

Bridgeway Community Church
Nona Jones
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Worthy Wounds

INTRODUCTION

Question: How many of you have been wounded by someone?

“The reason why we end up wounded in relationships is because we strip away our armor, we let down our guard, we assume that we are safe with that person...we ended up wounded because we never saw it coming.”

“The Holy Spirit said, ‘See, many times you want to receive forgiveness from me but you don’t want to fellowship with me. Many times you repent to relieve guilt but not to restore relationship.’”

How many times will we transgress against God then go to God for forgiveness and once we get off our knees we skip away as if everything is okay and everything is NOT okay.

We wanted forgiveness but we didn’t want to be surrendered.

Nona’s FaceBook post: The necessity of repentance for relational reconciliation with God.

“Part of becoming mature and mighty in God is beginning to see yourself the way God sees you.”

“I believe that many times we get wounded and we allow our wounds to separate us from God. We allow our wounds to make us feel like the victims but:

Our wounds have the power to lead people to deliverance
Our wounds have the power to propel purpose
Our wounds have the power to advance the kingdom of God

...**IF** we are willing to surrender our wounds to the Lordship of Christ

Philippians 1:12-14, 27 NIV

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear...Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

Philippians is a book that Christians all over the world turn to for encouragement because of its well-known encouraging passages.

Philippians 3:13-14 NIV

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13 BEREAN

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

“I believe the most important part of Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi is not the text itself, it’s the conditions under which he wrote it.”

The 2 important conditions:

1. Paul wrote the Philippian letter while in prison in Rome for at least a year
 - not like prisons of today! Damp, cold, dark, cruel jailers
 - experienced physical and emotional trauma and distress
2. While in prison, other Jewish Christians were undermining Paul’s ministry

These conditions give us a different context to read the book of Philippians from.

Paul is writing the above passages of encouragement from his own wounds.

Question: What are you doing with your wounds? Is God able to work through your wounds to make them worthy?

Question: Are our wounds a springboard to another person's encouragement?

"Paul had worthy wounds because his wounds not only propelled his purpose but it also advanced the kingdom of God."

Philippians 1:12,14 NIV

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel...And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear

"Paul's wounds became worthy because he seized the opportunity to advance the kingdom of God through his wounds."

"I don't know what you've been through, I don't know what you're going through, but I do know this: our God wastes nothing."

Romans 8:28 NIV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

"Your wounds are not your burden; your wounds are your ministry."

"If we're not careful the enemy will make us believe that our wounds are greater than God's power to heal them, but he is a liar."

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NIV

Therefore, in order to keep me [apostle Paul] from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

"We must stop rejecting and denying the wounds, and start surrendering the wounds to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

Because of Nona's personal wounds and her response to those wounds she thought she would be disqualified to do kingdom ministry, but by surrendering her wounds and God's continual grace, God is using her wounds for his glory.

When we believe what has happened is because of our talents it leads to thinking we have done something. But when it comes from our wounds it's show how great God is.

“Your wounds may be painful, but God's power can make them purposeful.”

“What Satan wants more than anything is not your stuff, he wants your voice...this is why the Devil works so hard to get you to stay in a wound of shame, he works so hard to get you to stay in a wound of loneliness, he works so hard to get you to stay in a wound of regret, because he knows that if he can silence your voice that the people who need to hear it in order to know that they have been set free [by] Jesus Christ will remain in bondage and that's what he [Satan] wants more than anything.”

Question: Are you surrendering your wounds to the Lordship of Christ so that he can make them worthy?

Philippians 1:14 NIV

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear

“The wounds that you carry, carry purpose...you should not despise your wounds. You should lift them up to God as an offering.”

- Joseph - sold into slavery by his brothers, prisoner - surrendered his wounds and saved his family
- Peter - denied Jesus 3 times, filled with shame - surrendered his wounds and launched the church of Christ
- Jesus - Jesus washed Judas' feet - surrendered his wounds and saved our souls and makes our wounds worthy

“We have the opportunity to allow God to work through the parts of us that hurt, the parts of us that are in so much pain so that we can become a springboard to others' deliverance, others' purpose, so that we can become a springboard to others' healing through wounds that are made worthy in Jesus Christ.”