is all Adam and Eve had ever known. They were innocent, peaceful, and happy. They communicated with God in the cool of the evening for He came and walked and talked with them in the garden He was their provider, their friend, their father, and He gave them the best of all things. He had created the perfect environment for them and they only knew happiness, joy, life, and love. As Eve became entangled in Satan's web of lies and deceit, that changed. The tree of life had also been provided for them, but it was the tree of good and evil that Satan tempted Eve to bring chaos, confusion, disconnection with their creator and sin into, their paradise. As soon as Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, she offered it to her husband and he ate. The sins in a life don't just affect one person; it contaminates others as well. It is never isolated. As soon as both of them had eaten of the fruit, they understood evil in a way that they had never anticipated. They realized that they were' naked so they sewed fig leaves together to cover their bodies. Innocence was gone and shame set in. Their relationship changed and it became apparent as the evening hour set in, the breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the. LORD God walking in the garden. For the first time, they were afraid to face him and they hid behind some trees. God asked the question, "Adam, where are you?"

Adam answered that as soon as he heard God walking in the garden, he became afraid and hid himself. God asked the question, "Did you eat of the fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden" For the first time, Adam laid the blame on God and the woman for his disobedience. "It was the woman you put here with me", he said, she gave me some of the

fruit and I ate it." When God asked Eve what she had done, she blamed the serpent and said because he tricked her, she ate of the fruit. God cursed the serpent because of his part in seducing the first children of God and then He killed an animal and made clothes from the skin to cover their nakedness. Everything in creation suffered the effects of the disobedient act of Adam and Eve and every generation has suffered the consequences of that choice that the first family made that fateful day.

Broken hearts, broken homes, trickery, hatred, mistrust, lies, abuse, greed, and all the evils that have multiplied over time can be traced back to the sin nature that was passed down through the seed Of Adam. God promised that the curse would be broken through a redeemer who would come through the seed of the woman. God made a provision from the foundation of the world for fallen man.

In 1 Peter 1:13-22, Peter tells us to be alert and think straight. Put all your hope in how kind God will be to you when Jesus Christ appears. We are to be obedient to God and not let our lives be controlled by our carnal nature. Always live as God's holy people should because God is the one who chose you and he is holy. That is why the Scriptures say, "I am the holy God and you must be holy too." You say that God is your Father, but God doesn't have favorites. He judges all people by what they do. So you must honor God while you live as strangers here on earth. You were rescued from the useless way of life that you learned from your ancestors. But you know that you were not rescued by such things as silver or gold that don't last forever. You were rescued by the precious blood of Christ, that spotless and innocent lamb Christ was chosen even before the world was created, but because of you he did not come until these last days When he did come, it was to lead you to have faith in God who raised him from death and honored him in a glorious way. That's why you have put your faith and hope in God. You obeyed the truth and your souls were made pure. Now you sincerely love each other. But you must keep on loving with all your heart. Do this because God has given you new birth by his message that lives on forever. The Scriptures say, "Humans wither like grass and their glory fades like wild flowers. Grass dries up and flowers fall to the ground. But what the Lord has said will stand forever." In what ways does the Lord restore health to a broken soul?

Isaiah 61:1 says this: The Spirit of the LORD God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day: of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be

glorified. Brokenhearted is a condition that is caused by being deeply disappointed or grieved over a life circumstance. It is a deep emotional aching in the chest that lingers and causes a dark cloud to dampen the spirit. Psalms 147 tells people to shout praises to the LORD! Our God is kind and it is right and good to sing praises to him. The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem and brings the people of Israel back home again. He renews our hopes and heals our bodies He decided how many stars there would be in the sky and gave each one a name. Our LORD is great and powerful! He understands everything. The LORD helps the poor but he smears the wicked in the dirt.

Psalms 73:26 reads like this: My body and mind may fail, but you are my strength and my choice forever.

(1 Peter 2:24) He bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you are healed.

John the Baptist called on the Jews to repent and he baptized them unto repentance. There were some who came to be baptized that he rejected. They had not repented of their sins and John called them a generation of snakes. "Who warned you of the wrath to come? Show deeds that prove that you have a changed heart and have given your sins Don't start saying that you are Abraham's children. God can turn these stones into Abraham's family." John began to tell people what they needed to do to show that they were indeed sorry for their past sins and was ready to accept responsibility and to change the direction that they were headed in.

In Acts 2, Peter's life was changed by the power of the Holy Ghost. He had failed when he denied Christ three times even as Jesus had warned him, but now Christ had forgiven and restored him. He now has a zeal for God that nothing can quench. He stood before the crowd who watched the Holy Spirit move on people as they praised God in languages that they had never been taught. He explained to them that this was the fulfillment of the prophet Joel who declared that in the last days God's spirit would be given to everyone who believes on Jesus. He explained that these people had seen Jesus from Nazareth do great miracles and yet had rejected Him as their king. God and planned and decided that Jesus would be handed over to evil men to be put to death on a cross to provide a sinless sacrifice for the souls of men. But God set him free from death and raised him to life as death could not hold him in its power. The Psalmist David wrote prophetic words concerning the death and victory over death that Jesus had fulfilled. He ascended into heaven and sat down on the right hand of the Father. In verse 36, he declared that everyone in Israel should know that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ even though they put him to death on the cross. When the people heard this, they were very troubled and asked

what they should do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins and they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. The promise was for that generation and for all future generations, to everyone who the Lord God would choose no matter where they live. That day 3000 souls were saved and baptized. They were forgiven and redeemed by the blood of Christ.

In John 5, there is an account of Jesus offering healing to a lame man. There was a pool of Bethesda where once a year an angel of the Lord troubled the waters and the first person who stepped into the pool after the troubling of the waters was made whole. Jesus came to the area and saw a man who had been sick and had been crippled for 38 years lying on a mat. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be healed?" He answered that he had lost hope of ever being healed for many years he had tried to get to the pool first but others always got ahead of him and now he had just accepted his lot in life and had given up any hope of being healed. Jesus simply said, "Pick up your bed and walk!" Right then the man was healed and he picked up his mat and started walking around. They told the man that he had no right to be carrying his mat on the Sabbath. The man said, "But the man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk." They asked him who told him to do that but the man didn't know. Jesus had left because of the crowd. Later Jesus met the man in the temple and told him, "You are now well. But don't sin anymore or something worse might happen to you." The man left and told the leaders that it was Jesus who told him to take up his bed and walk. They were critical of Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus was not speaking of sinless perfection, but was warning of returning to sinful lifestyle choices. His words extended mercy yet demanded holiness. Jesus' words are always the perfect balance of grace and truth. John 1:14. We are expected to change our direction when we ask for forgiveness, not continue down the path of rebellion.

In John 8:3, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and stood her in the middle of the crowd surrounding Jesus. They asked him, "Teacher this woman was caught in the act of adultery. Moses law teaches that such a woman like this should be stoned to death. What do you say?" Jesus realized that they were trying to trap him for they were not concerned about the Law of Moses, but rather to test him so they could bring charges against him and accuse him.

They kept asking Jesus concerning the situation until finally he said, "You without sin cast the first stone." He leaned over and began to write in the ground. The people left one by one, beginning with the oldest. Finally Jesus and the woman were alone. Jesus stood up and asked her, "Where are your accusers? Isn't there anyone left to accuse you?" The woman answered, "No sir." Jesus spoke to her these words, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." He was the only sinless person there and He offered forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a gift that we all want extended to us, but yet many of us find it hard to extend to others. In Matthew 18:21, Peter came to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong against me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered, "Seventy times seven." He then told a story of a king who had mercy on a man who owed him fifty million silver coins. The king intended to sell the man and his family, and everything he had in order to settle the debt. But the debtor got on his knees and began to beg for the king to have pity on him promising to pay the debt somehow. The king felt sorry for him so he wiped the debt off the books and told the man that he was free to go and he didn't have to pay any of the money back. As the man was leaving, he happened to meet a man who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed the man by the throat and started choking him saying, "Pay me what you owe" This man also got on his knees and begged for mercy. He said that if the man would have pity on him, he would pay all that he owed. But the first man would not listen to his pleas, but instead threw him in jail until the debt was paid. Some other officials found out what happened and reported it to the king for they felt sorry for the man who was jailed for lack of money to pay his debt. The king called the first man back into his room and called him an evil man. He said, "When you begged for mercy, I told you that you didn't have to repay your debt. Yet don't you think you should have done the same for someone who owed you a sum of money?" The king was so displeased that he ordered the man to be placed in jail until he paid the money that was due. Jesus said that this is how our heavenly Father will judge us if we refuse to forgive others with all of our hearts as he has forgiven us.

As we forgive, we unburden the hurts and sorrows that weigh us down and then we are free to fill our hearts with the fruit of the spirit. Hanging onto bitterness and past hurts will only fester and cause us to become angry and spiteful people seeking revenge towards those who have wronged us. As Jesus was dying on the cross, he asked his Father, to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing. That prayer was answered as the apostles went forth preaching and teaching the gospel as Jesus had taught them to do. Forgiveness is a choice.

The story of the death, burial and resurrection is a story of forgiveness and restoration of relationships between God and man. When we forgive, we are promised that God will forgive us in the same measure that we forgive those who trespass against us. Be careful of what you allow to fester and to grow in your hearts. A bountiful crop of good fruit only comes from seeds of faith, hope, goodness, and righteousness. Weeds spring up from bitterness and will choke out love and joy. See Hebrews 12:15