

Words for the Wounded

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is the founder and now the senior pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens' ministry has spanned four decades and has included the establishment of Maryland Bible College and Seminary in Baltimore and the development of "The Grace Hour," an Angel Award-winning radio talk show that is still heard on Christian stations throughout North America and via the internet.

This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 18715
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2006

From a message preached on November 30, 1997

Tape #891-6696

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Chapter 1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>THE DISEASE OF SIN</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>RISING ABOVE THE STROKES</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>BECOME A GOOD FORGETTER</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION.....</i>	<i>19</i>

INTRODUCTION

Many people in our society carry unbelievable wounds within. These people are in our families and in our churches. Some know nothing about what is going on inside of them. Others recognize their wounds, but are helpless to change. As a result, their potential to live by faith is paralyzed. They simply do not see the place of influence these wounds give to the world system and to Satan.

There is a real sense of denial among some who are wounded. Even in churches where the Bible is honored and preached as the whole counsel of God, people fail to see the way to be delivered from their wounds. I think it is safe to say that many atrocious crimes are committed by people who have allowed their wounds to control them.

For example, a recent murder case in Florida exposed a nurse at a cosmetic surgery office as the killer. She gave an overdose of painkiller to a 39-year-old patient who had “stolen her boyfriend” when the two women were in high school. That

wound festered for years in that woman, and now someone has died as a result of it. Oh, the things that are derived from wounded people who choose to react to their wounds.

In these pages, we will show how very real wounds are. We cannot diminish their effect in people's lives. Yet, we want to understand from the Scriptures how people can get beyond deep feelings of hurt and enjoy a tremendous, joyful relationship with Christ and His people.

Chapter One
THE DISEASE OF SIN

“And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

“And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

“And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

“And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

“And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and what-

soever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

“And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:30-37).

“For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me” (Psalm 109:22).

“My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness” (Psalm 38:5).

Psalm 38 speaks of stinking wounds. These wounds began to fester because of foolishness. Wrong, corrupt decisions cause us to smell. The wounds are out there, and many are wounded, but they do not know why.

We know that John 3:16 says that God loves everyone in the world right where we are. Furthermore, the Lord understands that every one of us is wounded—but He died for those wounds. He took the wounds upon Himself at the Cross. *He* was wounded. Why? It was for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5).

Mentally, every person in the world is somehow diseased because of the Fall. In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempted Adam and Eve into making the wrong decision, and every man and woman has been infected ever since. All hearts

are deceived and desperately wicked (see Jeremiah 17:9). Our heads are sick and our hearts are weak (see Isaiah 1:5).

In Psalm 51:5, David wrote that he was “conceived in sin.” Sin is part of being human. It is passed down. We have all seen little children become selfish and tell lies at very early ages. No one had to teach them how. It is because sin dwells in our mortal bodies.

Some people may seem to be very good, humanly speaking. They do the best that they can. Yet, the entire world system lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Satan’s desire is destruction. Choices have consequences, and boy does he know it! More than destroy a marriage or family, Satan would like to see corruption spread like crazy. We see this in the story of Abraham and Hagar (Genesis 16). Sarah was barren, so she made a suggestion. “Take my maid and let us raise children through her,” Sarah said. This bad idea produced a bad result from the start. Hagar conceived and she almost at once despised Sarah. Ishmael, the boy born from the union, is the father of many nations, and almost all of them have given Israel trouble over the centuries.

For the devil, the issue was not Abraham’s one encounter with Hagar. It was a matter of multiplying a group of people who could come

against God's people.

The Lingering Effects of Sin

In Genesis 19, we read an awful story. After being delivered from the depravity of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's daughters made their father drunk on consecutive nights, and each of them slept with him. In the end, both daughters gave birth, and two nations, both enemies of Israel, came from those terrible affairs. Read through the Bible and make note of the trouble that was brought on by the Moabites and the Ammonites.

We mistakenly think that we can sin and that it simply hurts us and our relationship with God. But the truth is that our sin finds us out, and through living in our wounds we infect many others. The only solution for us is to come to the One who is true, according to 1 John 5:20. It changes everything. He gives us eternal life. We become a part of the One who is whole, the One who is perfect, the One who gave Himself up for us and for our failures.

We make our confession to God and He heals us, and then we can start living according to His way and His purpose. This makes such a difference for us.

Chapter Two

RISING ABOVE THE STROKES

“Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them” (Job 24:12).

“Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound” (Isaiah 30:26).

Thousands of people, including many in churches across the world, are smiling, but they are covering up terrible wounds. They have deep hurts, and there are things that they feel so troubled by, but they cannot speak about them. I know of people who suffered great abuse when they were younger. It is a terrible, terrible thing.

What often happens is that these people will internalize what happened to them. When the wounds are opened up on the inside, only God can do the work that will heal them. If left unresolved, their wounds can lead to a real mistrust

of an authority figure. One woman I counseled was molested at a very young age. Later, she became a Christian and married a wonderful man, but she could not receive from him. Nearly every man she knew made her uneasy.

Happily, I can say she is healthy today. The Word of God and much prayer healed the strokes of the wounds in her soul (Isaiah 30:26).

Those paralyzing strokes freeze the capacities of many to follow God. A young boy came to my office. He was in our Christian day school, and he had been quite rebellious. After several minutes, the stroke of the wound that was prompting his misbehavior was revealed, and he just wept and wept.

He hated his father. The man left the boy's mother without a word and ran away with another woman. He didn't call and didn't write and didn't support the family. The boy entered into a pattern of hatred that he transferred to every authority figure in his life, starting with the teachers and administrators at the school.

He was deeply wounded, and we helped him through that time. He has been getting love and attention and constant counsel from the Bible. Things are happening in his life.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3)

Pour the Oil and Bind the Wounds

The story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30 speaks of how we can help the wounded. A man was going from Jerusalem (the name of that city means peace) to Jericho (which represents decay, ruin, and rebellion). Halfway to Jericho, the man was robbed and left half-dead. Physically, he was alive, but spiritually he was dead.

Three kinds of people went by this man. The priest went by. He was bound by his religious duties. He had an appointment and had to get where he was going, and he moved to other side of road, passing by the beaten man. A Levite, representing the works of the Law, came upon him and he, too, passed by on the other side. Then "a certain Samaritan" came and had compassion on the man, binding his wounds and pouring in the oil and the wine. The Samaritan picked up the man, put him on his beast and set the injured man up in an inn.

This is a picture of the way Jesus Christ wants us to help those who have suffered under strokes and wounds. We cannot avoid them. They need our love and our help. We give grace and help these folks to develop new identities in Christ.

In Baltimore City, we have tremendous number of single-parent homes, and the majority are run by mothers. Now, God is in all things and

He can redeem any situation. Yet, many of the young men in those homes have great identity problems because of the missing relationship that they desire. They want to know their fathers, but sadly so many never find out who their real father is.

The government's answer has been to give out money and housing. Surely, there are those who really need a hand, and those who really need money ought to get it. But this won't heal the trouble that is on the inside. They need the words of God. His words will comfort the wounded. Counselors and social workers say many things and do much good for these struggling families. Still, unless the love of God is given, in season and out of season, those wounds will fester and spread.

The love of God and the power of Jesus Christ revealed in a compassionate local assembly can do wonders. That's right. I am saying that these people need church. They need a fellowship where love is the rule. They all need a place where they can come and be built up and edified. God then can lift these folks above their wounds and their strokes and teach them to set their affections on Him and on the things that are above.

Just plain love from God can do wonders.

Chapter Three

BECOME A GOOD FORGETTER

Identity crises are very real for some people. People really long to know who they are. It is bad to have an identity that is tied to any relationship. When something happens to the relationship, then the identity is stricken and paralyzed. Identities that are not resting in a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ are very open to difficulty. Attachments and extensions seem to help some folks with their identities, but those things lack any true connections to what is real. Many people may come around a person who is handsome and well accepted. Yet, that identity is on very shaky ground. Those good looks and good feelings are sure to go someday.

Love Makes a Difference

Our identities must come through the love of God. We must recognize every day what His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension mean to us. Jesus Christ speaks to each of us and says, "I love you, I will heal your strokes and your

wounds, and I will restore you to good spiritual health.”

I want us to understand why the Bible says that Jesus Christ came to heal the broken hearted. In Ezekiel, the Lord had words for the prophets who did speak words of healing to the people of God. We need to have healing ministries—and I am not talking about ministries such as we see on television. I am talking about ministries in which the Word is preached and the hearer is healed through the deep calling unto the deep (Psalm 42:7).

In the deep places, healing comes through love. In these places, healing comes because of compassion. In these places, healing comes because there is real care being given. Notes are sent. Calls are made. Letters are written. People are met right where they are.

There is a thief. Satan wants to rob and kill and destroy. But Jesus Christ came to give us life. We can have abundant life. He forgives us totally and completely. The eternal life that He gives us is a life that has no beginning and no ending.

God gives us precious lives that can be filled with the Holy Spirit. By His grace, we don't have to remember so many of the bad things that have happened to us. I heard one country preacher say that some people need to “fix their forgetters.”

The Lord can do that, and, really, only He can

make you a forgetter, in the good sense of the word. The things that have pierced and hurt you can be healed. It is a promise from heaven. The strokes that linger in your unconscious mind can be erased as you receive the love of God and the Word in power.

These lingering troubles are dangerous, and we all need to let God do a deep work inside of us to heal old wounds. Perhaps you have recognized that something isn't quite right in your heart. At times, you fly off the handle. You find that you cannot govern your behavior. Your decisions just veer the wrong way. Your self-image is fractured, cracked in some place. Therefore, your responses are sometimes out of order at best. At their worst, your responses may just be downright violent.

Let Him Have the Lost Areas of Your Life

Jesus said in Luke 19:10 that He came to seek and to save the lost. Let Him heal you. Let Him draw back that lost part of your self. He doesn't want you to be constantly occupied with some bad habit that has plagued you for years. He will give you victory over those psychosomatic details that are trapped in your unconscious mind. He can break your bondage to certain sins that are really the outworking of past wounds.

Yes, certain things are the result of just plain

wrong decisions. Things can happen and things can be said when we hang around with the wrong crowd—the worldly crowd, the gossipy crowd.

Jesus Christ has come to deliver us from all of those problems. Don't be trapped in the game of blaming yourself and keeping yourself in chains. Let God release you. Hear His Word and be free. He came that we might have life more abundantly. God's healing will penetrate into the three parts of your mind—the conscious, the subconscious, and the unconscious. In the area of volition, the Lord can train you to reign with Him and make right choices that line up with His Word.

He can heal you right now and He can keep you healed. These are the words that wounded souls need to hear. Hear them and let God make you whole and complete and well.

CONCLUSION

“Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

“My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

“It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

“They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

“The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentations 3:19-26).

These words come to us from Jeremiah. He was a faithful prophet in a very desperate time in Israel. Still, he spoke the truth in love. Jeremiah’s Lamentations are just that. He was recalling the downfall of what was once the greatest,

most blessed nation on earth. Now, he sees that soon Israel will be desolate and in captivity to its enemies.

But Jeremiah knew something that we all need to know: God's mercies are new every morning. His compassions will not fail. All of my wounds, and all of the strokes that develop from those wounds, can be healed once and for all by the Word that was sent to us. The Lord is the portion of my life. The problems of the past, the dilemmas of the present, the fears of the future—none of these have to fester and stink within my heart.

God is our life. Jesus calls us to come to Him every morning. We can run to His arms and find absolute safety. No one can touch us there. "Come," He said in Matthew 11:28-30. "You are weighed down and surrounded by cares." Of course we are this way. It is a part of being human. The diseases and distractions of life have been handed down to us, and we do have wounds that need God's balm. We need to let Him pour the healing oil upon us and bind up our broken hearts.

Run to Him. If you sense that that an old wound is opening up again, run to Him. He will make you prosper as your soul prospers. Don't take an afternoon off from fellowshiping with Him. Go to Jesus. Don't take a morning off. Run

to Him. Don't vegetate in front of the TV in the evenings. Go to the Lord and to His Word. It is God who heals you.

Let Him give you His love, His grace, His forgiveness, His joy, His peace, and His miracles. The miracle of God's love will do a deep and real work that you can live in forever.

Other Booklets by Pastor Carl H. Stevens

Satan's Limitations
Something Good is Going to Happen to You
Be Anxious for Nothing
Discover the True Meaning of Life
The Way of God
This Grace Is Also for Me
Demolish the Emotional Walls
Facing the Valleys with God
God's Plan According to His Integrity
Eternally Secure
The Reality of Hell
Where Does God Rest?
Loving Yourself
The Language of Tears
The Full Thought on Repentance
Created to Have Dominion
The Perfect Law of Liberty
Welcome the Thorn
The Quality of Faith
Embraced by Hope
Can I Really Stop Sinning?
The Monster Sin
The Highest Authority
Let's Discern Worldliness
Travailing in Prayer
The Way of Transformation
For a Worm Such As I
Revealing Supernatural Life
The Whispers of God
Stay Focused to Bear Fruit
When Testings Come
Resting Under the Cloud
What's Going Into Your Heart?
Digging Ditches by Faith
Forgive and Forget
Lord, Help Me Laugh!
The God of All Blessings
Church Leadership
The Virtue of Love
Have a Tremendous Expectation!
Getting to Know God
Reigning Through the Word
Christ Is My Identity
Genuine Identification
Live in the Provision
A Cross for Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
A Personal Cross for a Personal Resurrection
Are You Married to Your Wounds?
In the Fire, But Not Consumed
Never Accept Defeat
Grace and No Other Gospel
Receive the Gift of Repentance
Heart to Heart with God
Spiritual Self-Esteem
God's Justice Will Stand
Find Strength in Praising God

Don't Be an Abstract Christian
God's Way of Escape
Hearing the Voice of the Lord
Set Free by the Blood of Christ
How Is Your Relationship with the Holy Spirit?
God's Wisdom
God Provides a Hedge
Living in the Moment with Eternal Purpose
Let God Fight Your Battle
The Sin of Discontentment
Choose a Life of Faith
Divine Thinking Skills
Transformed by Truth
Protected by Angels
Have a Glorious Confession
Dwelling Together in Unity
Christ: Our Portion Forever
Resist the Devil through Truth
Complete in the Family of God
Choices and Consequences
Believe!
Humility Quiets the Soul
There Is No Limit to God's Forgiveness
The Purpose of the Valley
The Battle Is the Lord's
A Faith Built on Absolutes
Divine Resources for Healing
Growing in the Anointing of Grace
Open the Door to an Abundant Life
Let God Clear the Way
Commitment Is a Decision
The Father Knows Best
What Is Your Source?
Meeting at an Even Place
Set Free from Religious Concepts
His Burden Is Light
Abiding in Family Unity
Making Every Moment Count
God's Purpose Can't Be Stopped
An Eternal State of Forgiveness
Beyond the Pain of Rejection
Damaged Goods Can Still Receive God's Love
Guard Thy Heart
Living by Every Word of God
Love's Plan for You
Don't Be Intimidated
Unknown, But Well-Known in Heaven
Made Perfect in Love
Don't Distance Yourself from the God Who Loves You
Developing Disciples
Friendships Built on Truth
Let Jesus Reign
Hold Fast to Your Convictions
Jewels of Reconciliation

One Mind, One Heart, One Spirit
The Ultimate Frame of Reference: The Cross
God Never Quits on Us
He Cares for You
Forever Finished
Our Part in God's Plan
The Power of the Tongue
Let the Prudent Keep Silent
Thinking with God
Rejoice in Hope
Under God
The Principle of Unity
Rebound and Rejoice
Be Still
Make Love the Issue
Songs and Laughter in the Battle
Testings for Blessings
I Give Thee My Loves
From Conviction to Conversion
Divine Coverings
Hear Him Gladly
In Time of Need
Give Me Your Heart
The Heartbeat of God
The Meek Will He Teach
Living Epistles of Grace
Love Is Satisfied by Mercy
We Belong to God
Where Christ Lives
Prepare for War
Just Present the Blood
Corporate Pentecost
Last Looks, Last Thoughts, Last Words
No One Cares for Me Like Jesus
Four Spiritual Dimensions
Press On
Undeserved Suffering
Glorify God in Your Valleys
The Greatest Battle Ever Fought
Beautiful for Situations
Baked in the Loaf
So Loving the World through Christ
Throne Words
Self-Analysis versus God Is
The Mercy Road
Purpose to Be a Friend
The Winter is Over
My Cross
Married to Christ with a Crucified Past
Don't Quit! Surrender to God
Divine Fellowship versus Human

Relationship
Enlisting in Kingdom Service
Our Part in Kingdom Warfare
It Can Be Done!
Members in Particular
God's Peace: The Work of Righteousness
Go Forward with Jesus
Choose Life and Resist the Devil
The Place of Brokenness
Notes to Young Preachers
A Living Faith
Calvary Covers It All
Revival Is Here
Truth Speaks in the Streets
Abide with God in the Secret Place
Manufactured Storms
Quickened by the Word
Loving Himself
A Heart After God
The Hindering Strategy of Satan
Words of Power
Function by Faith
Make God's Provision Your Confession
Standing in Victory
Spend Your Life for Christ
The Measure of
Maturity
Jesus Stood Still
Divine Promotion
The Glory of Grace
The Word of Deliverance
Called to Reign
A View Toward Forever
The Makeup of the Mind
Answers for Adversity
Love: The Test of Faith
Perfect Strength
Song of Love
Friendship, Fellowship, and Joy
God Is With Us
Moving in Faith
How to Have a Spiritual Birthday
Wise Words
Vessels for Victory
Power in Perilous Times
Categorical Convictions
Open Doors
Healthy Emotions
God Cares
The Confidence of Quietness
The Family of God

Subscribe to "Doctrine Weekly"
 and receive a new booklet every week.

Call: (410) 483-3700, ext. 349 or, (410) 488-3520
 or send the order form on the following page to:

Grace Publications • P.O. Box 18715 • Baltimore, MD 21206

God Really Cares For You

Jesus loves you deeply. However, the fact that all have sinned separates us from God (*Romans 3:23; 6:23*). Still, God cares for you and He provides a way to share His love with you.

Jesus Christ's love for man was so great that He came and died on the cross for all the sins of mankind. He shed His blood for you so you can be forgiven and have eternal life.

The only thing He requires of you is to come to Him in simple faith trusting His character and love for you, and accepting Him as your Savior. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (*Acts 2:21*).

Simply pray, "*Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I receive you as my personal Savior. Thank you for loving me so much that you died for me so I can have eternal life with you. Amen.*"

He promises that He will never stop loving you and that He will never leave nor forsake you (*Hebrews 13:5*). Develop your relationship with Him by reading the Bible, praying, and attending a good Bible-believing church.

*Call or write for more information: (410) 483-3700
Greater Grace World Outreach
P.O. Box 18715
Baltimore, MD 21206*

Visit our Web Site: www.ggwo.org

Grace Publications Subscription Order Form

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PHONE (H): _____ PHONE (W): _____ HOME CHURCH _____

**OUTSIDE OF U.S.A. ONLY,
PLEASE ADD SHIPPING CHARGE:**

- 13-WEEK PLAN \$26.00
 26-WEEK PLAN \$52.00
 52-WEEK PLAN \$104.00

PAYMENT OPTION #1 (PAY IN FULL) CHECK (PAYABLE TO GRACE PUBLICATIONS) VISA MC DISCOVER AM. EXPRESS
 13-WEEK PLAN @ \$37.50 26-WEEK PLAN @ \$65.00 52-WEEK PLAN @ \$120.00

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PAYMENT OPTION #2 (CREDIT CARD INSTALLMENT PLAN) VISA MC DISCOVER AM. EXPRESS

13-WEEK PLAN 3 PAYMENTS OF \$12.50 26-WEEK PLAN 6 PAYMENTS OF \$10.85 52-WEEK PLAN 12 PAYMENTS OF \$10.00

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

PAYMENT OPTION #3 (CASH/CHECK INSTALLMENT PLAN)

PLEASE CALL 410-488-3520 FOR DETAILS.

PLEASE ENCLOSE APPROPRIATE PAYMENT OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

SUBSCRIPTION AMT. \$ _____

SHIPPING CHARGE \$ _____
(See Above)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____