

Healing Choices: Do You Want To Be Healed?

BY RICK WARREN — MAY 21, 2014

“When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, ‘Do you want to get well?’” (John 5:6 NIV).

Note: Today’s guest devotional is by Jon Walker, author of ‘Growing with Purpose.’

Long ago and far away I was diagnosed with clinical depression and began the hard work of deep, lasting, Jesus-led recovery.

One day Jesus asked me, “Do you want to be healed?”

I was reading in the Apostle John’s book and he was telling about the time that Jesus stopped by the Sheep Gate in ancient Jerusalem. There was a pool there where people waited for a chance to be healed by one of God’s angels, but, as I read, it seemed like Jesus looked over and into my eyes.

“Do you want to be healed?”

It seemed like such a ridiculous question. Of course, I wanted to be healed! But, then, I knew what he meant. Was I willing to make a healing choice?

Was I willing to do the hard work of facing painful situations, uncovering bitterness, and admitting to deep, resentful anger? Was I willing to give up my stubborn excuses that allowed me to stay the same, somehow seeing my sickness as more secure than my health?

Was I willing to give up control, let God be God, and admit that I can’t, but he can; or would I rather insist that I can, even though I can’t, holding myself in a cycle of helplessness and hopelessness?

By the pool at the Sheep Gate, Jesus asked an invalid of thirty-eight years: “Do you want to be healed?” His question swept through the man, swept through 2,000 years, and swept into the shadows of my soul.

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me . . .” (John 5:7 NIV).

But there stood the Great Healer holding out help, acutely aware that we can’t, but God can, knowing this to be true because he was on a mission that would provide the only way we can be re-created whole and healthy. Jesus was on the road to Calvary.

The question lingers for you: Do you really want to be healed? Are you looking at the “pool” or the Healer?

Suffering & Sickness – 2 types - Blindsight & Self-Inflicted

Practical tools for getting healthy/well through suffering, loss.

Note: My own personal experience with loss (Becky, Randy, Ron, Dad, Pete, Mom...) Jack?

Interview: Teammates

Mike Chastain – Care Pastor - New Covenant - Part of his “leisure time” – Coffee with friends!
How has God brought you to a place of being so effective in caring for those in deep need?

Dave Obwald – Recovery Pastor – The Well.

Dave graduated with his Master’s Degree in Conflict and Peacemaking Studies from Fresno Pacific University and was the Residence Director at FPU for five years before coming on staff at The Well. Alongside his role as the Director of Re-Generation, he also serves as a mediator/conflict coach at The Well Counseling Center.

Tell us your story of how God is using you guys today.

Question to Dave –

My guess is everyone is in one of if not both of camps, Is that accurate?

Question to Mike –

When the bottom drops out, Cancer, Bankruptcy, Child Dies, Wife walks out...what do you do?

Ever feel like you’re intruding? COMMENT – “I don’t know what to say...”

Can’t FIX it! Link arms and PRAY – STOP LOOKING AT THE CHURCH TO DO THE JOB!!!

GO – BE YOU - BE THE BLESSING!

The natural default is to hide rather than to openly walk with God! Do you have the courage???

Discussion points for the tables –

What’s your one take away from today’s discussion – What’s your next step?

Closing thoughts. We all have personal experiences that, if we are willing, we can use to be of help to others.

2 Corinthians 1:3

God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.