

HEALING WOUNDS OF THE HEART

Healing Wounds of the Heart is crucial for all of us as it shows the essence of sin, and how to overcome it through the blood of the Lamb of God, as we cooperate with our heavenly Father.

Healing Wounds of the Heart was initially created as a missionary tool for Sub-Sahara African peoples. It has been exceptionally effective in audio format since 2012 in helping people, Muslims and Christians alike, come close to their God. It contains an effective biblical method for seeking intimacy with our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind.



The writer Kees Hoek grew up in The Netherlands, moving in 1969 with his wife Els and four children to the USA to gain an American business experience. As they joined an Assembly of God church in Bellevue WA, they came so much closer to their Father God and Jesus Christ that they decided to remain and became US citizens. As a professional engineer he started a commercial HVAC & Refrigeration company that he operated for 32 years, selling it after his wife died of cancer in 1998. It was then that God called him in amazing ways to become a father to many young men who grew up without an attentive father of their own.

Kees says: "Living among African peoples since 2003 has been of immeasurable value to me in understanding the Healing of Wounds of the Heart."

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Fatherhood Prison Ministries Fellowship International

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1. FORWARD

This book was written as a missionary tool for Sub-Sahara African peoples and its teachings in audio format have been proven to be exceptionally effective among them. It deals with healing wounds of the heart to help people recognize that bitterly judging others is the common problem of all of us, and so are its consequences in our lives. It also appears to be an excellent way to draw the attention of Muslims as the Koran does not address the concept of SIN, and therefore cannot speak about God's FORGIVENESS for us, or about us forgiving those people who have hurt us in the past.

The subject is crucial to all of us humans as it shows the essence of what sin is all about, and how to overcome it through the blood of the Lamb of God, as we humbly seek our heavenly Father.

First however, I want to acknowledge and praise our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, the only Son begotten by God through His Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary, Jesus' mother. If it was not for Jesus' obedience to His Father, as a sinless person, as the perfect blameless "Lamb of God" paying the terrible price of a criminal's death on a cross, after having been utterly rejected by men and his Father when God turned away from Him as He could not look at ALL our sins that Jesus Christ carried on that cross. I would not need to write this book as there would be no access whatsoever into an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father.

The book is not firstly written to learn more about God, but to better "know" Him, our Almighty Creator and Father, through diligently seeking Him with all our hearts. Our purpose is not to show how to get from God what we want, but to ponder for what purpose God created us, and what He longs to receive from us: our sincere and undivided love that will give Him much joy, strength and the glory He deserves.

This book shows one way of how we, as His little children, can help our Father to make that happen, make Him happier and stronger by giving Him that love. Through it we may get to know Him much better, intimately, as we become more holy, like He is Holy. Paul wrote it with these words in Galatians: “Until Christ is formed in you.” Adam had God’s image fully but lost it when he disobeyed his Father, and because of that we too lack that image now so much. Our God is eager for us to turn around and begin that process of restoration by seeking Him with all our hearts, because Jesus opened the way to our heavenly Father by paying the just penalty for all of our sins; dying on a cross in obedience to His Father’s will.

The book contains an approach to come closer to God through forgiving our past enemies for what they did to us. In principle God needs to bring old wounds back to our memory, causing us to re-live the trauma of what happened, and that may be overwhelming. It is however necessary that split-off demonic parts of us ask God forgiveness for having judged people bitterly, forgive our abusers, and ask God to help us to begin loving them as they also were victims of abuse. Going through severely painful memories may be best done with strong emotional support, preferably with a friend of the same sex, or a Christian worker who has experience assisting people with this process.

During my years in Africa I have often noticed to my initial surprise that the level of cultural and spiritual development of today’s rural people in sub-Saharan Africa is so remarkably like that of Old Testament Israel. Interaction with Africans helped me to better understand God’s Word, but also helped me to become more childlike, adopt simplicity of faith, which is proper as we live with our almighty Father. Many Western Christians in Africa attest to the same benefit.

Israeli people then, as well as some Christians today, could still come so close to God that they could trust, believe, hear and experience their God so well, that He could use them to record His words accurately for us. They could still know in their hearts that He is, that “He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”, but also that He urgently needs to be feared and worshipped with our faces to the ground like Moses did, because our God “will by no means clear the guilty, and will visit the iniquity of the fathers

upon the children and upon the children's children into the third and the fourth generation". But they knew also that they could seek shelter with Him, because He is "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin." (Exodus 34:6-8) And so sub-Sahara African people with their childlike faith can still come close to Him if taught about their God and Father. Even Muslim peoples in sub-Sahara Africa, with still so much poverty like in Old Testament days, know that they must fear their God and worship Him on their knees with their faces to the ground in deep respect; they long to know Him better. These poor people are just like the Israelis of long ago. I now can understand so clearly why the Kingdom of God belongs to the beggarly poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3) as Jesus taught. When I teach them in person, or through the Audio Bible Teacher lessons, they respond to their awesome God with all their hearts as little children can, so that God can reveal Himself in amazing ways as He promised through His words in Jeremiah 29:11-13: "... I know the plans I have for you, plans for your wellbeing, not for disaster, but to give you a good future and hope; and when the time comes that you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, I will listen to you; and when you seek Me, I will make you find Me, if you search for Me with all your heart." God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him!

While interacting with these spiritually so very sensitive African people, I myself came to develop deeper intimacy with my heavenly Father, and gladly share this with you, dear reader.

Kees Hoek

12 March,2019

2. INTRODUCTION

Kees Hoek grew up in The Netherlands during the war-torn years of Nazi occupation in the first half of the 1940s; he was almost two years old when the war came to Holland. His parents were faithful believing Dutch Reformed people with hearts to serve their God; and it showed during that war in their commitments in the Dutch underground movement: fighting the terrible racial discrimination against the Jewish people by the Nazi regime. Kees' parents

- Hid Jewish people,
- Hid crew members of downed allied airplanes,
- Smuggled those people into Belgium on their way to freedom,
- Helped men to hide who were required to work in German war-machinery factories, and
- delivered food-stamps all over town to buy food for people who were hidden.

Yet, my parents also had deeply wounded hearts that caused clashes between them, thus leaving much damage in the hearts of their children.

- The first year of his life Kees lay most of the day in isolation in an upstairs crib.
- The children were all afraid of going to bed, looking for demons where they might be lurking in their bedrooms.
- Kees remembers putting his head deep under his blankets in hope that demons would not find him.
- He remembers at night always being tormented in his dreams.

At the age of seventeen Kees made Jesus Christ his Lord, promising to obey Him always, and his heart became peaceful for some years, but increasingly turmoil returned.

After completing his studies in Mechanical Engineering Kees served in the Royal Dutch Airforce for two years as a professional engineer and then for six years worked in a leading industrial refrigeration manufacturing and contracting company. In 1969 he moved with his wife and four little children to the USA for some years of an American business experience, but his family has remained there in Washington State with Kees running his own commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning contracting business for 32 years. Yet, even though he loved Jesus Christ, his heart began causing more and more problems as he grew older, and he became known in his industry as “that crazy Dutchman”.

After his loving wife had died at age sixty of an aggressive brain cancer, he received an amazing calling through eight prophetic words through people who did not know him. He would become a father to many young men who had not had a father of their own; though first a change of character would need to take place.

Kees went then through some years of serious self-inflicted problems that forced him for the first time in his life to start looking at himself and ask God for help, and thus finally his Father could begin changing his heart; our God is a gentle God who will never do that unless, and until, we ask Him to do so.

Now, many years later, these prophetic words have come true in amazing ways and detail. First Kees preached daily for three years in the prisons of Washington State with other men of the Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI), after which he was led to a poor remote rural community in the little southern African kingdom of Swaziland, where he lived among the people: evangelizing, building church fellowships, visiting prisons, and learning about African cultural worldviews. Once he felt comfortable among the Africans, his focus shifted back to prison ministry, but now in Africa, and Fatherhood Prison Ministries Fellowship was started.

In 2012 he produced audio bible lessons for a solar powered programmable audio player; he called it the Audio Bible Teacher (ABT for short), with lessons and bibles in English and the siSwati language for Swaziland and major areas in South Africa. So, prisoners could listen to God's Word in groups after lock-up for the night. Since 2013 Kees has moved with this program also into Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania, adding in time Chichewa, iciBemba, ChiYao, Portuguese, Swahili and Maasai language programs, and using indigenous missions-minded people to distribute them in prisons and remote rural village communities where most people cannot read. Other language programs are being created at this writing.

Such a revival broke out in the Zambia "death-row" prison in 2015 among 337 men and women, that the president of Zambia commuted all death-sentences, reducing them to 25 years; 48 men and women were set free immediately. An assistant commissioner said: "The content of these (ABT) gadgets turns our prisons upside down." Because of many such revivals in prisons we took the ministry also into remote rural villages where most people cannot read yet. Conservative estimates show that by the end of 2018 more than a quarter-million rural and mostly oral people have already come close to their Lord and heavenly Father while listening in groups of 10 to 30 people.

Almost all reports about the impact of the Audio Bible Teacher (ABT) indicate that people are turning close to their heavenly Father because of the lessons "Healing Wounds of the Heart". When people begin to realize how much bitterness there is in their hearts from years of poverty, abuses and all kinds of rejections, real or perceived, and they follow the provided prayer-guidelines in the lessons, they experience such strong release of peace in their hearts that they know that Jesus is alive and their true Saviour and King. The impact

among Muslim people is equally amazing. The Koran does not teach about sin, and forgiveness is a poorly treated subject, but when these people now pray to God to be forgiven for the bitterness toward those who hurt them in their past, they experience such a peace that they know this is true teaching, and this is a real God. They experience Jesus words: “My yoke fits well and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:30). It takes their leaders only a few weeks to accept Jesus as their Saviour, but most of them like to stay yet in their mosque communities for safety and as witnesses, but they send their children in large numbers to Christian schools where that is possible. In some mosques the ABT is even plugged into their PA system to provide a sermon for their sabbath.

In Lusaka, Zambia, it took only 20 months since the first ABT was handed to two Imams for God to develop so many listener groups that by now, January 2019, more than 17,000 people are attending.

We received from Lusaka a wonderful report on November 23, 2018 from our local Lusaka missionary: “Today I made a follow up in the Makeni suburb with the ministry of ABTs. I found that the leaders I work with have made 6 more groups in the past two weeks, and they are so excited about what God is doing, they told me that it is not easy to convince them to join Christianity, but the way things are happening, it can only be God.”

The following report is from January 19, 2019 while Kees is writing this book: “I heard just now of one remarkable instance of a Muslim gentleman who was able to forgive someone he had vowed years ago never to forgive, but then he listened to the wounded heart messages. I am told that he is now evangelizing, using the same message. I am so happy that people are getting such healing.”

African people are relational people who understand that Father God wants us to come close to Him, and it is in intimacy with Him that everything becomes possible. I have often experienced God doing

miracles through my prayer for people, but now I understand that my faith is of no importance for miracles to happen; God moves on their faith and trust.

Kees has by now also developed more trust in his Father, but it had to come through much pain in his life and healing of his heart. He practices to not step out ahead of God anymore to do what he thinks He wants him to do, but always waits until his Father God opens the way. Kees says: "If I would just go ahead and do it, I would foolishly be leading my God; He is the Good Shepherd who knows much better where to go and what to do, so I learned to follow Him."

By now I can write a book about all of Father's miraculous actions in my life; I'll name a few:

- In 2002 God had to force me to declare an inmate's uncle to come out of a seven weeks long brain-dead coma that very night while doctors waited for signatures to shut down the life-support machine. That same night he woke up and was out of rehab three months later.
- In 2009 God's angels lifted our car over a three-meters-long wash-out in a soaking wet clay by-pass of a highway under construction; the car was gently set down on the other side while still moving. It would have killed us, and Father's ministry to inmates through using us would have come to an end.
- In 2015 I prayed for a totally blind inmate with white eyeballs; when returning half a year later, he came to me to thank God; he had twenty-twenty vision. Huge revival happened among the inmates in that death-row.
- In 2015 I prayed for an extremely crippled inmate who had to be held up by inmates as crutches were of little help; the next day he was totally healed.

- In 2017 and 2018, traveling by car I have three times escaped robbery and murder traps in Mozambique and Malawi, organized by corrupt police.

Jesus' plan has never changed yet; signs *will* follow the preaching of the word to the lost. The miracles are not for me, but that the lost may believe.

I wrote the above testimonies not to brag, but to show of how huge value it is to all of us to seek God with all our hearts, and to seek God's healing for our wounded hearts. Don't wait to do it as I did, until my life had become unbearable, and Father God called me to serve Him.

On frequent requests, from African and American friends alike, the lessons with the biggest impact, "Healing Wounds of the Heart", are now for the first time published in written format.

Please, do not harden your heart when you read this book, just wanting to know what this writer has to say; but please listen with a softened heart, as forgiving the enemies from your past is so essential to come closer to God. If we think that we are good enough for God because Jesus paid the price, we are not seriously appreciating what Jesus Christ did for us and may well loose our salvation. Salvation happens when we are truly sorry for every new sin we commit and have a desire to become more holy as our God is Holy. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 says it so clearly: "God has chosen you from the beginning to be saved through sanctification (the process of becoming holy) by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

3. MY CALLING

A NECESSARY PREAMBLE:

There is nothing good in me that deserves God's attention, mercy and grace. I am just like everyone else when I acknowledge that I did not seek our Father God in earnest, and I say with King David: "Who is man that You are always thinking about him, and the son of man that You visit with him?" How come then, that I now love my heavenly Father and want to see His name glorified in all the earth? And why then do I now finally serve Him in mission work in Africa? I did not seek Him with all my heart, and yet God got me to work for Him. Today, I can honestly say that I have been a fool all my life to not press in more to find Him earlier in His glory. And even today there is still a lot in me that takes Him for granted. Like King David in Psalm 8:5 I have by Father's grace finally seen with my heart that He has "placed us a little below Elohim (a name of our God) and You have crowned us with glory and honor." But I begin now also to understand why God's Word so often talks about fearing Him, like in:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom."

"The fear of the Lord is clean."

"The fear of the Lord is my strength."

"In fearing Yahweh is strong confidence, and His children will have refuge."

I always felt that He is my Father and that by His Spirit I may call Him "Abba", a word that to Paul meant "Daddy", "Pappa", "Babba". It indicates intimacy with our Father God, rather than fear. But then, as a little boy I often needed to be afraid of my parents too when I got

found out doing something wrong. We are such very needy people with our double mindedness; yes, we are continually engaged in spiritual warfare in our inner man, and our Father keeps hoping that we will always, and in everything, choose to obey Him. And whenever we do, fear flees away, and we and our Father can enjoy intimacy. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

God created us to fulfill His purposes in our lives; He has a plan for each one of us. But I don't think that I ever would have chosen to come this close to Him if it was not for His extreme calling upon my life. He was so determined to get His way with me, while I could be so insensitive toward Him, that He had to shout to get my attention. God does that so often for people He wants to use and who love Him, even though with big sins in their lives. Here are just a few biblical examples:

Moses, who fled to save his life after he had murdered an Egyptian slave driver, but whom God called through a burning bush for the biggest plan of his life to lead God's people Israel out of bondage into freedom in the promised land. But he had to go through a big change of character first to become a humble, gentle and patient shepherd from being a proud prince with a terrible temper who had messed up his life. That took 40 years of his life, but by then God loved to speak with him "face to face". (Numbers 12:7-8).

Joseph, that arrogant young man who thought that he could teach his much older brothers until they hated him, but whom God called for His amazing plan to preserve the coming of the promised Seed of Eve, and to make sure that God's promise to Abraham could be fulfilled, that through his Seed all peoples on earth would be blessed. Joseph also needed a change of character and learn to rely entirely on the God of his father Israel instead of in himself, and that required him to spend 13 years as a slave and in prison. But how gentle and wise he

became that he could forgive his brothers wholeheartedly when he said to them: “Don’t be afraid, because am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to keep many people alive. Do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones; thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” (Genesis 50:19-21)

David, whose ten ancestors back to Judah had not been allowed to come in God’s presence, and he even became a murderer. Yet God called him to bring His people Israel closer to His heart; equipping him to become a shepherd of God’s people Israel, a King, a Prophet and a writer of many prophetic worship-songs for Israel’s God’s glory.

Paul, who called himself the greatest sinner of all, was also such a chosen one to fulfill God’s plan to create a big part of the New Testament. But it took an awesome powerful meeting with Jesus for him to turn around and much suffering to change his character to become willing to be Jesus’ bondservant.

There are so many people who seemed unworthy for God to call them for His plans, but He is the Potter and we are the clay in His hands. He prepares us for His use to accomplish His creative purposes through us; not deserving any credit, we do however feel privileged once we have yielded to His plan.

Why did I respond? I could not otherwise but obey out of love, but also out of fear for not responding to so clear a calling. I have often wondered however and asked God, “Why did You choose me, such a terribly difficult man who has so often hurt others, even his wife and children?” Now I understand that also *my* life has been a preparation for today’s ministry, though I never realized it. That is why I can be led into writing about healing of wounds of the heart; I have lived and experienced it. But beginning to serve God would require first the removal of a large amount of malice and bitterness from my heart.

Did I understand my condition? NO. How could the healing then happen unless God Himself did it with my cooperation; He knew what needed to be healed.

In the years 1997/1998 when my wife was dying from an incurable brain-cancer, God did so many miracles for us as I would be crying out to Him for mercy and her healing because I did not see how I could continue living without her. And initially so much healing was given to her that it amazed me, my family and the medical staff.

But when my wife ultimately died, Father God had drawn me so close to Himself that I loved Him more than ever before, and I said so to Him: “Lord, You took away the dearest I had, and now I love you twenty times more; You must be God to be able to do that. But why did you not give me her life? You gave us this last year almost everything else we asked for?” Not used to receiving answers, I was shocked to suddenly hear loud and clear: “You loved her more than Me, and I have always wanted to use you!” That became the first prophetic calling, directly given to me personally, as I remembered then that at the age of 18 I felt that calling, and discussed it with my girlfriend who became my wife for a total of 42 years together. Now I wept, and said: “Father, I am so sorry, but from now on I will always be there for You, and, Els, half of the souls that may come to God will be to your credit!” And with longing I began waiting for direction.

I want to interject a response to what some of you may be feeling; My wife did not get punished by God so He could fulfill His plans with me. She had said to me a few weeks before she went to her glory: “Kees, when I get better, we are going together in mission work.” She had become very prophetic during the time of her suffering and must have seen herself whole again and in the mission field with me. I am now convinced that it is so; she is perfectly healed and with me on this mission-field as my greatest intercessor. She has been the one

our God used to preserve me for His use now, in my later years here on earth. Is any self-praise realistic? I am today what our Father God made me to be for His use and His glory!

On June 14, 1998, two months after her going home to her Father, I received my second prophecy from an evangelist speaking at our church. At the end of the evening service he had invited people with joint problems to come forward for prayer. I told Father God that I much rather would receive a genuine prophecy from Him than healing of my crippling hips; I needed confirmation of God's calling on my life as I believed that my wife's home-going had been a part of God's plans. When the evangelist came to me, I said nothing about having lost my wife, or about wanting a word from God. As he began praying, he was obviously surprised when suddenly this prophetic word came.

Kees: "I have worn hips, especially this left one is very bad."

Keith: "Yes, okay. When is God going to heal you? When?"

Kees: Hesitates and both laugh.

Keith: "You are having a struggle brother, but I am ready to start; we'll see what God can do, OK?"

Kees: "I know He can do it. I can only say: 'God, come to the help of my unbelief'; that is the best I can say."

Keith: "You are very honest, and God is going to meet you where you are, amen? Right now, halleluiah!"

Then came the surprise:

"Not only that, but God has a purpose for you. God has called you to bring a birthing, a moving of a new body where you shall stand in My power, where your hips, even like those who have given birth through

a new faith and a new moving and a new glory of your God. Right now, thank you Jesus.

Touching this hip, moving on the place of Calvary where You carried this sickness and declared “It is finished”, Lord, on the work of your Son, and on the finished work of Calvary where by His stripes there was healing and a removal of every curse in Jesus’ name, thank you Jesus. For I have chosen you also to be strong; I have chosen you to stand, and you shall move against all the enemy would ever try to come against you here. Because in the Word, and in the Word that I have given you shall be a shield of faith and the fiery dart of the enemy shall no longer afflict you. Do not be discouraged, for there have been prayers that do not yet appear to have been answered. But you have indeed prevailed with God and you have been heard. And as it was with my servant Jacob, you shall be changed into Israel (meaning “Prince of God”), and you shall move into a place of victory.

Thank You Jesus, thank You God. You have seen My glory and you shall yet see it again for I will intervene on your behalf; I will even be with you in that which lies ahead of you. Do not be afraid. Thank You Jesus, thank You Lord, amen.

Move around those hips. Do you feel anything there? Do you feel the power of God? I felt the power of God. And now I see why the hip is there.”

Kees: “I feel, I feel God’s love.”

Keith: “Yes, that’s been real, because remember on Jacob’s hip, when he came out of that place, there was a holding, but Jacob had gotten through and God is actually going to enable you to see the same power and demonstration *and the change of character*, and then move forward.”

Since that day I have never had pain in my left hip anymore while the right hip was totally healed.

Then followed on the evening of February 9, 1999, the first of four prophecies given by people I did not know, and in less than three days. I was at a house church fellowship where a newcomer said to me: “Kees, I sense that the Lord is telling me that you are going to be a father to many young men who have not had a father of their own; you know, due to him having been too busy, drinking too much, leaving the home, etcetera.” I then did not pay much attention to it. But the following evening, before our Wednesday night church service started, I walked up to a new couple at church to show pictures I took of them for our church directory. He looked at me penetrating and said that I was receiving from the Lord a fatherhood mantle upon me and the mantle of an apostle, a church planter, and they will be permanent. He spoke for a while with more detail, but this is what I remember now.

That same night came my big surprise when a nationally well-known prophetess spoke, but I remember nothing of her sharing during the service, as toward the end she suddenly pointed her finger at me saying that she had a word of the Lord for me. There must have been a crowd of some 300 plus people, but I was picked out of them all. Her prophecy focused on my calling, but almost more so on the healing of wounds of my heart that first needed to happen; I did not understand most of that part then. Here is the transcript of what God spoke to me:

“I believe that not only is your day coming, but the day is coming when your heart’s desire is going to so satisfy you whereas it has been such a frustration; and even when your mind has told you: ‘It is impossible’, there will be times when you will hear the Holy Spirit say: ‘I am in fact the God of the impossible’. And He is about to move on your behalf and do that which is impossible. It is impossible for you to do it; it is impossible for you to orchestrate it; it is impossible for you to redeem yourself in such situations; it is absolutely impossible, and He is going to redeem that which is His’ in you.

Now, as He has been refining you, there are parts that aren't Him and it has been painful, but that's the process everyone has been walking through to be able to walk into the fulfillment; so, you are no different than anyone else.

You know, there are a lot of things in your heart that you have stuffed down in there for a long time, and some are good things, and they need to come to the forefront. Yeah, there are a lot of good things, good things. The other word I heard in regard to you, was that once you've gotten past all of these things and resolved them in your heart, so that you have peace in your own heart, there isn't conflict anymore and the wondering, the wondering, the wondering, that you are going to mentor others, lots of young men, lots and lots of young men, lots of young men, few maybe now, but nothing like the brood you are going to have some day, and eh, and it is going to be very, very good, it's going to be very good, and you will have what they need, not what they want, because...."

I was so amazed that I could no longer control myself and interrupted her by saying: "Wow, this is now the third time since last night that I, unsolicited, receive prophecy that I will become a father to many young men."

On Friday February 12 1999, at a luncheon of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International the main speaker of the day, a man I also had never met before, interrupted his talk exactly like the prophetess had done on Wednesday night; pointing his finger suddenly at me. Here is the relevant part of the transcript of his recorded words:

"I see that there is an apostolic anointing you are walking into; there's a mantle that is going to come upon you, and it's going to be a permanent one; it's not going to be something you put on or take off, but it's walking in the authority of an apostle. There is a Teacher's

mantle that's going to rise up within you, even like Paul was a Teacher and Apostle in authority; he was a teacher by nature. Teachers say things in such a manner that someone can receive and believe and be nourished from what's spoken, OK? And so, what is being brought to you is the Teacher's mantle upon you; God is raising it up as you go; it's going to be raised up in you; it is like when you dig in that you get the details of the Rhema of God; you don't leave out little things; this is the season of God and what God is saying to this church, to this group of people, to this school. I see a lot of schools for some reason; keep your ears open for schools, OK? because that is maybe where God sends you to begin to speak and minister, OK? Thank You, Lord. The fatherhood anointing is upon you and I am reminded of the scripture where Jesus said: "Who is My mother, and My father, and My brother and sister, they are those who do the will of My Father who sent Me." It is a lot of people; their own natural fathers either abandoned them or have been too busy for them or have been abusive toward them and it's contaminated the relationship with their heavenly Father. God says He's giving you the ability to restore that relationship with their heavenly Father, not just with the Holy Spirit and Jesus. Thank you, Lord.

I see a lot of schools being affected, like young people. It looks like you're not going to have to do with the actual construction of those schools; it's like you're going to have a lot to do with visitation and laying foundations in the hearts of students; I see a lot of young people affected.

Ho, I see a frying pan with a fish in it; it is food for these young people to eat. Oh, but now I see that you are that fish!

I am seeing technology answers God is going to give you; you're going to be the first one to receive them. They are like answers to problems after things are taken away from us that we now know of; even like internet programming that may become controlled by the enemy; even telephone communication lines, satellites. But they are things God will give you that are the first to be released in the earth. It is new, it is God doing a new thing in your heart and mind. I see your mind

almost looks like a computer and I see God in there just changing the chips for more capacity and enlarging your ability to handle and understand and distribute that which He is giving to you, because he can trust you. Thank You Lord, hallelujah!

Your anointing will precede you; it is like there is an expectation when you get there. They will be drawing by faith from what you give them. There will be a respect for the fatherhood anointing on your life. Thank You Jesus, hallelujah, thank You Lord.

Ho, you're actually going to be lighting revival fires over there, my brother; revival fires, revival fires, and I see them in, in more than one place; there are going to be at least four revival fires, and then I see a fifth one eventually, yes, a fifth fire. Thank You, Jesus."

The last prophecy I want to give is from another speaker, and also at a luncheon meeting of the FGBMFI On May 21 1999; it is again from a man I had never met before and I did not ask for a prophetic word either.

"The Lord is saying: 'Son, I am building some strength in you that you were lacking', and at the same time, the Lord is speaking to me that He is building discernment inside of you. It's a peculiar thing that you will be capable of discerning certain attitudes and how people come, and their intentions. And the Lord is saying that you will receive eye discrimination, not that you discriminate against people, but you will discriminate light from darkness. Do you understand that, light from darkness? And you'll be able to read in between the lines of peoples' mind: what they say and who they really are. The Lord is saying you are going to know it, and you are going to save some headaches and mishaps and wasting of time and money because you know how to read between the lines of what people say. It is as if you would see almost into their hearts and their eyes become like a clear glass of water in you and you know when there is darkness in there—not that they are not born again, but when there is something wrong. And the

Lord is saying: 'My son, that's when you speak the truth in love, always with a redemptive heart toward them.'

I don't know, I don't know what to do, but the Lord is saying that you always have had the heart of a shepherd, always have had the heart of a shepherd, you've always had that. I don't know for what reason you were not able to answer that, but the Lord is saying to me you've always had the heart of a shepherd. And the Lord is saying you have always acted out that heart, always. And the Lord is saying: 'Therefore, you have not failed Me, therefore, you have not failed Me,' says the Lord, 'but I am giving you the strength', says the Lord, 'that you didn't have before'.

And what the Lord is saying to me: 'You have always felt that there was something missing; it has to do with your family. There has always been missing something in your life, some lack of affection'. And the Lord is saying: 'Let Me fill that void from the past because I have become not only your Father, I have become your friend, and more than that, I have become flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone. I am yours, says the Lord. Amen, amen.'

Do you notice that the last two paragraphs of this prophecy also speak about my wounded heart? I likely did not understand much of the last paragraph either at that time as I was not yet much in touch with my heart and much aware of its wounds.

But all these prophecies are focusing on the same plans God had for me, and that for sure made me eager to learn about becoming free in my heart so that Father could start using me better. Yet, I also remained so much focused on my unbearable loneliness since my wife had died, that I married a widow of my age before having much discernment; yet the prophecies had not spoken of a female partner in ministry. Was I still rebellious at heart? Oh, how did I then, as now, need my Savior so very much!

I went to a Christian counselor for advice about a problem I had with a good friend, hoping that she would come along with me; and she did. But in just a few meetings the Holy Spirit began speaking to me about how much help I needed; then finally God could begin preparing me for the “change of character” that had been prophesied so often, and that had to happen before I could effectively serve Him according to His plans. During a period of three years I almost daily ministered and preached in prisons in Washington state while going through biblical inner healing and counseling studies, even studied psychology. Then, in 2003 God led me twice to the little Southern African Kingdom of Swaziland, doing evangelism in remote rural areas, helping local pastors getting church fellowships started, and visiting prisons. Sleeping in a rural area with the people, I could learn about African culture and people’s worldview. Father God could thus also show me what they needed to learn to change wrong aspects of their worldview that gives satan such a powerful hold on Africa. Soon I began teaching about healing wounds of the heart.

Over the years this teaching has become my main approach to evangelism, as it helps people to come close to God, so that God can easily begin using them for His plans. African people are so very relational by nature, that this approach has proven to be far more effective than teaching them bible stories or theology and inviting them to ask Jesus to forgive them their sins. In 2011 I was led to shift my focus to work mainly in prisons again, in Swaziland first, but also in Malawi and Zambia. That is when Fatherhood Prison Ministries Fellowship was founded.

Bringing three-day-long seminars to prisons along our way, we had so much impact that I began realizing that the prophecies of twelve years ago were being fulfilled; God Himself was doing the work, even though through me. He then gave me the vision that if I could leave Audio Bible Teachers (ABT) for each cell in the prisons where we had

completed a seminar, impacted inmates could continue to grow closer to their God after we left.

So, in 2012 I spent most of the year writing and audio-recording sermons for Africans and putting them on a newly available solar-powered gadget that we could program ourselves with the lessons and complete bibles, first in English and siSwati/Zulu, followed by three languages for Zambia, Malawi and Northern Mozambique.

By 2015 major revivals were breaking out in prisons in Zambia so that all inmates on death-row in one prison had their death-sentences reduced to 25 years and of 337 condemned people 48 were released.

It was then that God spoke loud and clear to me that remote rural people who cannot read were just as much still prisoners of satan as inmates in prisons and needed deliverance just as much. We then brought the first ABTs into rural Malawi in late 2015, issued to listener-clubs of 10-30 people in Christian as well as Muslim villages, and we experienced the same powerful revival impact, causing churches to pop up wherever ABTs were brought. In October 2016 we introduced the first few ABTs also in Niassa Province of Mozambique. We believe that today, March 11 2019, more than a quarter-million Muslims are listening to Healing Wounds of the Heart in Malawi and Mozambique, while also hundreds of nominally Christian villages see today revival. Thousands of Muslims and Christians alike have also been baptized since then. We also receive reports that in Lusaka, Malawi, Niassa and Southeastern Tanzania mosques are connecting the ABT to their PA system so that the whole congregation can listen together. Communities that considered themselves Christian have the same impact.

Since we brought the first ABT to some Muslim Imams in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, a little over a year ago, there are already more than 17,000 Muslims listening together in listener-clubs, just in greater

Lusaka alone. Our God is indeed doing amazing things among His children here in Africa; He *will* bring in the harvest, if not from among the affluent of the world who used to worship Him, He will bring them in from the highways and byways. He is God, Who will never force anyone to love and obey Him as that would not lead to real love that would satisfy Him; we have to make the choice to *want* to love Him, and can then ask for His help that He eagerly will provide.

I am so privileged that God chose to show me how to get my heart enough healed so that He now can use me; and I feel so privileged to have been clearly invited through prophecy twenty years ago to hold His hand while He does all His miraculous work. I doubt if I ever would have yielded to God if He had not called this rebel so overwhelming clearly.

I wrote the forgoing to make you eager to experience the same transformation of heart that Father God gave me and did all over Africa where our ministry operates. The impact numbers are not inflated.

A major world-wide mission organization reported in January of this year a large-scale revival going on suddenly in the exact areas where we began distributing Audio Bible Teachers only 3.5 years earlier. Their report talks about very dedicated Muslim men preaching forgiveness. It describes exactly what all the reports we receive are all about: Muslims receiving healing for their wounded hearts through forgiving those who hurt them, men wanting to tell others because it is amazing what they experience when they let go of bitterness. God is singlehandedly already taking over as the ABTs are not only initial missionaries, but He is also bringing in a large new generation of missionaries of Muslim background who can help their own people best.

Chapter 11 helps you with words to speak to God, though they must come from your own heart. Please understand that He will do what you ask Him because it is totally in line with His desire for you to come closer to Him.

4. WHO WE ARE

To understand “Healing Wounds of the Heart” better, it is good to first think about who we are. Starting in Genesis 1:26-28 we read: “Then God said: ‘Let Us create man to look like Us, to be just like Us. Let them be in charge of the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, all animals on land, and everything that crawls on the land.’ Then God made man, looking like Himself; in His likeness He created them; male and female He formed them. Then God blessed them, saying: ‘Be fruitful and increase; fill the earth and rule over it; be in charge of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and of all life that moves on the earth’”. So, we humans look exactly like God; He is a spirit, and so we became a spirit, a living being in a human body when God breathed His Spirit in us (1 Cor.15:44). So, obviously we are the Crown of God’s creation.

But why did God create us? His Word says that we were created for His joy and happiness. And so, before Adam disobeyed his Father, he was a pure pleasure to God. Genesis chapter 2 describes so clearly God’s excitement and daily involvement with Adam. After creating him, God prepared a wonderful place for him; not just a wild piece of nature, but a Garden, and put him in there to cultivate it, and watch over it. King David understood this so well when he wrote Psalm 8:3-9: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, that You have created; who is man, that You think about him? And who is the son of man, that You visit with him? You have placed him a little lower than Elohim (Yourself) and have crowned him with glory and honour. You have put him in charge of the work of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet. Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!” This explains how excited our Father is about us, how much He loves us, His children who are His glory; and He crowned us with His glory and

honour. Yes, also Paul understood how excited our Father is about us, even in our yet sinful state, when he wrote Romans 8:31-32: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, shall He not freely give us also with Him everything?"

This Father visited daily with Adam, explaining how he should live, showing him what he could eat, and warning him against eating the fruit of one tree that would kill him. And then we see Father's concern that Adam has no companion in the flesh like him; is that caring? Yes! Then God brings animals to see what Adam may call them, which means: what he may like them to become, so that he may have a friend. But whatever names Adam gives, whatever Adam tells God what he would like an animal to become, when God creates it on Adam's request, none satisfied him fully. Then, after Adam's Father notices his limited response, He goes to plan B and puts Adam to sleep to create a perfect companion for him out of a part of his own side, and when Adam wakes up he is totally excited with God's gift to him, because this companion is now a real part of himself. I can hear and see Adam's response to God: "WOOW, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: I am going to call her woman because she came from my own body." What a caring God we have; we cannot be other than the apple of His eye.

But then I have wondered why God put that bad tree in the Garden. Adam would not have eaten of it, if it had not been there? Then I realized how keen and hungry our Father is for our fully dedicated love for Him, and that we will fully trust Him? Was Adam's love always true, or did he begin taking his Father's love a little for granted? "If you love Me, keep My commandments", Jesus said; My instructions of how to live are for your own best, and in keeping them you show that you trust Me to lead you into My very best for you. That principle was already true for Adam.

Our God is a gentle God who will never force us to obey Him; that is why He planted that test-tree in the Garden, to satisfy His hope that Adam would obey Him under all circumstances, but Adam failed that test; and so have we. Father God wants us to always obey Him because He will always lead us into the best for us, but disobeying Him shows our God that we do not trust Him. Yet, our Father continues to hope for the day that we will trust Him fully to lead us in everything by His Spirit for our best, whatever may come. Is that why God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac, to see if Abraham could trust Him fully for the best? Will we some day in the future even become willing to lay down our life for Him and expect Him to give us His best? It will be so, once Jesus' character is formed in us.

Father God used our earthly father and mother to create us, but He is our true Father. Our earthly parents did not know us until after we were born, but God knew us already when He began forming us in the womb and had at birth His plan already in place for our lives (Jeremiah 1:5). I believe that the most important part of God creating us happens at conception when our spirit is placed in the egg in the womb. We have our Father God's spiritual DNA; so, we were created to love and be loved, just like He loves and wants to be loved. He created us for his happiness and joy, just like a married couple likes to have children for their happiness and joy; having a trusting child is very special.

5. OUR BASIC SIN-NATURE

Is my sin nature maybe defined by my feeling that I am the most important part of creation? Have I possibly taken on the nature of God's big enemy who continually tries to deceive us? God said of him in Isaiah 14:12-14: "Oh, how are you fallen from heaven, Oh Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down, you, who weakened the nations! Because you said in your heart: 'I will go up into heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mountain of the assembly, in the remotest places of the North; I will climb above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the most High.'"

Do we also try to elevate ourselves above others, even though it is unreasonable, because the One who created us must be honoured as the most important One? We have been created with our Father's DNA to love and be loved, but sin has marred us badly:

- Our God does not seek His own glory, though He deserves it. *We always are busy with ourselves, trying to impress other people to be admired.*
- "I am" does not need to prove Himself. *We always try to show off how capable we are.* In fact, anything we do without asking Father God to do it through us, we tell Him that we can do it ourselves, that we do not need His help.
- God knows that to create beautiful people and things, He must love and serve; He leads us as an ultimate Servant; He is the only Good Shepherd. *By our sinful nature we are no servant-leaders at all; we rush forward in an attempt to save ourselves, and fail, even at the expense of other people.*

- God has no need to sit on a throne, though He sits there because He is the source of everything. *We love to be in charge of people, be the boss and rule them.*

Why would we, like Jesus' disciples, argue who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God? And why would we want to do things like Bing Cosby: "I'll do it my way!"? We are in need of growing up by looking at our Father to learn how to do things. Our spirit needs to be healed from self-centeredness so that it can learn to seek after God again wholeheartedly, to submit to our Creator Father for His happiness and glory instead of ours, and become like Him again, though He is God and we are His children. Our soul needs to learn to submit to our spirit and be changed to think again like God thinks. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says it all: "But we all, looking like in a mirror with the veil removed from our faces, seeing the likeness of the glory of the Lord, are being transformed, changed, into His image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord."

Yes, we need to change to look like our God again, just like Adam looked perfectly like Him before he sinned.

God tells us in Romans 8:14 that "... as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the grown-up sons of God." Let us take and hold His hand to be led by Him; He loves that! And that is how love, harmony, joy, peace and happiness will fill His and our lives.

Love cannot exist together with control; love requires humility, love makes us think no higher of ourselves than we should, it gives us a willingness to submit to each other, and to let others have the freedom to make their own choices. Do we realize that our Father with all His power and might does not even want to force us to do anything, that He is an amazingly humble God? He made that very clear when Jesus knelt before each of His disciples and washed their feet when it was needed but no one else would do it, and He proved

it even more so when He lay down his life for us on the cross. Love cannot exist without humility and giving. Will a bridegroom who exuberantly loves his bride, not give her the most beautiful and expensive wedding-ring he can afford; that measures the level of his love for her. Do serving, and materially giving to someone not measure how much we love them? Our Father God, the Creator of all the universe, knows that to receive our love He must first give His love to us. But because of our sin-nature we keep on loving ourselves first, and elevating ourselves above others, and so we will not get what we need and want, to be loved. Oh, how desperately needy people we are, who can so easily be deceived to our own demise.

Our Father God is not that way; He wants a love relationship to develop between Him and us, that is what He created us for, and that can only happen among equally important persons; it requires our and His humility, even though He holds all power. But because He loves us, He will gladly let us benefit from His powers; we only need to ask Him. But we cannot ask amiss; we must be of the same mind as He is; His power must be used for purposes that are rooted in His love for us. Paul was so anointed when he wrote about love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8: “Love is longsuffering and kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, doesn’t rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Endures all things? Hmmm. And John writes in 1 John 4:18: “There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear: because fear has to do with punishment, torment; and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”

We need love to live, and it is also what our Father God longs to receive from us. Jesus could give this kind of love to His Father even when He was in the deepest of agony in the Garden of Gethsemane; yet He chose to do His Father’s will. He lived what He taught His disciples: “If you love Me, keep My commandments”. Adam failed this

test, disobeying his Father, and so we still do, but Jesus stood that test: "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it; Your will be done." (Matthew 26:42) This is why Jesus is called the last Adam because He proved that He would keep on obeying His Father, whatever the costs, and so He became the perfect, unblemished "Lamb of God that could take away the sins of the World". That is love; and in what an amazing manner did His Father respond? By restoring Him back to life and renewed glory in the immediate presence with His Father that He had missed since the creation of the world began (John 17:5).

Now let us talk about the consequences of our sin-nature. Rejections come our way all the time as someone elevates self above you or me. Many rejections are minor, while others can be terribly hurtful. But please, remember when we experience rejection, flesh and blood are not fighting us, but we are dealing with spiritual powers in the spiritual realm. Rejection, just like love, is of a spiritual nature. When we experience rejection, it is always at the hand of satan who uses someone to hurt us, expecting that we will then become bitter toward that person, and start to hurt others in the same way. You see, no damage would occur to the offended person's heart if they just extended mercy to and forgave the abuser. With our sin-nature however, satan may cause us to refuse to forgive, and so bitterness towards the offender will begin to grow inside us. Wounds of our spirit, our spiritual body, are just like wounds of our physical body; if they are not cleaned, disinfected, closed, treated with balm and bandaged to keep them clean, they will fester increasingly in time and cause death. That is the main reason why so often marriages break up after many good years. We must learn to reject demonic input by processing all rejections of whatever kind, and however painful, and apply mercy and forgiveness to our offender without delay, before we forget what happened. David wrote in Psalms 4:4: "Be angry, but do not sin; speak to your heart while lying down and be silent." And Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:26: "Do not sin when you are angry, and

don't let the sun go down while you are still upset, giving the devil an opportunity." Paul saw this problem so clearly when he wrote in "Ephesians 6:12: "... we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

"We willen vergeten wat gebeurde zodat de pijn kan verdwijnen, en ja, we vergeten op de duur, maar onze geest vergeet het niet, en de pijn gaat niet weg. Tijd geneest geen geestelijke wonden, ze vergroot de pijn en bitterness slechts en met verloop van tijd kan zo'n geest zelfs zelfbeheersing verliezen; laat uw hemelse Vader uw dokter zijn."

Love is of a spiritual nature, and so is rejection. If our spirit becomes and remains bitter toward an offender, a huge conflict arises. We will want to forget what happened, and think that the pain will then go away, but our spirit never loses the pain, time does not heal any spiritual wound; pain and bitterness will only become stronger, and that part of our spirit may in time even lose control of itself; let your heavenly Father be your physician. We now hate a person whom our Father loves, and for whom Jesus died on the cross. We put ourselves, with our pride, in deep conflict with our God. How can I, as His child, hate someone whom my Abba loves? Jesus even died on the cross also for this particular sin of the offender. That is why God warns us with good reason in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "... as He who called you is holy, you also be holy *in all your conduct*, because it is written: 'Be holy, for I am Holy.'"

The Lord cannot look at that bitter spirit of us and turns His back on it, and it loses Father's protection against satan's influence. That bitter part of our spirit breaks off, and so we become fragmented; that part of us becomes increasingly demonic in time as it listens from now on to the father of all lies; this is what the old term "split personality" refers to; today people talk about Jekyll and Hide. As this

spirit's bitterness increases in time, it will cause us to do to others what was done to us.

It works exactly as Jesus warns us in Matthew 7:1-2: "Judge not, so that you will not be judged, for with the judgement you use you will be judged; and with the standard you use, it will be measured to you." In Romans 2:1 we read it more easily understandable: "Therefore you are inexcusable oh man, whoever you are who judge, because in what you judge another, you condemn yourself; because you who judge bitterly do the same things."

Imagine what happens to us as we keep on judging people with bitterness every time we experience rejection, whether very painful, or just "minor"; our hearts were the home of our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit, but increasingly now also become the home of split off parts of our own spirit that are demonically influenced and in time become more aggressive, yes, even vicious, and it becomes increasingly difficult or impossible to hear God and be led by His Spirit (Romans 8:14). This is the reason why most convicts in prisons after their release keep coming back; they keep doing to others the same thing that was done to them because they did not forgive. That curse ends only when the particular broken-off part of their spirit forgives the person from their past who hurt them and begins loving that person.

That is the outcome of the spiritual warfare between God and satan. Satan wants us to forget what happened and so become unaware of the existence of these split-off spirits, so that He can use them at his opportune times. Paul's disciple Clement warned about such hidden wounds of the heart in Hebrews 12:14-15: "Pursue peace with all men, and seek increase of holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; paying carefully attention, unless any man lacks some grace of God; lest any root of bitterness popping up creates trouble, and so many people become defiled."

As we forgot, we also lost the opportunity to ask our Father forgiveness for having remained bitter with the offender. And so, our hearts deceive us more and more that we are fine, but hidden wounded parts of our spirit will cause us to keep doing to others what long ago was done to those split-off spirits of ourselves. Jeremiah wrote about this in chapter 17:9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart and test the mind, even to give every man according to what he does, ...". Jesus' word that we will do to others what we have judged our offender for, constitutes an absolute spiritual law. In Proverbs 28:25-26 we read: "An arrogant man stirs up strife: but he that puts his trust in the Lord shall prosper. He who trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whosoever walks wisely shall be delivered."

To repeat the above in a nutshell: If we do not forgive people who have hurt us, we will in time tend to forget what happened, and it becomes difficult to undo the damage to our hearts. Satan may now unexpectedly use split off parts of our own spirit for his destructive purposes.

I have lots of personal experience with this, and as I am writing, I must with sorrow in my heart think of how often I have unwillingly but knowingly, hurt people in my life. What a privilege then that our Father mercifully and graciously redeemed me from my guilt through the shed blood of His perfect Lamb, Jesus, and healed so much of my wounded heart, that I can now tell and write about it and help you.

6. THE SPIRITUAL COURSE OF OUR EARTHLY LIVES

It all began when our Creator placed our spirit in the womb, before He began forming us. Jeremiah 1:5 says: “Before I began forming you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I sanctified you, and set you apart to become a prophet to the nations.” God knew us already by name from our very beginning, wanting us to develop into complete humans who would love Him with all their hearts, so that He and we might enjoy each other’s fellowship and live happily ever after. It sounds like a fairy tale, doesn’t it? Well, I believe that fairy tales developed among humans long ago because of their, and our, innate desire to belong, waiting for our Prince to come along to sweep us off our feet. God swept Adam off his feet; that is what He had wanted and planned before He started His creation. We still want that, because He created us in His own exact image. I remember even vividly how, as a little boy, I always got tears in my eyes when a fairy tale I listened to ended with “And they lived happily ever after”; yes, that was *my* longing too. And you know? Our Father has our Prince already waiting and longing for us, but only He knows when the wedding will take place.

Revelation 22:13-17 reads: “‘I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do my commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in’ ‘I, Jesus, ... am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star’. The Spirit and the bride say: ‘Come’; and let him that hears, say: ‘Come’.” Yes, the Spirit of God *and* the Bride are eagerly waiting, because our bridegroom, Jesus, loves His Bride, the Church, and therefore “gave himself for her, so that he might sanctify and clean her with the washing of water by the Word of God.” (Ephesians 5:25-26) This is not a fairy tale; it is really happening and

what all believers long for deep within their hearts. He is *my* Bridegroom! Is He yours also? Do we understand why and how we have lost so much of our ability to love our heavenly Father, His Bridegroom for us, and our fellow humans?

As I am driving from one African mission to the next or making a tour of prisons, the most enjoyable moments during my journeys are the little children as they come running toward the road. Well before I get to them, I have my car windows already lowered to respond to their wildly waving hands and exuberantly smiling faces. They are so full of love, and so eager to pass it on to the traveler. And when I then respond by waving back with a happy smile on my face, the scene becomes wilder yet. Sometimes I even stop, reaching out to them, shaking hands or stroking my hand over a little child's head, and then another one comes and wants that too; love is so easily given by these little children and eagerly received by them. Are they maybe waving at the passer-by because they long for more love than their mothers are capable of giving them, beaten down by the harsh conditions of their lives? Even the disciples had trouble caring much about little children, pushing them away from the Lord when they were brought to Him. We read about that in Matthew 19:13-15: "Then little children were brought to Jesus so that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. Then Jesus said: 'Let the little children come to Me, don't stop them, because for them is the kingdom of heaven.' Then He laid His hands on them" Do you notice how the grownups are annoyed about the love of little children, but not Jesus? People with wounded hearts do not like to experience or to give too much love.

I used to not understand why verse 2 was included in Psalms 8 as it seemed to be out of context; that was my problem. Let's read the first part of Psalm 8: "Oh Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth; who have set Your glory above the heavens! From the mouth of little children and nursing infants You have received

strength because of Your enemies, so that You may silence the enemy and the revengeful one. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars that You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have placed him a little lower than Elohim (Yourself,) and You have crowned him with glory and honor.” David is amazed that God cares so much about mankind by thinking about us, visiting with us, and placing us just below Himself while at the same time He considers us to be His enemies according to verse 2. David understood that our Elohim still receives much love, and so strength, from little children, while he obviously considers grownups, mentioned together with satan, to not care about Him. Elohim’s name is so clearly excellent in all the earth, yet, we love ourselves more than Him, or than anyone else for that matter; maybe we ignore God altogether. Yet, Elohim does not respond by stopping to care for us and visiting with us. Do you remember? In Adam and Eve’s hearing He told the serpent already that Eve’s Seed would crush the head of satan though he would bruise His heel, to defeat satan for us; our Father never gave up His plans with us. Thank You Father!

We may inherit good characteristics from our ancestors, but also the bad ones; and so, all of Adam and Eve’s descendants inherited a sin-nature from Adam. By this nature we are inclined to rebel, thinking that nobody can be trusted to take better care of ourselves than we, just like Adam, and disobey our so very loving and trustworthy almighty Father. We even often ignore Him and think only of our own needs and desires, the most important one, a need for being loved. We are so preoccupied with ourselves and our need that our fellow men are often seen as hindering us from getting what we want and so we become competitors of one another, and at times hurt one another. We have lost the vision that to receive love we must first give it, and that the greatest loving person is also the greatest giver

and the greatest servant. And to manage our painful feelings we become bosses, controllers of others. And so, rejections and rejecting others become common in life, often even more so than love. Rejections come to all of us, and in many forms; a put down, someone stealing from us, lying to us, publicly ridiculing us, sexually or otherwise abusing us, etcetera. And our sin-nature causes all of us to not forgive the offender, but try to forget what happened, and we become increasingly bitter and wounded at heart. Then we start protecting ourselves against more wounding by isolating ourselves from our fellow men, or at least keeping them at a distance; and so we also keep our God at a distance. We needed love to be happy and healthy but have made love increasingly difficult to come by. And if we cannot love other people, we also cannot love our God much anymore. During the course of our life this condition will become worse until, hopefully, a day comes when a miracle happens and we begin seeing that we must turn around and ask our God forgiveness for all the judging of people we have done, and instead begin to forgive and love people who rejected us in any form.

We simply became angry, yes, even bitter toward anyone who painfully disrespected, abused or otherwise hurt us; we even thought that we punished such a person by never forgiving them, but instead hurt ourselves.

Think of God's nature however; He is love; He wants intimate relationships with all His children and is doing everything He can to draw us closer to Himself. He even loves us so much that He gave us His Son to take the punishment for our sins, our ungodly behaviors, so that if we are willing to return to Him, we can. But if we choose to continue hating a past enemy, we place ourselves at direct odds with God. Jesus addresses this issue in Matthew 18:32-34 when He tells the parable of the unforgiving servant who had been forgiven a debt he could never pay back, but then still demanded that someone else

pay him what he owed even though he couldn't. "Then his master said to him: 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, *just as I had pity on you?*' And his master was angry and delivered him to tormentors until he should have paid all that was due him."

You remember that God will block satan from influencing us while we walk with God? But when we put ourselves at odds with Him, our heavenly Father will step back from that spirit of ours, and it ends up under the sole influence of satan and his minions; that part of our spirit starts living a life of its own under satan. And as we repeat judging over and over, we may end up in time totally out of control as bitterness inside us increases and end up with spiritual torment in our heart. I was in such a state most of my life; we become prone to temporary personality changes of short or longer duration. In psychology such a condition have different names for a variety of severities of the problems; I belonged most likely in the bi-polar category. With so many demons living in a person's heart, the place where also Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwell, it becomes difficult to hear them and be led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:13-16 states: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are grownup sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage to fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Daddy.'"

Do you now understand the two reasons why we cannot easily come closer to God as we grow older? The first is continuing to respond bitterly to new offenses that come our way; the second is that the bitterness from old wounds in the heart that have not been resolved, keeps on increasing in strength. Too many demons make us men easily flare up in anger and most often makes women fearful for little

reason at all. Demonic spirits make us not feel like reading God's Word regularly anymore, or when we are ready to start reading the bible, we suddenly feel sleepy, we begin praying less, or when it is time to go to church, we think that we are coming down with a cold.

What then is the solution for these problems? Jesus gives us the answer in Matthew 18:3-5: "Truly, I say to you: Unless you change, and become like a little child, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And who shall receive one such little child in my name, receives Me."

Notice here that Jesus does not call us to become little children again, but as grownups to become *like* little children by seeking removal of malice and bitterness due to unforgiven rejections. So we may develop an open heart that does not shield itself anymore, while knowing, truth about the history of our lives, without the pain, because we have forgiven our enemies. We forgave, and so God could extend to us His forgiveness which brings peace: "Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors". Do we now understand what Jesus meant when He invited us to follow Him, but through a denying of ourselves and a daily taking up of our cross? Here it is in Luke 9:23-25: "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily. Because who wants to save his life shall lose it: but who is willing to lose his life for my sake, he shall save it. For what advantage is it to a man to gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of himself?" Loving our enemies is part of laying down our lives, because more rejections *will* come; yes, loving people we must risk more rejections. Jesus is so clear about this like in Mathew 5:38-39: "You have heard that it was said: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth'? But I tell you not to resist an evil person, but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn him also the other."

But is it in our human ability to extend that forgiveness to those who have seriously offended us, and are indebted to us? How do we process the wounds in our heart with our heavenly Father? I pray that our Abba will give you the heart of a beggar to plead with Him for more of His Kingdom, and encourage you with the first blessing Jesus spoke of in His Sermon on the Mount in Mathew 5:3: “Blessed are the people who beg for more of the spirit, because they shall have royal powers in the heavenly Kingdom.”

7. HEART AND SOUL – BATTLEFIELDS OF GOD’S KINGDOM

If we do not receive love, we become angry and bitter, sickly, and ultimately die physically. If our Father receives little love, He becomes weaker, but little children can still make Him stronger with their love (Psalm 8:2). That is what satan knows, and it is the reason why he continually attacks our God by attempting to pull us away from Him, beginning those attacks already while we are yet in the womb. And how does satan attack us? By making others offend us, hurt us, abuse us, etcetera. Yes, offenses come to all of us, and we also commit such offenses to others, because we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And then satan deceives us even more by making us only look at people who hurt us, but not at ourselves who also do the hurting; actually, satan does such a good job of hiding our past sins from our memory that it becomes easy to see ourselves as being better than others if we do not walk closely with our God.

It amazes me to see how we can consider prisoners to be criminals, without seeing what we ourselves have done, and still do; we just don't see it because our wicked hearts hide the truth from us. We are all so very much in need of God's Light and Truth. Jeremiah wrote in chapter 17:9, "The heart is deceitful beyond measure and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart and reward everyone according to his actions."

David understood this well while writing Psalms 51:6 after he had Uriah killed to marry his wife Bathsheba: "You desire truth in the inner man: and in my hidden parts You make me know wisdom." And David wrote in Psalms 43:3-5: "Send Your light and Your truth, oh God, and let them lead me; let them bring me on Your Holy Hill to Your Tabernacle. There I will walk up to Your altar, to You oh God, my exceeding joy; yes, I will praise You on my harp. Why are you so depressed, oh my soul, and why am I so restless inside me? Hope in

God: because I shall yet praise Him, He is my health and my God.” Indeed, depression leaves when we with God’s help let go of malice and bitterness and put on our “garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (depression)” (Isaiah 61:3). And when depression leaves, our health improves.

Our hearts and souls are the battlefields where satan fights God’s almighty strength and Kingdom. Do we understand how battles are waged? Do we understand why we have so little desire to come close to God? David wrote already about that in Psalm 14:2-3: “The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that understand, and seek God. They all are gone astray, they all have become morally corrupt: there is none who does good, no, not one.” How can we turn around and come again to our God with *all of our hearts* like little children?

Oh, if we just could see the battle in progress; how much easier would Israel’s travel have been toward its rest in the Promised Land, and how much sooner could we enter our Father’s rest while yet here on earth. With our Father God ALL things are possible; after all, He is the only Almighty One. “Our help is in the name of the Lord Who has made the heavens and the earth.” (Psalms 124:8)

What a difference it became for the prophet Elisha’s servant when the Lord opened his eyes to see the spiritual reality. What a difference it was that Elisha could see what was happening on the spiritual battlefield. With a simple request to God to blind the eyes of King Ben-Hadad’s soldiers, the enemy became helpless, and Elisha could kindly lead them inside the walls of Samaria where they became trapped (2 Kings 6:14-23). The king asked Elisha: “Shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?” But Elisha had answered: “Don’t kill them, set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go back to their master.” Then the king prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away to their master, and the

bands of Syrian raiders did not come in the land of Israel anymore.” How powerful an example is this story of what God could do because of Elisha’s spiritual sight, and of what loving our enemies may accomplish.

I pray that Father God may open our eyes too, to see where the real battles are; that they are in our hearts, the homes of our spirits, and in our soul where we are capable of choosing right or wrong, choosing for God or ignoring Him. Spirits can strongly affect what we feel, think and even see. If you never experienced this, then you should maybe spend some time in Africa; it is still an experiential spiritual world; a world where the most powerful witchcraft is still rampant, but also where our God shows that He is superior, overriding satan at any time He desires to do so with His mighty miracles as signs to those who are asking Him and listening to Him, to His Word; and so He brings peace and health.

This is maybe difficult to believe with a Western mindset that makes it so easy to do things well without asking God for anything. You see, if people even have trouble believing that there is actually a God, and a devil, satan loves it; he will have succeeded already in taking people away from their God. He will even gladly help people get things done well, “their own way”, to support their feelings that they don’t need a God. Why does our God not intervene in this process? Why does He not prove Himself so clearly that satan can no longer pull us away from Him? Our God wants our love; He desires that we seek Him *with all our hearts* as He is already clearly visible in His creation, but most of us keep resisting Him. Paul wrote about this in Romans 1:19-20: “People are without excuse, because what can be known of God is visible in them; God has shown it to them. The invisible things of God can be clearly observed from the creation of the world, understood through the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; yes, they are without excuse.” If our God would make

Himself more clearly visible to an unbelieving world, it would fall on its knees out of fear, not out of love. The problem is not that God cannot be found, but that we give satan too much influential access in our hearts.

When ministering to people I often explain Proverbs 3:5 where God promises us unhindered straight paths if we do everything with Him: “Trust in the Lord *with all your heart* and rely not on your own understanding; do everything with Him and He will make your paths straight.”, He will make you successful. I now finally experience this promise of my Abba daily; He lives and is so noticeably present in my heart!

It is in Africa that many Western Christian workers so easily come to believe the miraculous in God’s Word, and His signs and wonders today. It becomes easy to believe that the God of Israel parted a 200 meters deep Red Sea to save His people as they were crying out to Him for mercy; that God in Gideon’s days destroyed an entire Midianite army singlehandedly by planting thoughts in the minds of the warriors so that they killed each other; that God helped David to kill Goliath because he wanted to stop this blasphemer of the God of Israel, and he trusted his God to deliver Israel; that during King Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah raiders of an attacking one million men strong Amon-Moab-Seir army killed each other because of the thoughts God planted in their minds; believing the miracles that God could perform through Elijah and Elisha because they knew who they were as prophets of the God of Israel; believing that Jesus is the Son of the living God who healed and raised people from the dead, stilled the storm and the sea, did the miraculous continually as He was led by His Father, and made fellowship with His and our Father available to all of us through His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

In our lives the influence of spirits usually happens unnoticed, which makes us extremely vulnerable to deception and having lack of understanding. Psalms and Proverbs declare it so clearly: “The fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of Wisdom”. Why does fearing our Lord give us wisdom? Demons can affect our perceptions just as much as God’s Spirit and angels can, but our God is the only one Who is Almighty, He can block satan and his demons, but will only do so if we fear and seek Him.

Satan was furious when God sent His Son into the world. He had already so often attempted to prevent God’s promise to Adam and Eve to put enmity between satan’s seed and Eve’s Seed that would crush satan. But every attempt had failed thusfar, and now Jesus was ready to start His ministry. So, satan once again tried to stop Jesus, tempting Him after forty days of fasting when He was at His weakest. Remember, Jesus was a human being, just like you and me, the only difference being that He was the only Son *begotten* of the Father, and therefore without our sin-nature, though He could have chosen to disobey His Father’s will, just like Adam had that choice. In every other way Jesus was like us; He even could do nothing supernaturally on His own, but had to ask His Father to do it for Him, just like we have to ask Him; and Jesus affirmed that: “Even the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless He sees the Father doing it, because whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.” (John 5:19) So, when the devil tried to deceive Jesus with questions, how did He come up with His answers? He compared the seemingly reasonable thoughts the devil gave Him with what God’s written Word says about it; Jesus answered every time by giving satan the will of His Father as revealed in the Bible that satan knew too. We also should do that always; that is how we can win our battles for our God. “Do everything with Him and He will make your paths straight.” Knowing Father’s Word can keep us within His will, if we want to. Is it not

wonderful how our God can totally shield us from deception and going wrong directions, just for the asking? It will be so if we are in a trusting relationship with Him and get Him involved in all our decision making; He is God; the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Christ.

8. FATHER GOD AND JESUS CHRIST, OUR HEALERS

Healing wounds of our hearts is entirely supernatural. A person who has a serious case of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), earlier called Multiple Personalities Disorder (MPD), may see a Psychiatrist or Psychologist for treatment, and they may work with a patient for four to six years, counseling twice per week for an hour, and then the patient may have obtained some stability. Yet, such patients will from time to time usually come back for some follow-up treatment as they have only learned to cope with their problem; treatment had been attempted at the mind level, but psychological issues, as the original meaning of the word indicates, need to be resolved at the spirit level. Almost all psychological problems are of a spiritual nature, and not of the mind. Schools of learning however do not teach students about the spirit anymore as they are only allowed to teach what scientifically can be proven. Satan has confused college curriculum regulators well, because why are scientists allowed to come to “scientific” conclusions on many subjects through statistical analysis, but not for matters of the spirit. Wherever people pray to God from their heart for forgiveness for having remained bitter for so long with someone who hurt them and ask God to help them now start to love their enemy, I see always effective healing of spiritual wounds. The feelings of anger and bitterness may return once or twice a little bit but repeating the same prayer will heal the wound permanently. God will forgive us and heal wounds always if we forgive our enemies, exactly as Jesus taught us in The Lord’s Prayer. I see people in Africa come close to God through this prayer, because He responds instantly to their prayers; that is how people find proof that He is alive.

In November 2018 I received a report that I quoted earlier in the Introduction, in which a board of Muslim leaders over many ABT-listener-clubs that study and apply the “Healing Wounds of the Heart” lessons with excitement stated: “It is not easy for you to convince us

to join Christianity, but the way things are happening, it can only be God.” These leaders have found better than statistical proof because with an open heart they were willing to receive and apply God’s Word.

We humans are spiritual beings, and the wounds of the heart are of a spiritual nature. Our hearts become wounded when we bitterly judge people who rejected us painfully in any manner, rather than loving us. Love and rejection are of the spirit and must therefore be spiritually resolved. All bitterly judging we have done of those who hurt us must be undone, or God will turn His back on that spirit of us, and it splits off. Jesus said it clearly, like in Matthew 6:14-15: “... If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you don’t forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Deny God’s existence, or rebel against Him, and there will be no true solutions for your wounded heart.

As Western societies turn more and more away from believing in the living God, there will soon hardly be any place to go anymore for people to find healing for their wounded hearts, and with it, peace that only God can give. Today, March 11, 2019, we see that deterioration process rapidly in progress. It is so sad that people seem not to learn from history. Isaiah prophesied already about this very same manner of breakdown of society in *his* days in the Kingdom of Judah and Jerusalem; how women took over ruling their families and society, and even juveniles started running the show; both because of angry and hurting hearts, while men became wimps in the process, and the practicing of homosexuality became a terrible curse like also in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

We read Isaiah 3:1-12: “For the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Jerusalem and Judah their supply and support, the supply of

bread and water, the mighty man, the man of war, the judge, the prophet, the diviner, the elder, the captain of fifty, the honorable man, the counsellor, the artist and the motivational speaker. I will make boys their princes, and capricious kids shall rule over them. People shall be oppressed, everyone by another, and everyone by his neighbor: the child shall behave insolent against his elder, and the lightly esteemed against the honorable. A man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father and say: 'You have cloths, you be our ruler, you run these ruins.' But in that day he shall swear: 'I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: don't make me a ruler of the people.' For Jerusalem staggers and Judah has fallen because their speech and actions are against the Lord, to rebel against His glorious presence. The expression on their faces witnesses against them, and they openly display their sin like Sodom did; they hide it not. Woe to them for they have brought evil upon themselves. Say to the righteous that it shall be well with him, for he shall eat the fruit of his labor. Woe to the wicked because it shall go badly with him, and what he deserves shall be done to him. Oh, My people, children are your oppressors, and women rule over you. Oh, My people, those who guide you, lead you astray and confuse the direction you should go."

A time will come soon when life without God will become so unbearable in many affluent societies, that their arrogance and pride will turn into despair. It will be then that humility of heart may return. And because there will always be a remnant of believers left who have God's peace in their lives, desperate people may start listening to them and find healing, and revival may start as people in large numbers will turn back to faith in the living God whom we can know through His Son Jesus Christ, the only true and completely successful Counselors to heal wounds of hearts. In Isaiah 9:6-7 is a prophecy about the coming Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, called "Wonderful

Counselor”, listen: “For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name shall be *Wonderful Counselor*, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*; of the increase of His government and *peace* will be no end.” And when Jesus began His ministry in Galilea and was reading from Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth, He read another prophecy Isaiah had given about Him that clearly states that He heals broken hearts; we find this in Isaiah 61:1-2 and in Luke 4:18-19: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the beggarly poor (poor in spirit?); He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to captives (spiritual captives?), to restore sight to the (spiritually?) blind, to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

There is no successful Counselor in the world other than our Triune God. I have taught by now in Africa “Healing Wounds of the Heart” for 11 years in prisons as well as in communities and churches and have found that the following teaching has always the desired results for humble and childlike hungry people who want to come close to their God. Only *He* is Counselor and *He* heals wounds of the heart as broken off bitter spirits let go of their hate and malice so that God can return to them and restore wholeness and truth in the human heart, rather than assist people to learn to cope with their problems.

9. GOD HEALING WOUNDS OF THE HEART

Healing does not come by continually suppressing painful memories of bad things that happened in our lives, but from facing them, and from confessing our bitterness toward those people who hurt and rejected us and asking our Father God to please forgive us now and remove the bitterness from our hearts.

Wounds of the heart, of our spiritual body, are just like wounds in our physical body; these two bodies look so much alike that people even recognize each other when they meet in heaven. If we have a dirty cut in our arm, and just wrap it up to stop the bleeding, the wound will start festering and, if we do nothing about it, we will in time lose our arm. So it is also in our spiritual body, an untreated wound will start festering more and more. Break-up of marriages after many good years is such a clear example of this as old wounds of the heart from long ago become too overwhelming. Spiritual wounds need also to be treated by cleaning them, disinfecting them, stitching them closed, put ointment on them and a bandage so that healing can take place.

Confessing that we are sinners may be good as a means of humbling ourselves before God, but it does not provide for healing of specific sins. James wrote in James 5:16: "Confess your sins one to another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As we confess our specific wrongdoings and sins to one another, we also confess them to our heavenly Father and relationships with God and men will be improved and healing will take place, spiritually and physically.

I learned the awesome power of how our spoken words create. And so, please make your confessions with your mouth, loud out; let them come from deep within your heart. Romans 10:8-10 says this so clearly: "The word is close to you, even in your mouth and heart: it is the word of faith that we preach: 'If you confess with your mouth the

Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved, because with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made that saves.” And think of how God even created everything through the spoken Word, that nothing was created but through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word. And so, healing comes much better if we confess and pray loudly.

It is so wonderful that when we have changed our “forgetting what happened to us” into “forgiving the offender for what he did to us”, bitterness and pain will leave even though we now will remember, we have found truth, and will no longer offend others in similar manner as our God returns into previously wounded parts of our spirit with His peace and consequent healing in our spirit and body. Jesus did not say in vain: “Peace I give you, my peace I give you.” He is the Counselor, Healer and Provider of inner peace.

It is helpful if we realize that our offender and we are in the same need of forgiveness as both of us sinned and need God’s mercy; even our worst enemy needs it, and Jesus died for him too. We cannot afford to love our heavenly Father but hate one of His wayward children whom He loves also. John wrote in 1 John 2:9, “He who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in darkness until now.” And in 1 John 4:20, “If someone says ‘I love God’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

It helps if we understand that we committed offenses ourselves because we did not forgive; that we started hurting people because we were once a victim in a similar manner and did not forgive. And so, our offender hurt us because he too was a victim in his past and did not forgive.

We humans are ultimately all victims of our own sin-nature if we don't forgive when we feel any form of rejection. Will our God accept it when we apply a different standard for ourselves than for our offender? If we want God's mercy for having hurt someone, then we must also want our Father to extend that mercy to the one who hurt us. Could Jesus be clearer than when He taught us in the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."? Do you realize that you give God permission in this prayer not to forgive you if you do not forgive others? And is there in this prayer any time-limitation when you do not need to forgive anymore? Is it not amazing that Jesus even teaches us to love our *enemies*, and that He practiced that Himself by forgiving the pharisees who had Him nailed on the cross and were mocking Him, while He was hanging there in agony that we cannot even fathom?

Micah wrote it so beautifully in Micah 6:6-8: "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with one-year-old calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten-thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? The Lord has shown you, oh man, what is good. What does He require of you but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

In Psalms 51:5-6 King David acknowledged his terrible sin of having his faithful army officer Uriah murdered so that he could marry Uriah's wife Bathsheba. David writes: "I was formed in iniquity; and in sin my mother conceived me. You desire truth in my inner parts; in my *hidden* parts You shall give me wisdom. "In this Psalm David shows to have clearly confessed the details of this murder, and that he will not continue to hide the painful memory of what he did. Then he continues in verse 7: "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and

gladness so that the bones that You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart oh God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence; and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation; and lift me up with Your generous spirit.” David understood the outcome of the healing process his heavenly Father would accomplish in him as he wrote in verse 13: “Then will I teach transgressors Your ways; and sinners shall turn to You.” David did experience this wonderful healing in his heart once He had fully and audibly repented and asked his God to forgive him, and that previously demonic spirit had been cleaned, healed and reunited with his spirit and his Father.

I, Kees Hoek, had deep wounds in my heart starting to develop already before I was born. I felt panic, very insecure, alone while I had an older brother and two sisters and had a feeling that no one cared about me. These feelings could sometimes go away, especially when I made Jesus my Lord and Savior, but they returned, and have haunted me most of my life. I did however not know why I had those feelings, did not understand their cause. Satan did not want me to remember, know and understand that painful past. I now understand that it was part of God’s molding process for me to enable Him to now accomplish His purposes through me, bringing this message about healing of wounds of the heart to a spiritually hungry Africa.

David so clearly refers to our wounded and bitter spirit that splits or breaks off, like in Psalms 51:16-17: “... You don’t desire sacrifices; else would I give them, and you don’t delight in burnt offerings; the sacrifices unto God are a *broken* spirit: a *broken* and a contrite spirit, oh God, you do not despise.”

Paul wrote in 1Thessalonians 5:23-24: “May the God of peace personally sanctify you *completely* (make you completely holy), and I

pray to God that your *whole* spirit, soul and body be watched over to remain blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He Who calls you and He will do it also.” Amen!

God’s Word speaks in so many places about the brokenness of our spirit; that our spirit is in pieces. When we retain bitterness and a “get even” spirit toward someone who hurt us, our God turns His back on that part of us as He loves the offender too, and Jesus died for that person also. That gives satan free play to be the only one to influence that part of us and it separates from the remainder of our spirit, separates from who we are, and starts living a life of its own. That part becomes demonic and satan will seek to use and destroy it. That is how I ended up most of my life with much torment; especially in my dreams at night. But I also felt during daytime that I was being rushed, always short of time. That showed up in aggressive driving in traffic and in doing things without having spare capacity to watch out for dangers. As a little child I had accidents all the time; one wound would not yet be healed, or I had already another one or two. I wanted to do good, but so often I just could not. Our God is holy, and He just will not associate with angry spirits inside us but calls out to us: “Be holy because I am Holy!”

Can you then see why David talks about brokenness, and why Paul writes about our whole spirit to be sanctified, made holy; not just part of it? Can you then understand why we talk about split-personalities, and why so many deeply wounded people develop Multiple Personality Disorders that are just more serious cases of wounds in our heart that we have dissociated from? We may not remember anymore what happened, nor feel the associated pain most of the time, but it all remains experienced by the broken-off spirit in our heart. Can you then see how helpless we become in time? It is a good thing that there is no statute of limitations on forgiving our offenders, but how can we forgive them if we do not remember anymore?

Satan does not want us to remember the causes and nature of our wounds, lest we might deal with these things, and he will lose his grip on us. We find a clear statement about this in Jeremiah 17:9-10: “The human heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? ‘I the Lord search the heart, I test inner motives to give every man according to his deeds.” Satan’s influence on the separated bitter parts of our spirit is indeed devastating through the feelings he gives us and what he attempts to make us think, believe and do. The only protection against this is that our separated spirits, living their own lives, let go of their malice and bitterness so that they can reunite with God and our spirit. Our Father is totally capable of making us holy, to heal our wounded hearts, if we are just willing to humble ourselves and cooperate with Him. Paul wrote in 1Thessalonians 5:23-24: “May the God of peace personally sanctify you (make you holy) completely.” Yes, He will do it!

Clement in Hebrews 12:14-15 calls these broken off parts of our spirit “roots of bitterness”: “Seek peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Discern diligently, lest any man fall short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up among you cause problems, whereby many would become defiled (spiritually infected);”

Proverbs 3:5 is so significant in understanding the road to holiness: “Trust in the Lord with *all* your heart, and do not rely on *your own* understanding of things, but in everything you think or do, walk with God, and He will make your path straight (He will make you successful without mistakes).” If we indeed do everything with our God and Father, and so walk intimately with Him in love, though also with respect, we will be under *His* influence *only*, cannot be deceived, and receive truthful spiritual knowledge, Wisdom, from Him: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.” (Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 9:10)

So, how can we remember what all happened in our past that affected us so much? God knows our heart; and I repeat here a part of Jeremiah 17:10: “I the Lord search the heart, I test inner motives”. Yes, David was right when He wrote in Psalms 124:8: “Our help is in the name of the Lord who has made the heavens and the earth!” He can help us remember our past and is eagerly waiting for those wounded parts in us to come back to Him, asking Him forgiveness, and forgiving our enemy. So, our wounded parts will be restored to us, guiding our soul to do things rightly, with love extending mercy to our enemies, and walking humbly with our God.

How can we, with Father God’s help, find hidden problems in our hearts?

1. Ask God to reveal to us a hidden wound and associated pain in our heart.
2. Seek for causes of torment or violence we experience in dreams and otherwise.
3. Seek for causes of depression.
4. Seek for reasons why we become irritated with certain people we are familiar with and start shouting at them.
5. Hearing voices from split off spirits talking to each other or us.
6. Other people, friends and family, may see problems in us that we ourselves cannot see. Most often they will not understand the underlying causes, but they are more aware of our character faults than we are. If they want to talk about that with us, dare to listen to them.
7. The more hidden pain is buried in our hearts, the more we will be controllers of people, because there is a natural need to have people at a comfortable distance to keep emotional pain levels low. The presence of certain people alone may already cause us

to begin feeling uncomfortable. But as we keep people at a distance, we also keep our heavenly Father at a distance.

8. Especially men may become aggressive in all they do, including while driving in traffic. They will not yield; they will rudely cut in in front of you. Today you see that also increasingly in women. For young men automobile insurance used to be much more expensive than for young women, but that has in recent years changed rapidly.
9. A wounded person gives little due to lack of love. Jesus talked about this subject in Matthew 6:22-23: "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light." In Middle East idiom a person with a good eye was a liberal giver. Then Jesus went on: "But if the eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness.!"
10. If we have difficulty loving certain people, it is often because of something not well defined about them that begins subconsciously to remind us of a much bigger problem in ourselves. It reminds me of Jesus in Matthew 7 verse 1-5: "Judge not so that you will not be judged, and what you judge another for, you will start doing to others. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not realize that you have a plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother: 'Let me take that speck out of your eye', but look, there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Whenever I meet someone and there is something about him that makes me feel uncomfortable, I have learned to ask Father God what the reason is, as it may well be another wound in my own heart that the Lord may want to show me.

10. GOOD FRIDAY

We celebrate annually Holy Thursday and Good Friday as the days Jesus celebrated His last Passover supper with His disciples and His dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus and the disciples then celebrated the amazing deliverance of Israel from its bondage as slaves from Egypt by sacrificing a perfect lamb without blemish and putting its blood on the doorposts of their houses as a condition for their deliverance. But Jesus was focused on how, in His Father's fullness of time, He is now that perfect Lamb of God, without any blemish, who will deliver all peoples of this world from their bondage to slave driver satan. It will require that Jesus lay down His life now for us all. He is very emotional at this moment, in extreme agony about what His Father wants Him to go through in the next 24 hours. But His disciples still don't understand what their Rabbi is about to do and are still fighting about who will sit at Jesus' right hand once they are in heaven with Him. No one wants to wash the feet of all the participants of this Seder. Even that task Jesus must undertake, teaching them one more lesson that "the greatest in the Kingdom of God is the servant of all". And now they have finished this last supper and Jesus says: "Come, let us leave." He goes on the roof above the upper room from where He can see the Kidron Valley with the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Our Lord met there often with His disciples. Jesus' agony is building as Judas has left already to betray Him for some silver coins. I can imagine Him lifting up His eyes to heaven and wondering: "Judas is betraying Me as is prophesied, while all the others will soon scatter, and Simon Peter will even deny that he has ever known Me? I have prepared them now for three years to preach the good news, but they are all fleeing. Father, what will now become of Your Kingdom?"

Do we grasp the dynamics of this moment? Jesus is preparing to take the sins of all of us on Himself and pay our death-penalty, but we are

still running away from Him to save our comfortable lives. It is going to be Good Friday for us tomorrow, but is it going to be a Good Friday for Jesus?

Looking up He sees the grapevine overhead that provides the roof of the upper room building shade from the Sun, and then He starts His farewell talk to His disciples: "I am the true Vine and My Father is the vinedresser; every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does produce fruit He prunes so that it may bear more fruit. You, My disciples, are already clean because of the Word that I have spoken to you. Remain in Me as I remain in you. Just like a branch cannot produce fruit unless it remains connected to the vine, so you cannot bear fruit unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine and you are the branches. He who remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, but without Me you can do nothing!" (John 15:1-5) A few weeks later Jesus makes this fact once more very clear when the disciples have been fishing all night in the Sea of Galilea without any results; Jesus then gives them a huge catch of fish, showing that without Him we can do nothing successfully.

Branches without fruit will be cut off, He said, adding: "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." Why does He say this; it seems not to connect with the pruning of branches. You see, talking about pruning to produce more fruit, He was talking about healing of wounds of our hearts; such wounds hinder the free operation of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. The more wounds are healed, the more fruitful for Jesus' Kingdom we become.

And as they then walk downhill toward His favorite meeting place in the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas will meet Him with a band of temple guards to arrest Him, Jesus talks with the men with greater clarity than ever before so that they may stay close to Him once He is gone, so clearly now that they even say to Him: "See, now You are

speaking plainly, now we are sure that You know all things. By this we know that you came from God.”

And once in the Garden of Gethsemane, leaving even His three most trusted disciples behind to plead one last time with His Father Jesus says to them: “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, please stay here and wake with Me”, and going on a few paces further He falls on His knees and pleads: “Abba, with You all things are possible, please take this cup away from Me, but not My will, but Yours be done.” And in His most terrible agony He even sweats blood but yet obeys His Father by choosing to lay down His life for us, His sheep. And His closest disciples just sleep. Is this Jesus’ Good Friday? It is unimaginable that Jesus chose to sacrifice Himself in obedience to His Father while in terrible agony. In the end it became Good Friday for Jesus, our Father God and for us also after He had cried out: “It is completed” and, trusting His Father, yielded His Spirit to Him. He had obeyed His Father even this time, and completed His task to reconcile us with His and our Father God. Is any of us prepared to trust our Father that much?

On Easter morning Jesus rose from the dead, and because of that we will be raised from death with Him. Yes, we love to celebrate Easter Morning, but are we willing to give Jesus our Good Friday if called upon? Are we willing to abide in Him by denying ourselves and taking up our cross, just as He denied His own desires and took up His cross on our Good Friday in obedience to His Father? So, He bore much fruit to His Father’s glory, and so we also can bear much fruit to Jesus’ and our Father’s glory. Do we really want Jesus Christ to be formed in us, as Paul wrote in Galatians 4:19: “My little children for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.”?

Good Friday was the most memorable day in Jesus’ life, and the more He becomes formed in us will also increasingly become exciting in our

life. Beg God to put so much love in your heart that you will want to lay down your life for Him. Here is my translation of Jesus' Words in Mathew 5:3: "Blessed are those who beg for more spiritually, because they shall be rulers in the Kingdom of heaven."

11. THE HEALING PRAYER

Before leading you into the prayer that our Father always answers when it comes from an eager heart, I like to give you a few examples of how God has answered many people's prayers.

- A kind younger man was already five years in prison for the second time and his parents obviously had given up on him. Their church believes that we need to be rebaptized after a serious sin but would not rebaptize him anymore. As I led a group of inmates in a prayer to ask Father God to reveal and heal a painful wound of their hearts, this man was reminded of his bitterness toward his parents for having given up on him and never having visited him these past five years. He asked God now to forgive him for having begun hating his parents whom God loves, and to remove the bitterness toward them from his heart. The next day they were there at 9:00am to visit with him.
- In 2013 I had ministered for three days in the Samfya prison in Zambia, closing the teachings with our healing prayer, followed by baptisms of thirty-three men and five women in a shallow pool outside the prison wall. It happened there twice as a man after baptism got up from his knees, that an invisible hand pushed his head under water, and he began slashing with arms and legs as he was drowning. Other inmates rushed in and lifted these men out, laying them on dry ground where they were still wrestling in agony for some time until peace came over them. Two days later these men had come together to the prison's chaplain officer, telling him, "We did not know that life could be so pleasant and peaceful".
- A highly anointed evangelist I had known already in the large Central remand prison of Lusaka, Zambia, in 2011 and 2012 as he led the entire open prison yard inmate population in wonderful

worship to God. In 2014 I met him in a medium security prison on a conviction of Aggravated Armed Robbery with a sentence of fifteen years at hard labor. He was convinced that he had not committed the crime and that he was wrongly judged. Yet he honored his Father God by serving him now in prison for already four years. He had lately been assigned the task of being an overseer-father to a cellblock of juvenile inmates.

He came to my teachings during a three days long seminar and on the last day, when I was starting to share about Dissociative Identity Disorder problems, he asked if he could first share a testimony of what God had done for him last night. I had the day before already helped inmates with prayer to God for healing of a wound in their hearts, and now he shared with us what God had done for him.

He had been an internationally well-known evangelist for some years and was the Bishop of a church organization when in 1983 he had been called home because his father had died, a King or Paramount Chief over a large tribal +area with Chiefs under his rule. As oldest son he allowed himself to be installed as the new King, following traditional ritual. Since that ceremonial installation day he had been tormented by “his father” every night of his life. He had yesterday asked God to forgive him for having hated his father all those years, and last night he was for the first time spiritually a free man, without that powerful tormenting spirit. During most of his testimony he had been uncontrollably weeping because of the release, the new found peace, and his thankfulness. I met him again in Lusaka late 2018 to learn that this evil spirit has never returned.

- In 2015 a gentle older man had walked up to me when I was leaving the Kamwala remand prison of Lusaka after a day of teaching. I had known him already for some time as a father to

juveniles in a separate section of that prison. He asked me to pray for him because he had now already been in prison for 25 years and no one had ever come to visit him. “You must be very angry with your parents and friends, aren’t you?”, I asked him, and his answer was a resounding “Yes, of course!”. I then told him that *he* should talk to God about it, and offered to give him some words to speak and led him in the same healing a wound of the heart prayer as I do everywhere. I could see him earnestly talking to his heavenly Father for some time, after which I helped him close his prayer. A few days later when I was again in the same prison, he told me that the day after he prayed for healing his best friend from Livingstone, about 450 km away, had visited him at 16:00 hours in the afternoon.

Our God is extremely alive, not sleeping, or traveling far away, or leaving us to ourselves after He created us. Notably, why would He do so if He created us for His own joy and happiness. But He is so much waiting for us to come to Him as a little child, loving Him and trusting Him with all our hearts. Can YOU now ask Him to help you too in this process of coming closer to Him by letting Him heal your heart, even if it is a long process, one step at a time?

Here follows the prayer I lead people in wherever I speak on this subject, and your Father God will also do a miracle in your heart. The words are not magical however; this is a personal prayer between you and your heavenly Father; don’t repeat after me unless you say it from the bottom of your heart. So, read first through the following prayer to see if you like it. And as you pray, do it loud out so that it will come from deep within. May our Father God bless you. If God gives you a memory that is very painful, do not suppress it again, but tell God now the details of what happened, even if it is difficult to do so; it is that wounded part of you that needs to do the reconciling with God.

“Father God, I thank You for loving me so very much that you gave your only Son to pay the penalty for my wrongdoings so that I now may come to you. I want to love You as much as You love me, but it is so difficult with all that hidden bitterness in my heart. Will You please help me to get rid of wounds in my heart that hinder me from coming closer to You? So many times, I got hurt and remained bitter toward people I did not forgive and forgot all about it. Will you now please show me a bitter pain in my heart from a time when I got deeply hurt?”

Now be quiet and listen to God and your heart. And when you get a painful memory, do not suppress it if it is very painful; you must resolve it now finally with God.

Tell your Father what happened; do not spare any details He reminds you of, even if that is painful. And ask Him, “Don’t You understand why I got so bitter?” He understands and has cried with you so often. Take as much time as you want to talk to Him.

Then I close with praying together after having waited for five minutes or so for the private prayers to end:

“Father, thank you for hearing me, and for this painful memory. I am now so sorry that I remained bitter with (fill in the name here) for so long. How could I hate ... while You love him/her so very much like You love me? I am sorry. I now understand that I was his victim because he was a victim also of the same kind of rejection, abuse; I should have had mercy for him/her as I want Your mercy. Will You please forgive me and, Jesus, will You please remove this bitterness from my heart, and come and live in my heart? I don’t want any bitterness anymore. Help me to love him/her now as You love him/her; will you please bless ... also, as he/she too needs Your mercy? Father, I want to let go of all rights I thought I had, and let You

be the only righteous Judge. Thank You Father for Your love, for accepting me and delivering me from this bitterness. Amen”

For a big wound healing may not come fully after a one-time prayer; repeat it if needed once or a few times until the healing is complete.

Just like we all built up a wall around ourselves through not forgiving, one brick at a time, to keep people at a safe distance, that wall also separates us from our God. So now we must find healing, sanctification, one step at a time, one brick at a time. Every time you feel a release you will feel lighter as if a burden has dropped off your shoulders. That is real and the reason why Jesus said: “My yoke fits well, and My burden is light.”

If you are persistent, don’t give up, the time will come after you have allowed God to heal many painful wounds, that suddenly that wall begins to crumble. That will not mean that you are now perfectly holy; that is not meant for us this side of eternity; but when that happens it will be so much easier to be close to God, to become a spiritually more mature son or daughter of God. Paul wrote about that in Romans 8:14: “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the adult sons of God.” Learn to let Him lead you, He knows so much better what it good for us; never do anything on your own again, walking ahead of Him, but let your heavenly Father always lead you and do everything with you.