

Leaving Your Island
for a
Brand New Garden

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone has wounds in his mind; we all have them. These wounds may very well be buried. They create within us an "island," a place in the soul that is detached from the life of God and His provision of grace, mercy, and victory. For example, there are people who, as children, were moved from one welfare home to another because their parents rejected them, so their islands are filled with a sense of rejection. Therefore, the emotions are consistently subject to being hurt as they respond to periodic wounds in the mind.

By the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, a way has been made for every believer to be rescued from these islands of defeat. God has made a living way for each of us to live in a brand new garden, a garden set aside by the Lord to bring forth fruit unto righteousness.

Chapter One
WOUNDS, DESOLATION,
AND DEFILEMENT

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their mind, and write them on their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Hebrews 8:10).

Everyone who has been saved—washed in the Blood of New Covenant—has a new heart and a new spirit. In the heart there is a point of reference, a frame of reference, a memory center, and a volition. It is the place where all motivation begins; but we read in Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” This means that the predisposition of the heart, with its presuppositions, leads to compulsive acts that hurt society and defile the islands within us.

Speaking of the nation of Israel specifically,

and of the condition of men in general, God says this: "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores" (Isaiah 1:5*b*-6*a*). The natural man has no soundness in his mind, but there are wounds. Also, there are bruises, which would be better rendered "infections," and running sores, which speaks of continuing problems in the emotions. Not a pretty picture, is it? Wounds, infections, and continuing problems in the emotions: a description of God's people.

Then the Word of God, in Isaiah 1:6-7, makes this diagnosis: "... They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate." That is to say, the island within every living person is defiled. In some people, the island is filled with memories of being abused, molested, or raped. Others were completely and totally rejected by their peers and by the social structure that confronted them; rejection fills their islands. Others are filled with pride based upon social advantage, intellectual capacity, and measures of economic success. These things produce the basis for their islands.

Changing the Island

When a person becomes a Christian, his island has not changed. This island is, indeed, his subjective world. The subjective mind, making up 95 percent of man's mind, is the uneducated, involuntary part of the mind. Apart from the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the transforming mind of Christ, the island tries to conform to Christianity through human good by becoming religious, by strengthening moral precepts—which in themselves *are* good—or, by a system of works within the church.

This island is absolutely detached from the life of God and independent of the application of co-crucifixion with Christ. It will receive messages, but the messages do not transform the island. Why? Because the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). The carnal mind is at enmity against God and is not subject to doctrine, neither indeed can be (Romans 8:7). This island, then, cannot be a recipient of God's divine nature as a true Christian can be through "exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).

This is what happens on these islands. A person's self-consciousness is preoccupied with

how to change the island or how to change others for the benefit of the island. His conscience tries to produce morality, or that which is culturally accepted. Or, he may become bankrupt as he goes deeply into lasciviousness—a life without restraints—resulting in a completely seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2).

Predispositions of the Soul

The volition on this island of a person's soul is changeable, because it is based upon his predisposition—the moods and temperaments of the soul. A predisposition is established by decisions, habits, and involvement in the world. It can be influenced, in a limited way, by a person's genetics or from the fall of Adam. The natural predisposition that fills the subjective mind is overloaded with presuppositions, concepts that may or may not be true.

However, predispositions cannot be blamed for everything, because it takes the volition to enforce and implement the trends of predisposition. If a predisposition with its presuppositions is left unguarded and undefined in the subjective world—the involuntary realms of the mind—then it leads to compulsive acts and emotional outbursts in critical decisions with no thought-

protection from God.

Here's a woman who says she's not compatible with her husband. She's living on her island. She has done what she could to her island to make it acceptable—at least, livable—in a survival type of relationship with people. But her husband doesn't satisfy her, so she has needs. As time progresses, the needs become greater and she becomes very vulnerable. These needs become hindrances, distractions, and obstructions to spiritual growth.

In this island life, everyone has needs. People who are opposites meet there because their needs are met by being opposites. People who have similarities meet on this island to satisfy the need to find someone just like themselves. They have an amazing compatibility in the subjective realm, which leads to a mutual attraction of great strength.

This woman finds a guy who notices her, even though she's married. He seems to take time for her. "He's so peaceful and sweet; he really cares," she explains. "He says things that my husband never says." What is happening to her? She has been detached from the reality of God's provision, power, protection, and peace. She is totally separated from her purpose on

earth, and this man becomes a pursuit. You tell her to leave him alone, but she won't. The messages from the pulpit tell her to stay away and make no provision for the flesh.

"I can't," she says.

This woman and the man she's pursuing build up a subjective, compatible need. At first, it's involuntary, and then the need is transmitted to the conscious objective mind, which responds this way: "I'm receiving the signal; you really need to have an affair, even though you know it's wrong. But it will be worth it." The same pattern follows with a husband going out on his wife, or a single Christian yoking up with an unbeliever because of a need for a natural provision.

Do you notice how all of the college students go to Florida for Spring Break? They arrive at the beaches and the parties begin. There is all kinds of drinking and drugs; all kinds of worldly pleasure. But before those parties are over and the masses head back to their hometowns, there is always pain, sorrow, and tragedy mixed in with the pleasure. The whole problem is a detachment from life: people entering into mutual attractions in mutual needs to receive the mutual fulfillment of their lust patterns.

When someone begins to backslide from a healthy local church, he often becomes very involved with the world and never wants to be around other Christians. Why? He is trying to fill up the terrible island within him through people who have mutual needs. This person is on this tremendous island, cut off from God's life and independent of grace. The Holy Spirit has been quenched, and he is living in a process of grieving God's Spirit in constant deception. When he hears the Word of God, he does not mix faith with it; he is busy building up his island, making it a place of stimulation for personal value and personal worth.

Anyone who lives on this island can never change his self-image. He can stimulate it. He can bring it into new areas of personal value, but he cannot build his self-image to personal acceptance.

Chapter Two

WASHED IN THE BLOOD, CLEANSED BY THE WORD

When someone receives a transplant—heart, liver, kidney, etc.—the doctors don't know if the person's body will accept the new organ or not. Sometimes the body will reject the transplanted organ. It will not accept something so necessary to its survival. In the same way, when God speaks to that island, and you are living in that subjective domination of self-ism, your subjective mind rejects truth. The island can't receive truth but can only be stimulated in a survival process to live in mutual provision.

Think with me for a moment. Jesus Christ becomes a man, though He is God. On the cross of Calvary, He pays the wages of sin—death. It's a magnificent act of mercy, with the Son performing an expiatory act to satisfy God the Father. *Expiation* means that Jesus satisfied the

holiness of God, turning away God's wrath toward the sinner. In expiation, Jesus first satisfied God the Father.

Jesus also endured spiritual death for three hours. The evidence that His spiritual death was over is recorded in Luke 23:46, where He said, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." The Father accepted His spirit, and this meant that the spiritual death for bearing all of our sins was over.

Precious Blood

Wasn't this enough? Why did Jesus need to shed His blood? Isn't the *death* of Christ enough? After all, He was perfect.

Some say the Blood isn't precious, that only spiritual death is necessary. But, I read in 1 Peter 1:18-19 that it's the *precious* blood of Christ, because it was blood with no disease and no sin, in human veins. In Hebrews 10:29, the Bible says His blood *sanctifies*—it was life out of death.

Sin requires a substitute and a vicarious sacrifice with the pouring out of blood. When the blood came out of the veins of Jesus, it was life coming out of death, spiritually speaking. It was His own blood, the blood of God (Acts 20:28).

Jesus' blood was designed by God to be a

payment for sins. According to Genesis 3:21, when the Father killed the animals and clothed Adam and Eve after their fall, there had to be a shedding of blood. Abel understood this, so he brought an offering of blood (Genesis 4:4). In Genesis 15:9-10 and Genesis 15:18, Abraham understood the covenant of blood. Moses reiterated this principle in Exodus 24 and ratified God's covenant with Israel with blood. Moses sprinkled blood on the people of the congregation (Exodus 24:8; Hebrews 9:15-23).

The Seal of the Covenant

Jesus' blood was a valid seal to a deed, and the deed was the New Covenant — the Father getting together with the Son to form an agreement. The terms: The Son would die and pay for the sins of the world, and the Father would receive everyone who received His Son by grace through faith. In this agreement, the Father would never remember anyone's sins (Hebrews 8:12). He would blot them all out for His nature's sake (Isaiah 43:25). He would remove the sins from the sinner and make it possible for the sinner's conscience to be purged by the Blood through the Holy Spirit.

So, now there is no place for guilt or con-

demnation. There is no more “conscience of sins” (Hebrews 10:2). Whenever a believer fails, he can name his sin, forsake it, and confess it, to experience immediate recovery. The cleansing agency of the Holy Spirit comes in, purges the guilt, and takes away the stain of human failure.

The Holy Spirit’s power transmits eternal life, and eternal life keeps me from falling. This life is in me, a life given through the Blood, which validated the deed of the New Covenant and became the basis for all remission of sin. “Without the shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22b).

For this reason, before the first Passover, God told Moses, “When I see the blood I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13). The children of Israel were told to apply the blood of the passover lamb to top of the door and on the two doorposts—a picture of the mind, emotions and will being cleansed.

Now, that subjective part has a new opportunity because God doesn’t remember sins. More than that, God’s mercy takes care of the effects of what other people have done. He removes the effects of all sin. His vicarious death, burial, and resurrection, with the Holy Spirit’s power of cleansing, all work together to purge

me and take away the sin, plunging it forever into the sea of God's forgetfulness.

Cleansing the Way

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9).

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:26).

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

God is saying to every Christian, "I blotted out your sins. I removed them as far as the East is from the West, and I don't remember them any more. Now, *there's no condemnation!* The sentence of death has already been passed upon my Son (John 5:24). You are clean—no matter what anyone did to you or what you did to yourself. You have been cleansed. Furthermore, I have taken you *out* of Adam and placed you *in* Christ, and you're seated above the angels in your position at this moment."

The New Garden

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; be-

hold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What is this new creation under the new covenant? It is God bringing a brand new garden into the soul of the redeemed child who receives His Word, who is built up in grace, and who understands the application of the literal Blood that cleanses and purges the conscience (Hebrews 9:14). In Isaiah 51:3 and Isaiah 58:11, God very beautifully describes Israel as becoming "like a watered garden,...like the garden of the LORD."

"For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (Isaiah 51:3).

"And the LORD guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isaiah 58:11).

God comes to that island and removes it. Of all the waste places that the island occupied in the soul, He now makes a beautiful garden. This garden can receive seeds; it receives magnificent

new life. Everything about it is new; *nothing* old remains. This is an amazing work that God does forever: “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him” (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

What happens in this beautiful garden? The waste places are now comforted, no longer filled with hindrances, distractions, and obstructions. We don't live in the guilt of sin or the wounds of others hurting us. The mind enjoys indescribable new thoughts and attitudes. The emotions have been healed. The self-conscious part of the soul is now conscious of God's presence, His love, and His mercy. The conscience is filled with grace; the volition says, “I can be positive now because I'm not being fed negative signals.”

The memory center is no longer hindered or harassed; it is now remembering categorical truth, principles of life from the Word of God. Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, brings to your memory what you've been taught (John 14:26). The memory is filled with grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, patience, kindness, power, and understanding. There is now humility and a capacity that is able to receive divine wisdom. The memory center is totally released.

The Lord brings in this magnificent garden—and joy is there. Now the mind, emotions, conscience, and self-consciousness don't fail your soul. The volition, now operating with a new vocabulary, becomes the guardian for the soul, making right decisions with objective truth.

Chapter Three

DIVINE IMPETUS AND SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM

Once the new garden is in place, you're ready for a life of what I call "divine impetus" and "spiritual momentum." This divine impetus refers to the wonderful new force now at work in you—the Word and the Spirit—constraining you to increase your capacity for God, His fellowship, His people, and His work.

Spiritual momentum defines your progress, showing you how you are growing in grace and knowledge without obstruction. When trials and tests come in the valley experiences, you go from strength to strength (Psalm 84:7). You leave that valley full of water, when it was once a dry place. You go from faith to faith (Romans 1:17) and more imparted righteousness comes in. You go from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18), and each time you are being conformed more and more to Christ's image. There is momentum

going on, a divine impetus taking place in this whole new soul creation that's now filled with New Covenant thoughts. You have a brand new life. There is phenomenal momentum going on and you're reflecting thoughts from above and revealing the nature of God. You're a Christian who understands that the *soul* is the new creation. "...Their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all" (Jeremiah 31:12).

This new life spiritually comes into the new soul now functioning as a watered garden. It is no longer independent of grace and detached from the New Covenant. To say, "I would like to live right, but I can't!" would be a lie. What you mean to say is "I want to live that way but I *will* not." Why? Because the Holy Spirit transmits His life and keeps us from falling! (Jude 24). That life is in us! We must *choose* to go against it.

Now, how can you ever practice defeat with this great salvation? Financial problems, hindrances, distractions—they all have to face an Almighty God. You don't have to struggle to accept people: your new disposition is to accept each one because you are a partaker of God's divine nature.

We don't have to struggle, working out our

past; our past has been worked out by God on Calvary. We don't counsel Adam; Adam was found guilty—he's condemned, sentenced, and buried. It's a terrible thing to still counsel the old guy! I can't get this through to some of you. I know you want to go back to ungodly counsel in the name of "reality"—God forbid! We are *new* creatures. Old things are passed away!

A Sealed Garden, A Spring Shut Up

"A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard" (Song of Solomon 4:12-13).

Your garden is enclosed; your spring, with its purity, is shut up; the fountain is sealed. When you were saved, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). Sealed! The infections of the evil world can't touch you. The wicked one, Satan, touches you not (1 John 5:18).

What happens when you live in this new garden? You keep reproducing the pleasant fruits of God's nature in the midst of the devil's world system. According to Song of Solomon 4:13, you produce pleasant fruits and reproduce pomegranates. A pomegranate has many, many

seeds. And every seed has the potential to produce another pomegranate: fruit that bears *much* fruit (John 12:24).

You're relaxed, with a melody in your heart and a song in your soul. You don't deal with the old things—glory to God! Calvary took care of that! Christ did it. Yes, you are accountable to Him. You live responsibly, facing reality. But no longer do you deal with the things concerning Adam; our wonderful Savior took care of those things once and for all.

Don't try to patch up the old island. Don't try to bring the island into new social contacts so it can be stimulated with a survival package of pleasure. Positionally, you have left that island and have entered into its death and burial with Christ. Now, in its place, there is a watered garden in your soul! Don't go around mourning, moping, reacting, and murmuring. Instead, go around with a spring of living water welling up and a river of living water flowing out. Where does this river come from? It comes from your emotions (John 7:38), because you now have a sound mind.

CONCLUSION

According to Hebrews 10:29, every believer has been sanctified by “the blood of the covenant.” Christ’s blood was the seal that validated the New Covenant. Therefore, when the testator, Jesus Christ, died, He left us a testament (Hebrews 9:15-17), and it is this: Every single part of us has been cleansed from the consciousness of sin. We don’t have to live in the guilt of sin or in the wounds from others hurting us. We have renewed minds. Our emotions are healed. The conscience is filled with a new standard: the grace of God. We are self-conscious of the presence of God. Our volition is positive.

Instead of being detached from the possibilities of God’s power, how about being detached from that old island and enjoy the new watered garden in your soul? Oh, does Satan hate it when you think of yourself and others as brand new creatures! The devil will do everything in his power to stop this from becoming a reality in

your experience. But can the devil make us live in infections? Satan cannot touch you (1 John 5:18*b*), unless you give him a place.

As God's people, we are so free! We are separated from the island, detached from the natural needs of fallen man. We are new. We have the protection of the New Covenant and the provision of the Word and the Spirit. The power of God is operating within, giving us a soul that is a brand new watered garden, a new creation.

We don't have to deal with old things; God made them pass away. We don't have to deal with the sins; God removed the sins from the sinner. We are clean. If we sin, we confess it and we are restored to fellowship with God immediately. We are free, living in a wonderful new garden where nothing can separate us from the love of God.