

**“Spring Cleaning for Your Soul” (part 2)
April 26, 2015**

CORE: Our response to life experiences greatly impacts our level of freedom. We can be incapacitated by what we have incorporated.

- We can't avoid life's hurts.
- But we can choose to live UNOFFENDED.

1. How we handle OFFENSE affects us (and can infect others)

Hebrews 12:15- “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

NOTE: “Bitter root” judgments—produced by retaining & nurturing offenses—bring defilement to many! (*Our past judgments impact us here & now!*)

- “**ROOTS**”—formed in our earliest days of life; the ways we learn to “draw from” others; how we receive/perceive input
- “**BITTER ROOTS**”—develop the capacity to drink “harm” from others; capacity to nurture and sustain wounds & resentment toward them
 - Result from our sinful reactions to what has happened to us
 - “**Resentment**” means “to re-sense” (i.e., to rehearse & experience the feelings over-and-over; to “re-send” same message)

2. We will prosper and be in HEALTH as our SOUL PROSPERS. [Remaining offended is a sin...that adversely affects your soul.] (3 John 1:2)

When we are born again, our spirit comes alive—perfectly restored to our Father thru Jesus. But our soul—our mind, will, emotions—is still in need of catching up with what's happened in our spirits.

Why Paul says “reckon” (Rom. 6:11) i.e., “*bring your soul up to date with what has happened in your spiritual life...you are dead to sin and alive to God!*” You are no longer a “co-sinner” with Adam—you are now a “co-heir with Christ!”

Our soul must go thru a process of being healed, restored, & saved (sozo)!

3. (Isa. 30:26) SIN WOUNDS US—causing pain, hurt, sorrow IN OUR SOULS

Ps. 41:4- “Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You”

John 5- Lame man at pool of Bethesda—an infirmity for 38 years. “**Infirmity**”—weak in BOTH body and soul; implies the result of a wounding in his soul

4. OFFENSE IS A SIN THAT CAN ALSO AFFLICT OUR BODIES.

James 5:13-16-

13 Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. **14** Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and **the Lord will raise him up**. And if he has **committed sins**, he will be **forgiven**. **16** Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and **pray for** one another, that you may **be healed**. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

- **"Sick"**- **bodily illness**; **"and if he has committed sin"**—directly connects sin as sometimes the root of illness.
- **"Sins"**- includes: **"offenses"** (to be—and remain—offended)
- **"Suffering/diseases"**- ailments, infections, toxins, parasites; a wide assortment of illnesses (migraines; flus; viruses)
- Jesus couldn't heal in his home town because they had a **"lack of faith"**
- They also **"were offended with Him"** (Matt. 13:54,57) and **He could not do many miracles** there because of **offense**.
- People in Nazareth **remained wounded in soul** (with unbelief) and **sick in their bodies** because they **chose to stay offended with Jesus!** **OFFENSE RESISTS THE ACTIVITY OF JESUS.**
- **AND...OFFENSE OPENS US UP TO THE ACTIVITY OF THE ENEMY.** (i.e., the woman with a wound in her soul—a “disabling spirit”—caused her to be **bent over** for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)).

5. WE CAN BE HEALED OF THE EFFECTS OF OFFENSE

a. His blood cleanses us of the SIN of offense

- More than a **token prayer** (i.e., a child reluctantly forgiving their brother)—**taking the time necessary** for us to **"forgive from our hearts"** (Matt. 18:35)

b. His power (dunamis) RAISES US UP to “live a new life” (Romans 6:4)

TWO MEANINGS OF “dunamis”:

a. The power to turn miraculously; in a new direction; forgiven; overcoming the offense; i.e., getting out of Egypt (*a shift of thought*)

b. "Excellence of soul"-the power to walk in a new way with a new attitude; i.e., entering the Promised Land (fulfillment)

- Involves going **beyond praying for someone to be physically healed**→to seeing his or her "**soul prosper**"!
- Involves a **change of heart**—from desiring their demise to actually desiring their blessing; "**Bless** those who curse you..." (Luke 6:28)

SUMMARY

- **His blood** cleanses us from all unrighteousness (offended thoughts; revenge)
- **His power** replaces those thoughts with a resurrected desire to bless; forgive; heal wounds; our wounded soul becomes excellent; the power to walk in a new way: our soul walking in excellence---unoffendable---quick to forgive instead of being quick to be offended (easily offended).

RESPONSE

Forgiving parents and bosses and exes and pastors and children and teachers. And yourself (i.e., self-hatred rooted in autoimmune issues). And God! Jesus- "Blessed (excellence of soul) is he who takes no offense in Me"!

- Something changes inside of us as we realize we are not the victims we feared we were. And we're not as fragile as we thought we were.
- Not because of our own fortitude...but because of His faithfulness.

No one else can do this for us. **We have the keys.** He's given them to us!