

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THE REALITY CHOICE

Parts 1-3

"I don't understand what I do. For what I want to do I don't do, but what I hate to do, I do!...I know that nothing good lives in my sinful nature. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

ROMANS 7:15, 18 (NIV)

Stress	Diet	Finances
Fears	Worry	Relationships
My overwork	Bad habits	Painful memories
Attractions	Anger	Perfectionism
Addiction	Dishonesty	Resentment
Regrets	Need to control	Compulsive thoughts

THE CAUSE: _____

"In the pride of your heart you say, 'I am a god...' But you are just a man and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god."

EZEKIEL 28:2 (NIV)

1ST CHOICE:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:3 (NIV)

I ADMIT I need help; that I’m powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

1. _____

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

JAMES 4:6 (NIV)

“You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.”

PROVERBS 28:13 (TEV)

2. _____

“We saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead.”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:9 (LB)

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

MATTHEW 5:3 (MSG)

3. _____

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 (NIV)

“Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

JAMES 5:16 (LB)

GROUND RULES

“When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us...”

ROMANS 5:6 (NCV)

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THE HOPE YOU NEED FOR CHANGE

Part 1

"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!"

MATTHEW 5:4 (CEV)

"No one can live with a broken spirit."

PROVERBS 18:14 (NCV)

WHERE TO GET HOPE WHEN CHANGE SEEMS HOPELESS

1. REMEMBER GOD _____

"Those who forget God have no hope."

JOB 8:11A (LB)

*"Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in
turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer."*

PSALM 94:19 (LB)

2. REMEMBER HE CARES _____

*"I have hope when I think of this: The Lord's love never ends;
His mercies never stop. They are new every morning."*

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23 (NCV)

*"He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic...
for He knows what we are made of – dust."*

PSALM 103:13-14 (LB/GN)

"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us."

ROMANS 5:8 (LB)

3. REMEMBER HE KNOWS _____

"You know how troubled I am; You have kept a record of my tears."

PSALM 56:6 (GN)

"...You have seen the crisis in my soul."

PSALM 31:7 (LB)

4. REMEMBER HE HAS _____

"What is impossible for men is possible with God."

LUKE 18:27 (GN)

"When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he couldn't do but on what God said He would do."

ROMANS 4:18A (MES)

“For God is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 (PH)

5. REMEMBER HE’S PROMISED _____

“I expect Your help, for You have promised it.”

PSALM 119:81 (LB)

“God cannot lie when He makes a promise, and He cannot lie when He makes an oath. These things encourage us...They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given.”

HEBREWS 6:18 (NCV)

STEP 2

Earnestly believe that God exists; that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.

“The Spirit that God gives us ... fills us with power, love, and self-control.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (GN)

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THE BEATITUDES

LETTING GO AND LETTING GOD

Parts 1-3

"God blesses those people who are meek."

MATTHEW 5:5 (CEV)

"The meek shall be satisfied."

PSALM 22:26

"The meek he will guide and teach"

PSALM 25:9

"The meek become wise."

PROVERBS 11:2

"The meek will be filled with fresh joy."

ISAIAH 29:19

MEEKNESS IS _____

HOW TO LET GO & LET GOD

MAKE JESUS _____ OF MY LIFE.

“Stop quarreling with God! If you agree with Him, you will have peace at last, and things will go well for you.”

JOB 22:21 (NLT)

Jesus: “Anyone who intends to come with Me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am...”

MATTHEW 16:24 (MES)

“Give yourself to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will help you.”

PSALM 37:5 (GN)

ESTABLISH GOD’S WORD _____ FOR MY LIFE.

“Place yourselves under God’s authority.”

JAMES 4:7A (GW)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NLT)

“I have made up my mind to obey Your laws forever, no matter what.”

PSALM 119:112 (CEV)

"I will never lay aside Your laws, for You have used them to restore my joy and health."

PSALM 119:93 (LB)

EMBRACE GOD'S SPIRIT _____ FOR MY LIFE.

"I will put My Spirit in you and enable you to live by My laws."

EZEKIEL 36:27 (GW)

"Anyone who tries to live by his own effort, independent of God, is doomed to failure."

GALATIANS 3:10A (MES)

"You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish!"

GALATIANS 3:3 (NCV)

"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (GN)

KEEP JESUS _____ OF MY LIFE.

"We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."

HEBREWS 12:2 (CEV)

"If I keep my eyes on God, I won't trip over my own feet."

PSALM 25:15 (MES)

“Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He’s the one who will keep you on track.”

PROVERBS 3:6 (MES)

STEP 3

***Consciously choose to commit all my life
and will to Christ’s care and control.***

“The payoff for meekness...is plenty and honor and a satisfying life.”

PROVERBS 22:4 (MES)

“Don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.”

MATHEW. 6:34 (LB)

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THE BEATITUDES

THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE

Parts 1-3

FIVE PHASES GOD USES TO CHANGE US

1. _____

“Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, ‘Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.’ And Jacob noticed that Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been.”

GENESIS 31:1-2 (NIV)

“The messengers returned to Jacob and said, ‘We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, with an army of 400 men!’ Jacob was terrified at the news.”

GEN. 32:6-7 (NLT)

“Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God...O Lord...I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you’ve shown me...save me I pray...for I am afraid...’”

GENESIS 32:9-11 (NLT)

REALITY CHOICE:

Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing & my life is unmanageable.

"God blesses those who realize their need for him."

MATTHEW 5:3 (NLT)

2. _____

"Jacob got them safely across the brook Jabbok along with all his possessions. But Jacob stayed behind and was left all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the Man saw that he couldn't win the match, he struck Jacob's hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket."

GENESIS 32:23-25 (NLT/MSG)

"Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God."

HOSEA 12:3 (NLT)

HOPE CHOICE:

Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to him, & that he has the power to help me recover.

3. _____

"Then the Man said, 'Let me go, for it is dawn.' But Jacob panted, 'I won't let you go unless you bless me!'"

GENESIS 32:26 (NLT)

COMMITMENT CHOICE:

Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

"Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."

ROM. 6:13 (NLT)

4. _____

"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'JACOB', he answered."

GENESIS 32:27 (NIV)

Jacob = 'deceiver/manipulator'

HOUSECLEANING CHOICE:

Openly examine & confess my faults to myself, to God, & to someone I trust.

5. _____

"Then the Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but ISRAEL...Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...'"

GENESIS 32:28-30 (NIV)

Israel = "Prince of God"

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

MATTHEW 5:6 (NIV)

TRANSFORMATION CHOICE:

Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask him to remove my character defects.

“The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.”

GENESIS 32:31 (NLT)

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THE GROWTH CHOICE

Parts 1-3

I reserve a daily time with God for Bible reading, self-examination, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

“Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 PETER 3:18 (TEV)

HOW TO CONTINUE GROWING

1. _____

“And now, dear children, continue to live in fellowship with Christ...”

1 JOHN 2:28 (NLT)

“Everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin...”

1 JOHN 3:6 (TEV)

“Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God.”

COLOSSIANS 4:2 (NCV)

2. _____

“The truly happy people are those who carefully study God’s perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God’s teaching says.”

JAMES 1:25 (NCV)

“If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

JOHN 8:31-32 (KJV)

3. _____

“I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:12 (NCV)

“No, I’m still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (TLB)

4. _____

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and return to the Lord.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:40 (NIV)

"If we examine ourselves, we will not be examined by God and judged in this way."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:31 (NLT)

5. _____

"Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage, and be strong."

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13 (NCV)

"Do not be fooled. Bad companions ruin good character."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 (TEV)

6. _____

*"... We are confident that God will continue to rescue us,
since you are also joining to help us when you pray for us..."*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:10-11 (GW)

*"We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of
you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other..."*

HEBREWS 10:25 (GW)

7. _____

*"I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his
work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again."*

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (NLT)

*"So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and
give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time!"*

GALATIANS 6:9 (NLT)

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THE SHARING CHOICE

Parts 1-4

"Blessed are the peacemakers."

MATTHEW 5:9 (NIV)

"God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 (CEV)

THE SHARING CHOICE:

I choose to yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others, by both my example and by my words.

"I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!...The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort he gives."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:2-4 (CEV)

WHAT CAN I SHARE TO HELP OTHERS?

1. _____.

"Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways."

PROVERBS 20:30 (GN)

"I am glad...not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God."

2 CORINTHIANS 7:9 (LB)

TO HELP OTHERS I MUST BE HONEST ABOUT...

• MY _____

"We have spoken frankly to you; we have opened our hearts wide."

2 CORINTHIANS 6:11 (GN)

• MY _____

"Each of us must bear the faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!"

GALATIANS 6:5 (LB)

• MY _____

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst."

1 TIMOTHY 1:15 (NIV)

• MY _____

"I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out...I keep on doing the evil I don't want to do."

ROMANS 7:18B-19 (NIV)

• MY _____

"I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces..."

2 CORINTHIANS 12:20 (MSG)

2. _____.

• I LEARNED _____.

"We were crushed and overwhelmed...and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us...and he did help us."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-10 (LB)

• I LEARNED _____.

"... it was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws!"

PSALM 119:71-72 (LB)

• I LEARNED _____.

“Remember that in God’s plan men and women need each other.”

1 CORINTHIANS 11:11 (LB)

“Two people are better than one...If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help.”

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 (NCV)

3. _____.

“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God...”

ROMANS 8:28 (NLT)

“(They) intended it to harm me, but God intended it for good.”

GENESIS 50:20 (NIV)

4. _____.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

1 PETER 3:15A (NIV)

Who will you tell?

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

BREAKING FREE FROM ABUSE

Parts 1-3

"Why do you keep tormenting me with words? Time after time you insult me and show no shame for the way you abuse me."

JOB 19:1-3. (TEV)

HOW TO HELP SOMEONE BREAK FREE

1. _____

Jesus: "The truth will set you free."

JOHN 8:32

David: "I said, 'I will not say anything while evil people are near.' So I kept quiet, not saying a word...but my suffering only grew worse, and I was overcome with anxiety. The more I thought, the more troubled I became; I could not keep from asking: 'Lord, how long will I live? When will I die? Tell me how soon my life will end.'"

PSALM 39:1-4 (TEV)

2. _____

MARKS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE – DAVID’S DESCRIPTIONS

“My enemies taunt me day after day. They mock and curse me.”

PSALM 102:8

“...they tell lies about me and threaten me.”

PSALM 109:20

“...they make fun of me and ridicule me.”¹

PSALM 22:7

“I have been insulted, put to shame, and humiliated.”

PSALM 69:19

“Using words to kill; they bully their way with words.”

PSALM 73:8 (MES)

“They push hard to make me fall.”

PSALM 118:13 (GW)

“They spread rumors about me, and conspire against me.”

PSALM 31:13

“They mock me with the worst kind of profanity, and snarl at me.”

PSALM 35:16

3. _____

“Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God comes upon all those who disobey him.”

EPHESIANS 5:6 (NLT)

4. _____

“Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them happened to you.”

HEBREWS 13:3B (MES)

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

GALATIANS 6:2 (NIV)

5. _____

“By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you get a third person? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”

ECCLESIASTES 4:12 (MES)

“Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But when the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil these things are. And where your light shines, it will expose their evil deeds.”

EPHESIANS 5:11-13 (NLT)

6. _____

Advice to Job: “Put your heart right. Reach out to God. Put away any evil and wrong from your home. Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more! Your life will be brighter than sunshine at noon, and life’s darkest hours will shine like the dawn!”

JOB 11:13-17 (TEV)

7.

“Never repay one wrong with another, or one abusive word with another; instead, repay with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing.”

1 PETER 3:9 (NJB)

“Christ never verbally abused those who verbally abused him. When he suffered, he didn’t make any threats but left everything to the one who judges fairly.”

1 PETER 2:23 (GW)

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THERE'S NO RECOVERY WITHOUT PRAYER

Parts 1-3

EXAMPLES OF PRAYER CAUSING RECOVERY

1. When the Israelites got impatient & rebellious

*"...Then the people grew impatient on the way and they began to murmur and complain against God and Moses. Why did you lead us here?...We hate where we are, and we hate the food!...So God sent poisonous snakes to punish them and many became sick and died from the bites. Then the people confessed 'We have sinned...**Pray for us!**' So Moses **prayed** for them...Then God told Moses to make a bronze staff...and when those who'd been bitten looked (in faith) to Moses' staff they recovered!*

NUMBERS 21:4-9

With prayer we can recover...

2. When Jeroboam was upset hearing a hard truth

“So King Jeroboam stretched out his hand in anger against the Man of God who had told him the truth and it instantly became paralyzed...

*The king cried out ‘**Pray for me!**’ So the man of God **prayed** to the Lord, and the king recovered the normal use of his hand!”*

1 KINGS 13:4-6

With prayer we can recover...

3. When Hezekiah was told he’d never recover

*“In those days King Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. Isaiah the prophet went to him and said, “The Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die. You are **not** going to recover!” **But** Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and he **prayed**, pleading to the Lord, ‘Remember Lord, how I’ve walked before you faithfully with wholehearted devotion and I’ve done what is good in your eyes.’ And Hezekiah wept loudly as he prayed. Then, before Isaiah had even left the king’s court, God’s word came to him again: ‘Go back and tell Hezekiah ‘I’ve heard your **prayer** and I’ve seen your tears. You **will recover** and **I will** heal you...I’m going to add fifteen years to your life! **Also** I’m going to deliver you and this city from Assyria’s domination.’...so Hezekiah recovered.”*

2 KINGS 20:1-7

“After Hezekiah’s recovery, he wrote a prayer of praise:...You restored my health and I am fully recovered with a fresh infusion of life! But it was good for me to go through all those troubles because throughout them all, you held tight to my life! You never let me tumble over the edge into nothing. But my sins, you did let go of, you threw them behind your back!”

ISAIAH 38:9-17

With prayer we can recover...

4. When two blind men cried out to Jesus

“Two blind men were sitting by the roadside when they heard that Jesus was passing by. So they cried out, ‘Lord, have mercy on us!’ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they prayed even louder ‘Lord, have mercy on us!’... Jesus stopped and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” They said ‘We don’t want to be blind anymore! Give us sight!’ With deep compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and they followed him,”

MATTHEW 20:30-34

With prayer we can recover...

5. When Peter had his massive public failure

*(Predicting Peter’s fall) Jesus said “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you just as wheat is sifted. **but I have prayed for you, Simon, so that your faith may not fail. And **when** you have recovered, it will be your job to strengthen your brothers.”***

LUKE 22:31-32

With prayer we can recover...

6. When Job lost literally everything

*“After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz, “I’m angry with you and your two friends, because you did not speak the truth about me, the way my servant Job did. Now I want you to make a sacrifice...and **Job will pray for you! Then I will answer his prayer and not disgrace you the way you deserve...So Job’s three friends did what the Lord told them to do, and the Lord answered **Job’s prayer.** Then, when Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored Job’s health and prosperity, and Job recovered twice as much as he had before his pain.”***

JOB 42:7-10

Our recovery is only complete...

Jesus announced His Mission on earth by reading from Isaiah 61:1-4

“God’s Spirit is on me. He’s chosen me to preach the good news to the poor, to announce freedom to those held captive, to give recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to proclaim that this is the time of God’s Favor!”

LUKE 4:18 (MES)

The rest of Isaiah’s prophesy adds:

“...and to heal the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn...and to give beauty for ashes and joy and gladness instead grief!...Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will restore the devastated places, and they will renew the ruined cities!”

ISAIAH 61:1-4 (GW)

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THE HOUSECLEANING CHOICE

Bonus Lesson by Buddy Owens

CHOICE 4: THE HOUSECLEANING CHOICE:

I openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

"Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

MATTHEW 5:8 (GNB)

"I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness."

JOHN 10:10 (GNB)

Jesus doesn't want me to be _____.

He wants me to be _____.

“Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’”

JOHN 11:43-44 (NKJV)

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”

GALATIANS 5:1 (NIV)

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

JOHN 8:36 (NIV)

“While we were sinners, Christ died for us.”

ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)

The basis for a pure heart is not how good but how good.

“You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and you know all about me.”

PSALM 139:1 (CEV)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

“Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:40 (KJV)

“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13(NLT)

“Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

PSALM 32:5 (NLT)

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray` for each other so that you may be healed.”

JAMES 5:16 (NIV)

Remember God’s _____

“God’s kindness leads you toward repentance.”

ROMANS 2:4 (NIV)

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

ROMANS 8:1 (NIV)

“God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!”

ROMANS 5:8 (GNB)

Remember God’s _____

“I’m convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (GW)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ROMANS 8:38-39 (NIV)

“I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.”

HEBREWS 13:5 (GNB)

Remember God’s _____

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

EZEKIEL 36:26 (NIV)

“For it is Christ who is the ‘Yes’ to all of God’s promises.”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 (GNB)

Life's Healing Choices

THE BEATITUDES

THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE

Bonus Lesson by Kay Warren

"Happy are those who are merciful to others."

MATTHEW 5:7 (TEV)

"Happy are those who work for peace."

MATTHEW 5:9 (TEV)

I evaluate all my relationships, offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me, and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

"At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, 'Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?'

"Jesus replied, 'Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

“The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

“The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

“The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

“The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (MSG)

I. Because I _____, I _____

LUKE 15 – THE PRODIGAL SON (AND DAUGHTER)

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, bless his holy name.”

PSALM 103:1 (NIV)

II. The _____ become _____

“And forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.”

MATTHEW 6:12 (NLT)

*“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.
But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

MATTHEW 6:14-15 (NLT)

*“But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge
against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”*

MARK 11:25 (NLT)

*“Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. Stop criticizing others, or
it will all come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven.”*

LUKE 6:37 (NLT)

*“For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been
merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God’s
mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you.”*

JAMES 2:13 (NLT)

HOW CAN I BECOME A FORGIVER?

1. _____ it to the Cross

2. _____ today