

# HEALING MY STORY



*How to go from  
Broken to Beautiful*

## WALKER JAMES

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*Healing MY Story – How to Go From Broken to Beautiful* by Walker James

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# Preface

Living your Healed Story Begins Here

Before we begin, I need to be honest with you. Not dramatic. Not poetic. Just truthful in a way most people won't be—because pretending this journey is easy would be unfair to you, and unworthy of the work God is about to do in your life. Healing hurts. Not because God wants to wound you, but because facing your hurt... hurts. Most people never heal because they refuse to face what broke them. They bury it, hide it, numb it, medicate it, deny it, or build a life carefully shaped around avoiding whatever caused the damage in the first place. But you're here—reading these words—which means you've already taken a step braver than most ever will. You're choosing to look your pain in the eye, and that choice alone reveals a depth of courage inside you that I promise you're going to need, and that I promise you already have.

You're not holding a magic book. There are no shortcuts in these pages, no spiritual band-aids, no quick fixes, and no healing-by-osmosis. This book won't heal you just because you read it. Healing requires participation—not perfection. It requires honesty, not performance. It requires truth, not denial. It requires showing up even when you're tired, choosing courage even when you feel fragile, and letting Jesus touch the parts of your story you've never

allowed anyone else to see. And yes—some of this work will hurt “a lot,” not just a little. But the pain you’ll feel here is the kind that leads to healing, not the kind that leads to further wounding. And the truth is simple: **you cannot fix what you refuse to face.** You cannot heal what you hide. You cannot walk free while clinging to chains.

But with all of that said—listen closely to the most important thing I can tell you before we begin: **you can do this. You really can.** You are stronger than you think, braver than you feel, and more capable than your history wants you to believe. And you will not be doing this alone. I will be right here with you, in these pages, walking with you step-by-step. I can’t do the work *for* you—no mentor, coach, counselor, or pastor can—but I can absolutely do the work *with* you. You and I will walk through the memories, the wounds, the lies, the fears, and the breakthroughs together. You won’t face anything in this process that I haven’t had to face myself. This isn’t theory for me. This is lived experience, and because I’ve walked through it with Jesus, I can walk through it with you.

But more importantly—and I mean *infinitely* more importantly—Jesus will walk with you through every part of this journey. Every memory. Every tear. Every breakthrough. Every fear that rises in your chest when you think, “I can’t do this.” He will be there. Not sometimes. Not when you’re doing well. Not when you feel holy enough. Not only when you feel His presence. Not only when you make the right choices. **Always. Constantly. Unconditionally. Forever.** He meant it when He said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Never means never. Not under any circumstances. Not because of any mistake. Not because of any struggle. Not because of any weakness. Not because of any confusion. Not because of any fear. He will be with you 24/7—even when you don’t feel Him—because His promise is stronger than your emotions.

This book will ask hard things of you. It will ask you to remember what you’d rather forget, to feel what you’d rather avoid, to forgive what feels unforgivable, to tell the truth about stories you’ve survived, and to let go of lies that have shaped your identity for

## What Does God Want?

years. It will ask you to forgive others and forgive yourself. And yes—it will even ask you to face the places in your heart where you've held resentment toward God, not because *He* needs forgiving, but because *you* need freedom. Releasing your disappointment, your anger, or your sense that God “didn't come through for you” is one of the bravest steps you will ever take. It will ask you to choose gratitude when you feel empty, to choose truth when lies feel louder, and to choose Jesus when your emotions pull you in every direction except toward Him. But if you choose to lean in—even with trembling hands—the healing will come. And when it comes, it will be real, deep, lasting, and transformative.

Some moments will feel like breakthroughs. Others will feel like slow, steady progress. And some days will feel like you're standing still—but you won't be. Healing is rarely linear. Some days you'll feel strong. Others you'll feel fragile. Both are normal. Both are holy. Both are progress. So don't measure success by how you feel—measure it by the fact that you're still here, still showing up, still choosing to heal instead of run.

And if at any point in this process you find yourself stuck—emotionally, spiritually, mentally, or practically—I want you to know this: you don't have to figure it out alone. You can reach out anytime at [WalkerJames.Life/coaching](https://WalkerJames.Life/coaching) for a Discovery Call, a regular session, or a Pro-Bono session that someone else has paid forward for you. Sometimes healing requires a companion in the process—someone who can pray with you, listen to you, guide you, and help you see what you can't from the inside of your own story. That's why I'm here. That's why God put this calling on my life. That's why this book exists.

So, take a deep breath. Open your heart. And let this be the moment where your healing begins—not as a concept, but as a lived reality.

Because you are worth the work. You are worth the healing. And your story is worth redeeming.

Let's go, step by step, one page at a time—with Jesus leading, me walking beside you, and your future unfolding ahead of you.

This is the beginning of your new story.

Let's begin.

# Dedication

To my Lord and my God, words fail to express the gratitude I have in the deepest parts of my soul for the love and patience you have had with me and for me. Thank you! ♥

To my sons, Joshua, and Matthew, I love and adore you both so very much. I would not be the man I am today if it were not for your unconditional love. You have taught me so much about God's love, and I am constantly in awe of both of you.

To my princess, my wife, Mila, I absolutely love and adore everything about you—your wisdom, your sacrifice for others, and the way you reflect Jesus in your love, care, and kindness to me and to others. You are my Eve, the best woman for me, and I am so grateful that God brought you into my life.

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# Part 1: Introduction

Every person carries a story. Some are full of laughter and joy, others marked by heartbreak, disappointment, and regret. Maybe your story has been heavy for a long time—too long. Maybe you've tried to move on, tried to pray it away, tried to bury the pain deep enough that it wouldn't find you again. But no matter how far you run, it still whispers your name.

I know that whisper. I've heard it too.

*Healing MY Story* was born out of my own pain—the kind that leaves you sitting in the dark, questioning everything you thought you knew about God, life, and yourself. I didn't create this because I had all the answers. I created it because I was desperate for healing, and I discovered firsthand that the same God who allows us to walk through brokenness is the One who knows how to heal it.

This book isn't about theory. It's not about “trying harder” or pretending to be okay. It's about learning to let God into the places you've been hiding—the wounds you've carried, the stories you've tried to forget, and the parts of you that you thought were beyond repair. Because the truth is, healing doesn't begin when everything

feels right. It begins when you're brave enough to let God touch what's been wrong for too long.

### Why This Book Exists

I wrote this book for three reasons—and chances are, at least one of them has something to do with you.

First, I wrote it because **healing should be within everyone's reach**. Not everyone can afford one-on-one coaching, and I get that. But that shouldn't stop you from experiencing freedom. Jesus didn't wait for people to have the right resources before He healed them—He met them where they were. This book is my way of doing the same. It's a guided journey through the same process I use in Freedom Coaching, built so you can walk through it at your own pace, right where you are.

If you can't afford a coach, consider this book your companion. I'll walk with you through each step—from identifying your brokenness, to forgiving what still hurts, to rediscovering who you are in Christ. Every chapter was written to bring light into a different corner of your heart, to help you breathe again, and to remind you that God is not finished with you yet.

Second, I wrote this because **some of you are ready to go deeper**—not just to heal, but to *help*. Maybe you've already started your own journey toward freedom and you can feel God stirring something new inside of you—a calling to walk with others through their pain. This book will show you how. It's not just a self-help guide; it's a model you can use to lead others through their own "Healing MY Story" journey.

My dream is to see hundreds, even thousands, of people rise up as Freedom Coaches—ordinary believers who've been healed by Jesus and are now ready to carry that healing to others. Imagine what that could do for the Kingdom. Imagine the ripple effect of one healed life touching another, and another, until entire families and

communities are transformed. That's the vision. That's the heartbeat of *Healing MY Story*.

A very wise person, Charlie Kirk, once had a note on his desk that read, "Imagine what God could do through you if you didn't care who got the credit."

And finally, I wrote this book to **lead you through real transformation**—not just give you more information. We've all read books that told us what to do but left us wondering *how* to actually do it. This one's different. This one walks with you. Each chapter builds on the one before it, helping you understand *why* every step matters—why forgiveness unlocks peace, why gratitude shifts your heart, why your identity in Christ changes everything.

This isn't a checklist; it's a process. A process that leads you from wounded to whole, from stuck to free, from hopeless to healed.

## What's In This for You

This isn't about becoming someone else. It's about becoming who God made you to be all along.

By the time you finish this book, you'll begin to see your story differently. You'll realize that your past doesn't define you, your pain doesn't control you, and your brokenness doesn't disqualify you. In fact, those are the very things God wants to use to set you free—and to help set others free too.

### **You'll learn how to:**

- Face your pain without fear.
- Forgive what feels unforgivable.
- Cultivate gratitude that transforms wounds into wisdom.
- Replace the lies with God's truth.
- Reclaim your identity as His beloved child.
- Walk in a new kind of freedom—the kind that lasts.

But more than anything, I want this book to help you believe again—not just in God's power, but in His goodness. I want you to believe

that you are not too broken to be healed, that your story matters, it is not too messy to be redeemed, and that the life God has for you is far greater than the one the enemy is trying to destroy.

### A Bigger Vision

*Healing MY Story* isn't just a book or a program. It's a movement. It's a chance for people all over the world to experience what it means to live unbroken—to stop surviving their story and start living it with purpose.

If you let God meet you in these pages, your story will begin to change. But if you take what you learn here and start helping others heal theirs, *the world* will begin to change. That's how revival starts—not just in churches, but in living rooms, coffee shops, and quiet conversations where someone says, “I've been where you are... and I know the way out. Would you like me to show you the way?”

That's what we're doing here—learning the way out, together.

### Before We Begin

I want you to know this upfront: healing takes courage. You'll have moments where it feels uncomfortable, emotional, excruciatingly painful, maybe even exhausting. But you'll also have moments where you can finally breathe again—where peace returns, joy rises, and the weight you've carried for years begins to lift.

Don't rush it. Don't fake it. Just take one honest step at a time. You don't have to know how to fix everything. You just have to be willing to let God in. He'll take care of the rest.

Welcome to *Healing MY Story*. Let's do this together—let's heal, let's grow, let's live a free, transformed life.

## CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS A FREEDOM COACH

Freedom Coaching begins in the moment a person finally stops pretending. When the smile fades, when the mask slips, when the weight they've carried for years becomes too heavy to hide, something sacred happens. A whisper escapes that few people ever say out loud: "I just want to be free of this." Those eight words are the doorway to transformation—the moment the soul stops running, stops numbing, and starts reaching for healing.

Freedom Coaching isn't about goals, checklists, or chasing success. It's about healing what hurts, finding who you really are, and rediscovering the life that pain tried to steal from you. It's not about managing the symptoms of brokenness; it's about inviting God to heal the root of it. A Freedom Coach doesn't fix you—they *walk with you*. They don't hand you answers—they help you discover truth. Their job isn't to make life easy; it's to help you see how God is already working in your story, even in the middle of the mess.

Freedom Coaching is a Christ-centered, Spirit-led journey where you heal your story by walking with someone who has walked through their own. It's not counseling, not therapy, and not life

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coaching—it's intentional discipleship through the painful places of your story, guided by truth, compassion, and the healing presence of Jesus. A Freedom Coach doesn't point you to themselves; they point you back to Him.

A life coach helps you reach goals. A Freedom Coach helps you *recover your soul*. A life coach asks, "What do you want to achieve?" A Freedom Coach asks, "What's hurting? What's been holding you back from believing you're already loved?" The difference isn't subtle—it's eternal.

A Freedom Coach isn't here to boost your confidence—they're here to reconnect you to the God who heals, restores, and defines you. Because once you know who you are in Jesus, confidence is no longer something you chase; it becomes the natural fruit of identity. You stop trying to earn worth and begin walking in the worth God already gave you. You stop striving to be enough and start living from the truth that you already are.

A Freedom Coach walks with you into the places you've avoided—the wounds that still whisper, the memories that still sting, the moments you wish never happened. Not to make you relive them, but to help you surrender them. Together, you bring those wounds into the presence of Jesus—the only One who can heal what happened and redeem what was stolen. And when He heals the root, everything above the surface changes.

That's what Freedom Coaching is all about—not surface-level change, but deep, lasting transformation that seeps into every part of your life. When you're no longer controlled by old wounds, you can finally live out of peace instead of pain.

You can't heal in isolation. You can pray, read, even believe all the right things—but true healing happens in *community*. It happens when someone sits beside you, looks you in the eye, and says, "You're not crazy. You're not too far gone. You're just broken—and God can fix that." That's what a Freedom Coach does. They walk into your story without flinching. They don't minimize it, sanitize it, or rush you through it. They hold space for your pain without

judgment because they've been there. They've hit bottom. They've questioned God. They've screamed "Why?" into the silence—and they've lived to discover that even silence can turn into peace.

That's what qualifies a Freedom Coach—not a certification on a wall, but a story that's been redeemed.

Freedom Coaching isn't a class or a curriculum; it's a journey. And every journey starts with one decision—to stop running. That's the first step. When you stop running from your pain, your past, or your story, you finally give God permission to step in. Your Freedom Coach helps you surrender—not in defeat, but in faith. Surrender says, "God, I can't fix this, but I trust that You can." That's the moment striving ends and healing begins.

From there, your Freedom Coach helps you uncover the truth—the truth about what happened, what you believed because of it, and what's actually true in the light of God's Word.

Maybe it was physical abuse, sexual assault, rape, incest, or years of emotional manipulation that left you afraid to trust. Maybe it was abandonment, betrayal, neglect, or codependency that taught you to mistake chaos for love. Or maybe it was grief—the kind that guts you from the inside out. Maybe you lost someone too soon, and you never got to say goodbye. Maybe it was the phone call you'll never forget, the diagnosis you didn't see coming, or the empty chair that still catches your eye in the quiet moments. Maybe it's the ache that won't fade no matter how many years have passed. Grief can feel like a wound that never closes—a slow, relentless reminder of what was and what can never be again.

And a Freedom Coach will help you bring even that grief into the hands of Jesus—not to erase the memory, but to redeem the pain. Grief doesn't mean God abandoned you; it means you loved deeply. Love always costs something, but Jesus always heals what love has lost.

Whatever it was, your Freedom Coach will help you face it with honesty and courage—not to relive the pain, but to release it. They help you see how those moments, as horrific as they were, do

not define you. They help you confront the lies that grew out of that pain—lies like “I’ll never be enough,” “I’ll always be alone,” “I’m damaged,” “I’m unlovable,” “I am lost without them,” or “I can’t change.” And they don’t stop there. They walk with you as you replace every one of those lies with truth—God’s truth—the truth that says you are chosen, wanted, loved, and made new. Because freedom doesn’t come from pretending it never happened. Freedom comes when you hand what happened to Jesus and let Him heal what the world broke.

When the time is right, your Freedom Coach will gently guide you into forgiveness—the turning point of every healing journey. You’ll learn how to release others, release yourself, and even release the expectations you placed on God. Forgiveness doesn’t excuse what happened; it removes its power. It is the moment you stop letting the past define you and start letting Jesus restore you. Forgiveness is not weakness—it is spiritual warfare. It is the moment you look darkness in the eye and say, “You don’t own me anymore.”

And after forgiveness cracks the soil, gratitude begins to grow. Gratitude doesn’t deny the pain—it rewrites its meaning. It shifts your eyes from what broke you to the God who is rebuilding you. It teaches you to see God’s fingerprints in the places you once only saw loss. Gratitude turns wounds into wisdom and scars into testimonies of grace.

That’s when freedom takes hold—when you can finally look back on what once broke you and see beauty instead of bitterness. Freedom doesn’t mean you’ll never struggle again; it means the struggle no longer defines you. It means you can remember without reliving, forgive without resentment, love without fear, trust without worry, and live without pretending.

And that’s what a Freedom Coach helps you do. They walk you toward peace, not perfection. Toward wholeness, not performance. Toward freedom—real, lasting, Spirit-breathed freedom.

Because the truth is, this world is full of people wearing masks—people pretending they're fine while quietly falling apart inside. The world doesn't need more polished success stories; it needs healed ones. It needs people who have been set free by the love of Jesus and are willing to live like it.

That's what you're reading right now—not a success story, but a healing one. A story that proves God can take every shattered piece of your life and make something beautiful out of it. That's why Freedom Coaching matters. It's not about changing who you are; it's about uncovering who you were created to be.

And if something inside you is whispering, "*I want that,*" then this is your moment. Maybe you're tired of carrying the weight. Maybe you're done pretending. Maybe you're ready to stop surviving your story and start healing it.

If that's you, then hear me clearly—you can be free. You don't have to fix yourself. You don't have to clean yourself up first. You just have to be willing to take that first brave step.

Because freedom doesn't start when everything's perfect—it starts the moment you invite Jesus into the mess.

That's what a Freedom Coach does. They walk beside you until the pain turns into peace. They stay with you until the lies lose their power. They help you hand the broken pieces of your story to Jesus and watch as He rebuilds them into something breathtakingly beautiful.

So, take a deep breath. This is where your healing begins. This is where courage rises. This is where you stop surviving your story and start healing it. Freedom isn't far away—it's already reaching for you through the hands of Jesus, who has been pursuing your heart your entire life.

Welcome to Freedom Coaching.

Welcome to healing.

Welcome to the life God always intended for you.

## CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS HEALING MY STORY

Healing MY Story was born in the middle of my own collapse—the season when everything familiar fell apart at the same time. I lost my job, then I lost relationships I thought were unbreakable. What disappeared wasn't just income or connection; it was identity, stability, and the future I thought I was building. I felt betrayed, misunderstood, abandoned, and convinced I had somehow failed God. It was the kind of breaking that leaves you staring at pieces you're not sure can ever go back together.

In that darkness, I started writing letters—raw, painful letters I never expected to write. One to my ex-wife after our marriage dissolved. One to my stepdaughter when our relationship shattered. I was angry, heartbroken, confused, and tired. And in my frustration, I said things to God I never thought I'd say: "Where are You? I did everything You asked. I wrote the book. I showed up. So why does it feel like You've gone silent?"

But He hadn't disappeared. Not for a moment. He was walking with me through every sleepless night, every tear, every accusation, every loss. His silence wasn't abandonment—it was surgery. He was letting the foundations I built on my own strength

crack so He could rebuild them on His. What was collapsing wasn't my life—it was my illusions. God wasn't punishing me; He was preparing me for a level of healing and purpose I didn't know I needed.

Healing MY Story isn't a program; it's a process of partnering with Jesus to face your wounds, expose your lies, and rewrite your story with truth. It's a Christ-centered roadmap that walks you step-by-step out of the broken places and into the healed places. It's practical, personal, and deeply spiritual—because healing isn't behavior modification; it's heart transformation.

Healing MY Story was born in the ashes of my own breaking—but it was never meant to stay there. God turned it into a roadmap anyone can follow, no matter their story. It starts the moment you stop running from your pain and invite God into it. That's when everything shifts. You begin to see your story the way He sees it—not as a pile of failures but as ground ready for redemption. Healing MY Story isn't about gluing broken pieces back together. It's about handing those pieces to Jesus and watching Him build something stronger, purer, and freer than what existed before.

The Healing MY Story process is simple but deep. It begins with **truth**—facing what actually happened, not what you've tried to minimize or justify. Then comes **forgiveness**—the moment the chains start to fall. After that comes **gratitude**—the shift that turns pain into perspective and opens your eyes to God's presence. And finally comes **rebuilding**—learning to live from the healed place instead of the hurting one. Healing MY Story isn't a self-help formula; it's a divine exchange where God trades your ashes for beauty, your mourning for joy, and your heaviness for praise.

What makes this journey different is that you don't heal alone. Healing MY Story connects you with people who've walked through their own valleys and now know how to walk with you through yours. It's a community without masks—a place where honesty is welcomed, wounds are understood, and grace is abundant. Here, you find support without shame, direction without pressure, and hope that refuses to quit on you.

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And Healing MY Story works because it is completely honest about where real healing comes from—Jesus. Only Jesus can transform a wounded heart. Only Jesus can silence the lies. Only Jesus can rebuild what trauma destroyed. Coaches can help you see, counselors can help you process, but only the Healer can restore. Healing MY Story brings you face to face with that Healer—the One who turns chaos into clarity and brokenness into beauty.

The goal isn't recovery; it's redemption. God uses your healing to heal others. He wastes nothing—not your tears, not your trauma, not your losses, not your silence. Everything you've survived becomes part of someone else's rescue. That's the beauty of God's economy. Your story becomes a testimony that unlocks freedom in someone else's life.

Healing is possible. It's not easy, but it's real. You don't have to stay broken. You don't have to live defined by what happened to you. You can stop being the victim and start being the victor. You can heal. You can forgive. You can be grateful. You can live in truth. You can become whole. The pain may have shaped your past, but it doesn't have to define your future. Healing MY Story is your invitation to stand up from the ashes, to believe that beauty is still possible, and to let God do what only He can—take your broken and make it beautiful.

You always have a choice. You can stay stuck in the chapter that wounded you, or you can begin walking into the chapter that will heal you. Healing starts the moment you stop doing life alone and invite Jesus into the mess—into the broken places, the silent places, the painful places. When you do, everything begins to change. Your story doesn't end in brokenness. With Jesus, it ends in beauty.

## CHAPTER 3: FREEDOM STARTS HERE

Most people go through life without ever stopping long enough to ask the most important question they'll ever face: *What happens when this life ends?* We avoid it because it feels heavy, uncomfortable, even scary—but deep down, we know the truth. We were created by an eternal God, in His image, which means we are eternal beings. The real question isn't *if* we will live forever... it's *where*.

If you've already accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I want to congratulate you. You've made the most important decision of your life. You are ready to take the next step in your healing and transformation journey. But if you're not sure who Jesus really is, or whether He's truly your Savior, then I invite you to lean in—because what you're about to read could change everything.

Every one of us shares the same condition: something inside us is broken. We feel it in our failures, our temptations, our regrets, our fears, and our selfish choices. We see it reflected in the world around us—wars, hatred, jealousy, betrayal, greed. The Bible calls this brokenness what it truly is: **sin**. And sin isn't just what we do—it's the

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condition that separates us from a holy God and leaves us aching for the connection we were created for.

The Bible says the problem is sin:

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Since all have sinned and continually fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 AMP)

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All. That means every one of us. Sin isn't just what we do—it's what separates us from a holy God who loves us. You see, because God is holy, sinful people cannot come into His presence on their own. And when that relationship was broken, it left a void inside of us—an emptiness we've been trying to fill ever since. That quiet ache inside you—the longing for meaning, identity, peace, and purpose—isn't a personality flaw. It's the echo of separation from the God who made you. We try to fill it with relationships, careers, addictions, entertainment, or distraction, but nothing temporal can satisfy an eternal need. Only God can—because the problem isn't around us; it's within us.

The Bible says the wages of sin is death:

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For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 AMP

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This is the crossroads every human being stands at. One road leads to eternal separation from God—not because He rejects us, but because sin does. The other road leads to eternal life—not because of anything we've earned, but because of what Jesus already accomplished for us.

You see, God knew we couldn't fix ourselves. So, He made a way. The Bible says that God loves us:

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But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8 (AMP)

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Did you catch that? **While we were still sinners.** Not after we cleaned ourselves up. Not after we got our lives in order. While we

were still running, still rebelling, still broken—Jesus came for us. He took our place on the cross. He carried the full weight of our sin, shame, and guilt—and paid a price we never could.

He was beaten, mocked, and nailed to a cross—not because He was guilty, but because we were. He took the punishment our sin demanded. Every lash, every wound, every drop of blood carried your name on it. And with His final breath, He declared, “It is finished.” The debt was paid. Justice was satisfied. The door to freedom swung open.

But the cross wasn't the end—it was the beginning. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead in absolute victory. He defeated sin, shattered the power of death, and proved once and for all that nothing—not even the grave—can stop God's love. His resurrection is your proof that freedom is possible.

And here's the best part: this isn't a gift for a select few. It's for you.

The Bible says if we confess, He saves:

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If you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. – Romans 10:9 AMP

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That's it. No rituals, no religion—just faith. Salvation isn't about being perfect; it's about surrendering. It's admitting, “I can't save myself,” and believing that Jesus already has. It's the moment your story collides with His, and everything begins to change.

Maybe even now, you can feel that tug—that gentle pull in your heart that whispers, *this is for you*. That's not emotion. That's the Holy Spirit drawing you. You don't have to outrun guilt, shame, regret, or fear anymore. You don't have to fix your own heart or pretend you're okay. You can hand every broken piece to Jesus—right now.

He's not a distant God looking down in disappointment. He's a loving Savior reaching out in compassion. He knows every part of

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your story—every wrong turn, every regret, every wound—and still, He calls your name.

If you want to know that your sins are forgiven, your soul is secure, and your eternity is sealed—this is your moment. You don't need fancy words. God's not looking for perfect speech; He's looking for an honest heart.

You can pray something like this:

*Lord Jesus, I come before You today with a humble heart. I know that I have sinned, and I know I cannot save myself. I am sorry for my rebellion and for all the wrong I have done. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.*

*I believe You died for my sins and rose again so that I could be forgiven and free. Today, I receive that gift. I open my heart and invite You to be my Savior and my Lord. Come into my life, Jesus. Heal my heart, forgive my past, and lead me into the life You created me to live.*

*Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I might reflect Your love and character in everything I do. From this day forward, help me to love You, honor You, and serve You with all my heart. Shine Your light through me so others can see Your goodness and grace.*

*Thank You, Father, for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die for me. I surrender everything to You. Teach me to walk closely with You and to keep investing in my relationship with You every day.*

*From this moment on, I belong to You. I am all Yours. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.*

If you just prayed that prayer and meant it, then according to God's Word—you are now His child. Heaven rejoices, angels celebrate, and your name has been written in the Book of Life.

Because this is where freedom truly begins.

Not in self-help. Not in striving. Not in trying harder. Real freedom starts at the cross—at the feet of Jesus Christ. Everything you've read in this book about healing, forgiveness, surrender, and transformation flows from this one moment. Without Him, none of it works. But with Him, everything changes.

You are no longer bound by your past. You are no longer defined by your mistakes. You are forgiven. Redeemed. Born again. Made new. The chains are broken. The shame is gone. The lies have lost their power.

And now—for the first time in your life—you can begin to live free. Truly free. Not the temporary freedom the world offers, but the deep, soul-level freedom only Jesus gives. The chains are broken. The shame has been silenced. Your past no longer owns you. Freedom starts here—and His name is Jesus.

## CHAPTER 4: ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH

Healing isn't easy. It's sacred work—the kind of work that asks you to stop surviving and start transforming. Real healing takes bravery because it requires you to look inward, open the doors you've kept locked, and trust God enough to step into the places you've been avoiding.

Most people never truly heal because healing demands the one thing we often avoid: courage. Not the loud kind, but the quiet, steady courage that makes you stop pretending you're okay and start facing the truth. Courage that doesn't just ask God to change your circumstances—but invites Him to change you.

Healing demands more than hope—it demands participation. God can't want for you more than you want for yourself.

Read that again. *God can't want for YOU more than YOU want for yourself.*

His desire is already settled—He wants your freedom, your peace, your restoration. But He will never force healing on you. He waits for your yes. Healing happens where His power meets your

willingness. And it all begins with one question: *Are you brave enough?*

Brave enough to surrender what you've been trying to control? Brave enough to be honest about what's really been broken? Brave enough to face the pain instead of running from it? Brave enough to forgive what feels unforgivable? Brave enough to trust God again—even when you don't understand what He's doing?

Because this is where healing happens—when you stop running from your story and start letting God rewrite it.

Surrender is the first act of bravery. It's not weakness; it's trust. It's looking up and saying, "God, I can't fix this. I've tried. I've cried. I've failed. And I'm done trying to be my own healer." That's where His power begins—when yours finally ends. Healing starts the moment you stop fighting for control and start letting Him lead.

But surrender alone isn't enough. You have to be honest—with God, with yourself, with what's really going on. Healing doesn't come through pretending. It comes through truth. Jesus said, "You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free." But first, you have to face the truth. You have to name the pain, admit the anger, acknowledge the fear, and bring it all into the light. Because what you hide can't heal.

And when the truth finally surfaces, pain often comes with it. You'll want to run. Everything in you will scream, "I can't go back there." But hear me—the only way out is through. You can't heal what you refuse to feel. You can't heal what you refuse to face. And here's the beautiful part: Jesus never asks you to face it alone. He steps right into the middle of your pain, holds it with you, and walks you through it—not to reopen wounds, but to remove the poison that's been hiding underneath them.

For many, this is the moment forgiveness becomes possible. You start realizing that holding onto resentment isn't protecting you—it's imprisoning you. Forgiveness isn't saying the offense was okay; it's saying, "I refuse to let what happened keep controlling my

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life." It's releasing the burden into God's hands—the only hands strong enough to carry both justice and mercy. And sometimes, the person who needs forgiveness most is the one you see in the mirror. Jesus already paid for your freedom—forgiveness lets you walk in it.

And for some, there's another layer—what feels like forgiving God. Not because God ever did anything wrong, but because your heart quietly blamed Him for the pain He allowed but did not cause. Disappointment with God is real, and He's not intimidated by it. This kind of "forgiveness" simply means releasing the offense you've been holding toward Him, letting Him back into the place where trust once lived. You can't trust a God you feel betrayed by—and He longs to heal even that wound.

Then, as forgiveness loosens its grip, gratitude quietly begins to rise. Gratitude is one of the most powerful forces in healing—it shifts your eyes from the ashes to the evidence of God's presence. Gratitude doesn't deny your pain; it reframes it. It shows you that God was not absent in your story—He was working in the shadows, weaving redemption into places you thought were ruined. Gratitude transforms sorrow into strength, memories into wisdom, wounds into testimonies. It's the moment you realize your story has never been hopeless—not for one second.

Gratitude transforms suffering into wisdom, memories into meaning, and ashes into beauty. It teaches you that even the darkest chapters can become testimonies of grace. That's what God does—He turns pain into purpose, scars into stories, and broken pieces into masterpieces.

So now the question comes back to you: *Are you brave enough to let go?* Brave enough to let God into the places you've been guarding? Brave enough to stop living as the victim of your story and start living as someone chosen, healed, and empowered by God Himself?

Healing won't happen by accident. It won't happen by avoidance. It happens when you choose it—when you stand in the

presence of God and say, “Here I am. I’m done hiding. I’m ready to heal.”

Are you brave enough to believe that God’s plan for your life is still good—even after everything you’ve survived? Are you brave enough to trust that He can use even this—especially this—to shape you into someone wiser, stronger, gentler, and freer than you’ve ever imagined?

Because He can. And He will. But only if you’re brave enough to say yes.

So, take a deep breath. This is the moment where everything shifts. The moment where fear loses and faith steps forward. The moment where healing begins. You don’t need to have the answers. You don’t need to have the strength. You only need to be willing—because courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is choosing faith right in the middle of it.

So, I’ll ask you again... ***Are you brave enough?***

# Part 2: Foundations – Recognizing Brokenness

## CHAPTER 5: WHAT IS BROKENNESS

Let's talk about something most of us try to avoid—brokenness.

It's not easy to admit when we're broken. Saying those words out loud makes us feel weak, like there's something wrong with us that can't be fixed. So, we hide it. We learn to smile while we're falling apart on the inside. We bury the pain so deep that even we start pretending it's not there. But pretending doesn't heal anything. Brokenness isn't proof that you're weak—it's proof that you're human. Everyone carries fractures of some kind, whether they admit them or not. Your brokenness doesn't disqualify you from God's love; it's the very reason His healing is available to you. Ignoring it doesn't erase it. And medicating it—with distraction, pleasure, or addiction—only delays the crash.

So, what is brokenness? At its core, brokenness is what happens when life no longer works the way God designed it to. It's when something within us—our spirit, our trust, our connection to God, our connection to others—fractures under the weight of sin, pain, or disappointment. It's the moment when the life we're living no longer aligns with the life God intended.

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For some, brokenness is easier to name. Women, in particular, often feel it more freely; they tend to be in touch with their emotions and can sense when something deep inside them has fractured. For many men, the pressure to stay strong can drown out their pain...we're taught to be strong, stable, and in control. Admitting we're broken feels like failure, weakness, betrayal of who we're supposed to be. But truth be told, it takes far more courage to admit you're broken than it does to pretend you're not. Facing your brokenness is not weakness—it's strength, it's honesty, it's the beginning of healing.

We call it *brokenness* because it means something that was once whole has been damaged—a relationship with God, with others, or within ourselves. It's not just emotional pain; it's spiritual disconnection. It's when the pieces of your heart, faith, and purpose no longer fit together the way they were meant to.

You begin to recognize brokenness when your life stops producing the fruit God intended—when peace turns into restlessness, love turns into fear, and purpose gets buried beneath pain. You can sense it in the gap between what you know is true and what you're actually living. That's the evidence of brokenness: when your life no longer reflects God's design, and your soul knows it.

Brokenness wears many faces. For some, it looks like grief—the ache of losing someone you loved so deeply that the air feels thinner without them. For others, it's the loss of identity after a divorce, a betrayal, or a career that once defined their worth. It can come through the hands of those who should have protected you—parents who wounded instead of nurtured, spouses who abandoned, betrayed, or rejected instead of loved, friends who used you instead of cared for you. The truth is, the people who are supposed to love us most can sometimes cause the deepest scars.

And sometimes, the damage didn't start yesterday—it started long ago. Some of you carry memories that have haunted you since childhood: abuse, neglect, molestation, rape, rejection, shame. Things that happened in the dark that you still don't have words for.

Others bear the guilt of choices you made—sins you regret, choices that haunt you, moments you wish you could erase—things that left you believing you're beyond forgiveness. You can't seem to escape the past, and so you live under its weight.

For some, the brokenness came on a battlefield—not just the kind with bullets and bombs, but the invisible one that lives inside the mind. Post-traumatic stress isn't limited to soldiers; it's the echo of any trauma that rewires the soul to expect pain before peace. Whether it's PTSD from military service, the death of someone you couldn't save, or the terror of abuse and violence you endured in silence.

Trauma leaves echo's, the aftermath feels the same—sleepless nights, racing thoughts, emotional numbness, and guilt that won't let go.

Brokenness doesn't always announce itself with dramatic events. Brokenness can also come from the invisible wars of everyday life—the car accident you survived but can't forget, the miscarriage that shattered your heart, the addiction you can't shake, the abandonment that replays in your mind like a cruel movie. It's the fear that no one will understand what you've been through, the anxiety that keeps your chest tight, the depression that makes getting out of bed feel like an impossible task.

But hear me: no matter what your brokenness looks like—whether it was caused by others, by circumstance, or even by your own choices—there is hope for you. There is healing for every kind of trauma, restoration for every shattered heart, and redemption for every story. Because the same Jesus who touched lepers, calmed storms, and raised the dead still heals today. And He doesn't just heal the body; He heals the soul. Your pain may have a thousand names, but your healing has only one—*Jesus*.

But not all brokenness comes from what you did or what was done to you. Sometimes it's what life throws your way—unexpected losses, bad diagnoses, a child's rebellion, a spouse's addiction, the cruel reality of cleaning up the wreckage of someone else's poor

choices. These moments leave you wondering if God sees you, if He even cares.

Broken people, break people. It's a hard truth, but it's real. Those who've never found healing often become the ones who wound others. And the cycle continues—pain birthing pain, hurt spilling over into the lives of those who never caused it. And it never feels intentional—it's simply the overflow of a wounded heart trying to survive in the only way it knows how.

Some of us wear our brokenness on the outside—anger, rage, tears that come without warning. Others wear masks—smiling, working, achieving—hoping no one notices the emptiness underneath. Some of us crave closeness because we can't bear to be alone with our thoughts; others isolate, afraid that letting someone in will only mean getting hurt again.

We cope however we can. Some reach for alcohol or drugs to numb the pain. Others bury themselves in work, shopping, or scrolling endlessly on social media to distract from the ache. Some chase relationships that never fill the void, while others punish themselves through self-harm, convinced they deserve the pain. These coping mechanisms aren't signs that you're hopeless—they're signs that you're hurting and trying to survive without the healing only Jesus can give.

And then there are those whose thoughts turn darker—who wonder if life is even worth living anymore, who believe the only escape from the noise in their head is silence. That kind of pain doesn't just whisper—it screams. It tells you that freedom isn't possible. But it's lying to you.

The scars of brokenness run deep, and if left untreated, they infect every part of life. They shape how we love, how we trust, how we see God, how we see ourselves. They become the lens through which we view the world—a world that now feels unsafe, unkind, and unfair. Brokenness changes how we show up in relationships, how we parent, how we handle conflict. It can rob us of laughter, joy, and hope until we forget what peace even feels like.

But hear me when I say this: **brokenness is not a death sentence.** It's not the end of your story. What feels like the end is often the doorway to your beginning. It's the very place where healing begins. You may feel shattered beyond repair, but Jesus specializes in what the world calls impossible. He's the one who takes the shattered pieces of your life and makes something breathtakingly beautiful out of them.

I know what brokenness feels like—the pain, the shame, the rejection, the exhaustion of pretending everything's fine. I've lived it. I've walked through the fire, sat in the ashes, and wondered if life would ever feel whole again. But Jesus met me there—right in the middle of the mess—and He didn't condemn me. He didn't lecture me. He lifted me. Piece by broken piece, truth by truth, He began to rebuild what life had destroyed. He didn't just put the pieces back; He reshaped my entire foundation.

And that's what He wants for you.

I know it's hard to open up. Vulnerability feels risky when your heart has already been shattered. But what if this risk is the doorway to your freedom? What if choosing to step out of your comfort zone and admit your brokenness is the moment everything starts to change? Because it can be.

You've lived long enough in survival mode. You've carried pain that was never meant to be yours alone. You've been strong for too long. Isn't it time to let Jesus be strong for you?

So, take a deep breath, and imagine what an unbroken life could look like—a life filled with peace instead of panic, laughter instead of loneliness, purpose instead of pain. That's not a fantasy. That's healing. That's freedom. That's what Jesus does best. And that's what He wants to do in you—starting right now.

## CHAPTER 6: WHEN FEELINGS LIE

There's a war raging inside you. You've felt it—that tug-of-war between what you know is true and what you feel is true. One moment you're standing on God's promises, confident and clear, and the next your emotions blindsides you with doubt, fear, or anger. You tell yourself, "I know better," yet your heart won't listen. It's like a storm that your own soul keeps stirring up—and no matter how hard you try, peace feels out of reach. But feelings don't always tell the truth—they tell you your condition, not your position.

We live in a world that's confused about emotions. Some people have been taught to ignore them—to suppress pain, hide tears, and "stay strong." Others have been taught to follow them—to trust every impulse as truth, as if how they feel defines what's real. Both extremes are dangerous because both miss the divine design. Both paths lead you away from healing because both place emotions in the wrong seat—either the driver's seat or the trunk, when God designed them to sit in the passenger seat. God didn't create emotions to rule us or to be repressed. He created them to **reveal** us—to show us what's happening inside the heart. Feelings are not masters or enemies; they're messengers. They expose where truth is missing and where healing is needed. When anger rises, fear

tightens, or sadness won't lift, it isn't proof that you're broken beyond repair. It's evidence that something inside you is still waiting for redemption.

But here's the problem: when feelings lead, truth follows—and that's backward. God designed your inner life to function in divine order: **Spirit** → **Mind** → **Heart** → **Feelings**. Your spirit—the part of you that's born again and connected directly to God—was meant to lead. And because your spirit is the only part of you fully redeemed right now, it is the only part capable of leading you into truth every single time. The mind interprets the truth the Spirit reveals. The heart believes that truth and responds to it. And finally, your feelings reflect it. When this order is healthy, peace reigns within. When it's reversed—when feelings drive the heart, the heart confuses the mind, and the spirit is silenced—chaos takes over.

That's why Paul said, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2), and Solomon wrote, “Guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23). The Spirit plants truth, the mind renews it, the heart receives it, and the emotions eventually reflect it. It's a divine cascade that brings order to the soul.

So, what happens when that order breaks? You've probably heard the phrase, “Follow your heart.” It sounds inspiring, but it's spiritually dangerous. Following your heart doesn't lead you to God—it leads you back to your wounds. Jeremiah tells us, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). When your emotions are detached from truth, they will deceive you. They'll make you feel abandoned when you're deeply loved. They'll convince you you're failing when you're right where God needs you to be. They'll tell you that God is silent when He's actually building your faith through stillness.

Your feelings were never meant to steer your life—they were meant to **signal** it. Think of them as warning lights on the dashboard of your soul. When anger flashes, it's not a license to explode; it's an alert that something deeper needs attention. Emotions are invitations, not instructions. When fear rises, it's not a command to run; it's a cue to check where your trust in God has wavered. When

sadness lingers, it's not weakness; it's a whisper that a wound still needs His healing touch. The goal isn't to silence your emotions; it's to interpret them through the lens of truth. Feelings are indicators, not instructors.

True healing never begins by managing emotions—it begins by **surrendering** them. You can't heal your feelings by analyzing them; you heal them by aligning them. When your spirit submits to the Holy Spirit, your mind begins to think differently. As your mind is renewed, your heart starts to believe differently. And when your heart believes truth, your emotions begin to feel differently. That's divine order in motion.

This is why so many people spend years talking about feelings but never find freedom—because you can't fix a spiritual problem with emotional tools. Therapy has value, but without God's truth, it can only help you understand your pain—it cannot heal it. Healing doesn't begin with expression; it begins with revelation. When truth touches the spirit, it sets off a chain reaction: your thoughts align, your heart softens, and your emotions stabilize. It's not immediate, but it's permanent.

David understood this. He didn't let his emotions dictate his faith; he directed them. When he cried out, “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Put your hope in God!” (Psalm 42:11), he wasn't denying how he felt—he was leading his feelings back to truth. That's spiritual maturity: learning to speak to your emotions instead of from them. You can do the same. When your emotions whisper lies—“You're alone,” “You're worthless,” “You're unlovable,” “It's hopeless”—answer them with God's Word: “I will never leave you nor forsake you. You are My workmanship. Nothing is impossible with Me. You are loved with an everlasting love.”

That's not denial—that's **discipleship**. It's your spirit leading your soul back into alignment with God. And when the Spirit leads, peace follows.

This is what Healing MY Story is all about. It's not about fixing feelings; it's about redeeming the truth beneath them. When

someone says, “I feel unloved,” you don’t shame the feeling—you reveal the truth that cancels it: “You are fully, completely, unconditionally loved by the God who made you.” When they say, “I feel unseen,” you remind them that God collects every tear in a bottle. When they say, “I feel afraid,” you point them to the One who commands the wind and waves to be still. That’s how you lead emotions home to truth. Truth doesn’t invalidate your feelings—it reinterprets them.

Because when your spirit is aligned with God, your mind anchored in His Word, your heart secure in His love, and your emotions resting in His peace—healing becomes transformation.

That’s when broken turns to beautiful.

God doesn’t want you to ignore your emotions, and He doesn’t want you to worship them. He wants to **redeem** them. He wants to teach you how to feel without being ruled, and how to respond without being reactive. He wants to bring every emotion under His Spirit’s authority so that they no longer control you—they reveal Him. That’s when your life begins to flow in harmony: truth guiding your thoughts, love shaping your heart, and peace governing your emotions.

Living in divine order isn’t just balance—it’s freedom. It’s how you walk in the Spirit, how you remain unshaken when storms come, and how you live in the rhythm of His presence. The world reacts; the Spirit leads. This is why discipleship matters—because maturity is learning to pause, listen, and respond from truth rather than impulse. The world says, “Follow your heart.” God says, “Follow Me, and your heart will follow.” The world says, “Trust your feelings.” God says, “Trust My truth, and your feelings will find rest.”

Wanting what God wants means choosing to live in that order—Spirit first, mind renewed, heart restored, feelings redeemed. It means trusting His design even when your emotions are loud and your circumstances make no sense. It’s training your soul to obey truth, not impulses; to chase holiness, not comfort.

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And when that happens—when every part of you beats in rhythm with His—your emotions stop betraying and manipulating you and start bearing witness to His truth. You begin to experience the life God always wanted for you: a life not ruled by storms, but sustained by peace. A life that reflects His strength through your surrender and His beauty through your brokenness.

That's what God wants. And when you want that too, you'll find that your emotions—once your greatest enemy—become your greatest ally, proving just how deeply He has healed your story. Your emotions become testimonies—not of where you've been, but of who now leads you.

## CHAPTER 7: THE COST OF SAYING NO

The fact that you're reading this chapter means you've already said yes—yes to healing, yes to change, yes to the first steps of freedom. Buying this book was an act of courage, even if you didn't recognize it in the moment. But saying yes once does not silence the temptation to say no later in the journey. Healing requires many yeses, not just one. And the enemy will work hard to talk you out of the next yes. That is why we need to talk honestly about the cost of saying no—not because you've said it, but because you've come too far to turn back now.

Saying yes to God, even once, is holy. It shifts something in your heart and signals heaven that you are willing to move toward wholeness. But every layer of healing God brings to the surface will require another yes, another moment of surrender, another step of trust. This is where many people stumble—not at the beginning, but in the middle, when the process gets uncomfortable or when old pain rises and feels heavier than expected. Fear begins to whisper. Doubt creeps in. The flesh resists. The heart hesitates. And suddenly, the temptation to say no—subtly or boldly—appears again.

## What Does God Want?

That is why this chapter exists. It's not here to scold you or question your courage. It is here to protect the yes you have already given. Because whether we realize it or not, every no to God carries a cost. It is the cost of delay, the cost of pride, the cost of prolonged pain, the cost of missing peace that was already available, and the cost of staying stuck in places we were meant to walk out of. God is not trying to take something from you when He invites you deeper into healing—He is trying to give something to you. But that gift is received only through continued yeses.

So, let's acknowledge something clearly before going further: you have already said yes. By picking up this book, stepping into this journey, daring to hope again, and allowing your heart to imagine healing, you have already taken a brave and holy step toward freedom. That matters. That counts. That is evidence of the Spirit of God working inside you. And because you've already said yes, you deserve the truth about how to protect that yes as the road unfolds.

Here is the truth: you are closer to healing than you think. And while the enemy cannot see your future or know the full impact of your freedom—because only God is omniscient—he can sense movement. He recognizes when chains begin to loosen. He notices when lies start to lose their grip. He can feel the pressure when the Holy Spirit begins pulling you out of the darkness he once used to control you. He hates it when his minions start losing their grip on someone he has spent years trying to break. He senses whenever someone turns their face toward Jesus and begins taking even the smallest step toward truth. That is why he pushes so hard for your no. He fears the ripple effect of a life surrendered to Christ, even if he cannot fully understand it. But God is fighting for your yes—the yes you've already given and the yes you'll continue to give as you walk forward.

Healing is not one decision; it is a series of them. And when you understand the cost of saying no, your original yes is strengthened, anchored, and protected. That understanding prepares you for the moments when the process feels overwhelming, vulnerable, or unfamiliar. Because the reality is

simple: healing never becomes easier when you wait; it becomes harder. Every delay makes the walls thicker, the lies louder, and the heart colder. Avoidance feels like self-protection, but it slowly becomes a prison. It keeps you in bondage—not only to the past trauma, but to the hurt, the pain, the shame, and the lies that were never meant to define you. Saying no to God always becomes a yes to something else—yes to fear, yes to old stories, yes to old identities, yes to staying wounded, and yes to the weight Jesus died to lift from you.

Sometimes the no feels like protection, but in reality it is self-imprisonment. It is the decision to cling to familiar pain rather than face the temporary discomfort of healing. It is choosing what you know over what you don't yet understand. Many people stay here because they fear what will happen if they open the painful places. They fear reliving what they buried. They fear stirring emotions they have stuffed for years. And while the enemy cannot read your mind, he absolutely exploits fear. Fear becomes his favorite tool to convince you that avoiding healing is safer than pursuing it. Avoidance promises safety, but it delivers suffering.

And then there is the lie that says you are not worthy of healing—that your sins are too big, your past too dark, your mistakes too many, or your story too messy for Jesus to redeem. Shame whispers that God heals “better people,” not people like you. That lie is one of the cruelest deceptions I've ever seen, and I have watched it imprison countless souls who were inches from deliverance.

I once watched a video of a military sharpshooter whose eyes held more pain than any words could express. He had seen things no human soul was ever meant to witness—bodies shattered, heads blown apart, lives taken in an instant by the pull of a trigger he never wanted to pull but had to. The images of war had followed him home, lodging themselves deep in his mind and spirit. Nightmares, memories, flashes of violence—none of it ever left him. He shared how the VA had bounced him from doctor to doctor and medication to medication, checking boxes but never touching his

soul. They were treating symptoms, not healing the source. And as a former IT guy, I understand that—you can't fix a problem by treating the symptoms; you have to focus on fixing the underlying problem. His story broke my heart, because he wasn't asking for pity. He was desperate for peace. But the deepest wound of all wasn't the trauma he endured—it was the lie he believed, the lie that Jesus couldn't love someone like him, that what he had done made him unredeemable, unclean, and beyond forgiveness. And that lie has destroyed more hearts than trauma ever could, because it convinces people that who they have been somehow disqualifies them from who God is.

But that isn't who Jesus is. Jesus does not reject the broken; He restores them. He does not shame the wounded; He embraces them. He doesn't run from people who feel too dirty, too damaged, or too far gone. He runs toward them. The very people the world overlooks—abused, abandoned, addicted, angry, ashamed—are the ones He came for. And that includes you.

That calling is the reason I do what I do. Freedom Coaching is not a business to me; it is a calling rooted in obedience to the Great Commission: "Go make disciples." That command shapes everything I do. It's why I created Pro-Bono Gift Coaching—because healing must never be limited by a person's bank account. There are people barely holding on emotionally, spiritually, and financially who need hope more than anything. And hope should never come with conditions.

Every Pro-Bono session is an opportunity for someone to encounter Jesus through truth, compassion, and presence. Those sessions exist because others choose to partner with what God is doing—people who say yes by paying it forward so someone else can say yes to healing. That is not charity. That is discipleship. That is the Body of Christ functioning exactly as Jesus intended—some giving, some receiving, all being healed by the same Savior. That is the Kingdom in motion.

But for every powerful yes, there is a costly no. Nowhere does Scripture illustrate this more clearly than in the story of Jonah. God

told Jonah to go to Nineveh and deliver a message of mercy to people Jonah didn't like and didn't believe deserved grace. Jonah disagreed with God's plan. He didn't want to go, so he ran. He thought his disobedience affected only him. But our no to God is never private. Jonah's rebellion brought chaos not only to his own life but to everyone around him. The sailors on the ship were dragged into a storm they had no part in creating. Their cargo—their livelihood—their profits—were thrown into the sea. Their peace was stolen. Their safety was compromised. They were caught in a storm caused by someone else's no.

This is what happens when we resist God's healing. The people connected to us—spouses, children, friends, coworkers—feel the effects. Our pain leaks into places we never intended. Our storms splash onto those who never caused them. When we withhold healing, we withhold the love, peace, and purpose that God desires to release through us into the world around us. No one suffers alone; someone always pays for our no. That is why it is so important for you to continue to say yes to the healing process.

When Jonah finally surrendered—when he admitted the truth—peace returned instantly. But he still found himself in the belly of a great fish, swallowed by the consequences of his choice. Yet even there, in the darkness, God was already preparing his rescue. That is what grace does. It never abandons us to the consequences we create. It uses them to draw us back, restore us, and realign us.

Saying no may feel easier in the moment. It may feel safer or justified. But it always costs more than we imagine. It costs peace, purpose, intimacy with God, years of your life, and the joy you were designed to experience. And yet, God is not waiting to punish you for saying no. He is waiting to heal you when you say yes again. He knows the cost of your no is far greater than you realize, and He longs to set you free from that burden, by encouraging you to continue to say yes. Even when the yes is harder than a no would be.

Maybe you feel like the veteran—exhausted, misunderstood, passed from person to person without real help, and uncertain whether Jesus could possibly want someone like you. Let me tell you

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the truth plainly: He does. You are not too far gone. You are not too damaged. You are exactly the kind of person Jesus came to rescue.

You have carried this long enough. You have been strong long enough. The yes you already gave is proof that you are ready for more. And the next yes—your yes to healing, to truth, to surrender—is the one that will change everything. Healing begins the moment you stop resisting and let Jesus meet you where you are.

You have already said yes by picking up this book. God honors that. Heaven celebrates that. Now protect that yes. Continue saying yes as the journey unfolds. Keep choosing the freedom waiting in the next chapters. Because with Jesus at your side, you are braver than you know, stronger than you feel, and with Jesus, far more powerful than anything that has ever tried to break you.

Your yes is the doorway to your healing. And the story ahead—your story—is going to be beautiful.

## CHAPTER 8: WHAT IS YOUR GOD STORY?

Everyone has a God story.

Even if your story begins with, “No, God,” it’s still a story. If your story says, “I don’t believe in God,” that’s still a story. If your story screams, “God, I hate You for what You let happen to me,” it’s still your story. Every life, every wound, every question, every silence—it all writes a story about what we believe about Him.

Some grew up in loving Christian homes where faith was the foundation of everything. Others grew up in houses where God was a stranger—or worse, a weapon. Maybe you were raised by people who claimed to love Jesus but didn’t live like it. Maybe you were adopted into a home that broke your spirit instead of protecting it. Maybe you were married to someone who used Scripture like a sword to control, criticize, and condemn. Maybe the word “God” makes you flinch. Maybe hearing someone quote a verse makes you want to roll your eyes or walk away. You’re not alone.

And maybe your story’s different—you’ve studied, prayed, and pursued God for years. You’ve done all the right things, said all the right words, gone to all the right places... but if you’re honest, He still feels distant. Or maybe you were born into another belief system

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altogether—maybe the god you were taught to follow has a different name, or your spiritual path was shaped by Islam, Jehovah's Witness teaching, LDS doctrine, Hindu practices, New Age ideas, or something else that promised peace but never quite delivered. Whatever your background, it has shaped how you see God, yourself, and the world.

Here's the truth: this chapter isn't about judgment. It's not about proving you wrong or arguing you into a new religion. It's about understanding your God story—your why. Why you believe what you believe. Why you don't. Why you trust God or why you've stopped trusting Him. Because until you see your story clearly, you can't begin to let God change it.

Your God story is the thread that ties together every moment of your life—the pain, the hope, the disappointment, the waiting, the miracles, the heartbreak, the questions you've never said out loud. It's not just what you've experienced with God; it's how you've responded to Him, how you've seen Jesus show up (or seem silent) along the way. It's your journey—and no one can tell it for you.

So, I want you to write it. Don't overthink it. Don't edit it. Don't clean it up for presentation. Just tell the truth. Grab whatever feels natural—a pen and a notebook, a journal, a laptop, a tablet, or even the notes app on your phone. Then pour it out. Write your God story the way it really is—the good and the bad, the ugly and the honest, the laughter and the tears, the faith and the doubt, the love and the anger. Don't hold anything back. God already knows every detail—this part is for you.

You may be wondering how to even begin, and the answer is simple: start in the way that feels most natural. There is no single "right" way to tell your God story—there is only your way. If you love paper, use a journal. If your phone is where your thoughts live, use the Notes app. If typing helps your mind flow, sit down at your laptop. If all you have in the moment is a napkin, start there. The container doesn't matter—the expression does. Your story wants out, and it will come through whatever tool you put in front of it.

And if you're someone who hates writing things down, you're not alone. Many people freeze at the sight of a blank page—not because they lack a story, but because their story feels too tangled to pin down with a pen. If that's you, think outside the box. Open the voice recorder on your phone and just start talking. Let your heart speak in its natural rhythm. Let the words tumble out however they come—messy, emotional, scattered, raw, real. Record it in one take or in twenty. It doesn't matter. What matters is that you give your story a voice. Some of the most profound breakthroughs begin by speaking the truth before ever writing it.

Whether you write it, type it, or speak it, the goal is the same: get it out of your head and into the open. Hidden stories stay wounded. Spoken or written stories begin to heal. Don't worry about grammar, structure, or sounding spiritual. Don't edit. Don't filter. Don't perform. This isn't about impressing anyone—this is about freeing your soul. Choose the tool that allows you to be the most honest, and begin.

It doesn't matter if your story ends up being one paragraph or fifty pages. What matters is that you write it. Writing reveals what hiding conceals. There is power in putting words to your pain. There is healing in naming what has been buried. As you write, let honest questions guide you: What do I really believe about God? Why do I believe it? When did I stop trusting Him—or when did I begin? How has He shown up in my life—or how have I felt He hasn't? And what do I genuinely believe He feels about me today? Not what I'm supposed to say—what I actually think and feel deep within.

You may be surprised at what rises to the surface. Sometimes we assume we've moved on, but our words reveal otherwise. Sometimes we think we're fine, but the page exposes a heart still bleeding in places we didn't realize were open. And that's okay. Healing doesn't begin with pretending—it begins with honesty.

This is your story. Don't try to make it sound spiritual or perfect. Make it real. Make it true. And know this: every story matters. Every story is sacred, even the messy ones—especially the messy ones. God does some of His most beautiful work in the parts we try hardest

to hide. He isn't afraid of your story. He already knows every chapter. He's simply waiting for you to crack the door open and invite Jesus into the middle of it.

In the chapters ahead, we'll walk through what to do with what you've written—how to face it, how to forgive through it, and how to let Jesus begin rewriting it with you, page by page and layer by layer. But for now, your only job is honesty. Don't censor. Don't defend. Don't explain away. Don't make excuses. Just tell it like it is.

Because at this moment—this simple, sacred act of truth-telling—is the turning point. It's where you stop running from your story and begin letting God redeem it. Your honesty here is the doorway to everything that comes next.

So go ahead. Write your God story. Tell your God story. Take your time. Be brave. Be vulnerable. And be willing to see what He shows you in the process. Because when you can finally see your story for what it truly is... that's when Jesus can begin showing you what it is meant to become.

Before you move on, pause. Don't rush this moment. Don't tell yourself you'll come back later—you probably won't. This is an essential part of your healing journey. Don't turn the page until you've done this exercise. Write it out, speak it out, even if it feels messy. Especially if it feels messy. Honesty is where healing begins.

Let Jesus meet you right here... in your story.

## CHAPTER 9: TAKING INVENTORY OF THE HEART

(Self-Audit)

Before true healing can begin, you need to know what needs to be healed. In the last chapter, you began that process by writing your God story—putting words to what you've believed about Him and how your life has unfolded so far. Now we're going one layer deeper, asking Jesus to show you where your heart is still hurting and where He wants to begin His healing work.

You can't fix what you refuse to face, and you can't surrender what you haven't identified. This is where honesty continues to be so important—a sacred moment between you and God where you look into the mirror of your soul and see what's really there. Not to condemn, not to criticize, but to understand. This is a judgment-free zone. You're not being graded, you're being guided. And the One guiding you is Jesus—the same Jesus who already knows every wound, every secret, and every scar, and still calls you His beloved.

This “Heart Inventory” isn't about guilt; it's about grace. It's about giving yourself permission to see where you've been, how far you've come, and where God still wants to bring healing. Every answer you give, every box you check, is confidential. It stays

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between you and the Lord. The only time anyone else will see it—including me—is if you invite me to walk through it with you during a Freedom Coaching session. This is your story, your space, your healing journey. And at the end of it all, your answers will help you see not just where you're broken, but where Jesus wants to make you whole.

Before you begin, I want to invite you to pause and pray. This Heart Inventory is more than an exercise—it's an encounter. You're not doing this alone. Jesus is right here with you, ready to bring truth, gentleness, clarity, and healing. Let this moment be the doorway you walk through with Him.

If you're not sure what to pray, you can say something like this:

*Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I invite You into this moment. I know You see every part of my heart—the wounds I remember and the wounds I've buried. I don't want to hide anything from You. I ask You to guide me, to show me what You want me to see, and to help me be honest without fear. Jesus, walk through this inventory with me. Reveal what needs healing, uncover what needs truth, and speak to the places that have been silent for far too long. Holy Spirit, give me courage, clarity, and peace as I look at my own story through Your eyes. I trust You. I choose You. Heal what needs healing, restore what's been broken, and lead me into freedom, step by step. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Take a breath. You're safe. You're loved. You're ready. Now you can begin your Heart Inventory.

To begin, go to [WalkerJames.Life/heart](https://walkerjames.life/heart). There, you'll find a secure, private self-audit where you can take your time and walk through each section at your own pace. Each question is scored from 0 to 3: zero meaning it doesn't apply to you, and three meaning it still carries deep emotional weight or impact. You'll be able to stop, pray, and resume later if you need to. It's not a race; it's a revelation.

When you finish, you'll have a personal snapshot—not of how bad things are, but of how ready your heart is for healing.

Each section of this inventory has a purpose. It's designed to expose not just what happened, but how it's shaped your heart. The first part addresses sexual brokenness—the wounds of shame, betrayal, identity, and sin that often carry the heaviest spiritual weight. His love reaches into the darkest corners and brings light where the enemy has planted lies. When you check boxes in this section, remember—you're not defining yourself by what was done to you or what you've done. You're identifying where the pain still lives so Jesus can set you free.

The next section looks at addiction, escape, and control—the ways we cope when life hurts too much. These patterns reveal where we've tried to play savior for ourselves. Whether it's substances, work, food, sex, control, or even religion—these are the numbing agents we use to silence the pain. But pain doesn't go away when you ignore it; it just hides deeper. And Jesus wants to heal the reason you run, not just the behavior that follows.

Another section deals with occult involvement, false light, and spiritual counterfeits—areas where curiosity, rebellion, or ignorance might have opened spiritual doors that were never meant to be opened. This includes witchcraft, fortune-telling, crystals, manifestation, or even “Christianized” versions of these things that promise power apart from God. These practices don't just distract—they invite deception. Some of these doors can lead to spiritual oppression and torment, and in the most extreme cases, even full demonic control. But you need to know this truth: no matter what doors have been opened, the name of Jesus is greater than all of them. The power of Christ can shut every door, silence every voice, and break every chain. Freedom is real. Freedom is possible. And Jesus is the only One who can bring it. And if you ever feel darkness pressing in or evil trying to overwhelm you, speak His name—“Jesus, save me.” The moment you do, He will come to your defense. When you belong to Him, you are never outnumbered and never without hope, no matter how dark it has felt.

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Emotional and mental strongholds come next—the areas where your thoughts and feelings have become battlefields. This section reveals where fear, anxiety, depression, and confusion have taken root. Many of these wounds come from trauma—events or seasons that rewired how your brain and spirit respond to pain. You may have heard voices, felt tormented thoughts, or wrestled with emotions you can't control. You may have built mental walls to survive, creating different 'versions' of yourself to cope—what some counselors call 'alters' or parts. These are places in your heart and mind that learned to disconnect or 'split off' to protect you from unbearable pain. But Jesus wants to heal those fractures too. He can bring every part of you—every hidden piece—back into peace. Because the enemy divides, but Jesus restores. And He's not afraid of what He sees inside you. He's come to make you whole.

The next section walks you through relationship wounds—the betrayals, the rejections, the divorces, the abandonment, the controlling relationships, the loneliness. This is where the heart usually bleeds the most. These wounds show us where love went wrong and where trust broke down. They reveal what you've believed about people—and about yourself—because of how you were treated. But even here, Jesus stands ready to heal. He will teach you that forgiveness isn't weakness; it's freedom. And that setting boundaries isn't selfish; it's sacred and important.

Then comes your religious background—one of the most deceptive sources of brokenness. For many, religion wounded them more than the world did. Legalism, hypocrisy, manipulation, or spiritual abuse can distort your image of God. You may have learned fear instead of faith, duty instead of love. You may even have been told lies about who Jesus is. Because God doesn't want religious performance from you—He wants a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, intimate relationship with you. Every false belief you uncover becomes an opportunity to experience the real Jesus—full of grace and truth.

Behavioral patterns and emotional responses help uncover what's bubbling at the surface—the attitudes and reactions that

reveal deeper pain. Anger, bitterness, jealousy, shame, isolation, self-pity, pride, anxiety—these aren't personality flaws; they're signals that something underneath still hurts. Don't be ashamed of these responses. Recognize them for what they are: evidence that your heart is asking for healing.

The physical section reveals how emotional pain manifests in the body. Stress, exhaustion, chronic pain, insomnia, or unexplained illnesses often tell stories your words can't. Your body remembers what your mind tries to forget. When you see patterns here, it's not because you're weak—it's because your body is tired of carrying what your soul was never meant to hold alone. Jesus cares about your body just as much as your heart, but He often starts by healing the inner wounds first, and as your heart is healed, your body often begins to exhale too.

The final section is about life circumstances and identity wounds. These are the experiences that shaped your sense of worth and belonging—abuse, poverty, racism, rejection, loss, betrayal, trauma, war, injustice. These stories are sacred because they hold both pain and purpose. Every checkmark here tells a story of survival—but survival isn't the same as healing. Jesus doesn't just want you to survive your past; He wants to redeem it. To take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it into testimony.

When you complete your inventory, you'll receive an overview of your results—not as a label, but as a mirror. The score doesn't measure how “bad” you are; it shows where your heart still hurts. The categories range from ‘Barely Broken’ to ‘Really Broken’—but these are not labels, they're simply indicators of where your heart has been hit the hardest. No matter where you land, remember this: there is no brokenness too deep for Jesus to heal. He specializes in restoring what feels beyond repair. The deeper the pain, the greater the glory when He redeems it. You may have believed your story was too messy, too sinful, too complicated—but that's exactly where Jesus does His best work.

This inventory is not the end—it's the beginning. It's your invitation to let the Healer do what only He can do. So, take your

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time. Be honest. Be brave. Don't rush it, and don't hide from it. Jesus already knows what's there. He's not shocked by your story—He's ready to rewrite it.

Once you've completed your Heart Inventory, don't skip ahead. Sit with what you've discovered. Talk to God about it. Let Him show you what He wants to heal first. Then, when you're ready, move on to the next chapter. But don't proceed until you've done this exercise. And as you walk through this inventory with Him, you're not just checking boxes—you're inviting the Healer to put His hand gently, clearly, on the places He's most eager to restore.

## CHAPTER 10: IDENTIFYING THE HURT

Before you can heal, you must first see what needs to be healed. This is where the real work begins—not the busy kind of work that keeps you distracted, but the sacred kind that invites you to sit quietly with God and let Him show you the places that still hurt. And you can't do that alone. Some wounds are buried too deep for you to find on your own. Some are hidden behind walls you built long ago, and only the Holy Spirit knows where to look and how to touch them without crushing you.

So, before you start, take a deep breath and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through this time. Ask Him to bring to mind every hurt, every wound, every scar—both the ones you already know and the ones you've forgotten. Find a quiet place, somewhere you can be alone, undistracted, and unhurried. This is holy ground. You're not just remembering pain; you're inviting God to redeem it. Let Him walk you through it gently. There's no need to rush. The Holy Spirit is your Counselor, your Comforter, and your Healer. He knows what you're ready to face and what needs to stay hidden a little longer. Trust Him to lead you step by step.

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If you're not sure what to say, you can pray something like this:

*Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I invite You into this time. You already see every wound in my heart—the ones I remember and the ones I've forgotten. I can't hide anything from You, even the things I've tried to bury behind walls that feel too strong for me to reach. So, I'm asking You to sit with me, help me be honest with myself. Bring into the light whatever You want me to see. Open the doors I've closed. Uncover what has been hidden—not to hurt me, but to heal me. Show me what needs Your touch, and reveal only what I'm ready to face. Holy Spirit, be gentle with me. Guide me, comfort me, and hold me steady as I walk through these memories. Jesus, stay close to me in every thought and every feeling. I trust You to lead me, protect me, and heal me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Before you begin, find a quiet, private place where you won't be interrupted. Somewhere you can be still with God—a bedroom, a quiet corner, a park bench, even your car if that's where you find peace. Turn off notifications. Silence your phone. Give yourself space. This kind of work takes time, and your heart deserves your full attention. If you can, set aside at least an hour. Not to rush through the pain, but to sit with Jesus long enough to hear what He wants to show you. Let this be sacred time—just you and God, without noise, pressure, or hurry.

This exercise is called *Identifying the Hurt*—or if you prefer, *My Broken Pieces*. Because that's what this list will become—a collection of all the broken pieces that make up your story. You don't have to worry about how many you find. This isn't a competition. You're not being compared to anyone else. Some people may write down a few things; others might fill pages. The number doesn't matter—what matters is the hurt. This is a judgment-free zone. You can be brutally honest here, because no one else will see this list unless you choose to share it. It's between you and God. And He already knows what's there—this is just your way of acknowledging it with Him. Your way of putting the pain to paper.

Start by writing down every painful moment, memory, or season that comes to mind. Anything that left a scar on your heart belongs on this list. It could be something big, like a divorce, betrayal, rejection, or abuse. Or something small but still painful, like being ignored when you needed love, being criticized when you needed encouragement, being compared to someone else, being rejected and laughed at, or being shamed for something you couldn't control. Write down the times you were lied to, lied about, yelled at, or abandoned. Write down the losses—people you've lost, dreams that died, friendships that faded, moments that changed everything. Write down the heartbreaks, the disappointments, the regrets, the rebellion, the mistakes you wish you could undo.

When you're ready, you can do this work on paper, in a private journal, or by visiting [WalkerJames.Life/broken](https://www.walkerjames.life/broken)—a secure place created just for this purpose. There, you'll be able to record each hurt, describe what happened, and rate the pain on a scale from 1 to 10. You can save your progress and, if you want, download or print a copy to keep somewhere private. No one will ever see what you write unless you choose to share it. This space is sacred, confidential, and protected—a place where honesty meets healing, and where Jesus begins piecing your heart back together, one truth at a time.

Go back to your Heart Inventory from the last chapter. Look through your answers and see if any of them stir something inside you. If they do, add them here. Sometimes the checklist awakens memories you thought were gone—flashes of pain, words that still sting, faces you haven't thought about in years. That's the Holy Spirit helping you uncover what's still hidden so it can finally be healed. Don't run from it—write it down. Remember, you're not reopening wounds to suffer; you're exposing them to the light so they can finally close.

As you write, think about the many faces of hurt. Abuse (emotional and physical). Neglect. Abandonment. Betrayal. Rejection. Mockery. Bullying. Disrespect. Being silenced. Being unseen. Feeling unloved or unlovable. Being touched when you

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never should have been, in places you should never have been, or left alone when you desperately needed someone to stay. Maybe it's something you did that still haunts you—a choice, a word, an act of disobedience. Maybe it's something done to you that left you questioning your worth. Maybe it's something you still don't understand—like why God allowed it to happen. Whatever it is, write it down. This is your chance to tell the truth—not to anyone else, just to yourself and to God.

You may find that some of these memories are foggy or unclear, like fragments of a dream. That's okay. Write what you remember, even if it's just a feeling or an image. Sometimes your heart remembers what your mind has buried. And if you begin to feel overwhelmed, stop for a moment. Breathe. Whisper the name of Jesus. Say, “Jesus, save me.” He will come to your defense immediately. Nothing in this universe is more powerful than His name. He will protect you, comfort you, and hold you steady until the storm passes.

Once you've written everything you can think of, go back through your list and rate each one. Next to each hurt, write a number from 1 to 10—1 meaning it no longer affects you, 10 meaning it still feels raw, like it just happened. Be honest. There's no wrong number. This isn't about how strong you are; it's about how much pain is still present. These numbers aren't for judgment—they're for understanding. They tell you (and eventually your Freedom Coach, if you choose to share) where the deepest pain still lives, and where Jesus wants to begin His healing work.

Now pause and take a breath. Look back over your once again list and over the numbers you wrote. One of these wounds will stand out more than the others—not because it's the biggest or the worst, but because the Holy Spirit keeps bringing your attention back to it. That's the one we're going to begin with. Put a star next to it, highlight it, circle it, or write it on a separate page. This will be the first story we face together. You don't need to fix it right now—you only need to choose it. This is the first step in Healing MY Story.

When you're done, look at your list again—not with shame, but with compassion. Every line you've written represents a moment where your heart was wounded, but also where God's grace can meet you. This list isn't a record of your failures; it's evidence of your survival. You've made it through things that could have destroyed you. And now, by God's grace, you're about to do more than survive—you're about to heal.

Now that you've chosen the one hurt the Holy Spirit highlighted, pause for a moment and sit with it. Not to relive the pain, but to recognize the courage it took to bring it into the light. You're not facing this alone. Jesus is already here, standing with you, ready to walk through this one story with you step by step. In the next chapter, you'll learn how to write about this event—not to reopen the wound, but to begin healing it. Take a breath. Thank God for guiding you this far. And hold onto this truth: choosing this one piece is the first step toward Jesus restoring all the others.

Then sit back, take a breath, and thank God. Because every item on that list—every scar, every wound, every pain—is about to become part of your healing story. Nothing in your past is beyond His reach. No pain is too deep, no sin too dark, no trauma too great for Jesus to heal. The same God who brought you to this moment will walk you through every one that follows, step by step, memory by memory. And by the time we're done, you won't just know your pain—you'll know the Healer of your pain. You'll know the One who doesn't just fix your story, but transforms you through the process, turning what once broke you into the very place His beauty begins to shine.

## CHAPTER 11: GOD'S PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

To understand why God allows suffering, you must first understand who He is. Everything begins there. If your view of God is distorted, everything that follows will be too. So, let's settle this truth right from the start: **God is good.** He can only be good. He will do nothing but good. And He can be nothing but good. That is not just theology—it's the foundation of trust. Without this truth firmly planted in your heart, nothing about suffering will ever make sense.

For most of us, suffering doesn't challenge our faith as much as it challenges our picture of God. Because when pain hits, the whisper comes: "If God is so good, why did He let this happen?" That single question has torn faith apart for generations. But here's the truth: God's goodness and your suffering are not contradictions—His goodness walks with you *through* your suffering. One reveals the depth of the other.

I've walked with the Lord for nearly fifty years, and I still don't pretend to understand all of His reasons. But I do know this—He wastes nothing. Not one tear, not one disappointment, not one heartbreak. From losing my father at the age of seven, to being unwanted and unloved by my mother, to enduring rejection from

people I thought I could trust, to watching both of my sons be born with mixed cerebral palsy, to surviving three divorces, financial devastation, and seasons of loneliness that made me question everything I thought I knew—I've seen God's fingerprints all over my suffering. Not in the pain itself, but in what He produced through it.

I used to think God's role was to fix my pain, but I've learned He's far more interested in forming my character. We think peace comes when life gets easier; God knows peace comes when our faith gets stronger. And the only way to build that kind of faith is through the fire of suffering. God builds character the same way He refines gold—by applying heat until the impurities rise to the surface. It's not punishment. It's purification.

Sometimes I look back at my life and realize that the greatest blessings came wrapped in the ugliest packages. I sometimes joke that God needs gift-wrapping lessons. The seasons that broke me were the same ones that built me. When I lost what I thought I needed, I gained what I truly couldn't live without—Him. God doesn't send suffering to destroy us; He allows it to drive us deeper into His heart. The truth is, if comfort taught us everything we needed to know about God, we'd never grow. But pain has a way of stripping away the things that don't matter so we can finally see what does.

When Paul wrote that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28), he wasn't writing from an ivory tower—he was writing from prison. Beaten, betrayed, abandoned, and misunderstood, Paul had every reason to question God's goodness, but he didn't—because he had learned to trust God's heart even when he couldn't understand God's plan. He'd discovered something few people ever do: that God's goodness isn't proven by the absence of pain, but by His presence in the middle of it.

I'll be honest—trusting God when life hurts doesn't come naturally. I've had moments where I've shouted at Him, pleaded with Him, even told Him I didn't want to do this anymore. And He never once turned away—not when I doubted, not when I wrestled,

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not when I broke. His faithfulness didn't depend on my strength; it depended on His love. But every single time, He's met me in the middle of my mess. Not with explanations, but with His presence. He never scolded me for being human. He just loved me back to faith. I think of Job, who lost everything he had and cried out, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." That kind of trust doesn't come from sermons or theology books; it comes from walking through fire and realizing that Jesus was in there with you the whole time.

You see, suffering has a way of revealing what's really inside of us. It exposes our fears, our idols, our pride, our need for control. It forces us to confront whether we truly trust God, or just the idea of Him. God already knows what's inside us—the fire is so we can see it too. And once we see it, He invites us to surrender it. Because only when we let go can He begin to heal what's broken and rebuild what's true.

God also uses suffering to prepare us for purpose. The very thing that wounded you may one day be the place where He uses you most. The comfort you've received becomes the comfort you'll offer others. That's what Paul meant when he wrote that God "comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble" (2 Corinthians 1:4). Your pain becomes your ministry. Your scars become your testimony. The same hands that broke can be used to help heal. That's the beauty of redemption—God turns the enemy's weapons into instruments of grace.

There's also a mystery to suffering—one that demands humility. Some pain will never make sense on this side of eternity. We may never know why certain prayers weren't answered the way we hoped. We may never see the full picture of what God was doing behind the scenes. But one day we will. And on that day, every "why" will be swallowed up in a single "wow." Until then, we walk by faith, not sight.

Here's what I've learned: God doesn't need our understanding—He wants our trust. Trust is the bridge between confusion and peace. It's what allows you to say, "I don't get it, but I know You're good." When you reach that place, suffering loses its

power to destroy you. The enemy's greatest weapon is to make you doubt God's goodness; faith is the weapon that turns his lies into ashes.

And yes, it's hard. When life shatters your plans, when prayers seem unanswered, when pain feels unrelenting, everything in you wants to quit. But this is where the deepest part of faith grows—in the silence, in the waiting, in the not-knowing. God is teaching you to trust Him even when you can't trace Him. That's the essence of surrender.

If you're reading this and you're in that place—where it hurts to breathe, where faith feels heavy, where nothing makes sense—please hear me: you are not alone. God hasn't abandoned you. He's closer than He's ever been. He's not mad at you for struggling; He's proud of you for still reaching. You may not see what He's doing now, but one day you will look back and say, "If it weren't for that pain, I would've never known His peace. If it weren't for that loss, I would've never learned His love. If it weren't for that suffering, I would've never discovered who I truly am in Him."

Suffering doesn't mean God has failed you; it means He's forming you. Every trial, every heartbreak, every unanswered prayer is shaping you into someone stronger, gentler, and more like Jesus. Because God's goal isn't to make you comfortable—it's to make you complete.

So, hold on. Don't run from the pain; run through it with Him. Let Him teach you, mold you, and transform you. Let your suffering become your teacher, your fire become your forge, and your scars become your story. Because when the refining is over, you won't just look like you—you'll look like Him.

And when you do, you'll finally understand what I've come to believe after nearly fifty years of walking through fire: that God's purpose in suffering was never to break you. It was to bless you—to build a faith that no storm could shake, a trust that no darkness could steal, and a love that no loss could undo.

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Because at the end of it all, suffering isn't proof that God is absent—it's often the stage where His presence becomes undeniable. And once you encounter Jesus *in* your pain, you will never again question His goodness, no matter what life brings.

# Part 3: The Healing Journey – Steps Towards Freedom

## CHAPTER 12: THE POWER OF STORY

(Telling MY Story)

Before the written Word, before ink ever touched parchment, there were stories. Around campfires, over meals, whispered to children under star-filled skies—story was how people made sense of life, of God, of themselves. Story is how truth travels from one heart to another. It's how generations have passed down faith, wisdom, courage, and redemption. Even Jesus, the Word made flesh, chose story—parables—as His favorite way to teach. Because He knew that when truth is wrapped in story, it finds its way past our defenses and into our hearts.

You see, there's power in story—deep, healing power. When we tell our real stories, something shifts. Walls fall. Chains loosen. Lies lose their grip. It's one thing to remember what happened, and another to speak it, to put it into words, to face it with Jesus beside you. Story doesn't just describe the past—it transforms your relationship with it.

I was re-reading Brené Brown's "Daring Greatly" and noticed again her reference to researcher James W. Pennebaker, who explored what he called "expressive writing" and later wrote

*"Writing to Heal: A Guided Journal for Recovering from Trauma and Emotional Upheaval."* His decades of work confirm why writing your story matters—more than you might imagine. When people write about their deepest thoughts and feelings related to painful or traumatic experiences, something shifts inside. The evidence points to tangible outcomes: improved psychological health, fewer doctor visits, stronger immune function, and a deeper sense of internal peace. Even modern research is beginning to confirm what Scripture has shown for centuries: that truth, confession, and story are powerful instruments of healing.

This isn't casual journaling. Placing pain into words becomes a bridge from chaos to clarity. You move from "I felt this" to "This is what happened; this is how I felt; and this is what God is saying to it." As you write, the Holy Spirit begins to bring order to what has been disordered—your thoughts, your memories, your emotions, your story. In your healing journey, that means telling your tale isn't only about being heard; it's about being healed. As you bring your story into the light, the hidden finds a voice, old meanings are rewritten under God's truth, and your identity shifts from victim to witness. When you write, you aren't merely remembering—you are redeeming.

That's why this next step is sacred. Before you begin, pause and pray. Find a quiet place where you won't be interrupted. Invite the Holy Spirit to walk with you through your memories—the good, the hard, and the ones you've tried to forget. Ask Him to help you recall the details: who was there, what was said, what you saw and felt, the moments that still echo somewhere deep inside. You are not walking back alone; you are walking in with the Comforter—the One who knows every wound, every scar, and every tear that never made it past your eyes.

As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants to heal first. Maybe it's something obvious—a betrayal, an abuse, a loss you've never really recovered from. Or maybe it's something buried, something you've carried so long that you forgot it was even there.

This isn't about forcing anything to surface. It's about letting God bring to light what's ready to be healed.

Now it's time to write your story. Start with the one event, the one wound, that stands out—the moment that shaped you, hurt you, or left you believing something untrue about yourself or about God. This is the one event you chose from Chapter 10: Identifying the Hurt. Don't edit as you write. Don't try to make it neat or pretty or spiritually correct. Just write. Let the words come out raw and honest. Let your emotions flow. If you need to cry, cry. If you need to pause, pause. This isn't about performance—it's about truth. Because truth is what sets you free.

This story is between you and God. You're not writing for me, for a counselor, or for anyone else to approve. You're writing it for Him—the One who already knows every detail, but wants to walk with you as you face it. The act of writing gives your pain a voice, and when pain is voiced, it begins to lose its power to control you.

Let me show you what this looks like in real life by sharing one of the earliest stories from my own journey—a moment that shaped how I saw myself long before I had words for it.

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### ***Christmas Should Be Special...***

I think my father was a brilliant man. From what I've been told, he could fluently speak and write ten different languages. I remember my mother telling us how my sister knew all ten of them and could converse with our father in all of them by her 10th birthday. My father was a teacher and taught Latin at Beaverton High School in Beaverton Oregon. I believe he taught Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic as well. I think I would have liked to have known him better.

My father had been sick for quite some time. He'd been diagnosed with congestive heart failure in the early 1960s—long before modern treatments or surgeries existed to manage it. He suffered heart attack after heart attack, more than fifty by the time he passed, each one chipping away at his strength. He was in and

out of hospitals so often that we never really knew whether he would live or die. And because of the medical bills and the constant uncertainty, we already knew there wouldn't be much of a Christmas that year—or at least, that's what we were being told by my mother.

To a seven-year-old boy, Christmas was supposed to be special, however, this Christmas was anything but.

It was December 23rd, 1967, and my father was sleeping in the other room, saying he didn't feel very well. And then, out of nowhere, something happened that I would never forget. There was a knock at the door. My sister opened it, and standing there were three firefighters in full gear—and one of them was wearing a red Santa hat and a white beard. He leaned in with a deep, booming “Ho-ho-ho! Merry Christmas!” I don't think you've ever seen five kids more shocked, more wide-eyed, or more over-the-moon excited than we were at that moment.

When they came in, they started handing out the gifts, and we started taking the ones that appealed to us the most. I remember only seeing one gift that I wanted, only one gift that spoke to me and that was the toy golf clubs, so I grabbed them. No one else seemed to notice as I started playing with them, no one else wanted them, but I did.

You see, my father played golf, every weekend. The only reason I know this was because my mother would complain about it all the time. But you see, that was the reason I wanted them so badly. I had concluded that if I had the golf clubs, I would then officially be like my father. Be a man like my father, playing golf like my father.

After the firefighters wished us a Merry Christmas and left, I was caught up in my own little world playing with my golf clubs, imagining that I was now my father's son. I must have been playing by myself for a while because I have no memory of what my brothers and sister were doing when all of a sudden, my mom comes up to me and takes the golf clubs away from me and says, “you can't

have these, these belong to your brother Daniel, he's the oldest son, he should have the golf clubs."

I was devastated, he didn't want them, she made him take them, what right did she have to do this? They were mine; I was playing with them; couldn't she see that? I wanted them, he didn't! But of course, that didn't matter to her, Daniel was the oldest son and therefore he had the right to the golf clubs so that he could be just like dad. This wasn't fair. Life wasn't fair. Who takes a gift from one child that wants it and gives it to another child that doesn't? How mean and insensitive do you have to be to do this?

I was angry, but I was too small to do anything about it, so I kept my anger to myself, I locked it up inside and hid it. I remember saying to myself, I should be the oldest son, then the golf clubs would be mine, then I would be loved, then I would be like my father, then I would be special.

Like I said, for a seven-year-old boy, Christmas should be a magical time, but for me, for this Christmas, it was not.

This is the first memory I have of being angry because I did not get my way, I did not get what I wanted, people were not cooperating with my wants, my needs, how dare they, I thought.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, January 7th, 1968 it happened again. It started off to be a good day. My father wanted to do something special with all 5 of us kids so he decided to take us to the grocery store and let us pick out what we wanted for dinner and then he would cook it for us. I'm not sure why, but we all picked out poor-boy sandwiches and could not have been more excited. After all, it was not every day you got to eat poor-boy sandwiches and it was an even rarer treat to have dad cooking dinner for you.

Dad was in such a good mood; it was so good to see. He was smiling and playing with all of us kids, he was so happy.

Mom was sleeping in the other room as she had to get up in a few hours to go to work. Dad shooed us kids into the living room to play while he put the sandwiches into the oven to cook.

We were playing in the living room when all of a sudden, we heard a loud crash coming from the kitchen. I turned to run in that direction, I was met by my sister who blocked my way and wouldn't let me go any further. That is when I saw him, lying on his back, on the kitchen floor, motionless. I was screaming at my sister to let me go, I have to help him, he's hurt, he needs me, but she would not let me go, instead, she dragged me to the other room like mom had told her to do if something like this were to happen.

I remember being confused, being upset and being told the next day, my father was dead. I don't remember crying; I remember being numb.

If you know anything about a catholic funeral, they like having an open casket. Since I was seven, I was barely old enough to go through the line and see my father to say goodbye. We didn't get to do this until everyone else had left. First my sister went, she just stood there and looked down at him and said nothing. Next my brother Daniel went, he too just looked at him. Now it was my turn, I looked at him and noticed how peaceful he looked, I bent over, I kissed his forehead and said, "goodbye dad," and turned to walk away.

\* \* \*

This is an example of a story I wrote several years ago about a childhood event I had suffered. That's the power of story. It's not sanitized. It's not scripted. It's raw, it's human, and it's holy. It makes you feel something. It makes you see through another person's eyes. When you read that story, you might have felt sadness, anger, empathy—maybe even the ache of your own childhood rising to the surface. That's what story does. It connects us in places words alone cannot reach.

When you tell your story, it doesn't just inform—it transforms. Because confession is not just about sin; it's about truth. And truth always brings freedom. The pain you've carried for years begins to lose its grip the moment you face it in the light of Christ's love. As you write, remember: this is a judgment-free zone. This isn't about how

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many wounds you list or how deep they run. There's no scoreboard in healing. Jesus isn't counting your failures—He's collecting your tears. The goal is not to measure your pain, but to name it. Because when you name it, it stops owning you.

Before you begin writing, pause for a moment and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to walk with you through your memories about the event you chose to write about—the good, the painful, and the ones you've tried to forget. Ask Him to help you recall the details: who was there, what was said, how you felt, what changed afterward. You're not walking back into the past alone; you're walking in with the Comforter—the One who knows every wound, every scar, and every tear that never made it to the surface.

If you're unsure what to pray, you can say something simple like:

*Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I invite You into this moment as I prepare to write my story. Please pour out Your Holy Spirit upon me and walk with me through every memory You want to heal. Shine Your light gently on the places I've forgotten, buried, or been too afraid to face. Protect my heart, steady my thoughts, and hold me close as I write. Give me courage where I feel weak, clarity where I feel confused, and peace where I feel afraid. Sit with me in each memory—the painful ones, the lonely ones, the ones that still carry pieces of my heart. Let Your presence make this space holy ground. I trust You. Make this safe, make this sacred, and make this healing. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

And if you're someone who hates writing, you don't have to force it. Think outside the box—open the voice recorder on your phone and talk through your story instead. Let your heart speak freely. Some of the most powerful breakthroughs happen when people speak their truth before they ever write it. You can have it transcribed later. Whether you write it, type it, or record it, the goal is the same: give your story a voice.

Now it's time to write your story. Start with the one event—the wound you chose from Chapter 10—the moment that stands out the most right now. Don't edit as you write. Don't try to make it neat, pretty, or “spiritual.” Just write. Let the words come out raw and honest. Let your emotions flow. If you need to cry, cry. If you need to pause, pause. This isn't about performance—it's about truth. Because truth is what sets you free.

This story is between you and God. You're not writing for me, for a counselor, or for anyone else to approve. You're writing it for Him—the One who already knows every detail, but wants to sit with you as you face it. The act of writing gives your pain a voice, and when pain is voiced, it begins to lose its power to control you.

When you finish writing your story, go back and read it. Slowly. Feel it again—not to relive the pain, but to face it without fear. If new memories surface, add them. If emotions rise, let them. The Holy Spirit will guide you through every line. And if at any point the memories or emotions feel overwhelming, just stop and say, “Jesus, save me.” His name is stronger than any darkness. He will protect you and give you peace. Nothing in this universe carries more power, love, or authority than the name of Jesus.

When you finish writing, take a moment to thank Him for walking with you through your story. Because this—this sacred act of honesty and courage—is where healing begins. Your story, your truth, your pain—all of it—is about to become the foundation for everything that follows. This is the next step toward Healing MY Story.

You've faced the pain. You've looked it in the eye. And soon, we'll walk together into forgiveness, gratitude, and truth—where Jesus does His deepest work.

Now, if you haven't written your story yet, stop here and take the time to do it. Don't rush past this moment. Don't skip ahead to the next chapter. This is too important to set aside for “later.” Healing doesn't happen in avoidance—it happens in honesty. You may feel scared, ashamed, or unsure where to begin. But fear loses its grip the moment you stand up and face it. Fear is like a bully—it talks big, but

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it has no real power when you're standing next to Jesus. He's already defeated it. You are not alone in this. Every word you write, every tear you shed, is seen, cherished, and held by Him.

Wanting what God wants means wanting healing more than hiding. It means trusting that your story—no matter how messy, painful, or dark—still has purpose in His hands. God doesn't waste pain. Every page of your story can become part of someone else's redemption, a testimony that brings light to others who are still trapped in the dark.

Jesus isn't asking for a polished version. He's asking for the real one—the one that hurts, the one that bleeds, the one you've been terrified to even read aloud to yourself. Because that's the one He died to heal. That's the one He wants to redeem.

And when you want what God wants, you'll begin to see that the story you feared most might just become the story He uses most—the story of your healing, the story of your freedom, the story that proves beyond all doubt that He really does make all things new.

## CHAPTER 13: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

(Forgiving MY Story)

Forgiveness. It's one of the hardest words in the human vocabulary. It's easy to say, but not easy to live. Because forgiveness demands something of us—something raw, something holy, something costly. It asks us to let go of what we've been clinging to for years: our pain, our right to be angry, our right to demand justice. And yet, forgiveness is not weakness. It's strength. It's not giving up—it's giving over. It's handing the gavel back to God, where it belongs, and saying, "You are the only one righteous enough to judge this."

But emotional weight alone doesn't define forgiveness—truth does. And if you misunderstand forgiveness, you will misunderstand your own healing.

Before we can understand forgiveness, we have to understand what it truly is—and what it isn't. Forgiveness is not pretending the hurt didn't happen. It's not saying, "It's okay," when it clearly wasn't. It's not minimizing the pain or excusing the sin. Forgiveness doesn't mean you have to trust again, reconcile again, or even stay close to the person who hurt you. Forgiveness is simply this: releasing them—and yourself—from the prison of your own

resentment. It's giving the offense to Jesus and saying, "This debt is no longer mine to carry."

Unforgiveness is dangerous. It corrodes your peace, steals your joy, and keeps your heart chained to the very moment you were wounded. It doesn't punish the person who hurt you—it slowly poisons the one who carries it. Whether that unforgiveness has lived in you for years or is surfacing for the first time as you write your story, Jesus is inviting you to release it. Because only when you let go of the offense can He begin healing the wound it created.

This is why Jesus took unforgiveness so seriously, when He told the story of the servant forgiven an enormous debt who refused to forgive a small one. He exposed how dangerous a hardened heart can be. The master's words were sobering: "I forgave you so much, and you refused to forgive so little." Jesus wasn't trying to scare us—He was showing us that forgiveness is essential for freedom. In God's Kingdom, forgiveness isn't optional. It's the path to life, peace, and healing.

Forgiveness isn't for the person who hurt you—it's for you. It's what sets your heart free. It's what breaks the chains that have tightened around your soul for years. It's how you stop carrying the weight of the wound and start carrying the peace of Christ. Forgiveness doesn't minimize the pain or erase what happened. It simply removes the power the past has held over you. And when you forgive, you step out of bondage and into the freedom Jesus died to give you.

Now that you understand why forgiveness matters, it's time to bring this truth into your own story. Take the event you wrote about in the last chapter—the one that brought your pain to the surface—and pray before you return to it. Ask the Holy Spirit to walk with you through every scene, every memory, every name and face. Ask Him to help you find the opportunities to forgive—people you know and people you don't, those who hurt you intentionally and those who didn't know what they were doing. Ask Him to help you forgive your family—your parents, grandparents, siblings, foster parents,

stepparents, coworkers, friends, enemies, even strangers. And if you need to, take the hard step of forgiving yourself.

And sometimes, forgiveness isn't directed toward a single person, but toward systems—churches that failed you, leaders who should have protected you, workplaces that mistreated you, institutions that didn't care for you. You can release those places too. Forgiveness doesn't erase the wrong; it releases the grip it has on your heart.

And if you've ever felt angry at God for not protecting you, not intervening, or not answering the way you hoped—bring that to Him too. God does not need forgiveness, but you may need to lay down the anger you've held toward Him. Not because He failed you, but because your heart cannot heal while holding resentment in His direction. Releasing that hurt opens the door for comfort, clarity, and peace to return.

When you're ready, write your forgiveness prayer. It doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to be honest. Let it start simply:

"Father, I forgive..."

You might add details—why you forgive, what you forgive, what it cost you, what you're releasing. It might feel awkward or impossible at first, but keep going. Forgiveness is both a decision and a process. It begins when you choose it—even if your feelings haven't caught up yet.

To help you see how practical and honest this can be, here's the forgiveness prayer I wrote for the story I shared earlier—the story about my father, my mother, and the golf clubs that shaped my first memory of anger:

\* \* \*

## **Redeeming MY Story through Forgiveness**

Father God, I give you this story and ask that you heal the broken pieces from this story that are within me. Help me to not get angry anymore when things do not go my way. Help me to

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understand that not everyone will see things as I see them and that is ok, that is by Your design, that is what makes us unique.

Father, I forgive my mother for taking the golf clubs away from me and giving them to my brother. I forgive my brother for not wanting them and I forgive my sister for doing as she was told and keeping me from running to my father.

I forgive my father for dying and leaving us. I so look forward to spending time with him in Heaven getting to know him better. You know, there are many times I could use his in-depth understanding of language to help me with the work you have called me to do.

Father, I know You never do wrong and never need forgiveness—but my heart has held anger toward You for taking my father, and I release that now. I let go of the offense I carried. I surrender it to You.

Finally, Father, I forgive myself for being so young and naive and not understanding what you were doing, what you were orchestrating.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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That's how I started. That's how I began to let go.

Forgiveness doesn't erase the story—it rewrites its ending. It removes the sting and fills the wound with grace. It doesn't make what happened right; it makes you right—right with God, right with peace, right with yourself.

When the enemy tries to drag those old memories back—when those dark whispers stir and try to pull you into the past—you don't talk to him, and you don't argue with him. You turn straight to Jesus. You say, "Lord, You see exactly what's trying to happen. I've forgiven this. I've placed this part of my story in Your hands. Fight for me the way only You can." And the moment you do, Jesus steps forward, and the enemy scatters like the coward he is. You don't battle darkness—**you call on the Light**, and the darkness runs. Every time you choose truth over torment, every time you let Jesus defend

what He has already redeemed, the chains weaken, and your freedom deepens.

Forgiveness isn't a one-time event—it's a posture, a way of living. A choice to refuse the prison of bitterness. A declaration that you will not let your past dictate your peace. When you choose to forgive—even when it's painful, even when it feels unfair—you choose freedom. You choose healing. You choose Jesus. And freedom always looks like Him.

Wanting what God wants means wanting to forgive—even when it hurts, even when it feels unfair. It means letting go of your right to hold onto pain so you can hold onto peace instead. God doesn't just want you to be healed; He wants you to be free. And freedom always begins with forgiveness.

When you choose to forgive, you become living proof that the power of Jesus is stronger than the power of pain. You become a walking testimony of His mercy, a reflection of His heart. Because forgiveness isn't just what God asks of you—it's what He *did* for you.

So, breathe. Write. Release. And let Jesus turn the ashes of your pain and brokenness into the beauty of freedom. Because when you want what God wants, you'll discover that the greatest power in the world isn't revenge or control—it's love that forgives. You are not stepping into forgiveness alone—Jesus is already waiting for you there, ready to lift what you were never meant to carry.

## CHAPTER 14: THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

(Grateful for MY Story)

Gratitude changes everything. It doesn't change the facts of what happened, but it changes the way we see them. Gratitude takes the same story that once broke you and allows you to see it through new eyes—eyes that look for God's fingerprints in every detail. It doesn't erase pain; it redeems perspective. It's not denial; it's discovery. Gratitude is how we begin to see that even in our worst moments, God was still present. Gratitude doesn't replace forgiveness—it completes it. Forgiveness clears the soil, but gratitude is what allows something new to grow.

Forgiveness loosens the chains, but gratitude is what makes you dance out of the prison. It fills the empty space left behind by pain with joy, peace, and purpose. It changes the tone of your heart and the direction of your life. Gratitude isn't a feeling you wait for—it's a choice you make, often in the middle of the mess. It's deciding to look for the good, even when the good is hard to see. It's saying, "Yes, this hurt me, but God used it to grow me. Yes, it was dark, but His light never went out."

Gratitude changes your outlook. It realigns your attitude. It brings healing to your emotions, clarity to your thoughts, and strength to your spirit. Where fear says, "You're still broken," gratitude says, "You're still here—and that means God isn't finished."

Gratitude doesn't mean pretending everything's fine or acting like the pain never mattered. It means recognizing that God was faithful even when things weren't fine. It's the courage to say, "Thank You, Lord," not because it all made sense, but because He never let go. It's what turns pain into purpose, scars into stories, and loss into lessons.

Think about the ten lepers who cried out to Jesus for mercy. All ten were healed. Ten lives restored, ten futures rewritten. But only one came back to say thank you. Just one. And Jesus asked the question that still echoes today: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Gratitude isn't just courtesy; it's recognition. It's the moment we stop seeing the gift and start seeing the Giver.

Be that one. Because the one who returned in gratitude didn't just receive healing—he received wholeness. Be the one who comes back to say thank you. Thank Him for what He's done, for what He's still doing, and for what you can't yet see. Thank Him for the lessons learned in loss, for the strength found in struggle, for the grace discovered in grief. Thank Him for what He didn't give you—because sometimes His greatest mercy is in the "no."

Gratitude helps us reframe our story. It shifts the focus from "why did this happen to me?" to "what did God build in me through this?" It teaches us to find gold in the ashes. It lets us see that every closed door, every broken heart, every unanswered prayer was not punishment, but preparation. When we choose gratitude, we choose vision—the kind of vision that sees God working all things together for good, even when we didn't notice it at the time. Gratitude becomes the bridge into truth and identity—because once your heart sees differently, it can finally believe differently.

If forgiveness is letting go of the pain, gratitude is embracing the purpose. Forgiveness frees the heart; gratitude fills it. Together,

they transform our story into something holy—something God can use. Gratitude doesn't change your memories—it changes the meaning your heart attaches to them.

So now it's time to revisit the story you wrote and the forgiveness you gave. Look at that story again, this time through the eyes of gratitude. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see what you couldn't before. What did you learn through this experience? What strength did it grow in you? What truth did it reveal? What good came out of something so painful? Maybe it taught you compassion. Maybe it brought you closer to Jesus. Maybe it showed you what love really is.

And maybe, even if you can't see any of that yet, you can still thank God for the promise that He's not done. Gratitude is often the bridge between what was broken and what will be healed.

Take a few minutes to write your gratitude story. Let it be a prayer that begins to reshape your heart and reframe your story. Start simply, like this:

"Father, thank You..."

Then let it flow. Thank Him for the little things, the big things, the things you didn't understand. Thank Him for the people who helped you, and even for the ones who hurt you—because every part of your story has been used to bring you here. Gratitude releases joy. Gratitude restores peace. Gratitude reminds you that God was never absent—He was always at work.

And if tears rise again as you begin this part, don't panic—these are not the old tears of pain; these are the new tears of healing. Here's how I approached my own gratitude prayer to the story I shared earlier:

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### **Grateful for MY Story – A Prayer of Gratitude**

Father God, Thank You for my story, for this story—every memory, every scar, every moment that has shaped me. Thank You for walking with me through every season, even the ones I didn't

understand. You were there before I ever knew to look for You, and You never left me—not once.

Thank You for the father You gave me—for his brilliance, his depth, his love for language, and for the glimpse of him I got to see before You called him home. Thank You for letting part of him live on in me, for the curiosity, the love of learning, and the gift of words that echo through my life and calling today.

Thank You for the firefighters who knocked on our door that Christmas—for the joy they brought, the light they carried, and the reminder that kindness still finds its way even in the darkest times.

Thank You for that little boy who wanted to be like his father. For the longing in his heart—not just for golf clubs, but for connection, identity, and love. Thank You for showing me that this same longing was designed by You—the same longing that now draws me closer to my Heavenly Father, to You.

Thank You, Lord, for using even unfair moments to teach me compassion. For the day my mother took the golf clubs away, You were already teaching me what it feels like to be unseen, so that I could one day see others more clearly. What once hurt now helps me minister. What once wounded me now helps me walk with others through their healing.

Thank You for the emotions I didn't understand back then—the anger, the confusion, the ache, the frustration, the disappointment, the abandonment. Thank You for transforming them into awareness, wisdom, and empathy. Because of that, I now help others recognize, release, and redeem their own pain.

Thank You for the gift of deep feeling. For giving me a heart that feels things intensely, that sees the beauty and the brokenness in the world around me. You've turned that sensitivity from a source of pain into a source of power—not my own, but Yours working through me.

Thank You for the day my father died—not for the pain, but for the purpose You drew from it. Thank You that when I lost my

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earthly father, You stepped in and became my true Father—one who never leaves, never forsakes, and never stops loving.

Thank You for teaching me to look back and see Your fingerprints on every page. For turning memories that once haunted me into milestones of healing. For showing me that nothing was wasted, and nothing was beyond redemption.

Thank You for the seeds You planted in my father—seeds of intellect, curiosity, and expression—that You allowed to take root in me. Thank You that what was lost has been found in a new and eternal way, through the work You've called me to do.

Thank You, Holy Spirit, for walking with me through my memories. For helping me see not just what happened, but what You were doing in the midst of it. For turning old wounds into wells of wisdom.

Thank You, Jesus, for using my story—the painful parts, the messy parts, the parts I once wished away—to help others heal theirs. Thank You for giving my brokenness a purpose, for letting me be a vessel of grace to others who feel alone, angry, or forgotten.

Thank You that nothing I've been through has been wasted. Every heartbreak, every unanswered prayer, every tear has become part of something holy. You've proven over and over again that You can take what was meant for evil and use it for good—my good, and the good of others You bring across my path.

Father, thank You for the rest of the story—for the stepfather my mother would marry, the man who, most of the time, looked just like Jesus: loving, caring, and kind. I know he wasn't perfect, but he was good. Thank You for the love of music he passed on to me, and for the gift of learning how to love unconditionally the children who aren't my own—a gift I discovered by watching the way he loved us, even though we were not his.

And finally, Lord, thank You for rewriting my story. For turning pain into purpose, grief into gratitude, and wounds into testimonies of Your grace. I see now that even in my darkest moments, You were

working. You were loving. You were redeeming. I am not who I was—and that is because of You.

Thank You, Father, for healing my story. For healing me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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That's it, that is how I started reframing my story and choosing to be grateful for it, instead of being angry, bitter, and full of hate and resentment.

You may find tears flowing again, but this time they're different. These tears are healing tears. They wash away bitterness and make room for joy.

And when the enemy tries to whisper, "See, nothing's changed," you can smile and say to yourself, "You're wrong. Everything's changed. My heart is thankful. My story is being healed. And I am free."

Wanting what God wants means wanting to see your story through His eyes. It means finding beauty in the ashes, peace in the pain, and purpose in the past. It means believing that broken hearts can become unbroken by facing our stories, releasing the debts of others through forgiveness, and choosing gratitude for all God has done, all we see Him doing now, and all He is doing that we cannot yet see. It means believing that gratitude is not just a reaction—it's a revolution of the heart. Because when you're grateful, you no longer see life through what you've lost, but through what God has given.

Gratitude doesn't deny the storm; it celebrates the anchor that held. It doesn't erase your scars; it honors the Healer who turned them into testimonies. Gratitude is how we live in freedom—not because everything is perfect, but because Jesus is present.

So be that one who comes back to say thank you. Be the one who chooses joy over bitterness, peace over resentment, and praise over pain. Because when you want what God wants, you'll realize that gratitude doesn't just change how you see your story—it changes who you are within it.

## CHAPTER 15: THE POWER OF TRUTH

(Reclaiming MY Identity)

The mind is a powerful thing. It can either become a sanctuary of peace or a battlefield of torment. It's where your story lives long after the events are over. Every thought, every belief, every word you've ever agreed with—they all take root there. The truth is, what you think of yourself shapes everything about the way you live. It determines how you love, how you forgive, how you trust, and even how you see God.

But it doesn't stop there. What you believe about yourself will always spill out into every other part of your life. It shapes the way you parent your children, the way you treat your spouse, the way you carry yourself at work, and even the kind of friends you attract. If you believe you're unworthy, you'll settle for less than you deserve. If you believe you're unlovable, you'll struggle to receive love even when it's freely given. If you believe you're insignificant, you'll hide your voice when God is calling you to speak. The way you see yourself becomes the lens through which you see the entire world—your choices, your relationships, your hopes, your future. That's why Scripture tells us to “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” because the war for your heart is first fought in your mind—

and the outcome of that battle affects every relationship, every opportunity, and every moment of your life.

But for most of us, that battlefield has been overrun for years. The enemy knows that if he can control what you think, he can control how you live. So, he starts early, whispering lies when we're too young to recognize them. Lies that sound like truth. Lies that take root in pain. Lies that we end up watering with repetition until they feel like fact. And the more we repeat them, the more real they seem. There's an old quote often attributed to Joseph Goebbels, one of Hitler's chief propagandists, that says, "A lie told once remains a lie, but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth." It's terrifying, but it's true. That's how deception works. The more it's spoken, the more it sticks. And before long, we find ourselves living lives built on untruths we never meant to believe.

You've probably heard some of those lies yourself. "You're worthless." "You'll never be enough." "You'll always be alone." "You'll never change." "You're too damaged, too broken, too far gone." And even though you may know better in your head, those words echo somewhere deeper—in that place where logic can't reach but pain still speaks. That's how the enemy works. He doesn't have to destroy you; he just has to convince you to believe something that isn't true. Because once you believe it, you'll start living like it's real.

But here's the good news: the same principle works in reverse. The truth, when spoken over and over again, will also take root. The truth has power. The truth brings life. The truth sets you free. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." That's not just a nice verse for Sunday morning; it's a blueprint for freedom. The truth of God's Word, when believed, will destroy every lie you've ever carried—but only if you let it in.

This is where we begin what I call the Great Exchange—exchanging the lies we've believed for the truth God declares. The lies we've lived under for years, for the identity we've always had in Christ. This is the moment where we stop repeating what the world says and start declaring what Heaven says. Because freedom

doesn't come by forgetting your story; it comes by rewriting it with truth.

So, here's where your next step begins. Go back to the story you wrote in Chapter 12. Read it again slowly, as always with the Holy Spirit beside you. Ask Him to help you see it through His eyes. As you read, you'll notice certain phrases, thoughts, or feelings that carry weight—words that echo pain or shame. Maybe it's "I was never enough." Maybe it's "No one ever wanted me." Maybe it's "I always ruin things," or "I'll never be free of this." Those are the places where lies have taken root. Those are the strongholds that have whispered their version of your identity for far too long.

Now, for every lie you find, write God's truth beside it. Replace the voice of pain with the voice of promise. If you don't know where to start, go to [WalkerJames.Life/truth](http://WalkerJames.Life/truth)—a tool I created to help you find what God says about who you are. There, you'll find a searchable list of common lies the enemy and the world tell us, matched with the verses and truths that dismantle them. For instance, if the lie says, "I am unworthy," the truth says, "I am chosen, redeemed, and deeply loved by God" from 1 Peter 2:9. Then take that truth and speak it over your life as a declaration: "Father, thank You that I am not defined by shame or failure. You call me worthy and chosen. I receive Your truth and reject every lie that says otherwise."

Once you've found the truths that speak directly to your story, copy them and paste them into a new section at the end of your story titled *MY Story, God's Truth!* This becomes your final chapter—the one where your story and God's Word meet. Let His truth be the last voice your story ever hears. Every time you add another truth, you're building a foundation that no lie can shake. This is where your story turns from pain into promise, from brokenness into blessing, from what the enemy meant for harm into what God is using for healing.

Before you begin writing your own, I want to show you what this looked like for me. The number of lies you uncover is not important—this isn't about counting, it's about healing. Some lies will be obvious the moment you see them, while others may take time.

That's why it's so important to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, to reveal the lies that have been hiding in the shadows of your story, and to help you see them with clarity and grace.

Here's how I took the lies hidden in my childhood story and held them up to the truth of God's Word. This is my example—not for you to copy, but to give you courage, clarity, and a picture of what it means to let God speak the final word over your past.

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**My Story, God's Truth**

Lie	Declaration	Bible Verse
God Hates me	Thank You, Lord, that You are good, can only do good, can be nothing but good, will always be good.	Psalm 119:68
Unworthy	Thank You, Lord, that I am deeply loved, fully valued, eternally cherished, and marked with the worth You Yourself placed on me.	1 John 3:1
Unchosen	Thank You, Lord, that I am intentionally chosen, divinely pursued, personally called, and forever wanted by You. I belong to You.	John 15:16
Insignificant	Thank You, Lord, that my life carries divine significance. You shaped my heart, gave me purpose, and marked my story with Your fingerprints.	Psalm 139:14
Invisible	Thank You, Lord, that You see me, know me, remember me, and delight in me. Your eyes rest on me with love.	Genesis 16:13
Inferior	Thank You, Lord, that I am treasured, honored, and fully loved without comparison. In Jesus Christ, I am a Child of the Living God.	1 John 3:1
Conditional-Love	Thank You, Lord, that Your love for me is unchanging, unwavering,	Romans 8:38–39

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	unlimited, and unconditional. I am fully loved at all times by You.	
Flawed	Thank You, Lord, that I am Your masterpiece—intentionally crafted, beautifully designed, and purposefully formed by Your hand.	Ephesians 2:10
Not-Enough	Thank You, Lord, that in Christ I am complete, strengthened, empowered, and fully equipped. I live from Your abundance, not my limitations.	Colossians 2:10
Unsafe-Feelings	Thank You, Lord, that my heart is safe with You. I am free to feel, free to express, and free to bring every emotion into Your presence.	Psalms 62:8
Responsibility	Thank You, Lord, that You carry me, sustain me, and protect me. Jesus is my Savior—I rest securely in His strength.	Psalms 55:22
Weakness	Thank You, Lord, that my weakness is a doorway to Your power. Your Spirit strengthens, upholds, and empowers me every moment of every day.	2 Corinthians 12:9
Numbness	Thank You, Lord, that You meet me tenderly in every numb place. Your presence awakens my heart and restores my soul.	Psalms 34:18
Alone	Thank You, Lord, that I am never alone. Your presence surrounds me, supports me, and stays with me in every season of my life.	Hebrews 13:5
Inadequate	Thank You, Lord, that You love me exactly as I am. You are shaping me into the image of Jesus, and You delight in who I am becoming.	Philippians 1:6
Performance	Thank You, Lord, that I am covered by grace, anchored in mercy, and empowered by love. You delight in my heart, not my performance.	Ephesians 1:6
Blame	Thank You, Lord, that because I have accepted Jesus as my Lord	Romans 8:1

	and Savior, I am innocent, accepted, justified, and vindicated in Your eyes. I stand in the truth of who You say I am.	
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Don't just write it—speak it. Say it out loud. Words have power. God spoke creation into existence with words. Jesus calmed storms with words. He cast out demons with words. He raised the dead with words. The words you speak have spiritual weight. When you begin to speak truth over your life, Heaven listens, and Hell trembles. You're not just saying words into the air—you're reclaiming your territory, the territory of your mind and heart that once belonged to fear.

This isn't positive thinking. This isn't self-help. This is spiritual transformation. True spiritual warfare. When you speak truth, you are aligning your mind with Heaven's perspective. You are training your brain, heart, and spirit to agree with what God already says is true. Even science backs this up. Neuroscientists have discovered that when you think a thought repeatedly, your brain creates a physical pathway—a habit. The more often you think it, the stronger the pathway becomes. That's why lies feel familiar—you've walked that road a thousand times. But when you start declaring truth, you're building a new road, a new pathway. Every time you repeat it, you're strengthening it until the old one fades away. That's what Scripture means when it says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." You're literally being rewired into freedom. This is not imagination. It is transformation. Truth doesn't just comfort you—it reconstructs you.

Now, here's what you need to understand: the enemy will not give up easily. He will whisper, "Remember when...?" He'll bring up your past. He'll drag out old shame, old memories, and old regrets. When that happens, you don't talk to him—you turn to Jesus. Simply say, "Lord, You see what's trying to come against me. I have forgiven that. I have released that. I have replaced that lie with Your truth. That part of my story belongs to You now." You don't have to argue

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with darkness; you just stand in the light. Whenever you turn on the light, darkness always flees. The cross has already settled your identity, and Jesus enforces what He paid for.

This is what reclaiming your identity looks like. You are not who the world says you are. You are not who your past says you are. You are who God says you are. You are chosen, redeemed, forgiven, loved, accepted, and made whole. You are not an accident. You are not a mistake. You are not a burden. You are a child of God, called by name, created with purpose, and destined for freedom. And even if your feelings haven't caught up yet, don't panic. Truth works slowly, steadily, and deeply—and your emotions will eventually follow the truth you choose to stand on.

Identity is where healing stops being a moment and becomes a lifestyle. When you started this journey, your story was filled with pain. Then came forgiveness. Then gratitude. Now comes truth—the final piece that unlocks the power of your healing. Because healing isn't just about being set free from the past; it's about stepping into the future God always intended for you. This is where the story turns from “what happened to me” to “who I am in Christ.” This is where you stop living wounded and start living whole.

Wanting what God wants means wanting to see yourself the way He sees you. It means refusing to agree with the lies that have defined you for years. It means standing in truth even when you don't yet feel it—because truth doesn't depend on feelings; it depends on faith. And God's truth about you never changes. He wants you to live like someone who has already been redeemed. To wake up knowing you are loved beyond measure, forgiven beyond limit, and called beyond understanding.

Now that you've written the “MY Story, God's Truth” part of your story, it's time to begin re-training your heart and re-wiring your mind to believe what God has revealed. Start by visiting this section three times a day—morning, noon, and evening—and read those truths out loud. Set an alarm if you need a reminder; this is critical to your healing journey. Speak them with conviction, even if you don't fully believe them yet. There's power in declaring truth with your own

voice. It not only strengthens your faith—it literally begins to reshape the pathways in your brain.

Next week, read them twice a day—morning and evening—and keep speaking them aloud. Then, the following week, once a day in the morning, again out loud. As you do, you'll notice your thoughts beginning to align with God's Word and your emotions starting to follow. This is how truth moves from information to transformation.

Every time you speak God's truth over your story, you're participating in your own healing—you're partnering with the Holy Spirit to renew your mind, restore your heart, and rebuild your identity. Don't rush this process. Consistency is where the miracle happens. And if you want to continue doing it three times a day—or even more often—please do. You can't overdose on truth. These truths are vital to your healing, so keep speaking them until they live in your memory and echo in your heart. Then, when the enemy tries to whisper one of his lies, you'll be able to respond instantly—with truth, confidence, and victory.

So today, reclaim your identity. Speak His truth until your heart believes it. Say it until the lies lose their power. And when you do, you'll realize that the story you once feared most has become the story He uses most. Because what the enemy meant for evil, God has rewritten for good. This is your story of freedom. This is your story of healing. This is your story of transformation. And it all begins with knowing—and believing—who you truly are in Christ.

## CHAPTER 16: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

It was just after midnight when she woke up gasping for air. The dream had been too real—faces she'd forgiven, words she'd released, moments she thought were buried for good. But now they were back, clearer than ever, like shadows resurrected to taunt her. She tried to shake it off, but the fear clung to her chest like a weight she couldn't lift.

Her room was quiet, but inside her head it was chaos. You're still that same broken girl. You haven't really changed. You say you forgave, but look at you—still angry, still afraid, still unworthy. God may love others, but not you. Not after everything you've done.

The lies came faster than she could stop them, each one hitting harder than the last. She curled up under the covers and whispered, “Why does this keep happening? I've already given it all to You, Lord. Why does it still hurt?”

And then, like a whisper cutting through the noise, she heard it—not in her ears, but in her spirit. “Because, the enemy hates that you're becoming free.”

That one sentence changed everything.

She sat up slowly, her heart still racing, and the truth began to settle in. The enemy doesn't attack the imprisoned—he attacks the released. He doesn't fight those he already influences—he fights those breaking free from the bondage of his lies. Every person who decides to heal becomes a threat. Every time you forgive, hell trembles. Every time you choose gratitude, the darkness loses ground. Every time you remember who you are in Christ, the gates of hell shake—because identity is the key that keeps the enemy powerless.

You may wonder why this is happening—why the lies return, why the head-noise rises, why old fears suddenly feel alive again. The reason is simple: healing exposes the battlefield. When you begin forgiving, choosing gratitude, and reclaiming your identity, you're stepping into territory the enemy once influenced. This chapter exists for one reason: to show you that what you're experiencing is not failure—it's warfare. And warfare is proof that you are moving in the right direction. Before we talk about open doors and deliverance, you need to understand the conflict itself—because the battle is real, but so is your authority in Christ.

Freedom doesn't mean the devil leaves you alone. It means he knows he's losing. He knows the chains that once held you are gone—but he'll do anything to convince you they're still there. He can't reclaim your soul, so he goes after your mind. He can't undo your salvation, so he attacks your confidence. He can't silence the Holy Spirit, so he tries to drown Him out with noise—guilt, shame, anxiety, grief, fear, regret, loneliness, depression, doubt, pride, lust, bitterness, confusion, comparison, distraction, rejection, jealousy, self-hatred, and despair.

Every one of those is a weapon of deception—designed to make you question what God has already declared true.

Romans 8:1 isn't a verse to memorize; it's a line in the sand. It's who YOU are in Jesus Christ:

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Therefore there is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believe in Him as personal Lord and Savior]. – Romans 8:1

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No condemnation. Not one ounce. Not one accusation that sticks. Every lie, every memory, every dark whisper that tries to convince you otherwise is trespassing on sacred territory—your redeemed mind.

The enemy is relentless, but here's the truth: *he's not stronger than Jesus*. You are not called to fight him alone. You were never meant to. The moment you try to fight in your own strength, you've already stepped into his arena. That's where he wins—in fear, pride, self-reliance, and isolation. But the moment you invite Jesus into the fight, the entire battlefield changes. You don't fight for victory; you stand in the victory Jesus already secured. You're not the warrior—you're the witness of His victory being enforced in your life.

She didn't know all that yet. Not fully. But that night, sitting on the edge of her bed, she decided she was done running. Done listening. Done letting the same old lies replay like a broken record.

"Enough," she whispered. "No more."

Her voice shook at first, but it grew stronger as she spoke: "Jesus, I've already forgiven them. I've already released this pain. It is in my past, and it has no power over me anymore. I refuse to carry what You've already taken to the cross. I refuse to relive what You've already redeemed. I am forgiven. I am Yours. I am free."

Then she did something that felt strange but holy—she prayed out loud, not timidly, but with authority:

*"Most Gracious Heavenly Father, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, I come before You. I thank You that I belong fully and completely to You—my Lord, my Savior, my Master, my King, and my Friend. You alone have authority over all things in heaven and on earth. Lord Jesus, I ask You to silence every voice that is not Yours. Mute every lie, dismantle every scheme, and drive away every unclean influence that seeks to harm, deceive, or torment me."*

*By Your power and by Your blood, remove every dark influence from me and from every place where Your name is honored. Surround me with Your presence, fill this room with Your peace, and flood my heart with Your Spirit. Let Your light expose every shadow and Your truth dismantle every lie. For there is no name higher, no name greater, and no name that sends hell trembling like the name of Jesus.*

*I rest in Your victory, Lord. You have already triumphed over every power of darkness. Help me to walk in that truth, clothed in Your armor, covered by Your blood, and filled with Your Spirit. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen."*

She didn't shout. She didn't chant. She just believed. And that belief shook the room.

The air changed. The heaviness lifted. It was as if the atmosphere itself bowed to the authority of Jesus. She took a deep breath and felt peace—not fragile peace, but powerful peace. The kind that doesn't just silence fear; it banishes it. The kind that doesn't just calm the storm; it commands it to leave.

That's what it looks like to stand with Jesus—not as a victim begging for rescue, but as a son or daughter standing beside your King. You don't have to be strong; He is. You don't have to know every verse; His name alone is enough. You don't have to see victory; you just have to stand in it.

Because when you belong to Christ, You are not the hunted—you are the protected. The enemy may roar, but the Lion of Judah roars louder.

This is where your spiritual warfare begins—not with fear, but with faith. Not by shouting into the darkness, not with speaking to the enemy, satan, devils, demons, or demonic forces, but by standing in the light with Jesus. When guilt whispers, respond with gratitude. When shame resurfaces, immediately remind yourself who you are in Christ. When lies invade, speak truth louder. When fear tries to grip you, call on the name that breaks every chain: "Jesus."

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Forgiveness disarms the enemy. Gratitude blinds him. Identity silences him. Forgiveness takes away his leverage—because he can't torment what's been released. Gratitude robs him of influence—because he can't operate in a heart that's thankful. Identity takes away his voice—because he can't accuse what God has already declared righteous.

This is why your healing matters so much. Every step toward freedom is a declaration of war. Every healed wound is a victory flag planted on what once was enemy soil. And every time you choose to stand, heaven celebrates. You may feel like you're still reaching for peace, but in truth, peace is already reaching for you—and His name is Jesus.

So tonight, if the lies return, do what she did. Sit up. Speak out. Pray. Not timidly, but boldly. Because you are not alone in this battle. You are not defenseless. You are not weak. You are surrounded by the presence of the Living God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of you. And that power has one purpose: to remind every force of darkness that you belong to the light.

And when you remember that—when you stand beside Jesus instead of in front of Him—everything changes. The enemy doesn't respond to you—he responds to Jesus within you.

And that, my friend, is what makes hell tremble.

# Part 4: The Spiritual Side of Your Story

## CHAPTER 17: A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO DELIVERANCE

There comes a moment in every healing journey when the story shifts, not because anything is wrong, but because everything so far has been preparing you for a deeper place of restoration. You have forgiven what once felt unforgivable. You have practiced gratitude in places where only grief used to live. You have reclaimed your identity and learned to see yourself through the eyes of a Father who never stopped loving you. And now, almost without realizing it, you have arrived at a threshold. It is here, in this quiet turning point, that your healing begins to touch the part of your story that goes beyond emotions and memories and thoughts. This is where you begin to recognize that you are more than flesh and blood, more than the history you lived, more than the wounds you endured, and more than the patterns you have spent years trying to untangle. You are a spiritual being living in a spiritual world, and the unseen parts of your story matter just as much as the seen.

Instead of feeling strange or unfamiliar, this shift is meant to feel like a natural extension of the healing God has already begun in you. Emotional wounds influence the soul, but spiritual wounds can linger beneath the surface in ways we do not always recognize. This

is not something to fear; it is something to understand with gentleness and clarity. That understanding begins right here. This chapter is not a lesson in demonology, nor is it a breakdown of the mechanics of deliverance, nor is it meant to diagnose you or overwhelm you. Instead, it is meant to orient your heart, steady your thoughts, and assure you that what comes next in your healing journey is simply another expression of Jesus' love.

Many people are uncomfortable when the topic of deliverance arises, mostly because the world has misrepresented it. Movies sensationalize it, culture distorts it, and fear twists it into something dark or dramatic. Yet when we return to Scripture, we find something very different. When Jesus cast out demons, the moments were calm, holy, and filled with authority—not chaos. His focus was never the darkness. His focus was always the person He loved. Deliverance in Scripture is quiet, decisive, and rooted in compassion. It is not a spectacle; it is an act of restoration. It is not about power displays; it is about reclaiming a person's peace. It is not about demons; it is about Jesus.

So why talk about the spiritual realm at all? Because healing has layers, and sometimes the deepest layers require us to recognize the spiritual access points that formed during seasons of pain, trauma, sin, abuse, or confusion. This is not a statement of blame. It is a statement of clarity. Emotional healing removes the pain of the past. Identity healing restores the truth of who you are. Gratitude healing reframes the story. But spiritual healing closes the doors the enemy used to whisper into your broken places. You have already done the work of forgiveness. You have already done the work of releasing bitterness. You have already begun to rewrite your narrative with gratitude and truth. Now we take the next gentle step, allowing Jesus to address any spiritual residue left behind by the battles you survived.

Deliverance is safe for believers precisely because Jesus is the One who does the work. You will hear that theme again and again in the chapters ahead because it is the foundation of everything you are about to walk through. You are not being asked to fight

darkness. You are not being asked to confront the enemy. You are not being asked to step into something dramatic or frightening. You are simply being invited to let Jesus reclaim any ground in your life that pain once occupied. Deliverance is not “normal” in the sense that every believer experiences it, but it is biblical, and when it is needed, it is gentle, holy, and deeply freeing. For many people, deliverance is not a dramatic event; it is a quiet moment where Jesus removes lies, breaks old agreements, closes open doors, and restores spiritual order.

This chapter exists to answer the questions that naturally rise in your heart at this stage of healing. Why is deliverance sometimes needed? Because sometimes pain, trauma, sin, or lies opened spiritual access points that require Jesus' authority to close. Why are we talking about the spiritual realm after talking about forgiveness, gratitude, and identity? Because forgiveness removes the hook, gratitude rewrites the emotional story, identity restores who you are, and spiritual clarity ensures nothing is left that would pull you backward. What is the purpose of the next three chapters? The purpose is to prepare you, guide you, and shepherd you, so that by the time you reach the chapter on deliverance itself, your heart is steady, your understanding is clear, and your trust is anchored in Jesus, not fear.

Why is this safe? Because deliverance belongs to Jesus, and anything in His hands is safe. Why is it biblical? Because Jesus Himself demonstrated it as part of His ministry to heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free. Why don't we fear any of this? Because fear is what the enemy uses to keep people confused and in bondage, and truth is what Jesus uses to set people free. And why is this still a healing journey rather than a demon-focused one? Because the center of this journey has never changed. It is still Jesus. And it will always be Jesus.

As you continue into this next phase, you are not stepping into darkness. You are stepping into light. You are not stepping into confusion. You are stepping into clarity. You are not stepping into a battlefield. You are stepping into a place where Jesus finishes the

healing He has already begun in your heart. There is nothing in these next chapters that is meant to make you anxious or afraid. Everything is written to steady you, guide you, and walk with you gently into deeper freedom. This is still your story of healing—only now, Jesus is restoring the parts of your story you could not see.

The spiritual side of healing is not a detour or an interruption. It is the natural next step toward wholeness. And Jesus will walk every step of it with you.

## CHAPTER 18: CLOSING THE DOORS

(Reclaiming what Belongs to Jesus)

Sin is not an opinion; it is a reality that damages what God calls good. It is not merely the breaking of a rule; it is the breaking of a relationship. Sin bends what God made straight, stains what He made pure, and opens doors in the soul that were only ever meant to open toward Him. And when those doors swing the wrong way, we feel it—sometimes as head-noise we can't quiet, sometimes as confusion that won't lift, sometimes as shame that clings, sometimes as patterns in relationships we can't seem to stop repeating. Not every sickness or struggle is caused by personal sin, and this is not about blame; it is about clarity. Sin—ours, and the sin done against us—creates ripples. It grants the enemy access to ground that rightly belongs to Jesus, especially for those who have surrendered to Him. Spiritual warfare is the resistance—the steady refusal to believe lies. Deliverance is the eviction—Jesus reclaiming what is already His. But repentance is the key that unlocks the door from the inside.

Notice I say resistance—not battle. Scripture tells us, “we wrestle not against flesh and blood,” but it never tells us to speak to or confront the enemy directly. Paul's warfare language always points us to one posture: stand firm behind Jesus, clothed in His

armor, anchored in His truth. James says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We resist by staying under Jesus' authority, not by addressing darkness ourselves. The enemy wants attention; Jesus wants surrender. Spiritual warfare isn't about fighting demons—it's about refusing their lies, standing in truth, and letting Jesus do the fighting on our behalf.

We call it "ground" because Scripture speaks of our lives as territory—hearts to be guarded, minds to be renewed, bodies to be yielded, homes to be set apart. Jesus purchased all of this at the cross. He owns the deed. But when we agree with sin—through rebellion, unforgiveness, occult curiosity, sexual sin, the self-protective vows we made in fear, or lies we chose to believe—we effectively sign a permission slip that says, "This part of my heart is off-limits to truth." The enemy cannot create that permission; he can only exploit it. That is why this chapter matters so much: deliverance is the courtroom of God, but repentance is the legal act that withdraws our consent, revokes every claim, and returns the property to its rightful Owner.

Some doors are obvious. We know when we have crossed a line and called it freedom. We know when our words have wounded and we refused to make it right. We know when bitterness has become our comfort and we've nursed it like a friend. Other doors are subtle. We made inner vows when we were young—"I will never need anyone," "I will never trust again"—and those vows felt like safety, but they became cages. We practiced control to avoid being hurt and called it wisdom, but it quietly choked love. We dabbled in "harmless" spiritual things that promised power without Jesus, and the light we invited in was not light at all. And sometimes the open door came through someone else's sin—abuse, betrayal, abandonment—and the enemy used their wrongdoing to plant lies in us: "I am unlovable," "I am dirty," "I am doomed." "I am just a product to be used and then discarded." Those lies often felt true because they were spoken in seasons when our hearts were unguarded and vulnerable. These are not your shame, but if they remain unchallenged, they can become your chains.

## What Does God Want?

God's answer to sin is not shame; it is the Savior. Repentance is not groveling; it is agreement with God. Confession is not humiliation; it is stepping back into the light. Renunciation is not theatrics; it is the clear, calm decision to cancel every agreement we've made with darkness, whether by choice, fear, ignorance, or pain. This is why we never talk to the devil—we talk only to Jesus. We bring Him the keys we should never have handed over. We say, "Lord, this ground is Yours. I withdraw my yes to every lie, every vow, every sin. I give You back what always belonged to You." And heaven honors that surrender.

This isn't about remembering everything; it's about surrendering whatever the Holy Spirit shows you right now. Ask the Holy Spirit to walk you through your story and show you where doors were opened. He is gentle, precise, and always kind. He will bring to mind moments you're ready to face now, not to condemn you, but to free you. When He shows you something, agree quickly with Him. Name it. Confess it. Forgive where you must forgive. Renounce what you must renounce. If restitution is needed, ask Jesus for courage and wisdom to make it. This is the clean, beautiful work of holiness—setting apart what belongs to God so it may be filled with God.

As you close doors, expect resistance—but do not fear it. You are not negotiating with darkness; you are appealing to the Highest Authority. The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than your sin and a stronger word than every accusation. You are not earning your freedom; you are exercising it. You are not trying to get God to be good; you are letting His goodness restore what sin has damaged. And yes, sometimes the effects are immediate—peace floods in, the head-noise quiets, the heaviness lifts. Other times the fruit grows day by day as you keep choosing truth over the old agreements. Either way, the ground is changing hands, and the King is taking possession of what is rightfully His—your heart, your peace, your story, and your freedom. Resistance does not mean you're doing something wrong; it often means you're finally taking back ground the enemy depended on you never reclaiming.

If you feel the weight of this, good. Not the weight of shame, but the weight of God's presence—the holy gravity that tells you this matters. Sin is vile because God is holy, but His holiness is not the terror of distance; it is the beauty of nearness. He hates what harms you. He hates what twists love, corrodes trust, and steals breath from your sleep. He hates sin because He fiercely loves you. The sooner we see sin for what it is, the sooner we stop defending our prison and start walking out of it, hand in hand with Jesus.

So here is your invitation: sit with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show you the doors. Where did I agree with a lie? Where did I cling to unforgiveness? Where did I step into darkness looking for control or comfort? Where did I make a vow that keeps me from love? Where did another's sin plant shame in me that I still wear like a name? Listen. Write what He shows you. Then, one by one, hand Him the keys. Confess. Forgive. Renounce. Bless those who wounded you by releasing them fully into God's hands. Break agreement with every counterfeit comfort that ever promised safety apart from Jesus. Ask Jesus to close what was opened, cleanse what was stained, and claim what is His. You will feel the difference. And when you step into deliverance, you will be stepping onto ground already signed back to the King.

When you're ready, pray this prayer:

*Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. I agree with Your truth and I reject every lie. I confess the sins You bring to mind and I receive Your forgiveness. I forgive those who sinned against me and I release them into Your hands. I renounce every vow, every counterfeit comfort, every hidden agreement with darkness. Lord Jesus, take back the keys. Close every door I opened, cleanse every place that was wounded, weary, or influenced by darkness, and mark this ground as Yours. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, cover me with Your blood, clothe me in Your armor, and keep me in Your peace. What belongs to You, take fully. What was stolen, restore. What was broken, redeem and make beautiful. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.*

## What Does God Want?

If you've prayed that prayer, take a deep breath and know this—you've just done one of the most powerful things a person can ever do. Heaven rejoices when a child of God turns back toward truth. Repentance isn't punishment—it's freedom being restored. It restores peace to your soul, clarity to your mind, and closeness to your Father. Every time you agree with God, something in you heals.

Be proud of this step. You've just taken back ground that never belonged to the enemy in the first place. The cross has already paid the price, but your repentance opens the door for that victory to reach every part of your life. Keep walking in that humility and honesty—it will keep you protected, grounded, and at peace.

Remember, you are not doing this alone; Jesus is guiding every step, and the Holy Spirit is revealing only what leads to freedom. This is the beauty of God's mercy: He doesn't expose sin to shame you; He reveals it to free you. And now that the doors are closing and the ground is being reclaimed, you're ready for what comes next—deliverance, where Jesus enforces what you've just declared. You've chosen truth, you've chosen freedom, and heaven calls that victory reclaimed.

## CHAPTER 19: UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLE

(Demons, the Divided Soul, and Open Doors)

Spiritual warfare is real. It is not symbolic, not poetic, not exaggerated. There are forces of light and forces of darkness at work in this world, and every person—whether they believe it or not—is living in the middle of that unseen war. The Bible makes it clear that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” These aren’t metaphors; they are descriptions of a very real spiritual hierarchy that has been opposing God and His people since the beginning of time.

But here’s the good news: the victory has already been won. The war itself is not in question. Jesus disarmed the powers of darkness at the Cross and publicly exposed their defeat for all to see—stripping them of honor and humiliating them before heaven and earth. Yet, even though the war is won, there are still battles that must be fought, because the enemy refuses to surrender territory easily. He’s like a squatter who refuses to leave a house that no longer belongs to him. He knows he’s defeated, but he’ll do anything to make you believe otherwise.

## What Does God Want?

To understand deliverance, you must first understand the battlefield—and that battlefield is not out there somewhere in the heavens; it's inside of us. The battleground is your mind, your emotions, your heart, your will, your beliefs, your identity, and your peace. The enemy doesn't need to possess your body to control your life; he only needs to deceive your heart and occupy your thoughts. He works through lies, fear, shame, and pain—anything that keeps you from walking in the freedom Jesus paid for.

The first thing to clarify is this: possession and oppression are not the same thing. There's a lot of confusion in the Church about this, so let's get it straight. Demonic possession is when an evil spirit literally takes up residence inside a person and controls them from within. We see this in the Gospels—Jesus cast demons out of people who were not followers of Him, who had not been redeemed by His blood. The man in the tombs, the boy who threw himself into fire, the woman bent double by a spirit of infirmity—these were examples of possession. The demon had control. The person's will was overridden. And here's what many people never realize: oppression is not proof of weakness—it's proof of conflict. And conflict is proof that you belong to Jesus. The enemy doesn't torment his own; he harasses those who are claimed by God.

As a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, you cannot be possessed. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God lives in you. He doesn't share that space. You cannot belong to Jesus and to darkness at the same time. Possession is off the table for a follower of Jesus Christ.

However, oppression is real, and it's where most Christians lose peace without understanding why. Oppression means pressure from the outside—like a weight pressing down on the mind, emotions, or body. It can feel like a fog that never lifts, a heaviness that won't shake, emotional torment that won't end, or thoughts that keep cycling even when you know they're not from God. Oppression often works through lies—subtle, persistent whispers that say, “You'll never be free,” “God's disappointed in you,” “You're not really forgiven,” or “Something's wrong with you.”

Oppression can also show up in patterns—cycles of anger, addiction, fear, despair, or self-condemnation that repeat like a loop. You pray, you repent, you worship, and you mean it—but the cycle starts again. That's not a lack of faith; that's a sign of warfare. When you feel like your emotions don't line up with your faith, or when something inside you fights against what you know to be true, oppression is often the culprit.

There is another form of oppression that many people never identify—because it doesn't feel spiritual at all. It feels emotional. The enemy often targets the weakest, most wounded parts of our soul, especially the parts formed in childhood. For some, it's fear. For others, it's shame. For me, it was my emotions. You remember my story from Chapter 12—how my emotional world began to fracture at seven years old when my father died and my mother took away the one gift that made me feel connected to him. That early wound didn't stay in childhood; it followed me into adulthood. By the time I was grown, my emotions could swing so wildly that I felt out of control. It didn't matter how much I prayed, how hard I tried, or how deeply I loved God—my emotions became the easiest entry point for the enemy.

For over twenty-five years, the enemy used that vulnerability to torment me. He would badger me with feelings of instability, bludgeon me with despair, overwhelm me with shame, and whisper lies that made me want to stay in bed, run from my life, or end my life altogether just to escape the emotional torment. That is what oppression often looks like at its worst—emotional trauma so relentless that it feels like your own thoughts are turning against you. The enemy doesn't need to possess you to influence you; he just needs access to the parts of you that were never comforted, never healed, never understood. Those become firing zones for spiritual pressure.

This has been the biggest battleground of my life. Even now, I stay alert—not afraid, but aware. I constantly evaluate my emotional state, asking the Holy Spirit to help me separate “me” from

the lies being whispered. Emotional oppression is subtle but brutal. It doesn't shout; it wears you down. It doesn't always attack your beliefs; it attacks your stability. And the moment you understand that the emotional storm inside you is often spiritual interference—not a flaw in you—the enemy loses the power to use it against you.

Sometimes that oppression manifests as physical symptoms—chronic fatigue, sickness that defies explanation, panic attacks, or pain that seems spiritual in nature. Other times, it's relational chaos—constant misunderstanding, rejection, or conflict that follows you wherever you go. The enemy thrives in confusion and division; it's what he does best.

There's also something I call harassment, which is different but related. Harassment is the enemy's attempt to wear you down through constant interference. It's the whisper at night, the wave of dread for no reason, the nightmares that seem to replay old fears, or the sense that you're being mocked or watched. It's spiritual bullying—a series of small assaults designed to exhaust you into surrender, to make you feel weary. If oppression is the weight, harassment is the noise.

None of this gives darkness power over a believer. It only explains how influence works—and more importantly, how easily influence can be broken in the presence of Jesus.

And then there's the matter of what we call open doors. Scripture makes it clear that sin, whether our own or someone else's, can create access points for the enemy. When we choose bitterness, rebellion, pride, sexual immorality, idolatry, or unforgiveness, we effectively hand the enemy a key and say, "You can camp here." He doesn't need to break in. We invited him. Sometimes the door was opened by generational sin—patterns of abuse, addiction, witchcraft, or unbelief that ran in our family lines and were never renounced. Other times, it was opened by trauma—moments of deep pain where lies were believed, vows were made, or trust was broken. The enemy exploits pain the way bacteria exploits a wound; he doesn't create it, but he thrives in it.

But there's another kind of open door many never think about—the doors opened through ungodly vows and allegiances. Secret societies, ritual-based clubs, and organizations that require oaths or symbolic pledges of loyalty—no matter how harmless they may seem—create spiritual contracts that compete with your covenant in Christ. The Elk, Moose, Shriners, and especially the Freemasons and other similar orders often include prayers, rituals, or initiations that directly or indirectly invoke spiritual powers apart from God. Those oaths may sound traditional or ceremonial, but in the spiritual realm, they are binding agreements. They give the enemy permission to harass, confuse, or afflict. Jesus said plainly that our “Yes” should mean “Yes,” and our “No,” “No”—anything more than that comes from evil.

If you've ever made an oath or participated in a ritual that pledged allegiance to anyone or anything besides Jesus Christ, that's a door that must be closed. It's not about shame—it's about ownership. The moment you renounce those vows in prayer, declaring Jesus as your only Lord and Master, that contract is canceled. The blood of Jesus nullifies every false covenant, every spoken curse, and every counterfeit light. Darkness can't hold ground where truth has been spoken and repentance has been made.

And that brings us to something many have never been taught—the concept of fragmentation. When trauma happens, especially in childhood, something inside us often splits. Psychologists call this dissociation; Scripture simply shows it through how broken people behave—divided, double-minded, torn between faith and fear. Fragmentation is the soul's emergency defense system. It's what allows a child to survive abuse or neglect by mentally escaping while the body endures what it cannot control. In extreme trauma, that fragmentation can create what are sometimes called **alters**—distinct parts of the personality that carry pain, fear, anger, or confusion. These parts are not demons; they are you—brave, wounded pieces of you that helped you survive.

## What Does God Want?

An alter might be childlike, stuck in the age when the trauma happened. Another might be protective—angry, tough, ready to fight anyone who comes close. Another might be detached, numb, or obsessive about control. Sometimes they emerge as habits, tics, or compulsions. Sometimes they express themselves through sudden mood shifts, memory gaps, or emotional reactions that feel out of proportion. It's not that you're crazy—it's that parts of you learned to protect the whole of you in ways that no longer serve peace.

When people start to recognize these internal conflicts—when they say, “I feel like two different people,” or “Sometimes I don't even recognize my own reactions,”—it's often evidence of fragmentation. The enemy exploits that, too. He feeds lies to those fractured parts, keeping them afraid, angry, or ashamed, because as long as your soul remains divided, your peace remains stolen. Jesus said a house divided against itself cannot stand—and that includes the house of your soul.

Now, here's the important truth: none of this makes you bad. It makes you human. Brokenness is not rebellion; it's injury. Jesus came for the brokenhearted. He binds up wounds; He doesn't condemn them. Deliverance is not punishment—it's restoration. It's not a display of power for spectacle's sake; it's a declaration of ownership.

When people come to me for help, it often begins the same way. They say, “I've done the work. I've forgiven. I've prayed. I've chosen gratitude. I'm declaring who I am in Christ—but the head noise won't stop.” I've heard it over and over again: “Every time I fix one story, three more come up. It's like whack-a-mole with my heart.” And they're not weak. They're not faithless. They're simply carrying more than one person can heal piece by piece.

I know exactly what that feels like. Years ago, when my ex-wife wanted a divorce and my beloved stepdaughter uninvited me to her wedding, the head noise was relentless. It was so loud, so cruel, so exhausting, that I honestly just wanted to die—not because I didn't love God, but because I wanted peace from the torment in my own mind. The enemy whispered shame, failure, rejection, and

despair until I could barely think straight. It felt like there was no escape, no silence, no hope.

But in that dark season, God met me through the pages of *The Bondage Breaker* by Neil T. Anderson, and He gave me a revelation that changed everything: I am part of God's Kingdom. The demonic exists outside the Kingdom and has no rightful authority over a child of the Living God. The moment I remembered that truth, the accusations lost their power. They had no claim on me. That truth rose up in me like fire. For the first time, something awakened inside me—not anger at the darkness, but confidence in Jesus. I didn't shout into the air or engage anything unseen. Instead, I spoke truth to my own soul: "I belong to Jesus Christ. I am part of His Kingdom. I am a child of the Living God. The enemy has no claim on me." And as I declared God's truth over myself, the head-noise broke. Peace washed over me like a wave—deep, steady, and undeniable—the kind only Jesus can give.

The nature of this battle is simple: the head-noise isn't just emotional—it's spiritual. The enemy doesn't need an invitation when we fail to recognize his lies, but once truth is revealed, his influence collapses. You don't have to entertain every thought that enters your mind. You have the right, as a child of the Living God, to reject lies and stand in the peace Jesus already purchased for you. You can do this by saying something simple like: "Lord, I rebuke that thought—it is NOT mine, and I want nothing to do with it." That's it. You never speak to the enemy. You always speak to Jesus.

That's when I tell people something most churches never explain: Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is stop fighting every symptom individually and bring the entire matter before Jesus at once—not to confront darkness, but to submit fully to His authority. That's what deliverance is. It's not chasing demons through your memories—it's taking the entire matter into the courtroom of heaven, where justice is served, truth prevails, and the noise finally stops.

Think of it this way: your life is God's property. The title deed was signed with the blood of Jesus Christ. But sometimes, through sin

or trauma, the enemy sneaks onto that property and builds illegal settlements—fortresses of lies, habits, or torment. Deliverance is the moment Jesus enforces His ownership, removing every influence that has no legal right to remain. He is the One who does the evicting—we simply stand with Him. It's not emotional drama; it's judicial action. The cross is your proof of ownership, repentance is your legal filing, and the name of Jesus is the eviction order.

But before the eviction comes the awareness. You can't take back ground you don't know you've lost. You can't close doors you don't know are open. That's why this chapter matters—because understanding what's happening to you is not fear; it's freedom. The devil loves darkness, but truth is light. When you understand his tactics, his influence breaks—because the power was broken at the Cross. When you recognize his voice, you stop listening. When you learn to separate your feelings from his lies, peace begins to return.

Maybe as you read this, you're realizing that some of what's described here sounds familiar. The heaviness that won't lift. The anger that erupts out of nowhere. The self-hatred that whispers in quiet moments. The shame that won't let go. The guilt that never quite fades. The memories that still sting. The sleepless nights, the fear that doesn't match your circumstances, the exhaustion that feels deeper than physical. Those aren't random; they're signs of battle. But knowing that doesn't make you powerless—it makes you informed.

When you understand the enemy's playbook, you can finally stop reacting and start responding with authority. And that's what the next chapter is about: taking this understanding into action. Deliverance is not superstition. It's not chaos. It's not strange or dangerous when done under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It's holy order. It's divine justice. It's what happens when heaven enforces what the cross already accomplished.

So, take a deep breath. Nothing about what you've just read should bring fear. If anything, it should bring relief. You're not losing your mind. You're not defective. You're not beyond help. You're in

a war—and now you finally know it. And when you know the truth, the truth sets you free.

When you're ready, we'll walk into the courtroom of heaven together. You'll see that Jesus has already won your case. All we have to do is present the evidence—your repentance, His blood, and the authority of His name—and watch Him enforce the verdict. That's deliverance. That's justice. That's freedom.

## CHAPTER 20: DELIVERANCE

(The Courtroom of Heaven)

Now that you understand the battle you're in, it's time to understand how Jesus wins it for you. Deliverance is not drama, spectacle, or confrontation. It's not shouting at darkness or performing spiritual theatrics. Deliverance is simply Jesus enforcing the victory of the cross with clarity, truth, and authority. It's about reclaiming legal ground in the Kingdom of God. It's about Jesus Christ—the Savior, the Advocate, the One who purchased your life with His blood—restoring ownership of what already belongs to Him. Deliverance is divine justice carried out in the courtroom of heaven.

Think of it like this: when you surrender your life to Jesus, your spirit is redeemed instantly. You are adopted, justified, sealed, and made righteous before God—because every sin, past, present, and future, was paid for on the cross by Jesus Himself. That's the miracle of salvation. But while your spirit is made new, your soul—your mind, will, and emotions—may still echo the old life. It remembers wounds, lies, patterns, and open doors the enemy once exploited. Deliverance is the process of aligning your soul with your spirit, so the freedom Jesus gives inwardly becomes visible outwardly.

This courtroom is not a metaphor meant to dramatize things; it's a reflection of how heaven works. Scripture calls God "the Judge of all the earth." It calls Jesus our "Advocate with the Father." It calls Satan "the accuser of the brethren." Those aren't poetic titles—they describe a legal system in the spiritual realm. The enemy cannot simply torment at will; he operates on legal grounds—permission granted through sin, deception, or agreement with lies. Deliverance exposes and revokes those permissions through repentance, truth, and the authority of Jesus Christ.

Here's what that means in practical terms: when you confess your sin, you are withdrawing permission. When you renounce lies you've believed, you are canceling contracts you never realized you signed. When you forgive, you are closing doors the enemy has used to torment you. And when you declare Jesus as Lord, you are reestablishing His legal ownership over every part of your life. That's not emotional hype—that's divine law being executed in your favor.

When we walk through deliverance, it often begins with that sacred moment of truth-telling. We bring everything into the light—every fear, every agreement, every memory that still carries pain. We name the sins, the vows, the soul ties, the generational patterns of sin or spiritual influence, the hidden shame. Not to wallow, but to witness. You're presenting evidence before the Judge—not to be condemned, but to be set free. Repentance isn't groveling; it's surrendering the evidence of guilt into the hands of mercy.

Once that ground has been cleared, we confront the illegal occupants. We stand on the legal authority of the cross—where every accusation was silenced and every debt was paid. Jesus' blood is your proof of ownership. When we declare His name, the enemy must obey. Philippians 2 says that at the name of Jesus every knee must bow—in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. That includes every demon, every tormenting spirit, every unclean power that's tried to squat on your peace. They don't leave because we yell; they leave because the court rules in favor of the blood.

Sometimes, the process is gentle. Tears flow, peace rises, and the person simply exhales the weight they've carried for years. Other

times, it's more intense—there may be trembling, crying, nausea, or deep emotional release. None of that is shameful; it's what happens when the soul finally lets go of what it's been forced to hold. The Holy Spirit governs every moment. He doesn't humiliate His children. He moves with precision, compassion, and holy authority.

For some, deliverance also includes the healing of fragmented parts—the “alters” we discussed earlier. These are not demons, but wounded parts of your soul that splintered to protect you during trauma. They carry fear, anger, or sadness that your conscious mind couldn't process at the time. In deliverance, Jesus does not cast them out—because they aren't demonic. He gathers them, comforts them, heals them, exposes them to Himself, and brings them home into wholeness. He speaks to each one with tenderness: “You're safe now. You don't have to protect them anymore. Come rest in Me.” When those parts are reintegrated, you begin to feel whole for the first time—not just spiritually, but emotionally. The noise quiets. The contradictions fade. Your inner world becomes still.

Sometimes people ask, “How do I know if I need deliverance?” It's not always about the dramatic symptoms people imagine. It's about bondage—anything in your life that refuses to bow to Jesus. If you feel stuck in a pattern of sin or fear you can't break, if you feel like your emotions are being hijacked by something you can't explain, if your mind feels crowded by intrusive thoughts, shame, or emotional pressure, or if you carry a sense of heaviness that doesn't match your circumstances, that may be a sign of spiritual oppression. And if you've experienced trauma so deep that you feel splintered inside, deliverance may be the key to allowing Jesus to heal every part at once instead of one memory at a time.

Let's be clear: deliverance is not for spectacle—it's for restoration. It's not about chasing devils; it's about reclaiming peace. It's about restoring the territory that rightfully belongs to Jesus—the territory of your mind, your relationships, your health, your identity, your joy. The devil's influence is always rooted in lies. Deliverance replaces those lies with truth, enforced by the name of

Jesus. It's not about how loud we pray; it's about how surrendered we are. Authority doesn't come from emotion—it comes from position. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places. When you stand in that truth, hell loses jurisdiction.

In every deliverance session, there comes a moment of finality—a moment when the lies have been revoked, the spirits commanded to leave, and the courtroom grows silent. Peace fills the space. It's tangible, weighty, holy. The person's face softens. Their breathing slows. Tears of relief fall. That's not imagination; that's what freedom feels like. The courtroom has ruled. The verdict has been rendered. The oppressor has been evicted. The property has been restored to its rightful owner—Jesus Christ.

But we never leave the house empty. Once the legal eviction is complete, we invite the Holy Spirit to fill every room, every memory, every emotion, every corner of the heart with His presence. Because deliverance is not just subtraction—it is holy replacement. It's the exchange of torment for peace, lies for truth, fear for faith, and emptiness for fullness. Jesus said when an unclean spirit leaves a person, it looks for a place to rest, and if it returns to find the house empty, it brings seven more with it. That's why filling matters. Freedom is not just being free from something—it's being filled with Someone.

From that moment forward, the journey shifts from eviction to stewardship. Freedom must be guarded, not by fear, but by faithfulness. You keep your house in order by walking closely with Jesus. Confess quickly. Forgive freely. Worship often. Stay anchored in His Word. Don't give the enemy keys to doors Jesus already locked. Stay in community with other believers who remind you who you are. The armor of God isn't theory—it's daily attire. Truth protects your mind, righteousness guards your heart, and praise silences the enemy's voice.

If the enemy ever tries to come back with his lies, you'll know what to do. You don't panic. You don't argue. You simply renounce the lie, declare God's truth, and invite Jesus to fill that space with His peace and authority. Say it out loud: "Jesus, this is Your house. I

belong to You." The devil is allergic to truth; he can't stay where it's spoken. That's why Scripture says to resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Not because you're intimidating, but because your submission to God is.

Some people fear that deliverance will expose them or make them look weak. The opposite is true. Deliverance is dignity restored. Shame belongs to the oppressor, not the oppressed. Jesus doesn't humiliate His people—He honors them by freeing them. Others worry, "What if it doesn't work?" Deliverance isn't magic; it's alignment with covenant. When the legal ground is removed and Jesus is invited into every place, the enemy loses jurisdiction. It works when we truly surrender, repent, forgive, and submit every area to the lordship of Christ. His authority is not theoretical—it's absolute. When the legal ground is gone, the enemy must leave. That's not wishful thinking; that's divine law.

This is why I cherish deliverance ministry. It's the culmination of everything this journey has been leading toward—brokenness acknowledged, forgiveness given, gratitude awakened, identity reclaimed—and now, freedom enforced. It's mercy in motion. It's justice delivered. It's love refusing to leave you fragmented or bound. It's Jesus doing what Jesus does best: setting captives free.

If as you read this, something in you stirs—if you feel that inner tug, that holy curiosity or that quiet longing for peace that lasts—don't ignore it. That's the Spirit inviting you to take the next step. We'll walk together into the courtroom of heaven. You'll see your Advocate rise to His feet, your accuser fall silent, and the Judge of all the earth declare, "This one is Mine." And when that gavel falls, you'll know what freedom feels like.

Deliverance is completely safe for every believer because Jesus Himself governs the entire process. This is not chaos, fear, or emotional trauma. It is the gentle, firm work of the Holy Spirit applying the finished work of the cross to the parts of your heart that still need freedom.

When you're ready, go to [WalkerJamesLife/coaching](https://www.WalkerJamesLife.com/coaching) and schedule a Discovery Call. We'll talk through your story, discern what's needed, and make sure you're fully prepared and safe. There's no required fee; deliverance is ministry, not merchandise. If you can give, it helps others who can't. If not, come anyway. Freedom isn't for sale.

Most of all, take heart. Freedom isn't a destination—it's a relationship. It's not the absence of conflict; it's the presence of Christ. When Jesus fills your house, peace becomes permanent (regardless of circumstances). When He takes the throne of your heart, the courtroom falls silent, and heaven's verdict becomes your reality.

The verdict is freedom. The evidence is His blood. The authority is His name. And the joy that follows is yours to keep.

Freedom isn't far.

Freedom has a name.

His name is Jesus.

And this—this is what God wants most. Not just for you to win a battle or silence the noise, but to *rest* in the victory He already secured. He doesn't just want you saved; He wants you whole. He doesn't just want your soul rescued; He wants your mind renewed, your heart healed, and your spirit at peace. Every part of deliverance, every moment of spiritual warfare, every hard conversation about sin, trauma, and truth—it all leads to this: freedom that feels like quiet confidence, the peace of knowing you belong completely to Jesus, and the joy of walking with Him without fear or shame.

God never designed you for bondage—not for a moment, not for a season, not for a lifetime. He created you for intimacy with Himself—a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, intimate relationship built on trust, truth, and love. When sin entered the world, that connection was fractured. But through Jesus, it was restored. Deliverance is simply the enforcement of that restoration. It's heaven reminding hell: "This one belongs to Me." It's Jesus reclaiming His

property—your heart, your peace, your story—and declaring it off-limits to darkness.

Maybe you've fought for years to feel free. Maybe you've carried shame or confusion that made you wonder if you were broken beyond repair. But the truth is, nothing in you is beyond redemption. Not one scar, not one memory, not one mistake is too much for the blood of Jesus. When you step into His courtroom, you don't come as a criminal; you come as a child—and your Father has already ruled in your favor.

So, keep walking forward. Keep telling the truth. Keep surrendering the pieces, even the ones you don't understand yet. The more you yield to Him, the freer you'll become. This is what sanctification looks like—Jesus continually exchanging your pain for His peace, your fear for His faith, your chaos for His calm.

Wanting what God wants means choosing to live free. It means refusing to partner with lies, refusing to carry what He already lifted, and refusing to settle for survival when He promised abundant life. It's about standing tall in the truth that the cross has already settled your case, the resurrection has sealed your victory, and the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in you to make sure your freedom remains protected.

You were never meant to live divided. You were never meant to walk through life with one hand holding grace and the other clutching fear. You were made for wholeness. You were made for peace. You were made for Jesus—and He is more than enough.

So, breathe again. The verdict is in. The case is closed. The chains are gone. Walk out of the courtroom of heaven with your head high and your heart light. You are free—and that freedom is forever.

# Part 5: Walk Forward – Sustaining Freedom

## CHAPTER 21: HOW TO LIVE IN FREEDOM

You've walked through the fire and found Jesus waiting in the ashes. You've faced your past, forgiven what once held you captive, chosen gratitude, and allowed His truth to rewrite your story. The lies have been evicted. The wounds have been cleaned. The chains have been broken. The house is clean.

Now comes the moment that defines the rest of your journey—how to keep it that way.

Freedom isn't the end of the story; it's the beginning of a new one. Jesus didn't just set you free from something—He set you free for something. Freedom isn't a destination you reach; it's a relationship you live. It grows stronger each day you choose to stay connected to the One who made it possible.

If the house stands empty, old lies will try to move back in. The enemy doesn't stop knocking just because you've slammed the door. He waits to see whether your house is filled—not with noise, busyness, or distraction, but with the abiding presence of Jesus Christ. That's how you keep the air pure and the light on—by letting Him live in every room of your heart.

The following practices aren't religious checklists or legalistic rules. They are rhythms of relationship—ways to walk with God daily, to steward your freedom wisely, and to let your healing overflow into others. Think of them as spiritual habits that keep the house of your soul swept, filled, and alive with His presence.

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## RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Freedom begins and ends with Jesus. Everything else flows from this relationship. You cannot live in freedom apart from Him, because He *is* freedom—the Truth that sets you free. When you draw close to Him daily, His peace fills your heart, His Word renews your mind, and His presence guards your house. These daily rhythms anchor you to the source of all life, love, and stability.

That doesn't mean the storms will stop coming. Jesus told us plainly, "In this world you will have tribulation; but take heart, I have overcome the world." He wasn't promising a life free from trouble—He was promising His presence through it. What He's really saying is, "*Abide in Me. Stick with Me. Stay close to Me.*" The storms will still come, and yes, they may shake you, they may even hurt—but with Him, your spirit remains secure, your mind stays anchored, your heart finds shelter, and your emotions rest under His covering.

Freedom isn't found in the absence of storms. It's found in the presence of Jesus within them.

\* \* \*

## Prayer

Prayer is the heartbeat of freedom. It's your daily conversation with the One who knows you best and loves you most. You don't pray to impress God; you pray to invite Him. Prayer is where truth replaces noise and peace replaces panic.

Talk to Him as you are, about what is—not about who you wish you were or what you think He wants to hear. When you're joyful, celebrate with Him. When you're angry, tell Him. When you're confused, ask Him. Prayer isn't about posture; it's about presence.

## What Does God Want?

But don't limit prayer to a time or place. Keep the conversation going—all day, every day. Brother Lawrence, who wrote *Practicing the Presence of God*, discovered that even in the middle of a job he despised, everything changed when he talked with Jesus while he worked. His attitude shifted. His peace returned. The same job that once felt unbearable became holy ground, simply because he turned his thoughts into conversation with God.

You can do the same. Whether you're driving, washing dishes, working, or waiting in line, talk with Him as if He's right there beside you—because He is. Whisper prayers like, "Jesus, I love You," "Father, help me see this like You do," or "Holy Spirit, thank You for being here." These small, continual moments of connection turn ordinary days into sacred space.

As you build this rhythm, you'll find that prayer changes you more than it changes circumstances. It keeps your heart soft and your spirit tuned. It aligns your emotions with truth, reminding your mind that you're not in control—but you're not alone either. When communication stays open, peace stays near. These simple, heartfelt prayers keep your house full of His presence—not just in moments of need, but in every breath of your day.

\* \* \*

### **Praise & Worship**

Worship is the sound of victory. It's how you fight your battles—not with fists or fear, but with adoration. When you worship, you lift your focus from your problem to your Provider.

The atmosphere of your home shapes the atmosphere of your heart. What you fill your space with eventually fills you. That's why praise and worship aren't just background music—they're atmosphere shifters, soul restorers, and faith igniters.

Play worship music often—in your car, your kitchen, while you work, or while you work out. Let it saturate your environment until you can feel the presence of God resting there. Worship reminds your heart that you're surrounded by the goodness of God, even when your circumstances try to tell you otherwise.

When anxiety creeps in, worship louder. When darkness whispers, sing truth until light floods in. Praise isn't denial—it's defiance. It declares that Jesus reigns right in the middle of your battle. Every lyric of truth you sing out becomes a weapon of war, tearing down lies and replacing them with peace.

Praise and worship is one of the most powerful weapons in your spiritual arsenal—use it always and often. It turns fear into faith, heaviness into hope, and chaos into calm. Keep it playing, keep it alive, and keep it personal—because worship doesn't just change your atmosphere; it transforms your heart until heaven feels close enough to touch.

Worship doesn't deny the pain; it redefines it. It declares that no matter what's happening around you, Jesus is still Lord within you. As you sing, you're not performing—you're proclaiming. You're filling your house with faith, and darkness can't dwell where praise abides.

\* \* \*

## **Reading the Bible**

The Word of God is your daily meal. You can't live in freedom if you're starving for truth. Scripture feeds your spirit, renews your mind, and heals your inner world.

Don't rush through it. Read slowly. Let each word wash over you like living water. Ask God to show you one truth you can carry that day. Some days, it may feel dry; other days, it will leap off the page. Keep reading anyway. The point isn't to finish a chapter—it's to let the Word finish its work in you.

When lies come, Scripture is your weapon. Say it out loud. Declare it over your life. When the enemy tries to drag your past into your present, stand on what Jesus has already done. Romans 8:1 is the perfect sword for the enemy's attacks on your past: "Therefore there is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believe in Him as personal Lord and Savior]." (Romans 8:1 AMP) The Bible doesn't just tell you what God said—it tells you who He is, who you are, and who wins. So,

## What Does God Want?

invest the time it takes to get to know your Lord, Savior, Master, King, and Friend, through His Word.

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### **Bible Study & Devotionals**

There's power in diving deeper. Bible study moves truth from the surface of your mind into the soil of your heart. Don't just read to learn—read to understand, read to be transformed.

Choose one book at a time. Study slowly. Take notes. Ask questions. Use devotionals that help you apply Scripture to daily life. And always invite the Holy Spirit to interpret truth for you. Understanding grows when you listen to Him.

When you study the Bible, you're letting God teach you how to live. You begin to recognize His voice, discern His ways, and see His fingerprints on your circumstances. Knowledge without intimacy breeds pride—but knowledge born from relationship breeds wisdom.

\* \* \*

### **Knowing God's Character**

If you don't believe God is good, freedom will always feel fragile. Everything changes when you know His nature—not just what He does, but who He is.

He is good—always, only, and perfectly good. That means He cannot do evil, even when He allows difficulty. It means His discipline is kindness, His silence is strategy, and His plans are for your healing, not your harm.

When life hurts, remind yourself: “Father, You are good to me right now.” Say it until your heart believes it. This truth anchors your soul in storms. The enemy can twist circumstances, but he can't touch character—and God's character is unchanging.

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### **Communion at Home**

Communion isn't just a church ritual—it's a relationship renewal. When you take the bread and cup, you're remembering His sacrifice and re-membering your life back to His.

Take communion at home when you feel weary, tempted, or distant. Hold the bread and say, "This body was broken for me." Drink the cup and declare, "This blood covers me, heals me, redeems me." The cross is your covenant of freedom—every time you remember, the power of that covenant is reinforced in your soul.

Communion keeps you connected to the heartbeat of heaven—grace received, sin forgiven, identity restored. It's how you let His finished work finish its healing in you.

\* \* \*

## **Fasting**

Fasting quiets the body so your spirit can hear. It's not punishment; it's positioning. When you fast, you silence distractions and let hunger turn to prayer.

You can fast from food, social media, entertainment, or anything that competes for your attention. The goal isn't deprivation—it's dependence. You're saying, "Jesus, You're my source, not this thing."

Fasting sharpens discernment. It humbles pride. It opens your ears to the voice of God. When done with prayer, fasting becomes one of the most powerful tools to keep your spiritual house clean—because it empties you of clutter and fills you with clarity.

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## **Confession & Quick Repentance**

Confession is the cleansing agent of freedom. Repentance is the rinse cycle. Don't let guilt fester. When you sin, confess quickly, repent sincerely, and move forward confidently.

Repentance isn't about punishment; it's about alignment. It brings you back to center—to truth, to peace, to intimacy. Say,

"Father, I agree with You. I turn from this and return to You." Grace isn't a reason to sin; it's the reason you can start fresh.

When confession becomes your reflex, freedom becomes your rhythm. It's how you keep the air of your heart pure and your mind light.

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### **SELF-CARE (STEWARDSHIP OF FREEDOM)**

Self-care isn't self-love; it's stewardship. You're not worshiping yourself—you're honoring what God has entrusted to you: your body, mind, heart, emotions, and spirit. If your relationship with God is the source, self-care is the vessel that carries it. You can't pour living water into others if your own cup is dry.

John Maxwell once wrote something that struck me deeply: *"You can't give to someone else something you yourself don't possess."* That truth has stayed with me ever since. It's simple but profound. If you don't grow, no one around you benefits from your life. If you don't feed your spirit, your words lose nourishment. If you don't rest your body, your strength to serve others fades.

God wants you to understand the importance of this kind of stewardship. He's not calling you to self-indulgence; He's calling you to preparation. When you study the Bible, when you let truth shape you, when you practice gratitude and rest—you're not just investing in yourself, you're equipping yourself to love others well.

You can't give peace if you haven't made peace with God. You can't speak truth if you haven't learned it for yourself. You can't extend grace if you're still drowning in shame. That's why tending to your inner life isn't selfish—it's sacred. It's how you make room for the Holy Spirit to work through you, not just in you.

So, take care of what God has placed in your hands—your heart, your health, your mind, your emotions, your time. When you do, your life becomes a living testimony that freedom is sustainable, joy is possible, and love is contagious.

\* \* \*

## **Rest, Sleep & Sabbath**

Rest is an act of faith. It's your weekly declaration that you trust God enough to stop striving. You can't live free if you're chronically exhausted.

Sleep repairs your body; Sabbath restores your soul. Schedule sacred pauses. Take time to worship, reflect, and delight in His goodness. Rest isn't laziness—it's trust in action. It says, "God, You're still working, even while I rest."

When you rest well, you hear Him more clearly. Exhaustion amplifies lies, but rest amplifies truth. Guard your rest like a treasure—because it is.

\* \* \*

## **Gratitude Journaling**

Gratitude is the lens that keeps your vision clear. It shifts your focus from what's missing to what's miraculous. When you thank God daily, you train your mind to see grace where pain once blinded you.

Write down three specific thank-You's each day. Not vague—specific. "Thank You for my daughter's laugh." "Thank You for peace in the storm." "Thank You for never leaving me." Over time, gratitude rewires your brain to notice God's fingerprints in every detail.

A grateful heart becomes a guarded heart. It's hard for bitterness, envy, or fear to grow where gratitude lives.

\* \* \*

## **Boundaries & Media Hygiene**

What you feed grows, and what you allow through your eyes and ears eventually takes root in your heart. Guard your gates—fiercely.

In today's world, most of what passes as "news" is not truth; it's manipulation. It's bias packaged as fact, crafted to stir emotion and shape opinion. Social media isn't much different. People post

## What Does God Want?

not to build truth, but to build attention—chasing likes, clicks, and followers at the expense of integrity. The result? Hearts are slowly poisoned, not nourished. Minds become crowded with noise, confusion, anger, fear, and comparison—and truth gets buried under the weight of endless opinion.

This isn't harmless entertainment; it's strategy—a constant drip of distraction designed to dull your spirit and divide your heart. The enemy uses these constant distractions to steal your focus and dull your discernment. He wants your mind consumed with the world so your heart drifts away from Jesus. That's why guarding what you feed on isn't optional—it's spiritual warfare.

If what you watch or read stirs fear, lust, pride, cynicism, or rage, cut it off immediately. Not because you're fragile—but because you're priceless. Your peace is worth protecting. Every "no" you give to deception is a "yes" to truth. Every boundary you draw becomes a wall of protection around your heart.

Replace the noise with worship. Fill the silence with Scripture. Choose content that lifts your eyes to heaven instead of trapping them on earth. The less space you give to lies, the more room truth has to grow. What fills your mind will eventually form your heart—so feed it carefully. Feed it truth. Feed it Jesus.

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### **Exercise & Reflection Walks**

Your body and your spirit are not separate worlds—they are sacred partners. God knit them together on purpose. Your body is the temple where His Spirit lives, and what you do with it affects how clearly you can hear Him. When your body is tense, your spirit feels crowded. But when you move, stretch, breathe, and walk with intention, you open space for His presence to settle in deeper.

Healing doesn't just happen in your mind or your emotions; it takes root in your body too. Movement releases what stress locks up. It helps your nervous system unwind and your spirit rest. A slow walk can become holy ground when you invite Jesus to join you. Talk with Him as you move. Tell Him what's heavy. Listen for His peace in the

rhythm of your steps and the sound of creation around you. Let your body's motion become your heart's meditation.

When you finish, pause and thank Him for three specific blessings. Gratitude while you move reshapes how you see the world—it turns ordinary motion into extraordinary worship. You begin to notice His presence in the details: the warmth of sunlight, the whisper of wind, the miracle of breath.

Exercise was never meant to be about appearance; it's about alignment. You're not chasing a better image—you're learning to live as an image-bearer. When you care for your body, you're honoring the God who designed it, saying, "Lord, I value what You created." Stewardship of the body keeps your spirit clear, your emotions balanced, and your mind ready to serve.

So don't see movement as a chore—see it as communion. Every stretch, every step, every breath can be an act of worship. Let your body remind your soul: you were made to walk in freedom, one step with Jesus at a time.

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## **The Daily Examen**

At the end of each day, before you close your eyes, invite God to walk back through the hours with you. This is more than reflection—it's communion. It's sitting with your Father and saying, "Show me where You were today."

Ask Him two simple questions: "Where did I see You today?" and "Where did I forget You?" As you do, memories will rise—a smile from a stranger, a moment of unexpected peace, or maybe a time you spoke sharply or rushed past someone in pain. Don't filter or defend; just notice. Let Him gently show you both His footprints and the moments you wandered from them.

Celebrate where His presence was clear—that's where your spirit aligned with His. Give thanks for the ways He carried you, guided you, or simply stayed near. Then confess where you drifted—not with guilt, but with honesty. Bring your distractions, your reactions,

your moments of pride or fear, and place them in His hands. His mercy is new not just every morning, but every evening too.

The beauty of this practice is that it trains your heart to notice God in the ordinary. You start to recognize that every conversation, every interruption, every breath was shared space with Him. Over time, you won't just see Him in hindsight—you'll start recognizing Him in real time. You'll catch glimpses of His goodness while you're still in the moment.

As you lay your head down, whisper, "Thank You for being with me today, Lord. Meet me in my rest and prepare my heart for tomorrow." Then let go. Sleep becomes sacred when your last thought of the day is gratitude, not anxiety.

This is how self-awareness becomes intimacy—one quiet review at a time, one faithful day after another.

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### **Learn & Grow (Discipleship)**

Freedom flourishes when your faith is fed—and truth is your only real food. You can't live in freedom if you're malnourished by opinions, half-truths, and noise. What fills your mind shapes your heart, and what shapes your heart directs your life. That's why the most important thing you can ever feed on is the *truth of God's Word*.

Learning in the Kingdom isn't about collecting information; it's about consuming revelation until it changes you from the inside out. Truth digested becomes wisdom. Wisdom practiced becomes discernment. And discernment is what keeps you free when lies sound persuasive.

Study the Bible daily and intentionally. Don't just read it—let it read you. Ask the Holy Spirit to uncover what is true and expose what isn't. Read trusted Christian authors who point you back to Scripture, not away from it. Listen to teachings that strengthen conviction, not convenience. When you learn from truth-filled voices, you're training

your spirit to recognize the Shepherd's voice and ignore the imposters.

If you're unsure where to start, visit [WalkerJames.Life/reading](http://WalkerJames.Life/reading) for a list of biblically grounded books, Bible studies, and teachers who will help you grow in truth and discernment.

Ask the Holy Spirit to mentor you as you learn. When a passage or phrase strikes your heart, pause and pray, “*Lord, make this real in me.*” Knowledge alone can puff up, but truth applied produces humility. True discipleship is not about how much you know, but how much you've let truth transform you.

The moment you stop feeding on truth, your spirit begins to starve. Lies start to sound reasonable. Compromise starts to feel comfortable. But when you fill your heart daily with the unshakable Word of God, you'll recognize deception instantly—because the real thing will always expose the counterfeit.

So, keep learning. Keep growing. Keep feeding on truth until it becomes the language your soul speaks fluently. Because only truth nourishes, and only truth sets you free.

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## **Silence & Listening**

Silence is not the absence of sound; it's the presence of God. It's the sacred space where the noise of the world fades and the whisper of heaven can finally be heard. Stillness is where you begin to sense what your heart has been too crowded to notice—the gentle presence of the One who has never left your side.

When the world grows loud, retreat into quiet. Set down your phone, turn off the background noise, and simply sit before Him with no agenda. Don't try to perform or produce. Just be. The goal isn't to get something from God—it's to be with Him. In that space, His peace begins to speak louder than your thoughts. His voice cuts through the confusion and reminds you who you are and Whose you are.

## What Does God Want?

In silence, you'll discover a deeper kind of intimacy—not emotional hype, but holy awareness. You begin to know His presence not as a fleeting feeling, but as a steady knowing. He whispers direction when you're lost, comfort when you're hurting, and correction when you've drifted. But He rarely shouts. He waits for you to quiet the world long enough to hear Him.

Practice stillness daily. Even five minutes of silence can recalibrate your soul. Sit with Him in the morning before the world wakes up or at night before you sleep. Listen for His heartbeat in the stillness. Don't worry if your mind wanders—just keep bringing it back to Him with a simple prayer: "Here I am, Lord. I'm listening."

Over time, you'll begin to recognize His voice faster, clearer, and more confidently. The chaos outside won't shake you as easily because the quiet inside will be stronger. You'll move through your day carrying peace like an anchor and awareness like armor.

Silence is not empty—it's full of God. And the more time you spend in it, the more His still, small voice becomes the loudest sound in your life.

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## RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Freedom was never meant to stop with you. God heals you so that His love can flow *through* you. What He restores inside your heart is designed to ripple outward—touching marriages, friendships, families, workplaces, and even strangers you meet in passing. Freedom that doesn't overflow eventually stagnates, but freedom that flows becomes living water for others to drink from.

When you allow what God has done within you to spill into your relationships, healing multiplies. The peace you carry begins to change the atmosphere around you. The grace you've received becomes the grace you give. Your words soften, your patience deepens, and your compassion grows—not because you're trying harder, but because Jesus is living through you.

Every conversation becomes an opportunity to reveal His kindness. Every conflict becomes a chance to respond with grace instead of offense. Every moment becomes a mirror, reflecting the love that once reached into your own brokenness and made you whole.

Living free means loving well—and loving well means letting others see Jesus in you. Freedom is not just what you hold; it's what you release. These next practices will show you how to let your freedom breathe beyond your own story, until the world around you begins to recognize the One who set you free.

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## **Attend Church**

You were never meant to walk this road alone. Church isn't just about sitting through a service; it's about belonging to a family. When you show up, you're joining a community that can pray with you, encourage you, and remind you of truth when your own faith feels shaky. Freedom may begin in your private moments with God, but it's sustained in fellowship with His people.

Find a Bible-believing church—one that treasures Jesus and trusts the full Word of God. But how do you know if it's the right church for you? Watch how they love. Do people greet you genuinely? Not just a quick "Hi, how are you?" but eye contact, a smile, a conversation—maybe someone asks your name, notices that you're new, or says, "Welcome to the family." When more than one person takes time to do that, you've probably found a church that doesn't just talk about love—it lives it. Stick around and stay awhile. Let yourself be known.

Once you've found a church home, don't just attend—*belong*. Join a small group or two or three. It's in those smaller circles that friendship and growth take root. You'll share stories, laugh, pray, and walk through real life together. That's how people get to know your heart and how you get to know theirs. If you're shy or feel awkward meeting new people, that's okay—everyone starts there. But freedom gives you courage. Put down the shy, intimidated

version of yourself and pick up the bold, outgoing you that Jesus sees. Ask questions like, "What's your name?" "How long have you been going here?" "Do you have kids?" Simple questions open real doors.

And remember—church isn't for dating; it's for connecting. It's a place to worship God together, to learn about Him and His Kingdom, and to grow side by side with His family. When you plant yourself in a healthy body, your roots deepen and your fruit multiplies.

You'll find that as you worship together, serve together, and learn together, the walls that once isolated you begin to crumble. You were healed in relationship with God, and you'll stay whole in relationship with His people. The Church is God's idea of community—imperfect people serving a perfect Savior. When you show up, you're not just attending church; you're becoming part of something eternal.

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### **Accountability & Trusted Friends**

Accountability isn't control—it's care. It's having someone who loves you enough to tell you the truth and walk beside you when you stumble. Real friends don't just cheer for you when you're doing well; they pray for you, challenge you, and help you back up when you fall.

Find one or two trusted believers who you can be real with—people who know your victories *and* your vulnerabilities. Friends who don't flinch when you confess, who don't gossip when you struggle, and who refuse to let you settle for less than what God has for you. These are the friends who see your potential and will fight for your purity, your peace, and your purpose.

Make intentional time together. Have coffees, lunches, walks, or late-night talks. Read a book together—something that builds your faith and stretches your thinking. Talk about the hard things most people avoid: trust, surrender, faith, forgiveness, purity, abstinence until marriage. These are not taboo subjects; they're

sacred ones. The more you invite Jesus into those conversations, the more real your friendship becomes.

Ask hard questions and listen with love, not judgment. Let your conversations be safe places where honesty thrives and masks fall off. Accountability that's built on love produces freedom, not fear. You're not here to police each other; you're here to protect each other from the traps that destroy peace and joy.

And yes, encourage each other to stay away from *stupid*. Don't pick up stupid. Don't run around the house with stupid. Sin hurts—not just you, but everyone around you. Real friends remind each other of that. They love you enough to say, “Hey, that's not who you are anymore,” and they help you walk back toward wisdom.

Check in regularly. Text encouragement. Share the hard days, not just the highlight reels. Pray for each other out loud—it builds trust faster than any amount of small talk ever could. Freedom thrives in honesty; secrecy suffocates it. The enemy's favorite place to attack is isolation, but he loses power in transparency.

When you walk with wise friends, you sharpen one another. You remind each other who you are in Christ and what's already been won. You become mirrors of grace for one another—reflecting Jesus back and forth until His image becomes clearer in both of you. That's what true accountability looks like: love that tells the truth, friendship that restores, and fellowship that keeps freedom alive.

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## **Serve Others**

Serving isn't a task—it's a transfer of love. It's the living evidence that what Jesus did in you is real. When you serve, you become His hands and feet, letting His love move through you to bring hope, healing, and comfort to others. Service is where your healed heart finds its purpose. It's love in motion.

Serving doesn't always look dramatic. Sometimes it's simple—making someone a meal, listening without judgment, writing an

encouraging note, praying for a friend, volunteering at church, or helping a neighbor in need. But never underestimate the power of small acts done with great love. What feels ordinary to you might be the miracle someone else has been praying for.

Service shifts your focus from yourself to others. It breaks the hold of selfishness, it destroys depression, keeps pride low, and keeps compassion high. Every time you serve, your heart becomes a little softer and your eyes see a little clearer. It fills your house with humility, and humility always invites the presence of God. When you serve others, you are walking in the same footsteps as Jesus—the One who said, “I came not to be served, but to serve.”

Serving also keeps your freedom alive. It's easy to get comfortable after healing, to enjoy peace and forget the pain that once broke you. But serving keeps you grateful and grounded. It reminds you that freedom isn't meant to sit still—it's meant to flow. As you pour out, God pours in. The more you give love away, the more it grows within you.

Find ways to serve that align with how God made you. If you love cooking, feed people. If you're great at listening, be someone's safe place. If you love kids, volunteer in children's ministry. If you're passionate about justice, serve in outreach or advocacy. Whatever you do, do it unto the Lord. Service isn't about recognition; it's about reflection—reflecting Jesus through your actions so that others can see His heart beating through yours.

And here's the truth: serving isn't always easy. Sometimes it costs your time, your comfort, or your convenience. But every time you choose to love anyway, you partner with heaven. You push back darkness, one act of kindness at a time. You carry freedom wherever you go.

So, serve boldly. Serve joyfully. Serve with a heart that remembers what it's like to be rescued—and let that gratitude become fuel for compassion. Because when you serve, you don't just show the world who you are; you show the world who Jesus is.

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## Ask for Help

Freedom doesn't mean you'll never need help again. It means you finally know *where* to turn when you do. Asking for help is not weakness—it's wisdom. It's humility in action, and humility is one of the surest signs of spiritual maturity. When you reach out for help, you're not admitting defeat—you're inviting the Body of Christ to be what it was designed to be: connected, compassionate, and alive.

God never intended you to carry life alone. Even Jesus—the Son of God—surrounded Himself with friends and disciples. He asked them to pray with Him in Gethsemane. If Jesus saw the value in companionship, how much more do we need it? Freedom was never meant to make you independent of people; it was meant to connect you more deeply to them through grace, honesty, and love.

When you feel stuck, reach out—to a pastor, a trusted friend, or through [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life) where prayer, encouragement, and community are waiting. Write a Letter to God, submit a prayer request, or simply send a message that says, "Help, I need prayer." Don't overthink it. Just reach out. God designed help to be mutual—when you ask for it, you give someone else the opportunity to love like Jesus.

And when others reach out to you, be that safe, listening place. The Kingdom grows stronger every time one believer chooses compassion over judgment, presence over platitudes.

Don't carry what you were never meant to carry alone. The enemy thrives in isolation, but he trembles when believers stand together. Scripture says, "Two are better than one, for if one falls, the other helps them up." That's not just good advice—that's divine design.

Asking for help doesn't make you weak; it makes you wise. It's what keeps you grounded, covered, and connected. When you choose humility over pride, community over isolation, and truth over pretense—that's what real freedom looks like. It's not pretending you're fine; it's inviting others to walk with you until you are.

### **Deliverance Maintenance**

Deliverance isn't a one-time event; it's a lifestyle of staying filled with the Holy Spirit and grounded in truth. Freedom is not fragile, but it can be forfeited when sin reopens doors that Jesus already shut. Every time you return to an old pattern, you're handing keys back to an enemy who no longer owns the house.

Sin of any kind erodes freedom, but sexual sin—pornography, adultery, lust, sex outside of marriage—creates especially deep breaches. These acts aren't harmless temptations; they are legal invitations for darkness to re-enter. When you engage in them, you are effectively granting squatters' rights to demons on property that belongs to Jesus. You're letting the unclean back into the temple He redeemed with His blood. You cannot play with sin and stay free. What begins as curiosity or "just this once" can quickly become bondage again. If this has been part of your story, don't run from God—run to Him. This is exactly what the cross is for. Repentance doesn't erase your value; it restores your freedom.

Understand this: deliverance removes the intruder, but holiness keeps the door locked. Staying free means staying filled—with truth, worship, prayer, Scripture, and the presence of God. When a lie or temptation knocks, don't negotiate. Respond with truth and authority:

"In Jesus' name, I reject this lie and any spirit behind it. Jesus, I receive Your truth and peace. Holy Spirit, fill me again."

Then move forward. Don't dwell in shame—shame keeps you looking backward. Let repentance redirect you. Confess quickly, receive grace fully, and refocus your heart on Jesus.

If temptation persists, reach out for help. Don't hide it or minimize it. Freedom grows in light, not secrecy. Ask a trusted friend or pastor to pray with you. If needed, seek deliverance prayer again—not because you're losing ground, but because you're reinforcing truth. God isn't disappointed in you; He's determined to finish what He started.

Every choice you make after deliverance either reinforces your freedom or weakens it. When you feed your mind truth and your heart worship, the walls of your spirit stay strong. But when you toy with sin, you chip away at those walls from the inside.

Freedom is not the absence of temptation; it's the power to choose truth over it. The Holy Spirit within you is stronger than any desire that comes against you. When you stumble, repent fast. When you're tempted, resist early. When you're weary, rest in Him.

Remember, you are the temple of the living God. Keep His house clean. Guard His presence carefully. And know that every time you say "no" to sin, you're saying "yes" to Jesus—and that's what keeps you free.

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### **Keep the Well Stocked (Resources & Next Steps)**

Freedom must be fed to flourish. Just as your body needs nourishment to stay strong, your spirit needs a steady supply of truth, encouragement, and connection. You can't draw living water from an empty well. The moment you stop pouring in truth, the enemy starts pouring in lies. That's why what you consume—the sermons you hear, the books you read, the music you listen to, the voices you follow—matters more than you realize.

Keep your well full by surrounding yourself with sources that speak truth and life. Fill your heart and mind with Scripture, solid biblical teaching, and Spirit-led community. Revisit your notes from this book often. Don't let what you've learned sit on a shelf; bring it back to life through reflection, discussion, and practice.

Visit [WalkerJamesLife](http://WalkerJamesLife.com) regularly to stay nourished in truth and supported on your journey. You'll find my other books—including the Perspectives Series that walks you through "What Does God Want?" and helps you pursue the same thing: a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, intimate relationship with Him. You can submit prayer requests, use guided prayers, write a Letter to God, explore Freedom Coaching Sessions, and browse Recommended Resources. There are blog posts about Healing MY Story, YouTube

videos on key biblical topics, and recordings of messages I've given. Sign up for the newsletter to stay up to date on new tools, teaching, and opportunities designed to support your healing and keep you walking in freedom.

Stay connected to truth-bearing voices. In a world full of noise, discernment is your defense. Not every teaching that sounds spiritual is rooted in truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you toward what's real and protect you from what's counterfeit. Learn to recognize His peace as the test—if it stirs fear, confusion, or pride, or embraces sin rather than repentance, it's not from Him.

Keeping your well stocked isn't just about consuming content—it's about cultivating rhythm. Create habits that keep your spirit hydrated: daily Scripture intake, prayer, worship, reflection, and fellowship. The more you engage with truth, the more resilient your heart becomes. Freedom is sustained by relationship, rhythm, and renewal.

Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep feeding your spirit with truth and what strengthens your faith and protects your peace. You can't pour into others what you haven't first received yourself. A full well overflows naturally—and when Jesus fills your well, what flows out of you is living water that refreshes everyone around you.

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### **THE GREAT COMMISSION (LIVING FREEDOM OUT LOUD)**

When lies come—and they will—you'll recognize them instantly, because your heart will already be full of truth. That's how you become a lie detector: by knowing the real thing so intimately that counterfeits lose their power.

This is how you live free: stay full of truth. Fill your house with His presence, your heart with His Word, your mind with His peace, and your life with His love. Let Jesus occupy every room, every corner, every breath. This is not rules, regulations or ritual, it is all about relationship.

Freedom isn't a finish line. It's a rhythm. It's not something you protect through fear—it's something you preserve through relationship. Every prayer, every act of gratitude, every moment of stillness, every word of Scripture, every song of worship—all of it fills the house and keeps it bright.

Because when you know the Truth—not just as words on a page, but as a Person you walk with—you don't have to hold onto freedom. Freedom holds you.

And this is where freedom becomes purpose. When Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission—"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."—He wasn't sending perfect people. He was sending *healed* ones. People who had walked with Him, been changed by Him, and were now ready to let that transformation spill over into the world.

You fulfill the Great Commission every day you live as someone who's been set free. When your relationship with God stays strong, His love shines through you. When you steward your mind, body, and soul with care, you reflect His order and peace. When you love and serve others with kindness and compassion—being like Jesus: loving, caring, and kind—you extend His invitation to a hurting world. You don't have to cross oceans to fulfill this command—sometimes, it's as simple as crossing the room, offering a smile, starting a real conversation, or holding the door open for someone. Just be Jesus with skin on—present, kind, and attentive.

Your healed story becomes your sermon, your message to the world of what Jesus has done for you. Your peace preaches louder than your words. The way you forgive, listen, serve, and love becomes living proof that Jesus is alive and freedom is real. That's what it means to live the Great Commission—to carry the presence of Jesus wherever you go, letting your everyday life point people back to Him.

So, keep your house clean and full. Keep your heart soft and your spirit strong. Let your life be the echo of His love and your freedom the evidence of His grace. Because when the world sees

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you—whole, healed, and walking in peace—they're really seeing Him.

That's the Great Commission. That's living freedom out loud.

## CHAPTER 22: INTEGRATION AND APPLICATION

(Living Your Healed Story)

Somewhere between the healing and the next sunrise, a question always appears: “Now what?” You’ve forgiven, surrendered, repented, cried, rejoiced, and maybe even shouted your freedom through tears. You’ve watched Jesus reach into the deepest parts of your story and breathe life where pain once ruled. But now, as the dust settles and the noise fades, you feel the quiet pull of ordinary life creeping back in. It’s Monday again. The dishes still pile up. Deadlines still loom. The people who once hurt you still exist in the world. And the enemy—oh, he still whispers. You’re free, yes—but freedom must be lived, guarded, practiced, and woven into every heartbeat of your daily life. Healing wasn’t the end of your story; it was the turning of a page, not the closing of the book.

Freedom isn’t fragile—it’s alive. It grows stronger every time you choose truth over lies, peace over panic, and love over fear. This is where integration begins, where healing becomes habit and freedom becomes lifestyle. The same Jesus who broke your chains now wants to teach you how to walk without them. You’ve spent time confronting the darkness, forgiving the unforgivable, and

allowing God to reclaim your identity. Now He wants to show you how to carry that victory into the world—how to live your healed story.

Living healed starts in the quiet moments, when no one else is watching. It's when you wake up in the morning and decide that prayer will be your first conversation, not your last resort. It's when you remind yourself that your worth was settled on the cross and doesn't need to be re-negotiated with people who can't see it. It's when old thoughts come knocking—guilt, shame, fear, self-doubt—and you refuse to open the door because you already know who's there. Instead, you let Jesus answer it for you. Living healed means you choose, again and again, to invite Jesus into every moment—mundane or monumental—and let Him steady your heart before your emotions take over.

But inviting Jesus into every moment doesn't mean outsourcing every decision. This isn't about asking God what socks to wear or what pen to use. God gave you a mind, wisdom, and autonomy for the daily choices you're perfectly capable of making. What we are talking about is inviting Jesus into the *places where decisions shape your heart*—your relationships, your responses, your temptations, your triggers, your attitudes, your reactions, your integrity, your motives, and your emotional world. These are the decisions where you need His presence, His peace, and His perspective. Jesus doesn't want to micromanage your life; He wants to walk with you through it.

And remember this: inviting Jesus into your day isn't about asking Him to make trivial choices for you; it's about letting Him shape the choices that shape you. He walks with you in the everyday, but He leads you in the places where your heart, character, and freedom are formed. This is the partnership He wants—not control, but communion. Not micromanagement, but relationship.

Healing doesn't erase your memories; it redeems them. But memories have triggers, and triggers have teeth. There will be days when the echoes of the past try to rattle your peace, when your

mind replays what God has already erased. In those moments, your job isn't to fix it—it's to remember. Remember who you are. Remember whose you are. Remember what He's already done. You've been given spiritual weapons for a reason: prayer, praise and worship, God's truth, the armor of God, and gratitude. These aren't rituals—they're lifelines. They're how you remind your heart that you belong to a King who already won the war you're tempted to fight again.

So, when lies come—because they will—fight them with truth. Speak it out loud. There's power in your words. Declare what's real even when your emotions disagree: "I am forgiven. I am loved. I am chosen. I am free. I am not what happened to me—I am who Jesus says I am." Say it until the lie runs out of breath. Freedom deepens every time you speak truth to the lie that once silenced you. That's how you rewire your reflexes and train your soul to default to victory.

Staying free also means staying connected. Healing may have begun in solitude, but it's sustained in community. You need a few people who know the sound of your voice when it trembles and love you enough to remind you of truth when you forget it. You were never designed to heal in isolation. Freedom thrives in relationships rooted in honesty, grace, and accountability. Find a Bible-believing church that lives the Word, not just reads it. Surround yourself with people who aren't impressed by you but inspired by Jesus in you. Together, you'll learn that freedom shared multiplies.

And don't stop learning. Growth is the oxygen of healing. Feed your heart and mind with truth—Scripture, solid teaching, worship, and biblically grounded books and resources. The world will try to distract you with noise, negativity, bad music, and comparison, but the Word of God will always bring you back to peace. Read good books that stretch your spirit. Listen to sermons while you walk. Fill your home with praise and worship music until the atmosphere itself feels lighter. Protect what enters your mind like your life depends on it—because in many ways, it does. What you feed your soul will either nourish your freedom or starve it. If you feed it lies, you'll live in fear. If you feed it truth, you'll live in freedom.

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As you learn to walk in this rhythm, something begins to shift. Your responses change. Your patience grows. The same triggers that used to undo you now become reminders of how far you've come. You find yourself showing grace to people who still live in chains, not because they deserve it, but because you remember when you didn't either. That's what living healed looks like—it's not perfection; it's reflection. The more you behold Jesus, the more you begin to resemble Him.

And slowly, your freedom starts spilling over. It seeps into your relationships, your family, your work, your community. You start noticing pain in others that you used to overlook. You begin seeing broken people through the same eyes that saw you when you were shattered. You start caring about things that matter to God because His heart has taken residence inside yours. Your story becomes a light—not because it's polished, but because it's real. People will see your scars and realize there's hope for theirs. That's ministry. Not a platform. Not a title. Just a healed person loving others back to life.

Every healed heart carries a calling, and every calling is unique. Some are called to speak, some to serve, some to create, some to simply love faithfully in the everyday ordinary. Don't compare your purpose to someone else's platform; there are no "small" assignments in the Kingdom. Just ask Jesus each morning, "Lord, how can my healed story serve You today?" He'll show you—sometimes in quiet whispers, sometimes in open doors, sometimes in people He places right in your path who need what He's already given you. You'll find yourself saying words you didn't plan and realizing they were exactly what someone needed to hear. That's what it means to live your healed story: God speaking through your redemption to heal someone else's pain.

This is integration—when your faith stops being a chapter in your life and becomes the rhythm of your life. It's when healing stops being an event and becomes your atmosphere. It's when your prayers sound less like "help me" and more like "use me." It's when you finally understand that freedom isn't about escaping your past—it's about walking with Jesus into your future.

So, live your healed story boldly. Walk with confidence, not in yourself, but in the One who carried you through the fire and brought you out refined. Keep your heart soft, your mind guarded, your words gentle, and your spirit strong. Let your life testify, not that you were perfect, but that you were pursued, loved, redeemed, and restored.

Because your story—the one the enemy tried to bury you with—isn't over. It's breathing. It's shining. It's healing others even as you live it. And when the world looks at you, they'll see what freedom really looks like—someone who once was broken, now made whole, still walking hand in hand with the One who healed them.

That's the beauty of integration. That's the miracle of application. That's what it means to live your healed story.

## CHAPTER 23: WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR STUCK

There's a moment that every believer faces after healing, after surrender, after breakthrough—the moment when movement stops. The wind that once filled your sails suddenly disappears, and you can't tell whether you've drifted off course or just stopped rowing. You're not where you were, but you're not where you thought you'd be either. You look around and whisper the words that feel like failure: “Why do I feel stuck?”

That feeling can come quietly or all at once. Maybe you've been praying and it feels like heaven has gone silent. Maybe you've been trying to move forward but keep running into the same wall—an old habit, a lingering wound, a pattern that refuses to die. Or maybe you've just lost the fire you once had, and guilt has started whispering its cruel little lies: “You blew it.” “You've disappointed God.” “You'll never get back to where you were.”

Let me say this with all the tenderness I have: feeling stuck does not mean you've failed. It means you're human. Every season of growth has a moment where the ground looks dry before new roots form. The same God who healed you is still with you in the silence, still working in the soil of your soul, even when nothing seems

to be happening on the surface. But there's a part you play too—not in earning His love, but in keeping your heart open to it.

The first thing to do when you feel stuck is pray. I don't mean polished words or memorized lines. I mean honesty—the kind of prayer that sounds more like sighs than sentences. Tell Him how you really feel. Tell Him you're tired. Tell Him you miss Him. Tell Him you don't know what's wrong but you want it right again. Prayer is not the language of perfection; it's the language of connection. God doesn't need eloquence—He needs honesty.

And if you're new to prayer or you struggle to find the words, you don't have to force it. Go to the Guided Prayers page at [WalkerJames.Life/guidedprayer](http://WalkerJames.Life/guidedprayer)—there are over 144 prayers for moments when you're hurting, seeking, struggling, wrestling, grateful, praying for others, coming home again, facing spiritual warfare, or simply needing a daily prayer for each day of the week. Use them freely. Copy them. Adapt them. Let them become the training wheels for your heart—but always make them your own, because God wants to hear your words, your voice, your heart. These prayers aren't formulas; they're guides to help you begin. And remember: sometimes silence itself is an invitation—not to panic, but to pause and pay attention.

And let me share something personal with you, because this has shaped my own walk with Jesus more than I can explain. I've learned how beautiful and healing silence with Him can be. Some nights, I crawl into bed and simply whisper, “Jesus, I'm going to lay my head in Your lap and just be here with You.” I tell Him I'd love to talk if He wants to talk—but I'm also perfectly content if He just wants to sit with me. Because in those moments, what my heart needs most isn't answers... it's Him. Sometimes I fall asleep like that. Sometimes I talk to Him about my struggles, my fears, or my frustrations with His timing—because let's be honest, He rarely moves according to my plans or my schedule. But mostly, I just rest. I wait. I breathe. I let His presence quiet me. Whether I talk or stay silent, the real gift is simply being with Him—letting my soul lean into the One who loves me more than anyone ever could.

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Before we move forward, take a breath. Let your heart settle. Because once you've rested in His presence—in silence or in prayer—the next gentle step is to look inward with Him, not alone. Let Jesus sit with you in the examination. And then, self-evaluate. Look inward, not to shame yourself, but to see what might be clogging the flow between you and God. Sin always interferes with intimacy. It doesn't make Him love you less, but it does make it harder for you to feel His love. Like I've said many times before, keep a short list. Don't let guilt pile up until it builds a wall between you and your Father. Repentance isn't punishment—it's permission to breathe again. It's saying, "God, I agree with You. I've been wrong, and I don't want this to stay between us."

There's nothing God can't forgive, and there's nothing He hasn't already seen. So stop hiding what He already knows. The enemy wants you bound up in shame, convinced that you can't come back. God wants you free, restored, and walking closely with Him again. Repentance breaks the chain. Every time you turn back toward Him, His arms are already open. That's what grace looks like.

Once you've prayed and repented, ask yourself, "What has changed?" Have you stopped feeding your spirit what it needs? Have you drifted from worship, stopped reading the Word, or disconnected from community? Sometimes "stuck" isn't spiritual attack—it's spiritual neglect. Just like your body weakens without food, your soul dries up without truth, worship, and fellowship. Go back to the basics. Reignite your rhythm of connection. The same practices that brought healing still keep it alive.

And remember, not every delay is a setback. Sometimes God holds you still because He's strengthening your foundation. What looks like stagnation may actually be preparation. You might feel stuck, but you could be in spiritual traction—God aligning what was out of place before He lets you run again. Waiting seasons refine your trust, stretch your patience, and deepen your roots. Don't confuse silence with absence. He's not ignoring you; He's perfecting you.

When you feel stuck, worship anyway. When you don't hear Him, thank Him anyway. When you can't see the way forward, stay close to His presence. Nothing breaks spiritual inertia like gratitude and praise. They pull you out of the mud and back into motion. Remember, praise is a weapon. It silences the enemy's accusations and reminds your spirit who's in control.

And if you've tried all that and still feel stuck, don't do it alone. You're not supposed to. That's why I'm here. Sometimes, what you need is a conversation—someone who can listen, pray with you, and help you see what you can't from where you are. If you feel like you're spinning your wheels or can't find your footing again, reach out. Go to [WalkerJames.Life/coaching](https://walkerjames.life/coaching). Whether it's a Discovery Call to get started, a regular coaching session, or a Pro-Bono session that someone else has already paid forward for you—don't hesitate. This is what the ministry is for: to walk with you until you find your steps again.

And if your heart just needs a touch from God, there are other ways to connect. Submit a prayer request. Use one of the **Guided Prayers**. Write a **Letter to God** and pour it all out on paper—He reads every word. Explore the **Resources Page**; it's filled with tools to help you stay strong, grow deeper, and remember who you are. You're not alone in this, not ever.

Being stuck doesn't mean you've lost your faith—it means your faith is being stretched. It means you're in between where you were and where God is taking you next. Trust the in-between. Keep your heart soft, your confession short, your gratitude steady, and your eyes lifted. The same God who began your healing will not stop until you're walking in the fullness of it.

You are not broken again—you're becoming deeper. You are not back at the beginning—you're being refined. You are not abandoned—you are being prepared.

So breathe, pray, repent, trust, and move one small step forward. Freedom is still yours. God hasn't changed His mind about you. He's just teaching you how to walk again in the rhythm of grace.

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And when you can't find your footing, reach out your hand—  
I'll walk with you until you do.

## CHAPTER 24: TOOLS FOR LIVING A TRANSFORMED LIFE

When you've walked through brokenness, received healing, faced the battle, and emerged free in Christ, the next step is not just to be healed—but to *live healed*. That means living intentionally, nurturing your relationship with God daily, and using the tools He's given you to stay close, grounded, and growing.

This chapter is about those tools—practical, spiritual resources that can help you guard your heart, strengthen your mind, and deepen your connection with the One who set you free. These apps and platforms are like companions on the journey—things you can turn to for encouragement, focus, and inspiration. They help you stay anchored in truth when the world tries to pull you away.

The tools themselves are not the relationship. They simply help you invest in the relationship. They create space for God, but they can never replace Him. Jesus—not an app, plan, or routine—is the One who transforms your life. The goal isn't to follow a checklist, build the perfect spiritual system, or “get it right.” The goal is to walk with Jesus—honestly, consistently, relationally, and wholeheartedly. And if you want to mix it up, by all means, mix it up. Don't turn your relationship with Jesus into a ritual. Have fun with Him. Enjoy Him. Talk with Him. Walk with Him. The key is this: every day, all day long, stay

aware of Him... stay connected to Him... and practice His presence in the middle of everything you do.

So don't let these tools become rigid habits or burdens. Let them be gateways to grace—ways to slow down, refocus, and re-engage your heart with His. Use them with freedom and creativity. Mix them up. Explore. Let the Holy Spirit lead you into what works best for your season of life. What matters most isn't *how* you connect with God—it's *that* you connect with Him, and that you keep growing in love, intimacy, and trust.

In this chapter, I'm going to share some of the Christian tools I use and recommend—apps and platforms that have supported my own journey, kept me anchored, and helped me walk forward with clarity and strength. They're not shortcuts, and they're not formulas—but if you use them intentionally, they'll help you weave your faith into the rhythm of everyday life.

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### **YouVersion Bible App**

The YouVersion Bible App (also known simply as “The Bible App”) is first on this list because it truly is the *most important tool* in your spiritual toolbox. Everything else in this chapter flows from it, because every part of your walk with God begins and grows through His Word. If prayer is how you talk to God, Scripture is the primary way He speaks back—clear, authoritative, and unchanging.

YouVersion is a powerhouse for Scripture intake, discipleship, and community. It offers thousands of Bible versions in more than 2,000 languages, along with audio Bibles, offline access, reading plans, devotionals, highlights, bookmarks, note-taking tools, and even the ability to share verse images or Scripture moments with friends. Whether you're new to faith or have walked with Jesus for years, this app makes it easy to stay connected to the truth that transforms your life.

You can choose a plan that walks you through a book of the Bible, study a specific topic like forgiveness, trust, or healing, or read devotionals that align with your current season of life. You can even

invite friends to read along with you, sharing reflections and encouragement as you grow together. It's more than an app—it's a portable community of believers who are hungry for God's Word.

If you're trying to build a consistent daily rhythm of engaging with Scripture, this is one of the best places to start. The app adapts beautifully to your schedule, whether you're at home, in your car, or on the go. You can listen to the Bible while driving, read before bed, or start your day with a verse that sets your focus on truth.

Personally, I've gone through countless reading plans—some alone, others with friends—and each one has deepened my understanding, strengthened my faith, and helped me experience God in new ways. There's something powerful about knowing that millions of believers around the world are reading the same Word with you every single day.

No matter what you're facing—confusion, grief, temptation, or joy—God's Word always has something to say. And YouVersion makes sure you never have to go a day without hearing it. It's not just about reading the Bible; it's about letting the Bible read you—shaping your thoughts, transforming your heart, and aligning your life with the truth that sets you free.

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## **Through the Word App**

If you'd like Scripture explained as you go, the Through the Word App (TTW) is one of the best tools you'll ever find. Created by Pastor Kris Langham, this app offers guided audio journeys through every chapter of the Bible—one chapter at a time—with short, clear, and engaging explanations that bring God's Word to life. It's not an exaggeration to say that this app has changed the way countless people engage with Scripture, myself included. I use it all the time, and I can't recommend it highly enough.

The beauty of *Through the Word* is in its simplicity and depth. Each teaching is about ten minutes long—perfect for a morning routine, a commute, or even winding down at night. You listen as the app walks you through a passage, explains what it means, gives you

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the historical and cultural background, and then helps you apply it to your life right where you are. It's like having a personal Bible teacher walking beside you every day, helping you see what you might have missed and reminding you that every verse has purpose and power.

What makes this app so valuable for the healing journey is that it meets you where you are. On the days when opening your Bible feels overwhelming, *Through the Word* helps bridge that gap. It keeps you connected to truth without pressure or performance. You can simply listen and let the Word wash over you. Over time, this consistent intake of Scripture renews your mind, strengthens your faith, and restores hope—chapter by chapter, truth by truth. If you're someone who struggles to understand the Bible on your own—or you've ever opened Scripture and felt overwhelmed—start here. *Through the Word* gently walks you through each chapter so you're never left confused or alone in your study.

The teachers and contributors on *Through the Word* are biblically solid, relatable, and real. They're not trying to impress you—they're trying to help you fall in love with God's Word. They speak with clarity, passion, and humility, always pointing you back to Jesus. The app covers every book of the Bible, along with topical series that explore themes like forgiveness, trust, relationships, and spiritual growth—all through the lens of Scripture.

One of the things I love most is how easy it is to stay consistent. Even when life gets busy, you can press play and be spiritually fed in minutes. It's a perfect companion for long drives, morning walks, or quiet evenings. And because every session is short, it removes the excuse that you “don't have time.”

If you've ever wanted to understand the Bible—not just read it, but *really* understand it—this app is an absolute game changer. It helps Scripture come alive in ways that are practical, personal, and deeply transformative. It's ideal for building lifelong habits of engagement, comprehension, and devotion.

*Through the Word* doesn't just help you study the Bible—it helps you *fall in love* with it. And once that happens, your relationship with God deepens in ways you never imagined possible.

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## **Worship 24/7**

There's something powerful about worship that never ends. Worship 24/7 is exactly that—a global Christian radio stream dedicated entirely to praise and worship. ([worship247.com](http://worship247.com)) Whether you're driving, working, or winding down at night, you can keep your heart tuned to the sound of heaven. Worship 24/7 turns ordinary moments into sacred space and helps you shift the atmosphere around you—and within you—through the continual presence of praise.

Worship is one of the most transformative tools in your healing journey because it changes your focus. When life feels heavy, when memories sting, or when the enemy whispers lies, worship redirects your attention from your pain to your Provider. It lifts your eyes from what's broken to the One who heals. It softens your heart, silences fear, and reminds your spirit that God is still good, still near, and still worthy.

Worship 24/7 makes that kind of connection simple. You don't have to wait for Sunday morning or a special service—you can bring worship into your daily rhythm. With just a tap, your home, car, or workspace becomes a sanctuary where peace replaces noise and God's presence fills the room. Sometimes the best thing you can do in your healing journey isn't to analyze your pain, but to worship your way through it—to let the power of praise do what words can't.

The beautiful thing about worship is that it changes you. It lifts burdens, strengthens faith, and restores joy. When your heart feels dry or distant, when you can't find the right prayer to pray, let worship become your prayer. Let the lyrics of faith-filled songs declare truth over your life until your soul remembers it again.

Worship 24/7 is more than background music—it's a lifeline. It's a reminder that you are never alone, that heaven is still singing,

and that God still inhabits the praises of His people. Let this constant stream of worship keep your heart aligned with His and your spirit anchored in hope.

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### The Chosen

If you've never experienced *The Chosen*, you are missing one of the most powerful and Spirit-anointed Christian productions ever created. It's more than a show—it's an encounter. A cinematic retelling of the Gospel, *The Chosen* brings to life the story of Jesus Christ and His disciples with depth, emotion, and realism that makes Scripture feel close enough to touch. You can stream it for free at [watch.thechosen.tv](http://watch.thechosen.tv) Or download "The Chosen" app from the App Store.

What makes *The Chosen* so special is that it captures the heart of the Gospel—the Good News—in a way that speaks both to the head and the heart. It shows Jesus not as a distant figure from ancient history, but as the living, breathing Son of God who laughed, cried, embraced, and transformed ordinary people—people like you and me. It's not about entertainment; it's about encounter. Watching *The Chosen* helps you see how Jesus loves, how He reaches, how He restores, and how He sees those the world tends to overlook. Sometimes, you just need to see His tenderness, His patience, and His strength on display to remember His heart toward you.

The creators of *The Chosen* take familiar Bible stories and give them context—filling in what might have happened between the lines of Scripture. They don't rewrite Scripture—they creatively imagine the cultural, emotional, and relational context around the biblical events without altering the message or meaning. Their goal isn't to add fiction, but to add dimension. They help you visualize what biblical life might have looked and felt like between the lines of Scripture—moments the Bible describes concisely, but which were full of real people, real emotions, and real encounters with Jesus—to help us imagine what life might have looked and felt like in those

sacred moments. In Scripture, we often read short, matter-of-fact statements like, "Jesus healed the man" or "He called them to follow." But *The Chosen* invites us to step into that scene—to see the man's face, the dust under his feet, the fear in his eyes, and the compassion in Jesus' gaze. It makes the Gospel tangible.

And it doesn't shy away from hard truths. It portrays suffering, confusion, loss, and disappointment—because that's real life. Yet in every moment, it reminds us that Jesus is still good, still present, and still redeeming what's broken. *The Chosen* doesn't promise that God will fix everything the way we expect—but it does show that He never wastes pain. Jesus may not always heal our physical bodies the way we hope, but He always heals the deeper wounds of the soul. He heals hearts, restores faith, renews purpose, and redeems our stories. That's what this series captures so beautifully—the love of a Savior who goes after the heart first.

Unfortunately, not everyone has understood or embraced what God is doing through this project. Some have criticized it harshly, claiming it takes too much creative liberty. But honestly, much of that comes from misunderstanding its purpose. The team behind *The Chosen* approaches the work with deep reverence for Scripture and a desire to help the world see Jesus more clearly. When something brings millions of people closer to Christ, revives faith in the weary, and inspires believers to open their Bibles again—that's not the enemy's work, that's the Holy Spirit moving.

The Spirit of God uses many means to draw hearts—sometimes through a sermon, sometimes through a song, and sometimes through a story on a screen. *The Chosen* is one of those stories. You can sense it as you watch: a quiet stirring, a holy reminder that the same Jesus you see on screen is still alive and calling people to follow Him today.

So if you haven't yet, give yourself the gift of watching *The Chosen*. Let the Holy Spirit use it to stir your imagination, deepen your understanding, and renew your love for Jesus. You'll walk away seeing Scripture differently—not as ancient history, but as the living Word of a living God who still changes lives, one encounter at a time.

## What Does God Want?

And if *The Chosen* has blessed you, consider giving to it. Though the show is offered freely, it's not free to make. Every episode is crowdfunded—built by the generosity of those who believe in its mission to share Jesus with the world. Giving is one of God's greatest gifts to us; it allows us to partner with Him in the work He's doing. When you support *The Chosen*, you're not just funding a TV series—you're helping spread the Gospel across nations and into homes that might never step inside a church.

So, if you have the means, invest in eternity. Sow into stories that draw people to Jesus. Few investments carry eternal returns like this one.

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### Angel Studios

Angel Studios is the original platform that helped bring *The Chosen* to life, and since then it has continued to champion stories that reflect faith, hope, courage, and truth. ([angel.com](https://angel.com)) Even though *The Chosen* now operates independently, Angel Studios remains a trusted home for wholesome, family-friendly, and faith-driven entertainment. What sets it apart is its mission—to tell stories that amplify light in a world that's often saturated with darkness.

The platform runs on a unique “pay-it-forward” model, where viewers and supporters can directly fund shows and films that align with Christian values and biblical truth. It's a beautiful picture of community-driven storytelling—believers around the world uniting to create media that glorifies God and offers the world something real, pure, and redemptive. When you support Angel Studios, you're not just watching content—you're helping share messages of hope and truth with people who might never walk into a church, but will gladly sit down to watch a movie that stirs their heart toward God.

Their lineup includes powerful productions like *The Shift*, *Sound of Freedom*, *The Wingfeather Saga*, and other series and films that champion moral courage, justice, family, and faith. Each story is crafted to challenge your heart, encourage your spirit, and remind you that the light of truth still shines, even in dark times.

Angel Studios proves that storytelling can be both beautiful and biblical—that art, when inspired by the Creator, becomes a ministry of its own. Use this app to fill your home with content that uplifts instead of pollutes, that nourishes instead of numbs, that replaces noise with meaning and beauty. Whether you're watching alone, with your family, or sharing a film with friends, Angel Studios invites you to experience entertainment that not only moves you—but moves you closer to God.

While it's true that Angel Studios was founded by individuals who come from a Latter-day Saint background, the platform itself is not a theological ministry—it's a creative space for storytelling. Their focus is not on doctrine but on producing uplifting, moral, and family-centered entertainment that aligns with many of the values Christians hold dear. As with anything in the world, discernment is key. We test everything by the Word of God.

It's important to remember that light can still shine through imperfect vessels. God has often used unexpected people and platforms to accomplish His purposes. We don't need to endorse someone's theology to appreciate the good that God allows to flow through their work. The key is to remain anchored in Scripture—receiving what is wholesome, rejecting what is false, and letting the Holy Spirit guide our discernment.

So, enjoy Angel Studios for what it is—a source of clean, inspiring, and redemptive content—and let it point you back to the ultimate story: God's truth revealed in His Word. Be discerning, be wise, but also be gracious. Remember, even as we guard truth, we do so with the same heart that Jesus showed—full of grace and truth, not fear or pride.

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### **Turning Point (Dr. David Jeremiah)**

One of my favorite pastors and authors, **Turning Point Ministries**, led by Dr. David Jeremiah, remains one of the most trusted and reliable sources of biblical teaching today. ([davidjeremiah.org](http://davidjeremiah.org)) Through their app (simply search "Turning Point" in your App Store),

you'll gain access to sermons, daily devotionals, radio broadcasts, and study guides that walk through the Word of God verse by verse with clarity, depth, and conviction.

In a world filled with confusion, compromise, and spiritual half-truths, solid biblical teaching isn't just important—it's essential. We live in a time where culture often twists Scripture to fit its agenda, but teachers like Dr. Jeremiah bring you back to what's eternal and unchanging: the truth of God's Word. His messages are rich with both wisdom and grace, helping you see how Scripture applies to the challenges, fears, and decisions of daily life. He doesn't just explain the Bible—he equips you to live it.

Dr. Jeremiah's voice carries the steady confidence of someone who's walked with God for decades, teaching with both courage and compassion. His ministry has a unique way of grounding your faith when the world feels unstable. Whether you're a new believer or have walked with Christ for years, his insights will encourage you, challenge you, and strengthen your foundation in the truth.

I encourage you to take time to check him out. Watch a sermon, listen to his daily radio broadcast, or read one of his devotionals. Let the Word of God through this ministry renew your mind, refresh your spirit, and refocus your heart on Jesus. You'll quickly understand why Turning Point has become a trusted source for millions of believers seeking biblical truth in turbulent times.

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### **Insight for Living (Chuck Swindoll)**

Another one of my favorite pastors and authors (I know, I have several) is **Chuck Swindoll**, whose *Insight for Living* ministry has been a treasure trove of grace, wisdom, and practical biblical teaching for decades. ([insight.org](https://insight.org)) Simply search "Insight for Living" in your App Store to find his app. There you can stream sermons, read devotionals, and study Scripture at your own pace, allowing the Word of God to meet you right where you are.

What makes Dr. Swindoll so special is his ability to take profound biblical truths and make them relatable, understandable, and personal. His teaching doesn't just fill your head with knowledge—it reaches your heart with grace. Each message is a beautiful balance of depth and simplicity, combining solid theology with everyday application so that truth feels less like a concept and more like a companion.

Listening to Dr. Swindoll feels like sitting with a wise, compassionate mentor who's walked with God long enough to understand both life's beauty and its hardships. He doesn't preach *at* you—he walks *with* you through Scripture, helping you see how God's Word applies to every circumstance. Whether you're struggling with uncertainty, wrestling with faith, or simply needing encouragement to stay the course, his teaching reminds you that God is faithful, present, and still writing your story.

The *Insight for Living* ministry is perfect for anyone who wants their faith to grow roots deep enough to endure any season. It's not flashy or sensational—it's steady, timeless truth that renews weary hearts and strengthens the soul. Chuck Swindoll has guided generations of believers toward a life of wisdom, integrity, and joy in Christ, and his insight continues to refresh, restore, and reorient believers toward what truly matters: walking daily with Jesus.

I encourage you to explore his ministry for yourself. Spend time listening to a message or reading a daily devotional. Let his gentle wisdom remind you that even in the busyness of life, God's grace is sufficient, His Word is unchanging, and His truth will always meet you right where you live.

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### **Skip Heitzig (Connect with Skip)**

Another amazing author, pastor, teacher, and mentor of mine is **Skip Heitzig**—a man whose ministry has profoundly shaped my faith and deepened my understanding of God's Word. ([connectwithskip.com](http://connectwithskip.com)) For anyone who loves clear, verse-by-verse

teaching that's both deeply biblical and wonderfully practical, Skip's ministry is one I cannot recommend highly enough.

What makes Skip's teaching so special is his ability to bring the Scriptures to life in ways that are both simple and profound. He doesn't just teach the Bible—he helps you experience it. His verse-by-verse, line-by-line approach gives you the context, history, and meaning behind every passage, while always pointing you back to how it applies to your life today. Whether he's walking through Genesis, the Gospels, or Revelation, Skip's insights are rich, relevant, and rooted in truth. His goal has never been to impress—it's to instruct, inspire, and ignite a deeper hunger for the Word of God.

Over the years, Skip has built a ministry that reaches across generations and continents. He's the founding pastor of **Calvary Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico**, one of the largest Bible-teaching churches in the nation. His messages have been broadcast worldwide through his radio and television program, *The Connection*, helping millions of listeners understand the Bible in a way that's approachable, engaging, and life-changing. Beyond the pulpit, Skip is also an accomplished author and conference speaker, consistently pointing people toward a living, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, his teachings were inspirational to my Perspectives series.

Personally, I've considered Skip a mentor for years. His steady, Scripture-centered teaching has shaped the way I read the Bible, the way I live my faith, and the way I teach others. He has a rare gift of blending scholarship with humility—making deep truths accessible without watering them down. Listening to him teach feels like sitting down with a trusted friend who genuinely wants to help you know God better.

Through his *Connect with Skip* app, you can access free audio and video messages, daily devotions, and reading plans designed to help you build consistency and deepen your understanding of Scripture. If you're serious about studying the Bible in context and growing in depth, this is an invaluable resource for your spiritual journey.

Skip's ministry has always stood on one clear foundation: *the Word of God changes lives*. His life and legacy are living proof of that truth. Whether you're a lifelong believer or just beginning your walk with Christ, his teaching will challenge you, comfort you, and call you to a closer relationship with the One who wrote the Word.

If you haven't yet connected with his ministry, I encourage you to do so. You'll quickly see why his teaching has had such a profound influence on me and countless others. God has used Skip in extraordinary ways to help people everywhere not just read the Bible—but truly fall in love with it.

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## Got Questions

Sometimes your heart is hungry for truth, but your mind is full of questions. That's where **Got Questions** shines. ([gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)) It's one of the most trusted and biblically grounded Christian Q&A resources online, offering clear explanations on tens of thousands of topics—everything from complex theological issues to practical questions about daily Christian living.

I've personally turned to Got Questions many times when I've struggled to understand a passage of Scripture or found myself wrestling with a difficult topic. You know those moments when you read something in the Bible and think, "*Wait, that sounds like a contradiction,*" or "*Why would God allow that?*" or "*What does this really mean?*"—that's when Got Questions becomes a powerful companion. It helps clear the cobwebs, making sense of things that can feel confusing or even overwhelming at times.

And no, having questions isn't a sign of weak faith—it's a sign of growing faith. It means you're thinking deeply, engaging honestly, and caring enough about truth to dig for it. God is not threatened by your curiosity; He invites it. He says, "Come, let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). Got Questions helps you do exactly that—reason through Scripture with clarity, wisdom, and sound biblical perspective.

## What Does God Want?

Each answer they provide is carefully researched, written by a team of committed believers and theologians who strive to stay faithful to the Word of God. They don't try to sensationalize or water things down—they simply help you understand what the Bible actually says. The site doesn't replace your Bible; it helps you return to it with greater understanding and confidence. Just remember: no website, commentary, or Q&A resource can replace reading the Bible itself. Tools are helpful, but Scripture is foundational. Always let the Word of God be your final source of truth and authority.

When confusion creeps in or you find yourself stuck between faith and frustration, go to Got Questions. Let it be a tool to bridge the gap between what you *feel* and what's *true*. The more you learn, the more you'll realize that God's Word is not contradictory—it's consistent, cohesive, and complete. Sometimes, it just takes a little guidance to see the connections clearly.

Just remember—having a question doesn't mean you'll always like the answer. Sometimes, the truth of Scripture confronts us before it comforts us. The answers you find on Got Questions are biblically based, not culturally softened. They may or may not align with your upbringing, personal opinions, or moral instincts—and that's okay. God's Word doesn't always fit neatly inside our comfort zones; it was meant to shape them. When an answer challenges you, don't reject it right away. Do your homework. Pray. Study. Seek perspective from other trusted, Bible-centered resources and teachers before throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Growth requires humility—and sometimes that means letting truth stretch us before it settles us.

So don't be afraid to ask questions. Faith isn't blind—it's built. And tools like Got Questions can help you strengthen your foundation in truth, one question at a time.

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### **Our Daily Bread**

One of the first devotionals I ever read—and one that still holds a special place in my heart—is Our Daily Bread. Long before

the internet, smartphones, or Bible apps existed, *Our Daily Bread* was already feeding souls. I can still remember the tradition at church—how, on the last Sunday of each month, fresh copies of the next month's devotional would be laid out in the foyer. People would pick them up like spiritual lifelines, eager to begin a new month with a daily dose of encouragement and truth. For many of us, *Our Daily Bread* wasn't just a devotional—it was a companion that walked with us through every season of life.

Decades later, *Our Daily Bread* continues to do what it has always done so faithfully: help believers connect with God through His Word, one day at a time. ([oddb.org](http://oddb.org)) What began as a printed devotional has now expanded into a beautifully designed app (available in all app stores), offering access to current and past readings, Scripture references, reflections, and even audio devotionals. Whether you prefer to read, listen, or share, *Our Daily Bread* gives you practical, biblical encouragement at your fingertips—wherever you are, whenever you need it.

What makes *Our Daily Bread* so timeless is its simplicity and sincerity. Each devotional is grounded in Scripture and written to meet you where you are—with grace, humility, and hope. The readings are short but profound, weaving together real-life stories, relatable struggles, and the timeless truths of God's Word. In just a few minutes a day, it reminds you that no matter what you're facing, God is near, and His Word still speaks.

For those walking through healing, *Our Daily Bread* can feel like a quiet friend who shows up every morning with a gentle word and a reminder that you're not alone. It helps reframe your focus, redirect your emotions, and realign your heart with God's truth. On days when you feel weary or uncertain, it offers clarity and peace. On days when faith feels distant, it invites you to draw near again. Healing often happens one revelation, one Scripture, one quiet moment at a time—and *Our Daily Bread* creates space for those moments to unfold naturally.

After more than 85 years of faithful ministry, *Our Daily Bread* remains a steady light in an often chaotic world. It has helped

millions of believers start their day anchored in God's promises—and it can do the same for you. Whether in print or digital form, this devotional stands as a daily reminder that God is still speaking, His Word is still alive, and His mercies are still new every morning.

If you're looking for a way to start or strengthen your daily walk with God, this is one of the most enduring and trustworthy tools you can use. Let *Our Daily Bread* become part of your morning rhythm—a few quiet moments that draw you back to the heart of the One who heals, restores, and renews your soul.

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### Jesus Calling

Another powerful and deeply personal devotional I've used for many years is *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. It's available in print, Kindle, and audio formats, and there's also a beautifully designed *Jesus Calling* app in most app stores. No matter which version you use, this devotional has a way of speaking directly to your heart in the moment you need it most. I can't tell you how many times I've opened it—sometimes randomly, sometimes on a specific date—and found words that seemed written exactly for what I was walking through that day.

*Jesus Calling* is written in a unique, first-person style, as though Jesus Himself is speaking directly to you. The author crafted each message through prayerful reflection on Scripture, always pointing back to the Word and the heart of God. The result is a devotional that feels intimate, comforting, and powerfully relevant. It's not about adding to Scripture—it's about slowing down long enough to hear the voice of Jesus reminding you of what He's already said. And always remember—devotionals are meant to supplement Scripture, not replace it. Let them point you back to the Word, not take the place of it.

Each day's reading combines passages from the Bible with gentle, Spirit-led encouragement that meets you where you are—whether you're feeling anxious, weary, grateful, or uncertain. It's the kind of devotional that helps you pause in the middle of chaos and

remember who God is, who you are in Him, and how deeply loved you are. It's especially meaningful on the hard days when your faith feels fragile and you need a reminder that Jesus still speaks peace to storms.

The *Jesus Calling* app (and Kindle version) lets you easily revisit past entries, share encouraging readings with friends, and even listen to devotionals through an audio feature—perfect for those who like to start or end their day with a moment of reflection. Many believers around the world use it as part of their daily quiet time, and for good reason: it has a beautiful way of connecting your heart to His presence.

What makes *Jesus Calling* so special is how it tunes your spirit to God's voice. It invites you to slow down, to breathe, and to listen—not just read. If you ever feel like your prayers are one-sided, or that God is silent, this devotional can help you quiet the noise long enough to realize He's been speaking all along.

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### **Daily Streams (Streams in the Desert App)**

For those who have been walking with God for a while and are looking for deeper devotional reflection, the **Daily Streams (Streams in the Desert)** app is a refreshing companion for the soul. ([wateredsoul.com](http://wateredsoul.com)) This app is built around the timeless devotional classic *Streams in the Desert* by L.B. Cowman—a book that has comforted and strengthened believers for more than a century. Written during seasons of personal hardship and waiting, its insights flow from a place of deep faith forged in the fires of suffering, which makes it a powerful resource for anyone learning to trust God through dry or difficult seasons.

The Daily Streams app carries that same spirit. It offers daily devotionals, Scripture readings, and thoughtful reflections you can read or listen to through its audio mode. It's available offline, so even when you're unplugged from the world, you can stay connected to the Word. You can also share verses or devotionals easily with

others—because sometimes, what refreshes you may be exactly what someone else needs too.

What makes *Streams in the Desert* unique is its slower rhythm. It doesn't rush to give you three points and a takeaway; it invites you to sit quietly with truth, to ponder, and to breathe. In a world that moves fast and fills every silence, this devotional gives you permission to be still. It reminds you that spiritual growth doesn't always come through noise or intensity—sometimes it's born in the quiet trust of waiting, listening, and resting in God's timing. It's especially meaningful for anyone walking through long-term healing, waiting seasons, or deep internal restoration.

This is the perfect tool for mornings when your heart feels weary, when you're spiritually tired, or when you simply need to rest in His presence without agenda. If your soul is thirsty for depth more than excitement, and peace more than productivity, *Daily Streams* is the kind of well that never runs dry.

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### **The Pause App (by John Eldredge)**

One of the most life-giving tools I've discovered is The Pause App, created by John Eldredge—the author of *Resilient* and *Get Your Life Back*. ([pauseapp.com](http://pauseapp.com)) I first found it after reading those books, and it quickly became part of my spiritual rhythm. The Pause App is simple by design, but incredibly profound in what it produces. It gives you intentional moments—pauses—throughout your day to stop, breathe, and reconnect with God.

We live in a world that rarely slows down. Noise, pressure, and distraction constantly fight for our attention, leaving our souls fragmented and weary. The Pause App helps you push back against that chaos. Through short, guided sessions (one minute, three minutes, five minutes, and longer), it invites you to step away from the rush and into stillness with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each pause includes gentle narration, Scripture, and moments of prayer that help you release everything you've been carrying and receive the life and peace that only come from God.

What makes this app so powerful in the healing process is that it doesn't just help you manage stress—it helps you *unite* with God. It trains your soul to return to Him again and again throughout the day, to rest in His presence rather than run on your own strength. Healing happens in that union—when your mind, body, and spirit align with the heart of the Trinity. These pauses become sacred moments where the noise fades and you can finally hear God whisper, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Eldredge often speaks about how relationship with God is beautiful—but union with God is transformational. Relationship happens when we talk to God. Union happens when we walk *with* Him—heart to heart, moment by moment. The Pause App helps cultivate that union. It draws you deeper into awareness of His presence until communion with God becomes as natural as breathing.

I've used The Pause App in seasons when life felt heavy—when I was tired, overwhelmed, or losing focus—and each time, it has helped restore balance and clarity. It teaches you to release control, to hand over the burdens of your day, and to allow the Holy Spirit to refill your heart with grace and peace.

If you've been yearning for a closer walk with God—not just a relationship, but a deep, abiding connection—the Pause App is one of the best places to start. It's not just a spiritual tool; it's a daily reminder that union with the Trinity is where true rest, resilience, and healing are found. One minute at a time, one pause at a time, it helps you reclaim your soul from the noise and return it to the One who made it.

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These are just some of the tools I like and use most. They aren't magic pills—but if used with intention, they help form a rhythm of connection, truth, community, and worship that guards your heart, mind, and soul. Don't stop here—visit the *Resources* page on my website at [WalkerJames.Life/resources](http://WalkerJames.Life/resources), and subscribe to my newsletter so you can stay up-to-date with new tools, discoveries,

and what we're learning together as we walk forward. Remember—tools don't transform you; Jesus does. Tools simply help create space for His work in your heart.

Also, if you discover an amazing tool that's been helping you in your journey, I'd love to hear about it. Use the "Contact Us" link on my website and drop me a quick note with the details. Be sure to say something like, "Here's a tool I use that works great for me." You never know—your recommendation might be exactly what someone else needs to hear about to take the next step in their healing or walk with God.

## CHAPTER 25: CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Most people read books like this and stop at the last page. They nod, they feel something, maybe even cry a little—and then quietly slip back into life as usual. But healing doesn't come from reading. Healing comes from doing. It comes from facing your story, forgiving your pain, releasing your past, choosing gratitude, replacing lies with truth, and deciding—every single day—to keep walking toward freedom with the One who set you free: Jesus. This isn't a book to finish; it's a journey to live.

There's a principle at work here that you can't escape: you get what you give. If you give a little, you'll receive a little. But if you give God your all—your heart, your tears, your questions, your willingness to heal—then you'll receive more than you ever imagined. Healing is possible. Freedom is possible. Living unbroken is possible. But it requires participation. God provides the power, but you choose the posture. You can make excuses... or you can make progress. You can stay stuck... or you can step forward. The choice is always yours. Choose wisely.

You've come a long way. You've faced what most people spend their entire lives running from—your own story. You've taken

brave steps toward healing and freedom, and that deserves to be honored. But don't stop here. Keep going. Keep facing your stories with courage. Take the next event on your list from Chapter 10 and walk through the process again: write the story, forgive the people involved, find the gratitude, and replace the lies with truth. Do this for every story on your list. After you've done a few, you'll grow more confident and comfortable with the rhythm of healing. And remember—re-read each chapter in Part 3 anytime you need to refresh the process. Keep learning who you are and whose you are in Christ. Keep growing, even when it feels slow or hard. The healing journey isn't about perfection—it's about persistence.

Leverage the tools available to you. Use the resources you've discovered in this book and on [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life). Read *The Perspectives Series*—especially *What Does God Want?*—to dive deeper into knowing Him, understanding His heart, and building a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, intimate relationship with Him. Everything you've learned here points back to one truth: the more you know Him, who He is and what He wants, the more healed, whole, and free you become.

Healing takes time, so be patient with yourself. Some stories take longer to release than others. Some wounds take longer to close. But every step forward matters. Every prayer whispered, every tear surrendered, every lie replaced with truth—each one is a victory. You're not walking this path alone. The Holy Spirit is with you. Jesus is walking beside you. And the Father is cheering you on, proud of every step you take toward freedom.

When fear or doubt creeps in, pause and pray. Ask God to remind you that He's right there, working even when you can't see it. And if you ever find yourself stuck, confused, or unsure how to take the next step, you don't have to face it alone. You can always reach out to me at [WalkerJames.Life/coaching](http://WalkerJames.Life/coaching)—whether for a Discovery Call, a regular session, or a Pro-Bono conversation that someone else has already paid forward for you. I'm here to walk with you, encourage you, and help you find your next step when the path feels blurry.

You've begun something sacred. Don't let this be the end—let it be the beginning of a life lived healed. A life of peace. A life of joy. A life that reflects the beauty of Jesus shining through your story. Because when you live healed, you don't just change your life—you change the world around you. Living healed is how you go from broken to beautiful, from surviving to thriving, from hurting to helping others heal.

So, keep going. Keep healing. Keep walking. Because your story—the one God is still writing—is far from over. And if you ever need a voice of encouragement, a listening ear, or someone to help you navigate the next chapter of your journey, reach out. You're not alone. You never have been. You never will be. I'm here... and more importantly, so is Jesus.

For everything related to your healing journey, your spiritual growth, and the next steps God is calling you into, visit [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life). There you can sign up for my newsletter, access new tools and guided prayers, schedule coaching sessions, and stay connected as we continue walking this road together. You were never meant to heal alone. I'm here—and I would be honored to walk with you as you keep growing, keep healing, and keep becoming everything Jesus created you to be.

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**Rachel Miller** – you are more precious and valuable than you know. Thank you for being such an amazing person. For always looking just like Jesus (loving, caring, kind). And for planting the seed of, “What is Your God Story!”

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## LET'S CONNECT

(Let me know what you think)

Thank you—from the bottom of my heart—for taking this journey through *Healing MY Story – How to Go From Broken to Beautiful*. The fact that you've made it this far tells me something powerful about you: you're not content to stay broken. You're brave enough to face your story, to fight for your healing, and to believe that God has more for you. That courage inspires me more than you know.

Before we move forward, I want to ask you for one small favor that makes a big difference. If this book has encouraged you, helped you heal, or drawn you closer to God, would you take a moment to leave a review on **Amazon.com**? Your words can help someone else find the hope and freedom they've been searching for. Just go to Amazon and search for "*Walker James Healing MY Story*." Every review—no matter how short—helps this message reach others who need to know that healing and freedom in Jesus are possible.

But I don't want this to be where our journey together ends. This book was never meant to be a one-time experience—it's meant

to be a doorway. Healing doesn't stop when you close the final page; it continues as you grow, learn, and live out your story with Jesus. So, let's stay connected. Let's keep growing together.

Here are some ways you can connect with me and the work I'm doing:

- **Visit my website:** [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life)—This is the hub for everything I do as an Author, Speaker, and Freedom Coach. You'll find links to upcoming projects, my "Healing MY Story" coaching program, the *Perspectives* book series, and tools designed to help you deepen your walk with God and live in freedom.
- **Subscribe to my newsletter:** Stay encouraged and informed with new teachings, tools, and insights. You'll also be the first to know when new resources, devotionals, or Freedom Coaching sessions become available.
- **Schedule a Coaching Session:** If you're ready to take your healing journey deeper, visit [WalkerJames.Life/coaching](http://WalkerJames.Life/coaching). Whether it's a Discovery Call, a regular coaching session, or a pro-bono call (paid forward by someone else), I would be honored to walk with you as you continue your journey toward wholeness and freedom.
- **Write a Prayer or Letter to God:** At [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life), you can share your heart through a prayer request or a personal letter to God. Sometimes healing begins by putting your pain into words—and letting Him meet you there. If you don't know what to say yet, there are also guided prayers to help you.
- **Contact Us:** On my website, under the Stay Connected menu, you'll find a Contact Us option where you can send me a note, share a praise report, or ask a question. I'd love to hear from you and celebrate what God is doing in your life.
- **Explore More Resources:** Check out the *Resources* page on my website for a growing list of books, devotionals, podcasts, apps, and other spiritual tools to help you stay grounded and growing.
- **Follow and Share on Social Media:** You can find me on:

## What Does God Want?

- **Instagram:** [@walkerjameslife](https://www.instagram.com/walkerjameslife)
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/WalkerJamesLife](https://www.facebook.com/WalkerJamesLife)
- **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/walkerjameslife](https://www.linkedin.com/in/walkerjameslife)
- **X (Twitter):** [@walkerjameslife](https://twitter.com/walkerjameslife)
- **YouTube:** [youtube.com/@WalkerJamesLife](https://www.youtube.com/@WalkerJamesLife)
- **Threads:** [threads.com/@walkerjameslife](https://www.threads.com/@walkerjameslife)
- **TikTok:** [tiktok.com/@walkerjameslife](https://www.tiktok.com/@walkerjameslife)

These platforms are where I share weekly encouragement, videos, and insights to keep you motivated and focused on truth.

And one more thing—if this book has touched your life, would you consider sharing it with someone who needs it? You never know whose heart might be ready for healing, and your story—or your recommendation—might be the nudge they need to begin their own journey from Broken to Beautiful.

Thank you again for trusting me to walk alongside you through this journey. My prayer is that you continue to live free, walk strong, love deeply, and always remember that your story matters—because God is still writing it.

So, let's stay connected. Let's keep walking. And let's keep healing... together.

## OTHER BOOKS BY WALKER JAMES

(More to come)

If this book has encouraged you, inspired you, or helped you begin your journey toward healing, let me invite you to keep going. *Healing MY Story – How to Go from Broken to Beautiful* is part of a larger body of work God placed on my heart years ago—a series of books called *Perspectives*. Each book in this series is designed to help you grow in your relationship with God, deepen your understanding of His truth, and fall more in love with who He is and what He wants for your life.

The *Perspectives* series isn't just a set of books—it's a journey. Each one explores a different aspect of faith, freedom, and transformation, guiding you step-by-step toward a stronger, closer, deeper, more loving, more personal, more passionate, and more intimate relationship with God. Here's what's currently available and what's coming soon:

- **Perspectives: Book 1 – What Does God Want? (January 2026)**

### Coming Soon:

- **Perspectives: Book 2 – The Power of Choice**
- **Perspectives: Book 3 – Knowing Who You Are in Christ**

- **Perspectives: Book 4 – Is the Bible the Word of God?**
- **Perspectives: Book 5 – Grasping the Trinity**
- **Perspectives: Book 6 – Knowing God the Father**
- **Perspectives: Book 7 – Knowing God the Son**
- **Perspectives: Book 8 – Knowing God the Holy Spirit**
- **Perspectives: Book 9 – Knowing Your Enemy**
- **Perspectives: Book 10 – Investing in Your Relationship with God**
- **Perspectives: Book 11 – Living Your Relationship with God**
- **Perspectives: Book 12 – Embracing the Promises of God**

All of my books are self-published and available primarily through **Amazon.com**. Simply search for “Walker James Perspectives” or the title of the book you’re interested in to find the paperback, Kindle, hardcover, or audiobook editions as they become available.

These books are meant to help you continue your walk—to strengthen what God has started in you through *Healing MY Story*. They’ll challenge you, encourage you, and remind you that this journey isn’t just about recovering from your past—it’s about discovering the fullness of who you are in Christ and living out that freedom daily.

I would also love to hear from you. Visit my website, [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life), where you can sign up for my newsletter, ask questions, share your story, or let me know how God is working in your life through these books.

Thank you again for letting me walk with you through this part of your journey. May God continue to bless, heal, and strengthen you as you grow into the beautiful story He is still writing in your life.

With love and grace,

**Walker**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WALKER JAMES

Walker James is a Christian author, speaker, and Freedom Coach whose mission is to help others discover the healing, hope, and freedom that only Jesus Christ can bring. A Christian since the age of 15, Walker was uniquely challenged by God to answer for himself the question, “What does God want?” when the Lord entrusted him with two sons born with special needs. The struggle to reconcile God’s goodness with life’s hardship led him into a 12-year rebellion, followed by complete surrender—an experience that reshaped everything he believed about love, pain, and purpose.

Out of that season of brokenness and restoration came the *Perspectives* series and later *Healing MY Story*—a Christ-centered coaching process designed to help others face their wounds honestly, forgive deeply, and surrender completely to the God who heals. Walker created *Healing MY Story* because he knows firsthand what it feels like to sit in the ashes of hurt, pain, loss, and unanswered questions—and what it means to be lifted by the healing arms of Jesus. His heart is to walk with others through that same transformation, helping them exchange their broken chapters for beauty and freedom in Christ.

## What Does God Want?

Today, Walker lives in the Pacific Northwest, where he continues to write, speak, and coach through his ministry platforms at [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life). A U.S. Marine veteran and lifelong encourager, Walker remains passionate about showing people that God is not complicated—He simply wants a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, intimate relationship with you.

## APPENDIX A : A PRAYER FOR SALVATION

A relationship with God begins when you recognize that you are a sinner who has disobeyed God and His commands. You desire to surrender to Him, to fall into His love, mercy, and grace. You choose to repent—to turn away from sin—and step into a strong, close, deep, loving, personal, passionate, and intimate relationship with God the Father, through faith in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is the only way to enter a true relationship with God. All sin must be judged and punished. You can either bear that punishment yourself, or by faith, you can accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior—the One who has already taken your punishment upon Himself, though He was completely innocent.

If this is the desire of your heart, pray this prayer sincerely, with an open heart and mind, ready to begin the most important relationship of your life:

### **A Prayer of Salvation...**

*Father God, I humble myself before You today. I surrender my life and repent of my sins. I am sorry for my rebellion and for all the wrong I have done. I ask You to forgive me and to cleanse me from*

*all unrighteousness. By faith, I accept Your Son, Jesus Christ, into my heart and my life. I believe He sacrificed Himself for me, paying the price I could never pay for the sins I have committed.*

*Today, I freely open the gift You have given me through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I might reflect the beauty of Your Son in my life. From this day forward, help me to love You, honor You, and serve You. Shine Your light and Your love through me into the lives of others. Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die for me. Help me now to live the rest of my life for You and for Your glory. Teach me to keep investing in my relationship with You. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.*

If you just prayed that prayer, welcome to the family of God! You've made the most important decision of your life—the decision to give your heart to Jesus Christ. Heaven is rejoicing, and your new story has already begun. You're no longer who you used to be. You are a new creation—loved, forgiven, redeemed, and free.

Your next step is to grow in your relationship with God. Spend time in prayer, read your Bible daily, and surround yourself with other believers who will encourage and strengthen your faith. If you don't have a local church, ask God to lead you to one that teaches the truth of His Word (a Bible believing Church) and helps you grow in grace and knowledge.

If you're not sure where to start, I'd love to help you. Visit my website, [WalkerJames.Life](http://WalkerJames.Life), where you can explore tools and resources to help you grow in your new faith. You'll also find a link to schedule a Discovery Call or Coaching Session if you'd like to talk more about what it means to follow Jesus and walk in freedom.

And if you'd like to share what God has done in your life, I'd love to hear your story. Use the *Contact Us* link on my website to send me a quick note, or write a letter to God on the *Letters to God* page—whatever feels right for you. It's a beautiful way to mark the moment and begin your new journey with Him.

You don't have to do this alone. The Holy Spirit is now living within you, guiding and comforting you. Jesus is walking beside you

every step of the way, and your Father in Heaven delights in the relationship that's just beginning.

Welcome home.