

DAY 25

HEALING IN CONFRONTATION

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

—1 PETER 4:8

[Read the remainder of chapter 13, beginning with the heading "Healing in Confrontation."]

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE ONLY PATH TO HEALING LEADS through confrontation. It is easy to love those who can do no wrong in our eyes—that's honeymoon love. It is another thing to love someone when we can see their faults, especially when we've been their victims.

Hard places and difficult challenges will always be a part of our journey with the Lord. We cannot escape them. We need to face them, for they are part of the process of being perfected in Him. If you choose to run from them, you will seriously hinder your growth. As you overcome different obstacles, you will be stronger and more compassionate. You will fall more in love with Jesus. If you have come out of hardships and do not feel this way, you have probably not recovered from the offense. You must make the choice to recover. Some people get hurt and never recover because they have not chosen to do so.

- If you are still hurting from a past offense, it is because you choose to hurt.
- The only way to be healed is to forgive. Release the offense and offending person to God.
- A lack of compassion for others arises from an unwillingness to forgive their weaknesses.
- Your spiritual maturity depends on your willingness to face, forgive, and forget past offenses.

DAY 25

You learned obedience by the things He suffered. Peter learned obedience by the things he suffered. Paul learned obedience by the things he suffered.

Your spiritual maturity depends on your willingness to face, forgive, and forget past offenses.

What about you? Have you learned? As a result of past offenses, how are you now feeling?

In each of the columns below, check the appropriate boxes to indicate your feelings right now.

HEALED FEELINGS	HURT FEELINGS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Burdened
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forgiving	<input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loving	<input type="checkbox"/> Vengeful
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gentle	<input type="checkbox"/> Calloused
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compassionate	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgmental
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepting	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejecting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humble	<input type="checkbox"/> Proud
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warmhearted	<input type="checkbox"/> Coldhearted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peaceful	<input type="checkbox"/> Angry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joyful	<input type="checkbox"/> Depressed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healed	<input type="checkbox"/> Broken
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refreshed	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter

If you find yourself checking more hurt feelings than healed feelings, then the process of your healing has stopped; you will not obey God's leading and mature spiritually. Maturity does not come easily. If it did, all would attain it. Few reach this level of life because of the resistance they face. The world is dominated by the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). The course of our society is not godly but selfish. As a result, to enter into the maturity of Christ there will be hardships that come from standing against the flow of selfishness.

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

Remember that when we lose our life for the sake of Jesus, we will find His life. Learn to fix your focus on the end result, not the struggle. (See 1 Peter 4:12-13.)

WRITE A PRAYER...

Thanking God for the trials and tribulations you have faced. Thank Him for the results that have come as a result of these struggles.

Thank you God for the trials and tribulations I have faced. For the trials have taught me important lessons such as patience, love, perseverance. I thank you for the results that have come as a result of these struggles. I found that perseverance is helping me mature and is making me complete, not lacking anything. In Jesus name Amen,