

C. Personal History

Questions 1 & 2

These questions of Section C deal with sinful patterns the person may be living in, or has previously had difficulty with.

Part I deals with receiving God's forgiveness.

Part II has suggestions for dealing with some of the sins listed in these sections of the *Spiritual History Information Form*.

I. Receiving God's Forgiveness

The Biblical word "forgive" is translated from the Greek word "aphiemi" which, according to *Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words*, means "to send away from," or "to depart."

Sin enslaves us, causing us to sin again. Sin breeds sin. Ephesians 2:1-3 says that we were all slaves to sin. God wants our sins sent away from us--removed from us. He wants us to accept His way and His sacrifice. He offers us the removal of our sins *from* us, and the impartation of His nature *to* us.

God wants our sins to be placed on Jesus, the Lamb of God who *takes away* the sins of the world. He is the One of whom Isaiah prophesied:

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:4-6 KJV)

The forgiveness of sins is the foundational blessing of being a Christian. No longer do I need to fear *God's wrath*, since Jesus took my sin on Himself and bore God's wrath on my behalf. No longer do I need to fear *continuing to live in my sinful ways*, since Jesus overcame my sinful ways for me. He said, "No!" to sin for me, and now He is able to impart His life into me. He not only died FOR sin for me, He

also died TO sin for me.

Now I can receive from Him a life that wants to see my old ways put to death, and that wants and enables me to live in holiness through His Holy Spirit.

The strongholds caused by unconfessed sin can therefore be removed. The strongholds of sinful behavior patterns and addictions, hopelessness, guilt, shame, despair, and the results of the weight of sin, can therefore be broken. I can confess my old sinful ways and live in the new ways available to me through the impartation of the life of Christ into my being and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in me.

Meditating on the Scriptures below can bring faith and understanding into me, and following the steps listed below can help in appropriating these truths.

Key Scriptures for Meditation

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24 KJV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 KJV)

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

.... put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24 KJV)

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) (Romans 5:17 KJV)

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:14 KJV)

Steps in Confession and Forgiveness

1. Acknowledge your need of a Savior to pay for your sin and to give you a new life of freedom from your sinful ways. Thank God that He has provided Jesus for this purpose. Ask Jesus to live in you, helping you to confess your sins and to bring your sinful ways to death.
2. Confess the *whole sin*--not just the wrong *action*--for each of the sins you've committed from the list in this section of the *Spiritual History Information Form*. (Section C, 1 and 2) Confess the sinful *attitudes* and *desires* that caused the wrong *action*.
3. See these old ways and attitudes being put upon Jesus. (1 John 1:9; Ephesians 4:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21) Remember, "The Lord laid on Him the iniquities of us all."
4. Receive the forgiveness of God. See the blood of Jesus cleansing you from this sin and its ways within you. See the Book of Life in heaven, with the blood of Jesus sprinkled on it. Realize that your sin has been blotted out of God's remembrance through the blood of Jesus.
5. Present yourself to God; ask Him to impart His ways to you, through Jesus. See Him giving you something from Christ to replace your sin. (forgiveness for resentment, love for anger, truth for lying, etc.) Receive His new ways into your being. (Ephesians 4:24, Romans 5:17; Romans 13:14)
6. Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the new ways, so that they will be written on your heart. (Acts 1:8; Philippians 2:13)
7. Thank God for His provision for forgiving you, for cleansing you, and for imparting new life to you. These things are all offered to you through Jesus--through His suffering and death, through His Holiness, and through His reigning in heaven for you

II. Suggestions for Dealing with Some Specific Sins:

These comments and suggestions are intended as further clarification for dealing with some of the sins in part C. The steps of confession and forgiveness listed in Part I of Section C are basic and should be followed in all cases; these suggestions will alert you to additional things you may need to attend to.

Note also that a few things in section 1 are not sins--i.e. sleeping disorders, forgetfulness, etc.--but are behaviors the person probably wants to change and which may have roots in past hurt, judgments, family curses, wrong motives, etc. Thus they can be dealt with in much the same way as the other things listed.

In General:

1. Look beneath the surface behavior for root causes. For example, what is the person *trying to accomplish* by overeating? *Why* is the person beset by greed? *When/why* did the person start using foul language, and *under what circumstances* does it occur now?

Dealing thoroughly with the root issues will make victory over the surface behavior much easier.

2. Be aware of (and/or ask the Lord to reveal) difficult circumstances at the start of the behavior: a traumatic event can be an entry point for the activity of an evil spirit--i.e. a spirit of fear, despair, hatred, etc.; resentment and bitterness that began because of a hurt can build up and cause havoc later; vows and judgments can be made, etc. Pray through these circumstances (and similar occurrences that have re-enforced the behavior), referring back to the appropriate section of the *Ministry Guide* as necessary.

3. Remember to take family patterns into account, and to repent of judging others for similar behavior. Again look beneath surface behavior, for patterns. For example, the

underlying motive of escape could be worked out in succeeding generations or in various family members as addictions to alcohol, work, drugs, tv, shopping, and the like. The person would need to repent of the outward behavior but also of the drive to escape rather than dealing with life according to God's will; then ask the Lord to reveal the causes for the desire to escape; bring Him any negative emotions; repent of any judgments of others, receive His healing for past hurts, etc. (See "Dealing with Generational Sin Patterns")

Specific Areas of Need

1. For sleeping disorders, ask the Lord to reveal the reasons for a lack of peace, starting if possible with the beginning of the problem. Such negative emotions as resentment, bitterness, worry, fear, grief, and anxiety are robbers of peace and therefore also of sleep. When the reasons are revealed, deal with them according to the applicable helps given elsewhere in this Guide.

2. In dealing with anger, be aware that beneath it is usually hurt and pain; the anger has been the person's way of dealing with those who caused the pain. After confessing the anger as sin, ask the Lord to reveal that underlying hurt. Bring the hurt to Jesus, working through the steps in "Extending Forgiveness."

Often those who live in anger have welcomed it as a "friend," feeling it was their only defense against hurtful people. James 1:20 tells us, however, "...the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (KJV) In other words, the change they're trying to produce in the other person will not be accomplished by anger, nor will their anger bring true justice or righteousness into the situation. Only the life of God can accomplish His righteousness. The person needs to renounce this thought pattern, recognize anger as the enemy it is, and see the truth that Jesus is there for him. While He may not prevent others from doing hurtful things, He is there for the person, waiting to take upon Himself

his pain and to give to him His peace, comfort, and truth. The person should confess having resorted to anger instead of running to Jesus, and then receive Him and His healing and peace to replace the hurt and anger.

3. In dealing with forgetfulness, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal times or events the person has *wanted* to forget, thereby welcoming forgetfulness. Those things we have determined in our own strength to forget are not really forgotten but instead are repressed and can still effect us. As the Lord brings things to mind, deal with them according to the applicable portion of the Guide, and repent of having coped with the situations in the flesh rather than bringing them to Jesus.

4. Sexual intercourse causes a binding together of the souls and spirits of the people involved; therefore if there have been sexual relationships outside of marriage, the ties of body, soul, and spirit between the participants must be broken (in addition, of course, to confession, repentance, and receiving of forgiveness). Renounce all ties with the person and ask for the cleansing of the blood of Jesus.

The person may have received demonic influence through union with the other person or may be subject to persistent unwanted thoughts about the other person or may be tempted with some of the same sins the sexual partner indulged in. After the appropriate confession of sin, break these aspects of the ties between the two people and renounce the unwanted activity or influence. Pray for the impartment of the purity of Jesus.

Remember that Jesus said, "...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28 KJV) Therefore all the sins listed that do not involve actual physical contact with another person can be dealt with as if they did.

5. Abortion has many long-term, far-reaching effects. The deep guilt *both parents* carry for the taking of an innocent life must be acknowledged and brought to Jesus. Confess the sins--as well as the sinful motives behind them. See Jesus dying for those sins and imparting forgiveness.

Bring to Him also the remorse and the sense of loss. Release the baby to Him. Take authority over the spirit of death that has been welcomed into the womb. Command it in the Name of Jesus to be gone. Welcome the Holy Spirit to bring His life into the womb.

Command the spirit of death and abortion to be gone from all aspects of life as well (aborted dreams, plans, projects, etc.), and receive the life of Jesus to bring about the fulfillment of the plans and purposes of God.

If a spirit of depression is present, take authority over it, commanding it in the Name of Jesus to leave; ask for an infilling of joy by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Questions 3 & 4

These questions deal with the events in a person's life that may have shaped his outlook toward himself, God, or life in general. The intent is to help the person to bring his spiritual wounds to Jesus so that He can heal his broken spirit with the truth of His Word, of His Presence, and of His love.

Part I below gives some introductory thoughts and general principles.

Part II deals with specific problems people may be facing.

I. General Principles

Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted.

He said:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, ...”
(Luke 4:18 KJV)

He came to lift from us the weights of the pain and agony of life. He said, “Come to Me, all you who are weak and heavy laden and I

will give you rest” (Matthew 9:35). Jesus encourages us to cast our cares upon Him, and to receive comfort, strength, life, and righteousness from Him. He wants to impart to us the truth of His love, the reality of His continual presence with us, and the comfort of His plan and purposes for us.

People need to know the truth about Jesus. Many have been wounded in their spirit through being rejected or being made to feel guilty. Many have been made to feel ashamed of their very being because of their race, sex, physical size or other uncontrollable characteristics. Many have been put down and mocked because of learning disabilities, speech defects, financial status, family situations, etc.. Jesus can heal these hurts as He removes the old and brings in the truth of His love, acceptance, and purposes.

Many are fearful of things in life. They are afraid of being abandoned, of being reject-ed, of not having enough to meet their needs, or of not being able to satisfy the expectations of others. Some are afraid of having to face a new day.

Still others are paralyzed in some areas of their lives because of having undergone tragic or deeply emotional experiences. Experiences such as sexual abuse, broken relation-ships through divorce or untimely death, loss of jobs or status, or ridicule and put-downs by parents or close friends can hinder our performance in some areas of life. We have prayed with several alcoholics who were drinking to escape the trauma of their involvement in the Vietnam War. They didn't know how to cope with their experiences with death, or the unresolved guilt they carried for killing others, or the shame some in our country put upon them for being involved in a so-called “unjust war.” They saw alcohol as a means of relief from the pain and trauma.

Living in fear, being driven by fears, can be debilitating--but Jesus, through the presence of His Spirit, can bring healing and freedom to fearful people. He can make the reality of His presence with us so real and practical that we can confidently know that we

know that through Him we can handle the affairs of life. He can minister His wisdom and love to us in such a way that we begin to see life from His perspective, and to live by the truth of His being identified with us in each situation.

The healing presence of the Comforter--The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sends to us--can heal the wounds we have suffered deep in our spirit. The life of the Holy Spirit can lift the hurt, pain, and trauma from our spirit and resurrect our wounded, or slumbering, or fearful spirit. Jesus came to bring life to our spirit. Through prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, these inner wounds can be revealed, exposed, brought to Christ, and healed by His Word and/or His Presence.

As we pray for one another, using the admonition of James 5:16, 1 Peter 5:7, and Matthew 11:29, we bring our cares, hurts, and anxieties to Christ and let His Spirit minister His love, comfort, and peace to our inner being. These strongholds of fear, anxiety, loneliness, hopelessness, etc. can be broken down as the reality of God's Word and Presence are manifested by the Holy Spirit.

Specific prayer for healing is not the only way the inner wounds can be healed. Often healing can and does occur through the preaching of God's Word, through times of meditation on God's Word, or even in times of worship or focus on the majesty of God. God's Presence can result in His healing our wounds. As we focus on Him, He often brings comfort and healing to the wounded areas of our spirit.

As we pray for others, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit to guide us through the Word, we will often receive visions and mental pictures that the Lord will use to bring healing to people. Sometimes people will see Jesus extending His hand to them, or they might receive an impression in their mind of Jesus reminding them, "I was there." These images can be helpful in portraying visually a message the Spirit wants to impart to the one we are praying for. However, we don't need to have received a mental picture in order for

the person to be healed, nor should we attempt to create a picture with our own imagination. The mental picture does not bring healing. Healing comes through the Holy Spirit, Who might bring revelation through a picture, an impression, a Bible passage, a simple word or phrase, or in a myriad of other creative ways..

Seeing Jesus carrying out or reminding us of one of the truths of Scripture, such as His loving the children, taking our sins upon Himself, comforting the outcasts, healing the sick, etc., can be an effective way for the Holy Spirit to encourage us to "think on these things" (Philippians 4:10). Our imaginations are just another tool the Holy Spirit can use, as He uses our hands, our minds, or our tongues to bless and to minister healing to others.

Some of the verses and principles that can be helpful in ministering life and healing to people include the following:

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

(Proverbs 12:25 NKJ)

People who are depressed because of worry can be relieved through a good word received from the Holy Spirit. They can let the reality of God's love and healing Presence penetrate the places of their heart where anxiety has been given a foothold. The Holy Spirit will often bring these events of anxiety to our conscious minds so that we can now bring the worry to Jesus, meditate on the reality of God's Presence with us during these stressful events, and let His comfort and peace replace the anxiety.

Some carry anxiety because they have tried to fix things that were beyond their ability to repair. For example, children will try to keep their parents from fighting, often feeling responsible for maintaining peace in the home. They continually "walk on eggshells" in an attempt to keep things peaceful. Some will try to come between parents who are physically abusive to each other; others run and hide in fear when stressful situations arise. In adulthood, these same children might feel depressed when

difficulties arise in the family. Their deeply entrenched anxieties will surface in stressful situations and they will resort to trying to hold it in; often depression results.

The Holy Spirit will reveal the truth, that God is able to help us and direct us in stressful situations. We can trust in the revelation and comfort of the Spirit of God, enabling us to be at peace even amidst the pressures of life. We can bring the buried anxieties and stresses to Christ when they are revealed, and we can receive the new “Spirit-inspired” responses. We can then live in and show forth the peace of God.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

(Proverbs 13:12 KJV)

Some who have been disappointed through broken dreams or broken promises, can be rejuvenated through a word of hope the Holy Spirit speaks to them. Those places of disappointment can now be seen through the reality of God’s light.

As we meditate on God’s Word, His promises, and His plans and purposes for us, we can keep the events of life in proper perspective. Broken promises or unfulfilled dreams no longer seem so tragic when we view them through the perspective of our life with God. His relationship with us is eternal. Broken promises can increase our reliance upon Jesus as our Source of trust. His peace can remind us that God is able to work all things for our good, as He conforms us to the likeness of Christ. His Presence will remind us that God is faithful and He will fulfill all His promises to us through Christ.

Often people who have feared the lack of food, finances, mental abilities, etc., hope for some miraculous outcome to enable them to get over their lack. They put their hope in some drastic change in their circumstances. Sometimes God does provide dramatic and sudden changes in us or in our circumstances. More often, He provides the ability to change circumstances over a period of time, teaching

us to trust in Him and in His ability to bring us through the seemingly impossible situations. Our hope then becomes centered in God and in His abilities and promises, rather than in our new circumstances. When God works over time, we find ourselves learning to focus on Him, rather than on our circumstances. Our hope comes alive when He becomes its Center.

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones. (Proverbs 14:30 KJV)

Some might have physical problems in their bones because of envy or covetousness. People who are unaware of the spiritual dimension of life will often feel insecure with their level of material possessions, or with their natural abilities and talents. They will then be jealous of the provisions and abilities of others.

They have not known the riches of spiritual blessings and abilities we can receive through Christ. They miss receiving the wisdom, comfort, peace, joy and complete satisfaction we can have through the blessings of God imparted to us through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit can reveal this and bring to us the grace to forgive, repent, and put our trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit will remind us of God’s bountiful provision and plan for us. He will keep us focused on the fullness of Christ’s character and of His peace and joy. He will impart to us the life and the nature of Christ so that we live above the lusts of our flesh and of the ways of this world. Jesus’ victory over these things will become a reality to us, freeing us from the lusts of the world.

People who feel they have been rejected or unwanted are often envious. They seek the acceptance, provision or situations of others, because they feel such a void within.

The truth is that *God* has not rejected us. While we were still angry and enemies of God, He chose to love us. The *reality* of His Word and His Presence needs to replace the *feelings* of rejection or low self-worth we have taken in in response to the actions of others--or to our perceptions of their actions.

As we meditate on His Word, on His acceptance, and on His Presence with us, the Holy Spirit will manifest to our inner being the truth of our acceptance in Christ. We can then focus on what God has for us and come out of the envious ways of our old nature. We can learn to live focused on the spiritual blessings of our heavenly kingdom, and the world's ways of covetousness and envy can be destroyed.

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

(Proverbs 23:29-30 KJV)

The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.

(Proverbs 15:30 KJV)

" Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29 KJV)

The sin of drunkenness can have devastating effects on a person and his or her family. But the Holy Spirit can bring conviction, repentance, forgiveness, healing, and complete freedom to the person and the family members.

Jesus can free. Jesus can heal. He can give freedom and rest to the alcoholic and to the partier, and healing to their families.

Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. (Psalm 10:14 KJV)

Many have been raised in homes in which the father was non-functional or absent. The Holy Spirit will bring God's comfort, help, and power to them, as they learn to trust God and to forgive.

I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. (Psalm 16:7-9 KJV)

Some who have felt abandoned or alone can experience the love of God as the Holy Spirit reminds them that God will speak to them. As they learn to keep focused on Him, they can become stable and find joy in the Lord.

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. (Psalm 34:18 KJV)

Those who have been broken through the loss of a loved one or by other devastations of life can receive life as the Holy Spirit imparts the reality of God's love and everlasting Presence to them.

My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. (Psalm 55:4,5 KJV)

People can have deep fears and be living in trauma because of near-death experiences. Times of extreme horror or loss can have devastating effects on our inner being. Some have even been institutionalized because of these events. BUT GOD through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and through His Word can bring peace, life, and restoration to these people as they learn to hear His voice, to trust in Him, and to let the Holy Spirit minister to them.

I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee. (Psalm 41:4 KJV)

People can have deep pain within because of unconfessed sin, or other guilt that has come upon them. The Holy Spirit can reveal

these pockets of pain, unconfessed sin, etc. and impart His healing and restoration.

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
(Proverbs 16:24 KJV)

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
(Psalm 107:20 KJV)

God's Word, spoken through His Spirit, can bring healing and deliverance to those needing to be freed from fears, addictions, etc..

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
(Proverbs 15:4 KJV)

Some have been victimized by ill-spoken words of parents, authority figures, peers, or spouses. The Holy Spirit can bring God's Word of comfort and truth to replace the words of perversion. Healing, forgiveness, and life are the results of God's Word. He is able to overcome the words of men or of Satan.

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.
(Proverbs 15:13 KJV)

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?
(Proverbs 18:14 KJV)

Some are unable to handle the affairs or problems of life because of the sorrows they have experienced. The Holy Spirit can heal their hurts and bring them into restoration and functioning as a child of God.

Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.
(Proverbs 20:20 KJV)

The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.
(Proverbs 20:27 KJV)

Some feel estranged from God, or are unable to hear from Him, because of bitterness or resentment they still carry toward their parents. The Holy Spirit will reveal these things, enable them to forgive, and bring healing to the person. When applicable, He will enable them to bring restoration to the relationship as well.

The above examples show some of the areas and potential results of the healing power of the Holy Spirit. God desires and promises to heal the brokenhearted and to restore us to His plan and purposes. Healing the wounds in our spirit is but one of the ways He accomplishes this, but a very effective and powerful one.

Some Steps for Receiving and Ministering Healing of Our Spirit

1. Meditate on the Bible passages cited in the previous section.
2. Seek the revelation of the Holy Spirit for a particular area of ministry - fear, rejection, bitterness, etc.
3. Let the Holy Spirit help you to recall a specific event in your life when this particular feeling or characteristic was present.
4. Let the Holy Spirit bring you the truth of this situation. Your memory might recall only the negative part of this event. The Holy Spirit will also remind you of the Presence and comfort of God available to you at that time.
5. Release to Jesus any pain, bitterness, or other negative things you took into your spirit, remembering His call to "cast all your cares on Him."
6. Receive His life, His Word, or His thought or image He might convey to you. (We are not changing what happened, but we are letting the reality of Christ's Presence affect *our reaction* to what happened.)

7. Reflect on what Jesus is bringing you. Receive His Word for you into all of your being.

8. Thank God that He knows your need and that He is able to bring you the truth of His love in your time of need.

9. Look for ways in which you can share with others in similar circumstances the comfort and revelation God has given you. As you do this you will realize that God is able to heal you of the wounds Satan has attempted to use for your destruction, and that He will bless others through your experience.

II. Suggestions for Dealing with Specific Issues

In this section we are identifying particular areas that need ministry. The suggested procedure, as summarized in the previous discussion on dealing with spiritual wounds, is to invite the reality of Jesus' Presence and truth into the area of need and to release to Him the wounds or traumas that we have received into our inner being. We can invite Jesus into the area of our heart where the wound or sin is located (Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 139:23; Revelation 2:20), and ask Him to take the wound on Himself (Matthew 8:16-17) and to replace the wound with His truth (Psalm 51:6).

We can help people know the reality of David's declaration:

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

(Psalm 51:6-8 KJV)

The Holy Spirit will reveal specifically how to pray for and minister truth to those who come to you for prayer. In the following discussions, we are only giving some suggestions on how to begin praying for particular needs. Remember: **we are not trying to get the person to attempt in his**

own strength to apply Biblical principles. This puts him under legalism. Rather we are seeking to speak to the person a "word" from God, given to us by the Holy Spirit.

When we speak a word from the Spirit of God, the same Spirit who gave us the word will also give to the person the ability to hear, receive, and act on that word. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will minister the needed "word" directly to the person as the reality of Jesus' Presence comes into the wounded or needy part of the heart.

Anxiety/fear

People who are plagued by anxiety or fear can be released as they allow the reality of Jesus' Presence to come into the area of their heart where the wound exists. As they invite Him into these areas, and receive the peace and other revelations of His Spirit, the truth begins to take root. Then they are able to release the fear, etc., and to let the peace and/or love of God come into this place.

Sometimes particular events will come to mind which have been the root cause of the wound. In that case, help the person to release to Jesus the negative emotions associated with the circumstance, and to see, know, and receive the reality of the care and love of Jesus for them at that time. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, wants to impart His peace to us, enabling us to participate in the Peace that He Is.

The person might question why God allowed this to happen, and we might not be able to give them a "reason." We do know that evil exists, and that God will ultimately deal justly with all evil. We do know that God will work all things for His better purpose, to conform us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29). We do know that God is willing to share in our sufferings, and to give us an abundance of comfort so that we can comfort others with the comfort He has given us (2 Corinthians 1:2-4).

Some of the Scriptural principles to remember in dealing with fear and anxiety are:

...casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. (1 Peter 5:7 KJV)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 KJV)

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:....(1 John 4:18 KJV)

Depression

People can be overburdened with the cares of life, causing depression. People can be weighed down with guilt and shame, causing depression. People can have deep anger or resentments which they are “holding in,” causing depression. People can feel hopeless about life or their circumstances, causing depression. These and other reasons, some of which are physical, can cause depression.

God is a joyful God. He has joy, even in the face of our rebelliousness. He is looking beyond our present state and sees the end from the beginning. He has a plan to bring all things under the dominion and rule of Jesus. He knows His ability to accomplish His plan and purpose for us and for the world. He has provided the answer to us and for us in what Jesus has done and in what He is able to do for us.

- We can pray for the joy of Christ to come into the places of the heart where depression persists.
- We can help the person bring the cares of life to Jesus, and pray that His perspective on life be released into the heart of the depressed person. Encourage him to “see” God on His throne, reigning in glory--not

only over the universe but also in the lives of His children.

- We can help the person to release to Jesus any responsibilities he carries unnecessarily. For example, the person may feel a need to “fix” all problems of the people around him. Help him to release to Jesus the responsibility of being the Savior of the world, and to give to Him the burdens of others which he has been carrying. Help him to see that his task is to help the person in need bring his problems to Jesus--not to solve his problems for him or to carry his burdens through life for him.
- We can lead the person to repent of and bring to Jesus any deep-seated hurt, anger or bitterness they have carried. We can pray for forgiveness to be released into their lives. [See notes for Section C, Parts I & II, for detailed suggestions.]
- We can pray for God’s perspective and plan to be revealed to the depressed person.
- In short, we are encouraging and praying that the depressed person receive and enter into the joy which the Lord has and which He wants to impart to His people.
- We can encourage the person to thank God in the midst of the problem, trusting Him to work good out of it. One of the keys is, “God is with you. He’s here to help you and to enable you to come out of your place of depression into His joy.”

Some Scriptural principles to remember in dealing with depressed people are:

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad. (Proverbs 12:25 KJV)

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10 KJV)

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (Philippians 4:4-5 KJV)

Bitterness

God wants us to know and appreciate Him and His ways and provision for us. He calls us to have joy in His plan. Some people have failed to know or search for and experience God's grace in their circumstances, and therefore they have become bitter. David prays, "Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation" (Psalm 51:12 NKJ).

People who live in bitterness have often been plagued with difficulties that are beyond their own abilities to deal with; thus they have been overwhelmed. The bitterness they develop causes them to embitter others..

But God has grace (Divine power at work in their hearts) for them. He can free those in bondage to bitterness. He can give them His perspective and joy. He has grace to give so that people will learn to *rely on* His grace. He can give us the ability not only to cope, but also to rise above our circumstances and to see things from His perspective.

As we let the reality of Jesus' love and Presence into our pockets of bitterness, we will be able to repent of having harbored resentments and bitterness, give these things (along with the hurts causing them) to Jesus, and receive God's grace to rejoice in Him. Because of Who God is and Who He wants to be *in us*, we can have joy even in difficult or seemingly impossible circumstances.

Some Scriptural principles to remember:

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;
(Hebrews 12:15 KJV)

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. (2 Thessalonians 3:3 KJV)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
(1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV)

And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.
(John 1:16 KJV)

... they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
(Romans 5:17 KJV)

Apathy

God is excited about bringing all things under the dominion and rule of Jesus. He has a zeal to see His people knowing and worshiping Him. Jesus had a zeal for accomplishing the things of God. He overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple because He was consumed with zeal for His Father's house (John 2:17). God desires that we too have a zeal for His work and His ways. He is able to impart this into us through His Spirit.

Some are apathetic to the ways of God. They may have lost their zeal, or they may never have had it, because of having lived in an environment in which emotions were never displayed or were even frowned upon. Jesus came to baptize us with the *Holy Spirit* and with *fire*. He can give us a zeal for the things of God--His zeal.

We can help those who are apathetic, to be filled with the Holy Spirit of fire. We can pray that they will receive the gift of repentance for their apathy; that they will let Jesus and His zeal into their emotions; that they will receive from Him the ability to worship God with *all* of their being, emotions included. As we come to Him for it, God will fill us with *His* zeal. He warns us that He will spew out of His mouth those who are apathetic. He says to those who are lukewarm, "Be zealous and repent." He is faithful to empower us to do that which He commands us.

Some Scriptural principles to remember:

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth

even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7 KJV)

" Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury." (Zechariah 8:2 KJV)

... Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

(Titus 2:14 KJV)

" So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ...As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Rev. 3:16,19 KJV)

Hatred

God calls us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Sometimes people cannot seem to let go of their hatred. Through Jesus we can receive the ability to forgive. He is both our Source and our Model, as He prayed that His Father would forgive those who crucified Him.

[See the section on Forgiveness for more on this subject.]

Confusion

We become confused when our minds become fragmented. We become "scatter-brained" when we have many masters or many idols or many arenas we are trying to live in. We become unstable when our minds are focused on multiple or conflicting ideologies.

Sometimes people create an imaginary world because the real world seems too difficult to cope with. Sometimes people feel inadequate and escape through their minds or imaginations into a place where they feel loved or where life is less stressful or where things go their way. If they spent much time in these imagined habitations, their minds become confused as to what is real and what is imaginary. Sometimes people have had traumatic experiences with death, or with war. Because they are unable to deal with the reality of what has happened or what they have done, their minds become confused. .

Sometimes demonic spirits inhabit some of these imaginations.

People who have dealt with spirit guides from satanic sources often become confused. Satan, himself a liar and the father of lies, is the author of confusion.

Jesus came to deliver those who come to Him. He came to renew our minds so that we could be like-minded with Him. He came to restore us to God's purposes and to deliver us from the things that have ensnared our minds. The healing of the confused person can take some time. The confused person needs to let the life of Jesus come into him, giving him a sense of peace and rest, so that he knows it's safe to be himself and to live in reality. We need to help him come out of the imaginary places into the reality of living in the Presence of God. We can offer hope that, with the reality of Jesus' Presence and of His forgiveness and healing power, the confused person can face the traumatic events he has been through.

Jesus said that if we continue to receive and live in His Word--in what He through the Holy Spirit is saying--we will know and experience the truth of God's love, His care and His provision for us to live as His child in the real world. The fears, traumas, shame, and lies the person has believed and received can be removed, and those who have lived in confusion can realize and express the reality of Christ living with and in them. The Bible says that we can live in peace if our minds are centered upon God. Through Jesus this can be a reality.

God calls us to live as priests, serving Him in His kingdom. To those who live as His priests He promises: "For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double; everlasting joy shall be unto them." (Isaiah 61:7 KJV)

Some Scriptural Principles for Meditation:

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (James 3:16 KJV)

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (Luke 1:51 KJV)

They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together that are makers of idols. But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

(Isaiah 45:16-17 KJV)

But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion:.... (Isaiah.61:6-7 KJV)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(Isaiah 26:3 KJV)

Loneliness

[See discussion on abandonment in the next section.]

Inferiority / Putting things off / Perfectionism / Rationalizing

The person living in inferiority typically feels that others are better than he is, that the tasks of life demand more than he has, and that he will never be able to measure up to his or others' expectations of him. He typically is self-focused, concentrating on his inadequacies rather than on the promises or abilities of God working in him. He needs to know his identity in Christ and all God has for him in that relationship.

The person putting things off often does this to compensate for feelings of inadequacy, feeling that if he doesn't finish a task he cannot be criticized for doing it poorly. Indecision about the best way to complete the task might also contribute to this behavior.. Once again, finding and realizing their identity in Christ can bring healing to these people.

The person living in perfectionism is making demands on himself such that he is

destined to fail. He knows he cannot live up to his self-imposed standards. He often seems to enjoy having others expect perfection of him. Perfectionism and inferiority are often opposite sides of the same personality. The person is beating himself up for his lack of perfection, or he is finding his needs for attention met through focusing on inadequacies. In both instances, a major need is to find God's acceptance in the midst of inadequacies, to identify with God's promises to give the strength needed to accomplish His tasks, and to know His commitment to accomplishing His purposes in and through the person.

The person continually rationalizing his own aberrant behavior often needs to rest in the truth that without Christ we can do nothing, but with Him we can do all things. We do not need to make excuses for our sins, but rather we can confess them, receive forgiveness, and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to do what God has asked of us.

Many self-help groups or 12-step programs call sinful behavior like drunkenness a disease, rather than a sin. In this light they use phrases like, "I was born with this defect," to excuse their behavior. We were all born with a sinful nature. However, in Christ we can be forgiven and receive the grace to overcome our sinful desires and actions. In Christ, we have no excuse for sinful behavior, since He promises us the power to overcome it. In Christ we can confess our sins; if we have explained away our sins rather than bringing them to the cross of Jesus, we will live in the guilt that they bring. If we confess them to Him and repent of them, we can be set free from their influence and power in our lives.

When praying for people with the problems listed above, help them **find their identity in Christ**. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give them revelation of their identity in Christ. Pray that they will lose themselves in Christ. "In Christ" means that I am focusing on Him--on His desires, His will, His life. I

am letting His life come into me and become my life. "In Christ" means I am focusing on releasing the life and nature of Christ, Who lives in me, into all of my being and then into all my circumstances. When I am truly living "In Christ," I have no room for the problems listed above.

Some Scriptural Principles for Meditation:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Colossians 1:13 KJV)

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31 KJV)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2 KJV)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (Ephesians 1:3 KJV)

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13 KJV)

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13 KJV)

Pride

People caught in the grip of pride might find the preceding section helpful, as things like inferiority are often the flip side of pride. Many have said that pride is the basic sin of man, in that it describes the basic flaw in the nature of Satan. People in the grip of pride

often say "I can do it," "Look at me," "I have the answer."

Jesus showed us humility. He lived a life dependent upon the leading of His Father. He said, "I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29), and "the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do" (John 5:19). He lived dependent upon the Holy Spirit for direction and power (John 14:10; Hebrews 9:14).

In His mercy, God will teach us to trust in and rely on Him, living in close communion with Him. He will break us of our pride and self-will. He will lead us to cry out to Him for deliverance. He will, when asked, give us the Spirit of Christ, developing in us the life and nature of Christ. He will lead us to seek deliverance from the ways and nature of Satan.

When praying for someone who has admitted to the bondage of pride, remember that his first act of humility was to recognize and confess the sin of pride. Commend him for this. Pray that God will reveal the roots of pride and of the need to receive honor from people. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help him to find his identity in Christ and to come to the realization that in his flesh dwells no good thing.

We can have pride in our mental abilities, in our physical appearance, in our race, sex, family name, denomination or nationality. Pray that each of these works of pride will be confessed and destroyed through Jesus' blood. Pray that we all will receive and walk in the humility Jesus offers us in Him.

Some Scriptural Principles for Meditation:

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5 KJV)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: ... (Romans 7:18 KJV)

... we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (Ephesians 2:3-5 KJV)

... put off concerning the former conversation [conduct] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24 KJV, brackets added)

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31 KJV)

Criticalness of others

Those who feel inferior often criticize others. See the above suggestions for dealing with inferiority, in praying for people in bondage to this behavior. Pray that they can see the plan of God for those they are criticizing. Help them to forgive those who have criticized them. God sees us as we are going to be. He calls us “saints.” Pray that the Spirit of God will help those who live in a state of criticalness, to come more deeply into Christ.

Some Scriptural Principles for Meditation:

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. (Proverbs 11:13 KJV)

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. (2 Corinthians 5:15-16 KJV)

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8 KJV)

Verbal abuse or teasing

The word God speaks has power! The words God spoke at the time of creation brought forth the world (Psalm 33:6). Jesus healed people through the words He spoke. The Spirit of God empowered the words Jesus spoke and they brought life and healing to the sick (Luke 7:7). The words we speak can also have power when we speak God’s words under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, we can receive words spoken by another human being who might be under the influence of another spirit. We ourselves can speak words that might damage the spirit of another when we are under the influence of anger, wrath, jealousy, and the like. Peter at one moment spoke a word from God to Jesus, acknowledging Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:17). The next moment Jesus told Satan to stop using Peter to distract Him from going to the cross (Matthew 16:23). On another occasion, Jesus told His disciples that they did not know what kind of a spirit they were of (Luke 9:55).

The Bible has warnings and admonitions concerning the words we speak, and concerning the words that have been spoken to us. Our tongues can be used to bless, and our tongues can be used to curse. Our first task in receiving healing from verbal abuse and teasing is to ask God to forgive us for the ways in which we have hurt others by the words we have spoken. We should ask God to cleanse our tongues. We should pray that God will heal those we have hurt with angry or unkind words. We need then to offer our tongues as instruments of God’s to bring His blessings to others. The Bible says:

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. (Psalm 34:13 KJV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (Proverbs 18:21 KJV)

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. (Proverbs 21:23 KJV)

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. (James 3:8-10 KJV)

After asking God to forgive us, we can then ask Him to heal us from the effects of abusive, unkind or angry words that have been spoken to us. We can forgive those who have hurt us and bring the hurt or the wounds in our spirit to Jesus. The Bible says:

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. (Proverbs 12:18 KJV)

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4 KJV)

As we bring the wounds to Christ, we can trust that He will speak His word of life, comfort, encouragement and edification to us. This might come directly to us or to those we are praying with, or they might be brought forth through a prophetic word, or a vision or visual picture might be given. The point is, the Word of God will bring forth the life of God into the particular area we are ministering into. He will, at times, use us to speak His word of life to others. The Bible says:

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:5-6 KJV)

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. (Proverbs 12:18 KJV)

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. (Isaiah 50:4 KJV)

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. (Psalm 107:20 KJV)

As we receive life from the Word of God, written by Him, spoken by Him directly to us, or spoken by Him to us through others, we will know that God knows the wounds in our heart, and that He is able to speak life and truth into those wounded areas. We will know that He will bring forth His plan and purposes for us through His Word. We will be encouraged to memorize and meditate on His Word and to seek to minister it to others. The Bible says:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11 KJV)

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3 KJV)

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32 KJV)

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. (Isaiah 50:4 KJV)

As we let God's Word overcome the wounds caused by verbal abuse and teasing, we will be able to live in the security of God, and no longer fear the words of men or the words of Satan through men. We will also be able to help others who have been wounded, to come into the experience of the power of the Word of God in the lives of His people. The Bible says:

No weapon that is formed against thee shall

prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

(Isaiah 54:17 KJV)

As you minister the reality and power of God's Word to others, pray that the Holy Spirit will continually give life to the word that you have given them. Trust God to use you to bless others with His Word as He has blessed you. One of the blessings God works out of our having been abused is that we are then able to understand and minister God's healing to others who have been abused. Jesus modeled this also. The Bible says:

Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. (Psalm 119:38 KJV)

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (Psalm 119:50 KJV)

Who [God] comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Corinthians 1:4 KJV brackets added)

Steps to Healing of Verbal Abuse

1. Ask God for forgiveness for any ways in which your words have hurt others.
2. Pray for healing for those who have been hurt by your words.
3. Ask God to cleanse your tongue, and offer it to the Lord as an instrument of blessing for others.
4. Pray that you would be healed from the effects of abusive words.
5. Forgive those who have hurt you in this way. (Receive Jesus' ability to forgive. If necessary, ask Jesus for the *willingness* to forgive the person.)

6. Bring the wounds and the pain to Jesus, remembering that He suffered and died for our griefs and sorrows.

7. Ask the Lord to minister His Word of healing, life, comfort, and truth to your heart.

8. Meditate on portions of Scripture that speak to your vulnerable areas.

9. Be prepared to be used as a vessel of healing for others.

Sexual and/or Physical Abuse

People who have been abused often feel they are just helpless victims of their circumstances. Certainly, innocent children who have suffered abuse were unable to prevent what happened. However, we do not have to let the effects of the abuse continue to hold us in bondage to fear, hopelessness, anger, bitterness, or abusiveness.

We can receive Jesus' ability to forgive the abuser, release the effects of the abuse to Jesus, receive His comfort, bring His judgment to those who have abused, and declare His wrath to the spiritual forces that have used others to abuse us.

As you minister to one who has suffered abuse, recognize and acknowledge the gravity of what happened to the person. God did not create them to be abused; in fact, God loves us so much that He bruised His Son so that He would not have to punish us.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (Isaiah 53:10 KJV)

Empathize with their pain; Jesus had compassion for the multitude. He knows what it's like to be abused, and He wants to impart to us His compassion for the person.

God wants to carry the pain of His people.

The Bible says:

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

(Matthew 8:16-17 KJV)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (Luke 4:18 KJV)

Help them to release any guilt, shame or other results of the situation they have been through. Often people will feel, "It's my fault," or, "I deserved this," or, "I shouldn't have enjoyed this," or other lies. Help them to cast ALL their care on Jesus, reminding them that He wants them to serve Him; He calls them part of His holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

Help them to forgive the abuser and to pray for him/her, knowing that the abuser will have to answer to God for what he has done.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

(Romans 12:19 KJV)

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (Matthew 5:44 KJV)

Help them to look beyond the abuser, and to see if a spirit of abuse has been using the abuser to abuse others. Look for a pattern of abuse that may have been present in the generations of the abuser, or for a pattern of "being abused" that may be present in the generations of the "abusee." (See the section on generational sins for help in ministering in these situations.)

Help them to see that as they allow the Lord to minister to them, they will be able to help others who have been abused. They can use what Satan meant for evil and for their destruction, for the good of advancing God's kingdom. See Jesus as the example of One

who has done this.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.(2 Cor 1:3-4 KJV)

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:6KJV)

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)

Steps to Healing of Physical or Sexual Abuse

1. Remember that Jesus feels your hurt, understands your emotions, and wants to fill you with His comfort. On the cross, He took upon Himself all your anguish; He is waiting for you to release it to Him.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the effects of the abuse (i.e., pain, guilt, shame, anger, fear, hatred, need to control, distrust of others, etc.). One by one, release these things to Jesus.
3. See Jesus taking these things upon Himself on the cross as you release them to Him.
4. Receive the comforting Presence of the Lord in the wounded parts of your heart. Ask Him to minister healing to you; receive any words, pictures, impressions, etc., that He gives to you.
5. Thank Him for what He has done & is doing.
6. See Jesus on the cross also for the abuser, and receive the ability of Jesus to forgive that person. As you receive Jesus' forgiveness for the abuser, extend that forgiveness to the person. (You may need to start with asking the Lord for the willingness to forgive, or the willingness to be made willing.)

7. Pray for the abuser--that he/she would repent of sin and bring it to Jesus, receive His truth and live in His righteousness.

8. Ask the Lord to reveal any patterns of abuse in the generations of the abuser and/or the abused. (See Generational Sin Patterns, Section B-3, for dealing with this.)

9. Declare God's wrath and vengeance upon the spirits of abuse that have afflicted you. Proclaim the end of their activity in your life and that of your family.

10. Ask the Holy Spirit to use you to help other abused people to bring their pain to Jesus.

Abandonment or Rejection

God has an eternal purpose for us. He has not abandoned us or His creation, nor has He abandoned His plan and purposes for us. He wants us to know and to be like His Son. His purpose is that through His Son we would know Him as our loving Father. He has created us to be receptors of His life, His nature, and His character. He has a plan for each of us, and He has things for us to do for Him on this earth. He designed this plan before the foundations of the world--before Satan existed. The Bible says:

According as he hath chosen us in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
(Ephesians 1:4 KJV, brackets added)

Who [God] hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2 Timothy 1:9 KJV, brackets added)

Satan and the fallen angels have abandoned God's purposes for them. They are the ones who encourage and entice others to abandon God's will as they did. The Bible says:

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but

left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6 KJV)

Like Satan, we have all abandoned God (Isaiah 53:6). We have wanted to do our own thing, living to please ourselves, rather than seeking God's will and direction for our lives (2 Corinthians 5:15). When we abandon God, as Satan did, we feel abandoned, as Satan does. Satan knows he will end up in hell--a place where God is not--abandoned by God. He feels abandoned. Our Satan-like nature--our old nature, our flesh--also feels abandoned.

Some who feel abandoned by God, abandon themselves, wishing they were someone else. They may wish they had a body like that of another person. They may feel their body is the wrong size, their face not attractive enough, or they are in some other way not acceptable. These feelings cause them to imagine themselves to be like another. Some wish they were in another family. They may have been rejected by parents and wish they had other parents. They abandon God's purpose for them and the grace He has for them to cope with life in the body or in the family He has prepared for them.

We need God's grace to accept ourselves. We need grace to accept our parents. We need to recognize God's Presence with us. David experienced the Holy Spirit's revelation that God had always been with him, even in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:15). This caused him to praise God for his body (Psalm 139:17). When He came into the world, Jesus thanked God for the body He had given Him (Hebrews 10:9). Even though His parents didn't understand His mission, He honored them (Luke 2:49-51).

Sometimes others will abandon us. In these times we need to know all the truth. The truth is that even if our parents abandon us, the Lord will be with us and will encourage us (Psalm 27:10).

We need to rely upon God's revelation of His Presence and His grace. If we fail to know or to receive His grace in these difficult

situations, we become bitter (Hebrews 12:14). *Feeling* abandoned, we tell ourselves we *have been* abandoned. We then abandon our real self, compromising our morals or our ideas and adopting the ways of others in order to be accepted. This only compounds the problem, as we have now let Satan and his lies lead us further away from the truth.

HOWEVER--Jesus came to seek us, to find us, and to save us! He came to meet us in the places we have wandered and to show us His love in those places. He came to bring us back to our "real self." He came to heal the wounds we have received, to forgive us for our bitterness, and to restore us to His ways of knowing and living for Him.

In praying for those who have been oppressed by abandonment, or who are unable to accept themselves, we need to pray that they can receive the truth of God's eternal purpose and love for them. We need to help them to receive the truth that God accepted them when they let Jesus be their Savior. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will help them release their hurt and bitterness to Christ, allowing the love and Presence of Jesus to occupy this area of their heart. Finally, help them to thank God for Jesus and His ways. Help them to thank God for their body, for their family, and for His grace which is sufficient to bring us all that the "normal" provisions of life cannot. His grace will bring to us the things which we need, which others did not, would not, or could not bring to us.

Our primary need is God--to know Him, to let Him live in and through us, and to share His life with others. No one but Jesus can bring these things to us, and HE HAS NOT AND WILL NOT ABANDON US!!!!

Steps in Praying about Abandonment or Rejection

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to impart the truth that God has loved him/her and has had a purpose for him from all eternity.

2. Pray for grace to receive the reality that when the person received Jesus as Savior, God accepted him/her.

3. Release all hurt, bitterness, disappointment, etc. to Jesus.

4. Invite Jesus to occupy these areas of the heart, bringing His acceptance, love and peace.

5. Thank God for His love and acceptance in Jesus.

6. Thank God for the body and the family He has provided, and for His grace which He makes abundantly available to His people.

Nightmares, Visions, Premonitions

One source of dreams, visions and spiritual intuitions is God, and we welcome His communicating with us in these ways. Another source, however, is Satan and His demonic followers. Satan can harass or torment us with fearful or traumatic dreams, visions and premonitions.

These things can occur because we have taken into our imagination pictures of evil or of fearful events. Children can have nightmares after having viewed scary movies. The Bible warns us not to deliberately look upon evil (Isaiah 33:15; Ephesians 5:11). The Bible also warns us not to dabble in the things of the occult or in foreign religions. Those who subject themselves to such things experience abnormal fears and levels of confusion. [See the section on the occult for more information.]

When praying for people who are traumatized in these ways, help them to let Jesus bring His peace into this area of their heart. You might have to speak directly to the evil presence, commanding that it leave, never to return. After bringing the reality of Jesus' peace into the area of the person's heart, lead them to confess any sinful action such as watching horror movies, or reading stories of magic or fairy tales, etc. Ask God to cleanse

their imaginations according to Romans 6:13 and dedicate the imagination to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Nightmares can also be caused by a traumatic event. [If this is the case, follow the applicable portions of “Steps for Receiving & Ministering Healing of Our Spirit,” on pages C-8-9.]

Some Scriptural Principles to Remember:

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

(Romans 6:13 KJV)

The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing. (Deuteronomy 7:25-26 KJV)

They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together that are makers of idols. (Isaiah 45:16 KJV)

Nagging thoughts; Hearing voices

God’s promise under the new covenant is to write His ways in our heart and mind. God speaks to our heart. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice.” Satan also seeks to torment people with his thoughts and his words. Spirits from his realm can oppress people by bringing nagging thoughts or words to them.

People with these problems are not necessarily demonized. They do not, generally, need a host of demons cast out. Rather, we can encourage them to surrender their minds to Jesus and to surrender their “hearing” capabilities to the control of the Holy Spirit. We can help them to take authority over their minds and their spiritual hearing abilities, to dedicate these faculties to the will of God, and to command such “mountains” as repetitive thought patterns and

plaguing inner voices to stop and to be removed. Jesus told us to speak to these mountains, that they would be cast away from us.

We need to be sensitive to the needs of people tormented in these ways. We can seek revelation from God as to ways in which they have allowed unwanted thoughts to enter their minds.

For example, some who have been plagued with thoughts of lust or fear have previously taken such thoughts into themselves through watching horror movies, or through reading fairy tales or stories of witches, goblins, etc.. Some have been plagued as a result of participating in activities during childhood halloween celebrations, or through seemingly “innocent games” like table-lifting, divination, etc.. Some have been tormented in this way because of objects such as false gods or “good luck” charms they have with them or in their homes. [See the section on false gods and cleansing the home, for more information.] Some who have been abused have sought to hide in an imaginary world, where they have felt safe, and now they are communicating with this realm.

People with problems of hearing voices, or with multiple personalities, have often become disjointed within themselves. God can help them come out of the pits into which they have fallen, or out of the caves in which they have hidden. In the safety of God’s Presence, they can find peace, comfort, and rest. This can take time and patience on the part of those called to minister to such people. Professionals can help in the severe cases.

Steps in Praying for those Hearing Voices or having Tormenting Thoughts

1. Help them to bring Christ into all of their being--their spirit, mind, will, feelings, imagination, etc..
2. Pray that the peace of Jesus will fill them.
3. Help the person to release any fear, anxiety, etc. to Jesus, allowing the peace of God to fill those places.

4. Help them to use their *mind* to think on things of God.
5. Help them to use their *imagination*s to focus on things of God.
6. Help them to use their *inner sensing* abilities to sense the things of God.
7. Help them to use their *inner hearing* capabilities to hear or discern the voice of God.
8. The best way to do the above is to help them to focus on Bible stories or Biblical principles. As they focus on God's Word, help them to use *all* of their faculties to understand and meditate on what the Lord is bringing them through His Word.
9. Pray that the Holy Spirit will impart to them *all* the truths of God's Word into *all* of their being.

Superstitions

God promises to bless and to take care of His people (Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 91:11). He tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you" (Isaiah 42:10). Some people who are superstitious or who resort to good luck charms are unable to grasp these truths. Often it is because they have allowed Satan to sow other words or ideas into their spirit. They may have watched fairy tales or horror movies that have sown fear into their mind or imagination. They may have watched programs that glamorize witchcraft or other things of the occult.

Satan is tormented by God's Presence. He knows that his time before his eternal torment is limited; even though he might want to deny or ignore this truth, when he is confronted with the Presence of God he can't escape the truth.

Similarly, if we have given ground to Satan by participating in his activities or receiving his words, and have meditated or reflected upon them, we might feel fear in

God's Presence. The answer is to release the fear to Jesus, receive His peace, let the Holy Spirit show us any ground we have given to Satan, repent of the activity which gave Satan this ground, and renounce all such activities.

People who resort to superstitious acts or who use charms to protect themselves are only compounding the problem. They are in effect asking Satan to protect them from Satan. We know that Satan can appear as an angel of light, but sooner or later his real character will be revealed.

When praying with those who have used these things, we need to have them renounce their sinful ways, discard their good luck charms, and ask God to fill them with His peace. Remember that Jesus was not afraid in the presence of Satan, even when separated from His Father. He endured the greatest agony and lived in the darkest place. He did this through the power of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14). Now He has grace to give to us, so that we can have His peace and live in His victory. We do not need to resort to the ways of the enemy of God to rescue us from our enemies.

Steps for Dealing with Superstitions:

1. If the reliance on superstitions and charms stems from fear:
 - a. Release the fear to Jesus.
 - b. Receive the peace of Jesus.
 - c. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the reasons for the fear; bring these things also to Jesus and receive His peace in their place.
2. Repent of relying on Satan's tactics rather than upon the ways of God.
3. Renounce the superstitions, the use of charms, and all access Satan has gained as a result of their use.

4. Ask the Holy Spirit for grace to discard all good luck charms and to discontinue all use of superstitious activities.

5. Thank Jesus that He has won the victory over Satan for you.

Spiritual Growth

God wants us to know Him and to live for Him, relying upon His grace to do so (2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 5:17). He has given us certain tools to use and principles to follow in order to know and accomplish His tasks for us. Jesus has done all that we need to do; He is the author of our salvation, and He has completed all righteousness for us (Hebrews 5:9; Matthew 3:15). Now we can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13). We can know and obey God's will for us.

The items listed in this section are a few of the principles and tools God has given us. We should pray for each other so that we will be able to know, utilize, and enter into the use of the tools God has made available to us.

If people are having difficulty doing this, we can pray that God will give them the grace to come into His purposes for them. We can pray for them Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-20, as suggested in the introduction to this manual. We can point them to examples of how Jesus lived in these ways and/or what He taught about these topics. As we see Jesus doing these things and teaching His disciples about them, we can receive the impartation of the Holy Spirit for ourselves and others. Remember that Jesus said we should teach to others and do ourselves all that He has shown His disciples (Matthew 28:20).

Some Suggested Steps to Follow:

1. Thank God for the person.

2. Pray for God's grace to help them to know, to love, and to enter into the concept or activity in question.

3. Pray for the person to "see" Jesus doing the activity, or encouraging them to follow His desire for them.

4. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal and remove any roadblocks. If hurtful or traumatic situations are part of the roadblock, you may need to refer to "Steps in Extending Forgiveness..." page C-4, and/or "Steps for Receiving & Ministering Healing of Our Spirit," pages C-10-11.

5. Thank God for calling the person to grow in grace and in the knowledge and experience of all God has for His people.

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Names of God

God wants to reveal Himself, His nature and His works to His people. One of the ways He does this is through His names. Some of His names describe His attributes ("Holiness," "Righteousness," etc.); some of them reveal ways in which He relates to us ("Comforter," "Friend," "Provider," etc.); still others reveal truths about Him which He wants us to know ("Ever-present One," "Peace," "Healer," etc.).

The Bible says that those who know the names of God will trust Him (Psalm 9:10). It says that we will have victory over our enemies as we know God's name (Psalm 44:5). The Bible also says that as we know God's name, we will dwell in His presence (Psalm 69:36). These are a few of the blessings we can receive from meditating on the names of God.

As we learn to know God and all He *can* be and *wants* to be for us, our trust in Him will grow and we will more fully experience all He is and wants to be for us and through us. The Holy Spirit will help us to personally appropriate more and more of all God would be for us.

**Suggested Steps for Knowing God
According to His Names:**

1. Identify His name and what it means.
2. See how God has revealed this name through His activities.
3. Confess your need for Him to be/do this for you.
4. Confess and renounce the ways in which you have tried to be or do this for yourself (ie, striving for perfection rather than receiving Him as your Holiness). This makes more “room” for God, through His name, to operate.
5. Receive this aspect of God and His work in this realm of your life.
6. Thank Him that He is what His name declares, and pray that you can share this with others.