***GOD WILL MAKE YOU WHOLE AGAIN!***

**Dr. Don Ott, Christian Psychological Resources: January 27, 2023**

 Every preacher and every psychologist deals with hurting, broken people on a daily basis. Their minds are confused, their moods are conflicted, and their wills are compromised. They wonder: “Will I ever feel whole and healthy again?” For 18 months, I have labored to finish a book on seven stages of human existence from original creation to eternal glorification. The project will synthesize and crystallize in writing insights gained from over 55 years of preaching and teaching Scripture, and over 35 years of clinical practice. Here are four gems of truth gleaned from my research and experience.

**God Created You to Be Whole.** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist forever in perfect fellowship as One Creator. God made us in his own image as triune beings—spirit, soul, and body—to enjoy similar unity and integrity within ourselves. Paul prayed for God to put our broken pieces back together again! *“**May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**Sin Shattered Your Wholeness.** When Satan corrupted the human race, our internal unity was lost. Sin caused separation from the creation, from each other, and within ourselves.*“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior”* (Colossians 1:21). Disharmony, accusation, blaming, self-justification, and even murder were immediate consequences. Our humanity was fractured and the “war within” between competing and conflicting desires began.

**Jesus Christ Came to Restore Wholeness.** God came to live with us in the person of his Son: *“In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ”* (Colossians 2:9-10a). Jesus modeled perfect human wholeness: *“The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him”* (Luke 2:40). Notice his three-fold development: physical, psychological, and spiritual. His life and ministry demonstrated concern for every aspect of our humanity: *“Why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?”* (John 7:23b).

**Christianity Is a Lifelong Process of Becoming Whole.** Christ is our example and we follow in his steps (1 Peter 2:21). Salvation begins with spiritual rebirth and continues as we are “reprogrammed” by the Holy Spirit to live the way God intended. *“Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”* (Colossians 3:10). Scripture is the curriculum the Spirit uses to produce Christlike character in us. *“Humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save your soul”* (James 1:21b). As we grow, health, wholeness, and integrity are restored. *“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13).

Our mind is renewed, our mood is focused, and our will is empowered as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well”* (3 John 1:2). Ultimately, redemption is a “total makeover” of our entire self and even includes a new body that cannot die: *“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 1:6b). *“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him”* (Hebrews 9:28).

 Last Sunday our church family sang lyrics written by Robert Lowry in 1876: “What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!” God can and WILL make us whole again if we let him. This is no “self-improvement” program. You must cooperate and participate in the process, but you cannot accomplish it alone! *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and HE WILL DO IT”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

***Dr. Don Ott directs Christian Psychological Resources (www.drdonott.com) in Russellville and travels internationally as a mental health missionary.***