

Wounds Turn to Scars

As we go through our lives, we endure many ups and downs. Sometimes they are emotional and others are physical but they all leave scars of some kind.

As a child perhaps you were told not to touch the oven when the door was open while cooking because it was hot! But, as children do (also adults) instructions as given to us need to be tested. This being said, that child goes ahead and touches the hot oven and receives a burn! In most cases when that hurtful wound heals it leaves a scar that when seen in the future, reminds us what happened to leave that scar. We are then reminded of the instruction not to touch something hot. Lesson given – wisdom received!

God sometimes uses severe afflictions to purify our hearts and to fit us for service to Him for which we need to be thankful since our eyes are not always open to our sinful ways. There are many reasons we receive wounds that result in scars. The following are some of the reasons this happens.

Reasons we receive wounds:

- *Foolishness and sin*
 - Ps 64:5-9 They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who will see them?" 6 They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep. 7 ¶ But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they shall be wounded. 8 So He will make them stumble over their own tongue; All who see them shall flee away. 9 All men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider His doing.
 - Ps 38:3-5 There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. 5 My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness.
 - Ps 68:21 But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in His trespasses.
 - Prov 6:32-33 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.

Because God is always watching, He sees the evil intent of the unrighteous and brings about situations for their plans to be thwarted or their demise. God tells us that the wise use of punishment will deter evil behavior. He recommends this in His word as an effective way of dealing with children and fools.

- Prov 20:30 Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

Unfortunately we don't always learn the first time. These scars are a reminder that even though we are wounded at times, we CAN heal! As Frank Reagan of Blue Bloods once said "it is hard to learn from your mistakes unless there are consequences!" Scars are the evidence of struggles and risks taken and the adversities overcome.

During the 5th seal in Revelation, those that were in the kingdom of the beast power received much pain and suffering but refused to repent.

- Rev 16:10-11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

- *Testimony of Yahshua*

Paul and all the disciples, even people down through the ages from then have received undue pain and suffering just for standing up for Yahshua. Paul wears these scars of persecution as a badge of honor for others to see.

- Gal 6:17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 16:2,23-31 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 ¶ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- Act 14:19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.
- 2 Cor 11:22-28 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they ministers of Christ? --I speak as a fool--I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in

journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

- *Righteous persecution and suffering*

Righteous suffering, Paul indicates is to increase our patience and our endurance which in turn strengthens us with courage to boldly go through afflictions because others then see God's mercy and comfort which will in the long run build the body of Christ stronger.

- 2 Cor 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. 6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. 7 ¶ And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

Things in this world do not happen "accidentally" because God is in charge of everything. He allows and designs certain persecutions to test, cleanse and purge believers so if we suffer for what is right, we can identify with Christ's suffering. We also then can have joy in receiving a future reward as He did. We should not be ashamed of these trials but glory in the fact that God is approving of your actions.

- 1 Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

How God restores us from our wounds:

God shows compassion to those who love and obey Him but punishes sinners. In the Old Testament He showed this compassion by promising to judge Israel as a nation. He shows His power as the one and only true God to have power over life and death with the ability to help

and protect Israel showing the worthlessness of the false gods that were being worshiped. When we live wisely according to His will we will be restored.

- Dt 32:39 Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
- Ps 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.
- Prov 3:6-8 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 ¶ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.
- Jer 30:17 For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,' says the LORD, 'Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; No one seeks her."

Christ was wounded for us:

Yahshua came into this world for the purpose of being the substitute sacrifice for our sin. We are all sinners but He lived His life without sin due to His constant connection with the Father. It was the fact that He suffered while being sinless that qualified Him to be that perfect sacrifice once and for all. He accepted the punishment for sin that should be ours and obtained our peace in salvation for the future through the shedding of His blood. Christ bore the punishment and penalty of sin thereby fulfilling the law of God.

- Is 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
- Zech 13:6 "And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'
- 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

After Yahshua's resurrection, Thomas still needed to be convinced of the occurrence so when he came into Christ's presence, Thomas said he would not believe unless he sees and touches the scars. Yahshua lovingly invited Thomas to examine His scars. This allowed Thomas to accept the truth but we are told blessed is he who believes without seeing!

- John 20:25-29 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 ¶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Even Yahshua bears scars in His resurrected body! They are there so we will one day see what it cost Him to have our sins forgiven! Praise Yah!

Scripture to ponder:

Job 5:18 For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.

*Scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted**

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