

THE REALITY CHOICE

Life's Healing Choices
Rick Warren

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. I know that good itself does not dwell . . . in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Romans 7:15, 18 (NIV)

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

THE CAUSE: _____

"In the pride of your heart you say, 'I am a god' . . . But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god." Ezekiel 28:2 (NIV)

1st CHOICE: _____
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

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

1. _____
"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (NLT)

"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you." Proverbs 28:13 (GNT)

2. _____
"We . . . saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead." 2 Corinthians 1:9 (TLB)

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." Matthew 5:3 (MSG)

3. _____
"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GNT)

"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (TLB)

GROUND RULES

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

"When we were unable to help ourselves, at the right time, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6 (NCV)

Next Steps

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THE HOPE YOU NEED FOR CHANGE

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"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!" Matthew 5:4 (CEV)

"No one can live with a broken spirit." Proverbs 18:14 (NCV)

WHERE TO GET HOPE WHEN CHANGE SEEMS HOPELESS

1. REMEMBER GOD _____

"Those who forget God have no hope." Job 8:11 (TLB)

"Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer." Psalm 94:19 (TLB)

2. REMEMBER HE CARES _____

"I have hope when I think of this: The LORD's love never ends; his mercies never stop. They are new every morning." Lamentations 3:21-23 (NCV)

"He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic . . . For he knows we are but dust." Psalm 103: 13-14 (TLB)

"God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us."
Romans 5:8 (TLB)

3. REMEMBER HE KNOWS _____

"You know how troubled I am; You have kept a record of my tears."
Psalm 56:8 (GNT)

"You . . . have seen the crisis in my soul." Psalm 31:7 (TLB)

4. REMEMBER HE HAS _____

"What is impossible for people is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NLT)

"When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do."
Romans 4:18 (MSG)

"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose." Philippians 2:13 (PHILLIPS)

5. REMEMBER HE'S PROMISED _____

"I expect your help, for you have promised it." Psalm 119:81 (TLB)

"God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us . . . They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given." Hebrews 6:18 (NCV)

STEP 2: Earnestly believe that God exists; that I matter to him, and that he has the power to help me recover.

"The Spirit that God has given us . . . fills us with power, love, and self-control."
2 Timothy 1:7 (GNT)

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LETTING GO AND LETTING GOD

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"Blessed are the meek." Matthew 5:5 (CEV)

"The meek shall . . . be satisfied." Psalm 22:26 (KJV)

"The meek he will guide . . . and . . . teach." Psalm 25:9 (KJV)

"The meek become wise." Proverbs 11:2 (TLB)

"The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD." Isaiah 29:19 (ESV)

MEEKNESS IS _____

HOW TO LET GO & LET GOD

MAKE JESUS _____ OF MY LIFE

"Quit quarreling with God! Agree with him and you will have peace at last!"
Job 22:21 (TLB)

Jesus: "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am." Matthew 16:24 (MSG)

"Give yourself to the LORD; trust in him, and he will help you." Psalm 37:5 (GNT)

ESTABLISH GOD'S WORD _____ FOR MY LIFE

"Place yourselves under God's authority." James 4:7 (GW)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

"I have made up my mind to obey your laws forever, no matter what."
Psalm 119:112 (CEV)

"I will never lay aside your laws, for you have used them to restore my joy and health." Psalm 119:93 (TLB)

EMBRACE GOD'S SPIRIT _____ FOR MY LIFE

"I will put my Spirit in you. I will enable you to live by my laws." Ezekiel 36:27 (GW)

"Anyone who tries to live by his own effort, independent of God, is doomed to failure." Galatians 3:10 (MSG)

"You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish!" Galatians 3:3 (NCV)

"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."
Philippians 4:13 (GNT)

KEEP JESUS _____ OF MY LIFE

"We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."
Hebrews 12:2 (CEV)

"If I keep my eyes on GOD, I won't trip over my own feet." Psalm 25:15 (MSG)

"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." Proverbs 3:6 (MSG)

STEP 3: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

"The payoff for meekness . . . is plenty and honor and a satisfying life."
Proverbs 22:4 (MSG)

"Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time." Matthew 6:34 (TLB)

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THE HOUSECLEANING CHOICE

Life's Healing Choices
Buddy Owens

THE HOUSECLEANING CHOICE

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

"Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!" Matthew 5:8 (GNT)

"I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness."
John 10:10 (GNT)

JESUS DOESN'T WANT ME TO BE _____,
HE WANTS ME TO BE _____

"[Jesus] cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth!' And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Loose him, and let him go.'" John 11:43-44 (NKJV)

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 (NIV)

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)

THE BASIS FOR A PURE HEART IS NOT HOW GOOD _____,
BUT HOW GOOD _____

"You have looked deep into my heart, LORD, and you know all about me."
Psalm 139:1 (CEV)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

"Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."
Lamentations 3:40 (KJV)

"Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

"Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone." Psalm 32:5 (NLT)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (NIV)

REMEMBER GOD'S _____
"God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance." Romans 2:4 (NIV)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 (NIV)

"God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" Romans 5:8 (GNT)

REMEMBER GOD'S _____
"I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 (GW)

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

"I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5 (GNT)

REMEMBER GOD'S _____
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)

"For it is [Jesus Christ] who is the 'Yes' to all of God's promises."
2 Corinthians 1:20 (GNT)

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THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE

Life's Healing Choices
Rick Warren

5 PHASES GOD USES TO CHANGE US JACOB

1. _____
"Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, 'Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.' And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been."
Genesis 31:1-2 (NIV)

"The messengers returned to Jacob and reported, 'We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!' Jacob was terrified at the news." Genesis 32:6-7 (NLT)

"Then Jacob prayed, 'O God . . . LORD . . . I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. . . . Save me, I pray . . . for I am afraid.'" Genesis 32:9-11 (NIV)

REALITY CHOICE:

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

"God blesses those who . . . realize their need for him." Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

2. _____
"After taking them to the other side, [Jacob] sent over all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket." Genesis 32:23-25 (NLT)

"Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God." Hosea 12:3 (NLT)

HOPE CHOICE:

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

3. _____
"Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is dawn.' But Jacob panted, 'I won't let you go unless you bless me!'" Genesis 32:26 (NLT)

COMMITMENT CHOICE:

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

"Do not let any part of your bodies become tools of wickedness, to be used for sinning; but give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes." Romans 6:13 (TLB)

4. _____
"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'JACOB', he answered."
Genesis 32:27 (NIV)

Jacob = "deceiver/manipulator"

HOUSECLEANING CHOICE:

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

5. _____
"Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel' . . . Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face.'" Genesis 32:28-30 (NIV)

Israel = "Prince with God"

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

TRANSFORMATION CHOICE:

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

"The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip." Genesis 32:31 (NLT)

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THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE

Life's Healing Choices
Kay Warren

"Happy are those who are merciful to others." Matthew 5:7 (GNT)

"Happy are those who work for peace." Matthew 5:9 (GNT)

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

"At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, 'Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?' Jesus replied, 'Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven. The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt. The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!' The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king. The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy." Matthew 18:21-35 (MSG)

1. **BECAUSE I _____, I _____**
Luke 15—The Prodigal Son (and daughter)

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!"
Psalm 103:1 (ESV)

2. **THE _____ BECOME _____**
"Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us."
Matthew 6:12 (NCV)

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."
Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

"But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." Mark 11:25 (NLT)

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."
Luke 6:37 (NLT)

"For there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you." James 2:13 (TLB)

HOW CAN I BECOME A FORGIVER?

1. _____ **IT TO THE CROSS**

2. _____ **TODAY**

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THE GROWTH CHOICE

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Rick Warren

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

"Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
2 Peter 3:18 (GNT)

HOW TO CONTINUE GROWING

1. "And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ." 1 John 2:28 (NLT)
"Everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin."
1 John 3:6 (GNT)

"Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God."
Colossians 4:2 (NCV)

2. "The truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says." James 1:25 (NCV)
"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32 (KJV)

3. "I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his." Philippians 3:12 (NCV)
"No . . . I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."
Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

4. "Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD."
Laminations 3:40 (NIV)

"If we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way."
1 Corinthians 11:31 (NLT)

5. "Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage, and be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13 (NCV)

"Do not be fooled. 'Bad companions ruin good character.'"
1 Corinthians 15:33 (GNT)

6. "We are confident that [God] will continue to rescue us, since you are also joining to help us when you pray for us." 2 Corinthians 1:10 (GW)

"We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other." Hebrews 10:25 (GW)

7. "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."
Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

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THE SHARING CHOICE

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"Blessed are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

"God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace." 2 Corinthians 5:19 (CEV)

THE SHARING CHOICE:

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

"I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace! . . . The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort he gives." 2 Corinthians 1:2-5 (CEV)

WHAT CAN I SHARE TO HELP OTHERS?

1. _____
*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."
Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)*

*"I am glad . . . not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God."
2 Corinthians 7:9 (TLB)*

TO HELP OTHERS I MUST BE HONEST ABOUT . . .

• **MY** _____
*"We have spoken frankly to you; we have opened our hearts wide."
2 Corinthians 6:11 (GNT)*

• **MY** _____
"Each of us must bear some faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!" Galatians 6:5 (TLB)

• **MY** _____
*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst."
1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)*

• **MY** _____
"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. . . . the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." Romans 7:18-19 (NIV)

• **MY** _____
*"I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces."
2 Corinthians 12:20 (MSG)*

2. _____

• **I LEARNED** _____
*"We were really crushed and overwhelmed . . . and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us . . . and he did help us!"
2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (TLB)*

• **I LEARNED** _____
"The punishment you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalm 119:71 (TLB)

• **I LEARNED** _____
*"Remember that in God's plan men and women need each other."
1 Corinthians 11:11 (TLB)*

"Two people are better than one. . . . If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NCV)

3. _____
"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

4. _____
"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Who will you tell?

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WHAT DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS AND WHAT BUILDS THEM

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"Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other."
Romans 12:5 (GW)

1. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have." James 4:1-2 (NIV)

"Selfishness only causes trouble." Proverbs 28:25 (GNT)

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own." Philippians 2:4 (GNT)

"The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life." Galatians 6:8 (MSG)

"Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness." Galatians 5:16 (MSG)

2. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"Pride leads to arguments." Proverbs 13:10 (TLB)

"Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin." Proverbs 16:18 (NCV)

*"First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall."
Proverbs 16:18 (MSG)*

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble." 1 Peter 3:8 (GW)

*"Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves."
Philippians 2:3 (NCV)*

"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to." Philippians 2:5-6 (NLT)

3. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"The fear of human opinion disables." Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)

Adam: *"I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Genesis 3:10 (NIV)*

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it . . . shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love." 1 John 4:18 (NLT)

*"All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them . . . We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love . . . And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid."
1 John 4:15-17 (NLT)*

4. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." Job 5:2 (GNT)

"When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within, Then I was stupid and ignorant." Psalm 73:21-22 (NASB)

*"Look after each other . . . Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."
Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)*

_____ BUILDS THEM

*"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
Colossians 3:13 (NLT)*

"Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient . . . But . . . then [God our Savior] saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved but because of his kindness . . . by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit . . . and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did so that he could declare us good in God's eyes." Titus 3:3-7 (TLB)

*"The LORD says: Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago. I am going to do something new. . . . I will make rivers on dry land."
Isaiah 43:17-19 (GW)*

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THERE'S NO RECOVERY WITHOUT PRAYER

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EXAMPLES OF PRAYER CAUSING RECOVERY

1. WHEN THE ISRAELITES GOT IMPATIENT & REBELLIOUS

"The people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses. 'Why have you brought us . . . to die here in the wilderness' they complained. 'There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna' So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people . . . cried out, 'We have sinned . . . Pray.' . . . So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD told him, 'Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole.'"

Numbers 21:4-8 (NLT)

"Whenever someone was bitten, and he looked at the bronze snake, he recovered." Numbers 21:9 (HCSB)

WITH PRAYER WE CAN RECOVER . . .

2. WHEN JEROBOAM WAS UPSET HEARING A HARD TRUTH

"When King Jeroboam heard this, he pointed at [the prophet] and ordered, 'Seize that man' At once the king's arm became paralyzed. . . . King Jeroboam said to the prophet, 'Please pray for me to the LORD your God.' . . . The prophet prayed to the LORD, and the king's arm was healed." 1 Kings 13:4, 6 (GNT)

WITH PRAYER WE CAN RECOVER . . .

3. WHEN HEZEKIAH WAS TOLD HE'D NEVER RECOVER

"In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah . . . went to him and said, 'This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.' Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 'Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: 'Go back and tell Hezekiah . . . I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. . . . I will add fifteen years

to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria.' . . . and [Hezekiah] recovered." 2 Kings 20:1-7 (NIV)

"A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery: . . . You restored me to health and let me live." Isaiah 38:9, 16 (NIV)

"In these very conditions my spirit is still alive—fully recovered with a fresh infusion of life! It seems it was good for me to go through all those troubles. Throughout them all you held tight to my lifeline. You never let me tumble over the edge into nothing. But my sins you let go of, threw them over your shoulder—good riddance!" Isaiah 38:16-17 (MSG)

WITH PRAYER, WE CAN RECOVER . . .

4. WHEN TWO BLIND MEN CRIED OUT TO JESUS

"There were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David' And stopping, Jesus called them and said, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him." Matthew 20:30-34 (ESV)

WITH PRAYER WE CAN RECOVER . . .

5. WHEN PETER HAD HIS MASSIVE PUBLIC FAILURE

Predicting Peter's fall Jesus said: "[Then the Lord said,] 'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to have you apostles for himself. He wants to separate you from me as a farmer separates wheat from husks. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. So when you recover, strengthen the other disciples.'" Luke 22:31-32 (GW)

WITH PRAYER WE CAN RECOVER . . .

6. WHEN JOB LOST LITERALLY EVERYTHING

"After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: 'I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has. So . . . offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve.' . . . So [Job's friends] did as the LORD commanded them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. When Job prayed for

his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before!” Job 42:7-10 (NLT)

OUR RECOVERY IS ONLY COMPLETE . . .

Jesus announced his mission on earth by reading Isaiah 61:1-4

“God’s Spirit is on me. He’s chosen me to preach the good news to the poor, to announce freedom to those held captive, to give recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to proclaim that this is the time of God’s Favor!” Luke 4:18 (MSG)

The rest of Isaiah’s prophesy adds:

“To heal those who are brokenhearted . . . to comfort all those who grieve . . . to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of [tears of] grief . . . They will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will restore the places destroyed long ago. They will renew the ruined cities.” Isaiah 61:1-4 (GW)

Next Steps

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