
The Writer's Inkhorn

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Continuing Reflections on the Word for Your Personal Growth in Christ

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One More Lesson from the Cross: *Your Wounds Are Your Evidence*



When the Lord began to birth this word in my spirit, I was reading the various gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, in His final days on Earth, both *before* His crucifixion and *after* His resurrection. From those readings the Lord showed me a *number of lessons from the cross*, which I shared with you exactly one year ago, in an issue of this teaching letter entitled “Lessons from the Cross.” However, this issue shares *one more lesson* that was not included in that previous issue. I have returned to this lesson several times and as I was contemplating what to share in this issue, I came across this additional lesson: *Your Wounds Are Your Evidence*. This is the one God brought me back to, so I feel like it is the time to release it to you here.

In the 20th chapter of John’s gospel, verses 19 and 20, John gives an account of Jesus, a few days after His crucifixion, appearing in the evening in a room where the disciples were gathered together, with the doors shut, fearing what might happen to *them*, since they had been present and had witnessed *Jesus’* crucifixion first hand. It was the same day that Jesus was resurrected, and a while after Mary had delivered a message that Jesus had sent to the disciples earlier that day. Jesus just *appeared* in the midst of them, and *the first thing* He said to them was, “**Peace be unto you.**” Do you know that one of the very *first* things the Lord wants to do for *you* is to speak peace into your situation? Hear Jesus’ words:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

No matter what is going on in your life, if God speaks peace to your troubled mind, you can deal with anything. **Peace** be unto you, my sister. **Peace** be unto you, my brother.

Vanessa Bell Armstrong sings, “Whenever the **Lord** says peace, I guarantee there’ll be peace.” **Peace; be still; quiet** yourself, and let the Lord work for you. Still yourselves, quiet yourselves, my daughters and my sons, and let the **peace** of God rule in your hearts. This can be a whole lesson by itself, but we will move on.

Then, John 20:20 says that after Jesus had said this, said “Peace be unto you,” He showed unto them His hands and His side, and then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Why would Jesus show the disciples His hands and His side? He was showing them where He had been wounded, showing them the evidence that it was really Him. **Everyone** had seen Jesus being pierced. They had *witnessed* the wounds being inflicted. His crucifixion was a **public** event, a **public** spectacle. So when they **saw** Him in His resurrected state with the scars from His wounds still intact, this was startling proof that He was **alive again!**

Here is the thing to notice, though. Don’t miss this. The devil had not *intended* for things to turn out like this; he was just intent on **wounding** Jesus, on **humiliating** and **killing** Him. He had **never** intended to be the one to provide the evidence of Jesus’ resurrection. But Jesus had already warned Satan when He said, “If **I** be lifted up, I **will** draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). In other words, that cross was going to act like a magnet, and it has continued to be so for over 2000 years. Jesus’ **scars** from His **wounds** are His **evidence** that He lives!

You may have noticed that I am going back and forth between scars and wounds. That is because the doctors say that **scars** are **wounds that have healed**. So here is what the Spirit revealed to me: somewhere in the **darkness** of

that tomb, *healing* happened to those wounds that had been inflicted upon Jesus, leaving the scars as evidence. Remember, Jesus called forth Lazarus back to life out of the darkness of **his** tomb, just as **God** called forth the life of Jesus out of the darkness of *his* **tomb**, and just as a baby's life emerges out of the darkness of the **womb**. What am I saying? Do not fear the darkness. It is not just the *sunlight* that makes us grow, that heals us, but the *darkness* also. Potatoes and other vegetables grow underground, in the *darkness* of the earth. Fruit further ripens in the *darkness*. The beautiful flowers and trees are such because their roots are deep in the *darkness* of the earth, and nurtured there.

Between the darkness of the womb and the darkness of the tomb, *life* happens, but hear this: it is a life that is meant to be *well-lived*, an *abundant* life, a life that is *fully* loaded! The grave was not the end for Jesus. It served a greater purpose. And the grave is not the end for us either. It is only the end of life as we know it on **this** side. But there is a greater life -- another version of life on the other side. After the darkness of the grave is resurrection to life eternal. We are living to live again, Saints. I know **I** am; how about you?

So do not fear the darkness in your own life. When your soul is in its darkest moments, then does the Spirit do its greatest work of nurturing us, strengthening our rootedness in Christ, that we may stand strong in the faith. *Whatever* your pain is, it is **not** your end. *However* the enemy is wounding you, **God** is allowing it. Think about that. Do you remember all of the things the enemy did to Job? God **allowed** it, and **God** is allowing **whatever** is happening to you, so apparently it will serve a greater purpose in your life when the wounds are healed. And don't be alarmed at the scars that may remain to just *remind* you of what the Lord has brought you through, *in spite of* the enemy's attacks.

One morning in the midst of my working with this text, the Lord took me to Jeremiah, chapters 31 and 32. In chapter 32, King Zedekiah was asking Jeremiah why he kept prophesying all of this doom and gloom for the nation of Israel. In 32:6, Jeremiah began to tell King Zedekiah *how* he knew that the Lord had spoken to him about what he was telling the king. Jeremiah said that

the Lord told him that his cousin – his uncle's son – was going to come and ask him to buy a certain field, and things happened just as God had said that they *would* happen.

Then, from verses 11-16, something caught my eye. Jeremiah began speaking about "**the evidence of the purchase**" of that field, which the Lord then connected back to this lesson. He revealed to me that **Christ's wounds and scars** were the evidence of the purchase **He** made for **us**. Our salvation and healing were **purchased** with His blood. See Isaiah 53:5-10. Christ's wounds were for **our** transgressions; His bruises were for **our** iniquity; the chastisement that **He** received was for **our** peace; and the stripes He endured were for **our** healing. **Christ's wounds were the evidence of the purchase!** The disciples saw in His hands and side the evidence. And **yet** He lives! He **ever** lives to make intercession for us!

And **your** wounds and scars are **your** evidence, that you have not only survived the enemy's attacks against you, but that you can continue to live and thrive in spite of them. That was what Jesus came for: that you might thrive. In John 10:10, Jesus told us that the thief comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy, but that **He** came that we might have life – and not just an old mediocre, average, run-of-the-mill life – but that we might have an *abundant* life! One of my spiritual daughters told me after that terrible car accident I was in six years ago, the scars on my body are the *evidence* that I was ever even *in* that accident. They are evidence of **God's** deliverance and **God's** protection in the *midst* of it all.

Not only did I **survive** the enemy's attack on my life, but I **am** thriving *in spite of* it. That accident occurred on February 22, 2010. I had a hole in the lower part of my right leg that **God** eventually healed and closed up without a skin graft. There is a **scar** there as *evidence*. I had a fractured seventh vertebra that **God** healed without surgery and a few small **scars** remain on the back of my neck as *evidence*. Although my body suffered major trauma to my trapezius muscle that controls lifting and pulling, it is almost completely healed; I still get twinges of sharp pains from time to time, and some sensitivity remains as *evidence* of having been wounded.

And I **thank God** that there was **no evidence** of brain injury. **God** literally *covered* me. How

many times has God **covered you** when you know the enemy would have taken you out if he could have? **God** protected my brain. Incidentally, one of my prayer partners would pray specifically for God to protect my brain, before this accident ever happened, and it seemed like such a peculiar prayer to me. I was thinking in terms of God protecting the mind so that one does not go crazy, but God knew what this elder was seeding into my spirit, even when he nor any one of us could foresee at the time he started praying those prayers, what was coming. So God protected my brain in answer to those prayers, by giving me the presence of mind to grab both sides of my head and hold on to it, to stabilize by brain and prevent traumatic brain injury, as my **car** was battered on both sides by **SUVs**, until my car came to a stop on the opposite side of the street facing the opposite direction from which it had been traveling. And exactly one year and one month later, on March 25, 2011, I defended my dissertation and received a Ph.D. in mathematics education. **Many** celebrated that accomplishment with me. To **God** be the glory; great things He has done, and continues to do!

Don't you know that the enemy's attacks will go **no farther** than **God will allow** them to go? You, too, may have been wounded, physically, emotionally, financially, or however, but your scars are your evidence that you have more than survived the enemy's attacks, and that you **will** thrive in **spite** of them. **Tell** yourself that! **Believe** that. I have a declaration that I put at the top of my messages and sometimes in my **writing** journal, that **this is the most powerful and productive era of my life.** I believe that with all of my heart, and I am living it out daily. There is still much work to be done in and for the kingdom. *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few* (Matthew 9:37).

For about a year I had been writing at the tops of the pages of my **prayer** requests journals for daily 6 am prayer, these words: **Living Life Fully Loaded!** Then, as if on cue, one Sunday morning our Bishop said when he got up to preach, "I am loaded." He then gave the scripture, Psalm 68:19, to coincide with what I had been saying and writing for almost a year, at that time: "*Blessed be the Lord, who **daily** loadeth us with benefits...*" That was the scripture that I had **needed** to

confirm my daily declaration of **living life fully loaded**. The **next** Sunday, I brought him my prayer journals as **evidence** to show him what I had been writing all of that time that coincided with what he had said, and he was amazed.

Saints, I am **serious** about this. I have never been **more** so. God **knows** I try to **live** what I am telling you, **first**. I am telling you how to get things into your spirit, that they may become **activated** in your life in **real** time. Don't let the wounds that the enemy inflicts upon you **stop** you from reaching for and attaining the abundant life that Christ longs to give you. Don't sit around nursing those wounds too long, feeling sorry for yourself. It **could** have been **otherwise**. It could **always** have been worse. Be thankful that God has you covered, shake it off, and **move on** as soon as you are healed enough to do so.

However, there is something else I need to say to you at this point, although it may seem a bit harsh, but true: sometimes our wounds are self-inflicted, because of our **own** sins and our **own** willfulness and disobedience. And sin leaves scar tissue, but that, too, is just evidence that you have survived and you are meant to thrive from here on. Hear the word of the Lord to His people, through the prophet, Jeremiah in chapter 30:11-17a:

¹¹ *For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*

¹² *For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.*

¹³ *There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.* ¹⁴ *All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the **chastisement** of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased.*

¹⁵ *Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: **because thy sins were increased**, I have done these things unto thee.*

¹⁶ *Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey. [In other words, I am going to use **them** to punish **you**, and then **get** them for **getting** you.]*

¹⁷ ***For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD;** (emphases mine)*

So, no matter what you have done, God has **forgiven** you and He is **healing** you. **God** has forgiven you and He is healing you so that you **can live** again, in Him! Now you must move ahead in faith, tell fear to be silent, and do you – in **God**. Remember, your wounds are just **evidence** that you have survived the enemy’s attacks. All that is left for **you** to do is to **get up and thrive!** Get up and thrive! Don’t just sit there and die! Get **up** from there! Live your **life!** **Live** your life! **Do** something! **Be** something! **Create** something! **Write** something! **Perform** something! **Try** something! **Build** something! **Bake** something! **Design** something! **Learn** something new! **Shake** something **up!** **Tell** fear to be silent. The late Elder Bobby Coleman would say, “Shut up, Devil!” Be bold just like that!

When will you get the courage to move forward in faith? The **Lord** is just waiting on **you** to make a move, and when you do, you will find that He is right there near you, with you, to lead and guide and direct you. Maybe your wounds have not yet healed, but get up and make a start **anyway**. When Jesus prayed for those lepers, **as they went** they were healed. They were **actually** healed the moment Jesus spoke, but the **evidence** of their healing was manifest **as they went**. **Look** for the evidence of your healing as you go. **Look for it!** It is with **Jesus’** stripes that we **are** healed. Your wounds **are** being healed. You see the **evidence** in those scars, so get **up and thrive!** **Live** your life! **Look** to Jesus and **live!** **So**, the enemy has wounded you, but he did **not** win. He did **not** win. He did **not** win. You are **still** here. And given that fact, why **not** live to the fullest?

Live because Christ lives in you, and the life which you **now** live, you live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved you and gave Himself for

you (Galatians 2:20). I **command** you to **live**. You shall not die, but **live** and declare the works of the Lord (Psalm 118:17). I cried out to God in my distress when the enemy tried to take my life. While I held on to my head, I said, “**God**, I want to **live!** **God**, I want to **live!** And God **let** me live! If you walk in His statutes and keep His judgments, you shall surely live! (Ezekiel 18:9). **Live**, because the just **shall live** by his faith (Habakkuk 2:4)! **Live**, because it is in **Him** that **we live**, and **move** and **have** our being (Acts 17:28)!

It is God, Himself, Who has promised to **restore health unto you, and heal you of your wounds** and brokenness. Amen?! Amen! Go in peace and be well.

Your Teacher and Sister,
Dr. Mary Webster Moore



I have been a lifelong educator of children, youth and adults. I have taught in the church for nearly 50 years, and have taught professionally from the age of 20, as a middle school mathematics teacher. During my 41-year career, I was also an elementary principal, a district curriculum coordinator, and college professor for the last 18 years.

In May, 2015, I retired and was awarded the rank of Professor Emerita. In September of 2015, I joined the John Maxwell Team, becoming a certified teacher, speaker and coach. As a teacher and writer, I am committed to encouraging and directing others toward meeting their life goals. I teach ministry classes, Bible studies, speak at women’s and youth retreats, and write devotional books, and these teaching letters, which I circulate to churches and to individuals.

Contact Me. May I assist you on your journey to becoming a more successful leader? Recognize that the first person we lead is ourselves. From there, we can begin to add more value to the lives of others. I can be reached at 773.735.8713 or by email @ mary.webster@trnty.edu

