

In our last podcast, we discussed God's predetermined plan, which includes judgment in our lives. It is God's predetermined plan to use the selfishness and brokenness (the evil) of others to wound us; it is the only way to break through the sin of Adam which has hardened the heart of all humanity against God. It is how He wakes us to our need for something more – to our need for Him. Our wounding is used by God to help us realize three critical truths:

We cannot control others who also live defensively looking to protect their own personal interests and protect themselves from harm. And despite our armor, we cannot prevent ourselves from being wounded.

We simply cannot control the outcomes of our life. So, we are on a journey of surrender to God's control over our lives. God wounds us and inflicts pain. We either turn to Him and learn to rest in Him, or we turn from Him and give ourselves to the ME, to the world, to the spiritual forces of wickedness, or to some twisted semblance of Him in the form of idolatrous religion ruled by the Woman who Rides the Beast.

Let's pick back up in **EP20 Yahweh According to Job, Job 5:17-18 P2**

### ***Free to Choose***

You might be thinking this is all sadistic and some sick game. Doesn't God have better things to do than think of ways to terrorize our lives? If He is so good and mighty, why did **Plan-A** include the need for Adam to sin; after all, it was Adam's volitional sin that ultimately caused us all to turn away from God in the first place.<sup>1</sup>

Good question? And the buck still stops at the throne of God. The answer is found in the fundamental nature of God being love, *agape* (divine love).<sup>2</sup>

## **Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 28**

**The curious thing about divine love is that it requires a free choice, personal sovereignty. Forced relationships are not founded in divine love.**

True love requires that each party be free to choose or to reject the relationship. God chose to be in relationship with us, which is why He created us. He made that choice on His own free volition. He wanted to share the unity, love, peace, and joy with us that is experienced in the Godhead between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, desiring, for pleasures sake, to lavish His unfailing love upon us.<sup>3</sup>

But since divine love is not forced, it meant that mankind needed the innate power to choose to accept or reject a relationship with Him. Thus, every soul that has ever been created had this choice infused into their soul. And every soul chooses to either share His nature by being *willing* to be transformed into His image or to reject His nature.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Romans 5:12-14*

<sup>2</sup> *1 John 4:8, 4:16*

<sup>3</sup> *Psalm 149:4*

As Jesus said, he who is not **now** being with Him is **now** against Him.<sup>4</sup> And God, being completely outside of time and beyond any linear constraints, sees from the beginning to the end; thus, He saw each choice that would ever be made by each soul, even before He created a single aspect of our physical reality. And divine love honors that free will choice, and He makes His plans for our lives accordingly, for it is in His foreknowledge that He predestines our comings and goings.<sup>5</sup> But when it is all said and done, everyone will be clear about the choice they made.

No, this is not some sadistic game, but it is the just and true way God gets to the soul of each person and confronts them with this opportunity to receive or reject His divine love. Hence, no one will be able to blame God for the choice they made.

God guarantees that all will have the opportunity to see the glory of His majesty, even if it is just through the glorious and unparalleled phenomenon of creation, as such everyone is without excuse.<sup>6</sup> And every single person will exercise their choice to acknowledge or to reject the truth that He alone is God. And if they acknowledge that He alone is God, He will show them more, give them more, and He will continue and continue to reveal the truth about Himself.<sup>7</sup> If they are *willing*, He will never stop revealing more of who He is. Just consider the truth that He revealed to Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu, long before there was ever the written Word of God.

### ***The Enduring Choice***

By necessity, this process includes wounding and pain in order that those who do acknowledge Him will be confronted with the free choice they will have to be *willing* to let the Spirit of God cause them to give up their lives, to lay down their *Old Sinful Nature*, to reject the **ME**, and in place of it all to adopt His nature. No one will be forced to be like Him; everyone has a choice. And this choice is not a one-time decision, but viewed throughout the scriptures it is as an enduring choice that needs to be continually maintained.

This enduring choice is imaged for us through the Lampstand that was in the Tabernacle of God, and later the Temple of God. The people were required to bring pure oil of *beaten* olives, so that the Lamp would be perpetually lit, 24/7, from morning to evening, never to be extinguished.<sup>8</sup> Yes, the scriptures do not just say “bring pure oil of olives,” but “pure oil of *beaten* olives,” which gives us our image of the wounding that is necessary to bring forth from our lives pure oil, a pure flow of the Spirit of God (imaged in the oil), such that we may bear the light of **Yahweh**. Thank goodness He did not say crushed olives.

Olives that were beaten were placed in a mortar and worked with a pestle until the oil extracted was pure, fine, and the result being that in the marketplace, this oil was very costly. Our being “beaten” is purposed to purify us such that the oil which flows through us is not corrupted by all our internal broken places, all of which are protected by the **ME**. The result being is that if we are willing to let **Yahweh** do this work of purifying us, in the spiritual realms, we become precious and priceless.<sup>9</sup>

In contrast, the imagery of crushed olives connects to what Jesus experienced for us; He was literally

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<sup>4</sup> **Matthew 12:30**

<sup>5</sup> **Romans 8:29-30**

<sup>6</sup> **Romans 1:20**

<sup>7</sup> **Matthew 13:12; 25:29**

<sup>8</sup> **Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:1-4**

<sup>9</sup> **See Isaiah 43:4**

crushed in our place, which is why we only need to be beaten. *“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was **crushed** for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”*<sup>10</sup>

Consider also that the imagery surrounding the garden of “Gethsemane” sets us up for this truth, as “Gethsemane” means “oil press.” The oil press is where olives were crushed by a huge stone weighing up to 1,000 pounds, often 3-5 feet in diameter, with a thickness of roughly 1-2 feet. The stone literally crushed the olives to make paste, which is a very different picture than we were given of olives that were beaten. Jesus bore the brunt of judgment, He was crushed, but we still need to be “beaten” like olives, wounded, judged, to purify our channel through which the “oil” of the Spirit flows.

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

But we **now** have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power may **now** be of God and not from ourselves; **now** caused to being afflicted in every way, **but not now caused to being crushed**; **now** choosing to being perplexed, but not **now** choosing to being despairing; **now** caused to being persecuted, but not **now** caused to being forsaken; **now** caused to being struck down, but not **now** choosing to being destroyed; always **now** carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be caused to be manifested in our body. For we who are **now** living are constantly **now** caused to being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be caused to be manifested in our mortal flesh.

That is powerful. Jesus was crushed, Jesus was forsaken so that in Him we can choose not to despair and not to be destroyed.<sup>11</sup> Just think about that first statement, *“But we **now** have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power may **now** be of God and not from ourselves.”* That is the very definition of grace. There is divine purpose in our suffering; none of it is wanton or reckless; it is all for a glorious “reason.”

I know this is a lot, but I have just provided you a very high-level view of how God operates with in the realm of time and with all of humanity. And to Him who has received what God has given, even more shall be caused to be given until they are full and complete in Him. But to Him who rejects what He has been given, even what He has will eventually be caused to be taken away from Him.<sup>12</sup>

## **Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 29**

**There is no middle ground. God wants it all, i.e., a person’s heart, mind, soul, and strength.<sup>13</sup> He is a conquering King, but He is a conqueror who oddly works with permission. He only conquers that to which we *willingly* give Him access.**

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<sup>10</sup> *Isaiah 53:5*

<sup>11</sup> *Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46*

<sup>12</sup> *Mark 4:25*

<sup>13</sup> *Mark 12:30*

## ***He Binds & He Heals***

### ***Job 5:18***

For He inflicts pain and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal.

Even though God inflicts pain and wounds us, He is also the one who gives us relief or binds our wounds, and his hands also heal. This idea of binding is that He bandages our wounds, so they don't get infected or injured beyond what He knows is needed to accomplish His purposes. This is such a critical aspect of how He moves in our lives.

Being the absolute sovereign Lord, our lives are never out of control. Sure, from our perspective, they seem crazy, completely random, and at times wildly out of control. But God is in control of every detail. Remember, we are talking about a God who feeds every little bird and takes care of every aspect of creation. He opens His hands, and they eat.<sup>14</sup> We are talking about a God who knows every hair on your head, as He has them all counted; with Him everything is personal.<sup>15</sup>

## **Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 30**

**Yahweh directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.<sup>16</sup> Yes, every detail! Despite what it seems, nothing is ever out of control. Our wounding and our pain are exact and measured, a process that is part of **Plan-A**.**

By way of example, the Spirit of God told the Apostle Paul that He was going to show him (Paul) exactly how much he would have to suffer.<sup>17</sup> In other words, it was all pre-measured and quantified. Nothing was left to chance, and there would be no randomness. Nothing would happen to Paul beyond what God prescribed, as He would only inflict the pain that would be necessary to accomplish His purposes – nothing more and nothing less.

## **Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 31**

**As we are thirsty for Him, as we are ready to be *willing*, He will heal us from the wounds He has inflicted.**

Let's return to those very same passages where He took ownership for our wounds, and we will see

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<sup>14</sup> ***Psalm 145:14-16***

<sup>15</sup> ***Matthew 10:30; Luke 12:7***

<sup>16</sup> ***Psalm 37:23***

<sup>17</sup> ***Acts 9:16***

He also promised to heal us from every wound that He inflicted.

***Deuteronomy 32:39***

See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and **it is I who heal**, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

***Hosea 6:1-3***

Come, let us return to **Yahweh**. For He has torn us, but **He will heal us**; He has wounded us, but **He will bandage us**. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know **Yahweh**. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth."

***Isaiah 30:26***

The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, on the day **Yahweh binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted**.

***What is Healing?***

I have thought a lot about this question, especially since the Spirit of God often uses language in a way that does not always match our views or our cultural understanding, especially when those words are both connected and disconnected from time.

For instance, these verses have overtones to both healing in the now as well as a healing that will come when we enter eternity. And except for the cry for us to return to **Yahweh**, the impetus for healing all seems to be with **Yahweh** and not some if/then dynamic that would require us to do something right before He heals us.

Given, however, that our afflictions are often both physical and spiritual (wounds that afflict our soul), in answering this question about "*what is healing*," we need to consider the **WHY** of it all – why God inflicts us, why, as Eliphaz says, "*man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward*."

We have learned that God uses our afflictions for His purposes. Sometimes they are so that His majesty may be shown, as in the case of the man born blind.<sup>18</sup> Sometimes they are how God keeps us from relying on our own power and strength, for they cause us to rely on His strength, for His strength is perfected or made complete in our weakness.<sup>19</sup>

Yet, almost always, our afflictions are the tools **Yahweh** chooses to get us to look deeper to the spiritual ailments and the wounding that has occurred in our soul, the wounding that causes us, *in fear*, to erect all manner of self-protective armor to keep others out, and to adopt all types of unhealthy coping

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<sup>18</sup> See *John 9*

<sup>19</sup> See *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

mechanisms to address our fear of being hurt, betrayed, abused, neglected, rejected, abandoned, marginalized, and so on.

***Job 36:15***

But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity.

***Hosea 5:15***

I will go away [and] return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

***An Intentional Masterpiece***

Healing is not so much the removal of our wounds or our forgetting the pain we endured; after all, some afflictions are impossible to forget.<sup>20</sup> But maybe we can start to understand our wounds and the reason for the pain if we consider that God calls us His masterpiece, His workmanship, something He personally created for His purposes and in which He delights.

Remember, with **Yahweh** nothing is random or has ever been out of control; it has all been intentional and a work of His hands. He has carved us, so-to-speak, to be exactly as He wants us, and yes, He calls us His workmanship, not the Satan's workmanship, nor the workmanship of bad rotten parents or others, but His workmanship.<sup>21</sup> The Satan and the bad rotten people were just the tools He used (and uses) knowing the unique pain they would inflict would shape us uniquely into who we are.

In that light, our real issue behind our healing is not the wounds, nor the pain we endured, but our *fearful* response to our wounds and our pain. From God's perspective, the trouble that now afflicts us (what keeps us from experiencing healing and intimacy with Him) are the *fear-based* dysfunctional coping mechanisms we chose to adopt to protect and defend ourselves. It is these *fear-based* systems that God targets when we seek healing, for these *fear-based* systems function as our God, as our I AM, as our source, and we have been convinced (consciously and subconsciously) that they help us, serve us, and keep us safe.

The truth is that for a time they do help us, serve us, and keep us safe. We adopt these *fear-based* devices rather unconsciously when we are just kids, when we do not know any better, and they seem to get us through our trauma without becoming completely unraveled. Then all throughout our lives, with each new affliction, we build on them and hone them until they become so much a part of our being that we think that is just who we are, and it is impossible for us to imagine life without them.

This way of thinking may seem rational, but it is delusional, for we are still relying on another source, another power, another means, and, as much as we think these *fear-based* coping mechanisms help us, it comes at a big personal cost. Remember, **the source matters, the source is everything!**

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<sup>20</sup> See *Lamentations 3:19-20*

<sup>21</sup> See *Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:12-13*

Though they give us tools to “protect” and “defend” ourselves, at the same time they rob us from intimacy, they rob us of relationship, they keep us isolated, living in conflict, never truly trusting ourselves to anyone, and at the core of our being, we are always lonely, always. They never ever lead us to freedom or peace. Yes, **the source matters the source is everything!**

These dysfunctional coping mechanisms are not our true problem, they just mask the problem, they are the fruit of the problem. Think of it this way, if you see a person who always chooses to avoid conflict, or who only responds to stress with anger, you can be sure that behind each of those responses are some imbedded fears, the “reason” or “reasons” they adopted those mechanisms in the first place.

On our journey to healing, these delusional and dysfunctional coping mechanisms need to be addressed honestly, truthfully, but not so much to conquer them or change them, but to be realistic enough to see past them so we can get to the underlying fear that is motivating and supporting them. When we become *willing* to address these underlying fears with God and ask Him to show us how He is the solution, how He can be our **I AM** in those areas, the coping mechanisms will lose power and over time resolve themselves, for they exist on the fuel or the nutrition of *fear*.

The peace that God talks about, the peace of **Yahweh Shalom**, is experienced when a fear is replaced with faith. But this is both an existential and a very practical experience.

### **The Fears**

The dysfunctional coping mechanisms (defensiveness, perfectionism, avoidance, control, anger, people-pleasing, violence, shaming, gas-lighting, etc.) are rooted in a relatively small set of **core internal fears**. These fears are often unconscious, but they shape our behavior in powerful ways. Let’s consider these fears.

#### **Fears Related to Our Connection or Belonging**

- **Abandonment** – fear of being left behind, rejected, or unloved.
- **Rejection** – fear that we will not be accepted, whether that is our authentic self or the self that we portray to others.
- **Isolation and Loneliness** – fear of being cut off from others, being unseen or invisible to those who should see and should most appreciate us.
- **Betrayal** – fear of being deceived, lied to, taken advantage of, cheated upon, or hurt by those to whom we have given our trust.
- **Loss of Approval** – fear of disappointing others or being judged unworthy.

#### **Fears Connected to Our Self-Worth and Identity**

- **Inadequacy** – fear of not being good enough, competent enough, or worthy enough, i.e., the reasons why we are not worthy to be loved.
- **Shame** – fear that something is fundamentally wrong, bad, or evil within the core of our being.

- **Loss of Identity** – fear of not knowing who we are without specific identifiable roles or definable and measurable tasks by which we can be validated by others, or by which we can internally validate ourselves knowing that we have done it “right.”
- **Failure** – fear of falling short, making mistakes, or being exposed as incapable before others, exposing us to punishment, rejection, and loss of respect and honor.
- **Powerlessness or Helplessness** – fear of lacking agency, influence, or control because people or circumstances bind or limit us (this can be understood as a “victim” mentality where we blame others or things for our lot).
- **Injustice** – fear that others do not understand us (whether it’s our very personhood or our intentions in a matter) and they judge, label, condemn, divide from and reject us, punish us, dishonor us, and so on.

#### Fears of Safety & Survival

- **Death and Loss** – fear of mortality, losing our loved ones, or fear of the slow and systematic extinction of self as we become more-and-more consumed by our fear (this is a circular system that gets exponentially worse over time).
- **Vulnerability** – fear of being emotionally, physically, or even spiritually unsafe if we were to be honest about our true self, our true fears, our true abilities and limitations.
- **Uncertainty** – fear of the unknown, especially when we realize that our life is unstable, unpredictable, and that bad things happen to us no matter how hard we try to control the outcomes of our lives.
- **Exploitation and Personal Violation** – fear of being used, abused, manipulated, coerced, overpowered, and dominated.
- **Scarcity** – fear of not having enough resources, love, or security. This is where we believe the “pie” is only so big and if others are receiving their share, there is simply not enough to go around for us to enjoy.

#### Fears Surrounding our Autonomy & Control

- **Entrapment** – fear of being stuck, trapped, controlled or outright dominated by others, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
- **Loss of Freedom & Loss of Voice** – fear of being unable to make our own choices where we are forced to submit to others who make those choices for us. For instance, this is a fear that lurks in those who are aging as they see others age in ways that they deem to be disgraceful and non-desirable. This is also a fear of those who have seen or experienced bad marriages and are afraid of ever being in such a situation. This also occurs in our churches and centers of spiritual connection where one voice rules them all.
- **Dependence** – fear of needing others such that it forces us to be vulnerable to them and with them.

- **Change Resulting in the Loss of Control** – fear of transitions or situations that are outside our control, terrified that the change will disrupt the system of safety and control that we have built, i.e., we simply do not know if our system of self-protection can be maintained in a new environment that will have new people, new places, new demands, new rules, new obstacles, and new challenges.

The interesting thing is that all these fears tend to work together, overlap, and become intertwined such that our coping mechanisms serve as our protection and defense against one or more of these fears, which can all be triggered at the same time. For instance, perfectionism often hides the fear of failure or inadequacy. People-pleasing is driven by the fear of rejection, abandonment, or punishment. Avoidance often stems from the fear of betrayal, from shame, or vulnerability (or all the above).

### Healing

Think of healing as fear conquered – the systematic draining of the power which fear has exercised over our lives. Healing is freedom from fear in the deepest segments of our being. Keep in mind that the **FEAR** (all caps and bolded **FEAR**) which dominates the core of our being and induces us to protect ourselves, is made up of all these different layers of little fears, and attached to each little fear is some sort of armor and preferred coping mechanism that operates to protect our vulnerability in that area.

Ultimately each instance of little fear needs to be addressed honestly with God if we are ever going to find freedom from **FEAR** (all caps and bolded **FEAR**) and from our idolatrous need to play God over our own lives in our foolish attempt to protect and provide for ourselves.

## Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 32

**Healing comes through a process whereby we address one little fear at a time, and our self-protection and coping mechanisms are willingly surrendered because we have discovered an alternative, a true and formidable substitute to our reckless inability to be our own God.**

Our *willingness* to address each little fear occurs as we learn **WHY** God needed to wound us in each area and **HOW** our vulnerability in that area is such an important part of His masterpiece, His workmanship, something to be adored, admired, and appreciated, not shunned, shamed or guarded.

In His mercy, God gives us opportunities, though difficult they may be, to realize that with each little fear, **Yahweh** yearns for our *willingness* to let Him cause us to be established in faith, with the result being that we begin to look to Him to be our source for all things all the time. This includes **Yahweh** being our protection in and our provision for each-and-every vulnerability and weakness, remembering that when we are weak, then He is strong. This is where the names of **Yahweh**, which we reviewed previously, are so important. Challenge Him in an area of wounding with His name, ask Him to show you How in your weakness, He is strong.

Unfortunately, in our culture, we do not value weakness. We have no relational ethic to accept weakness within ourselves much less within others. We value strength and personal power. Yet, God loves to work through our weaknesses, through our vulnerabilities, through our wounding, for then His majesty

and His glory is revealed to others. *“But we **now** have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power may **now** be of God and not from ourselves.”*<sup>22</sup> In our weakness and vulnerability, the impossible is made practically, emotionally, mentally, and physically tangible for all to see.

### **What Does Healing Look Like?**

Healing looks like **intimacy**, the ability to experience the deepest level of security and trust in relationships with others because we are intimate and secured in our relationship with **Yahweh**.

Let’s stop here and pick back up with this issue of healing and what it practically looks like in our lives.

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen.

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<sup>22</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:7