## ***Life****’****s Healing Choices: The*** *Sharing* ***Choice***

## **November 3, 2019**

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:3-12 NRSV

 (3)"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4)"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (5)"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (6)"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (7)"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. (8)"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (9)"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (10)"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11)"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12)Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Notes:**

*“Blessed are the peacemakers.”* Matt. 5:9 (NIV)

*“God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.”* 2 Cor. 5:19 (CEV)

**THE SHARING CHOICE: I choose to yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others, by both my example and by my words.**

*“I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace! … The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort he gives.”* 2 Cor.1:2-4 (CEV)

**WHAT CAN I SHARE TO HELP OTHERS?**

1. ***How pain got my attention***.

*“Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways.”* Pr. 20:30 (GN)

*“I am glad ... not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God.”"* 2 Cor. 7:9 (LB)

TO HELP OTHERS I MUST BE HONEST ABOUT…

* MY ***FEELINGS***

*“We have spoken frankly to you; we have opened our hearts wide.”* 2 Cor. 6:11 (GN)

* MY ***FAULTS***

*“Each of us must bear the faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!”* Gal. 6:5 (LB)

* MY ***FAILURES***

*“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst.”* 1 Tim.1:15 (NIV)

* MY ***FRUSTRATIONS***

*“I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out… I keep on doing the evil I don’t want to do*.” Rom. 7:18b-19 (NIV)

* MY ***FEARS***

*“I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces…”* 2 Cor. 12:20 (MSG)

2. ***What I learned in the process***.

* I LEARNED ***TO DEPEND ON GOD’S LOVE***.

*"We were crushed and overwhelmed...and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us... and he did help us.”* 2 Cor. 1:8-10 (LB)

* I LEARNED ***FOLLOW GOD’S WORD***.

*"... it was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws!”* Ps. 119:71-72 (LB)

* I LEARNED ***THAT I NEED OTHER PEOPLE***.

*“Remember that in God's plan men and women need each other.”* 1 Cor. 11:11 (LB)

*“Two people are better than one…If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help.”* Eccl. 4:9-10 (NCV)

3. ***How God can bring good out of bad***.

*“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God…”* Rom. 8:28 (NLT)

4. ***How Jesus gives me hope to change***.

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* 1 Peter 3:15a (NIV)

***Who will you tell?***

**Transcript:**

We live on a broken planet, broken by sin, and pain is very much a part of life. There is no such thing as a pain free life. Pain is inevitable and pain is universal. When you begin to follow Jesus, that’s not going to take away all your pain. Jesus transforms it, he gives meaning and purpose to it; we can see the significance of it. But as long as you live here on this planet you will experience pain.

That’s what makes the hope of heaven such a wonderful hope because in heaven there is no sorrow, suffering, sickness, no more problems of any kind. That’s heaven. But we’re still on earth. So you will experience pain here from time to time; maybe more often than not.

The Bible teaches us three great truths about pain in your life; God says three things about your pain, when we give our pain to him, he will use it for your benefit, for his purposes, and to help other people. God never wastes a hurt. We waste hurts all the time. Things hurt us and we don’t learn from them so we have to get hurt again and again. But if we will give God the pieces of our lives, his purpose can transform our problems. And he can bring good out of bad. God specializes in that. He’ll give you peace of mind and make you an agent of peace in the lives of other people.

We’ve been looking at these Beatitudes over the last eight weeks. I want to go back to the one where Jesus said, *“Blessed are the peacemakers.”*  God wants to make you a peace*maker*. You make peace; bring peace to other’s lives. But you can’t do that until there’s peace in your life, until the peace of God is in you. That’s what recovery from the habits and hurts and hang-ups is all about finding the peace of God in your heart. Once you begin to experience recovery, restoration, revival, renewal once you begin to experience spiritual growth and you begin to experience the peace of God in your life, God says I want you to pass it on to other people. In fact, that is the proof of recovery.

How do you know when you’re recovered from a hurt a hang-up or a habit? How do you know when you’re really over that big pain in your life? Simple. You begin to help other people in the exact same area. You don’t waste the hurt. If you’re not helping anybody else with the hurt you’ve been through, you’re not recovered yet. The proof of recovery is you starting to help others.

The Bible says this in 2 Corinthians 5 *“God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.* [that’s where we find our own recovery – peace with God, peace with others, forgiveness, being forgiven by God, learning to let go of people who’ve hurt us.]  *God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.”*

How do you know you’re recovered? You start sharing the area that you’ve been hurt in with others for their healing and benefit. We call this step the **The Sharing Choice is this: “I choose to yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.”** “I couldn’t do that! I’ve got a long ways to go.” Yeah, you do. But you don’t have to be perfect for God to use you. If God only used perfect people in the world, nothing would ever get done. Because there are no perfect people.

God only uses broken people because that’s all he’s got to work with. you don’t have to have it all together. All you have to do is be one step ahead of the person you’re helping. If you gve the idea that you’ve got it all together, you are a big discouragement to everybody else. One of the myths is that you help people through your strengths. You don’t. You help people through your weaknesses. Your strengths are there to better help you; but you help others through your weakness. If I stood here and told you all the things that I’m good at, you would zone me out and start day dreaming of something else.

But, when I stand up here and share how I struggled after college and starting my career; how I was searching for meaning in my life, that gets your attention. If you struggled with the direction of your life, maybe there is hope for me. It is our weaknesses that help other people, not our strengths. So I choose to yield myself to God to be used to bring God’s Good News to others, both by my example and my words.

A great example is 2 Corinthians 1, Paul says he was so discouraged that he was ready to die. He said I despaired of life itself. I was ready to give up; to crawl into a corner and die. That’s how down Paul was and he’s one of the greatest Christian except for Jesus.

He said this *“I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!* *The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we’re in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.* *We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort that he gives. (2 Cor 1:2-4)”* Paul’s greatest ministry flowed out of his pain. The greatest ministry of your life will flow from your pain as well; out of the painful experiences of your life.

Who can be more sympathetic than one who has already been through similar experiences? Who better to help the parent of a special needs child than a parent of one? Who better help somebody in bankruptcy than somebody who’s, been there, done that! Who can better help somebody who’s been abused than somebody who has been abused?

Don’t waste your pain. If you hold it in, hide it, or hold it back, it doesn’t do any good. But if you’re honest to God, honest to yourself, and honest with others, God will use the very thing you hate most. God says, Yes, it happened, but it’s over. I can use it for your benefit, for my purposes; with your willingness to share, I can use it to help other people. That’s what we’re talking about today – how God wants to use what you’ve been through; and bless other people with it.

You may think, “I can’t think of anything in my life I could share that would actually be a benefit to other people.” You’ve got a lot to share. Let me suggest four things that God wants you to learn to share that can help others, and it’s not your strengths.

1. **The Bible teaches that we need to learn how to share with other people how pain got my attention.**

Proverbs 20:30 in the Good News translation says, *“Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways.”* Anybody agree with that verse? Do you have a story about that verse? We don’t change when we see the light. We change when the pain exceeds our fear of change. Why is it that we wait until things get so bad before we finally change? I don’t know. But it is pain that motivates us. Sometimes we have to hit rock bottom, laid out flat on our back before we look up to God.

That’s a stupid thing to do. God says learn from pain quickly. God uses pain for a lot of different reasons in our life. God uses pain to inspect us to see what’s inside of us; and show us, what needs to change. God uses pain to correct us – Don’t do that; do it this way. God uses pain to direct us – This is the path to go on. God uses pain to perfect us, to build character in our lives. But the number one way God uses pain in your life is to get your attention. Pain is God’s megaphone, saying, “*Hello! Are you listening?* He shouts to us in our pain. Pain is the wake-up call. Pain is God’s way of saying something is out of whack here! This is not the way I want it to be!

The prodigal son had everything he wanted; took his half of the inheritance, goes off, and spends it on wine, women and song. He ends up running out of everything and living in a pigpen, eating the scraps the pigs wouldn’t eat; he hits rock bottom. Then scripture says, *“He came to his senses.”*

Why do we wait for things to go belly up before we come to our senses? Why can’t we be smart enough to obey God when things aren’t bad yet? We rarely change until we get desperate. We postpone difficult decisions. We delay things we need to do. We delay counseling until it’s too late. We ignore the problem until it reaches crisis stage.

In the story of Elijah, God let him take a little vacation at a bubbling brook called Kerith. He said, Elijah I want you to go to this place and stay there. Elijah got quite comfortable like he was at a spa. the birds brought food and he didn’t have to go hunt for it. It says the water was clear and fresh and there were trees to sleep under. He was having a good old time. Then the Bible says *“… the brook dried up.”*

Have you ever had the brook dry up in your life? You lose a job, something you were depending on isn’t there anymore. That thing you were relying on is not there anymore. Elijah gets mad at God. “God don’t you love me? I was relaxing and having a great old time. All of a sudden the brook’s not working. God says, “Of course I love you Elijah, but I need you to do something else. As long as the brook was flowing, you weren’t going anywhere. There are things to do, places to go, people to see, jobs to accomplish, missions to fulfill, goals to reach. you weren’t going to move until I finally dried it up.” Sometimes God uses pain to get our attention.

The point is, when you talk of your pain, you’re going to have a willing ear. Particularly if you’re talking about pain that they’re going through at that moment. But for God to use the pain that’s happened in your life for the good of other people and for his purposes and for your benefit, you have to be authentic. You have to be honest. You can’t sugar coat it. You can’t fake it. You can’t pretend. You’ve got to be real and honest about the hurts in your life.

The best example of this is again the apostle Paul. Paul is very honest about five different things in his life. Things that we don’t like to talk to other people about. To help other people I must be honest about these five things.

**My feelings.** I have to be open with my feelings, this is kind of hard for men. Guys don’t really share their feelings very well. Paul says, *“We have spoken frankly to you. We have opened our hearts wide.”* if you’re to have an impact in lives of other people you’ve got to share your feelings.

I have to learn to share **my faults.** That’s a little bit harder. I have to be humble about my faults. *“Each of us must bear the faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect.”*  That’s pretty easy to admit. Be honest about our faults, and specific about them.

The third thing is **your failures.** I have to be honest about my failures. *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst.”*  Paul stood there while they were stoning Stephen. He persecuted the church. He’s very frank about his faults and his failures.

I need to be truthful about **my frustrations.** We’ve got to stop saying, it doesn’t bother me. It’s no big deal. Forget it. Be honest about your frustrations, the things you can’t seem to get control of. Paul says, *“I have the desire to do what’s right, but I cannot carry it out...”* Do you feel that way sometimes? You want to do the right thing but you don’t.

I’ve got to be honest about **my fears.** We hate to tell people what we’re afraid of. Every time you share a fear with somebody else it does two things. It lowers the level of fear in your own life and it encourages that other person. Fear builds when you keep it a secret. Paul says, *“I do admit that I have fears that when I come to you, you’ll disappoint me and I’ll disappoint you.”* Paul is saying we’re all broken. Why don’t we just admit it? If I hold it in it makes me miserable. It doesn’t help anybody else. I need to learn to be honest about my fears and my faults and my failures and my frustrations and my feelings. When I do that, I get healing and other people get healing. Learn to share how pain got your attention.

1. **I need to learn to share what I’ve learned in the process.**

In other words, since that crisis in your life, what have I learned from it? What are the lessons I’ve learned that I can pass on? You’ve heard people say, it’s wise to learn from experience. That’s true. But let me tell you something better than that. Yes, it’s wise to learn from experience. It is wiser to learn from the experience of others. Why? Because I don’t have time to make all the mistakes myself. That’s why you need to read history. That’s why you need to read the Bible. That’s why you need a mentor in your life, no matter how old you are. That’s why you need spiritual partners. That’s why you need a spiritual small group. We learn from each other. Somebody who’s already been through that can help us. What are the lessons that God wants us to learn from pain?

**I’ve learned to depend on God’s love.** There are things in our lives that we’re ready to get rid of – our habits and our hang-ups. We’re ready to toss them aside and turn to God and depend on him only. When we begin to toss them away, we begin to let God be our comfort; we realize that he’s really all we need. Sometimes people slip. So we turn to God and find that he is all the comfort we need. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 Paul says, *“We were crushed and overwhelmed… and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, because then we put everything in the hands of God, who alone could save us… and he did help us!”* That was good? Crushed and overwhelmed? Yes, because then we would turn to God we could learn that he is all we need. We often don’t learn this until he’s all we have. So when we come to this place where we find that God is our comfort –we can go to him and depend on him, depend on his love, you share with other people. The next thing we learn as we go through painful times,

**We learn to follow God’s Word.** God wants to teach us about himself – He does that through his Word. This is tough for a lot of us; it seems like we don’t turn to the Bible until we’re in crisis. We don’t fill our minds with Scripture til it’s too late; the Bible is full of loving warnings. How many, growing up had someone say, don’t do that; then that’s all we wanted to do. As teenagers specifically, there were times my parents would say, “don’t do that.” Learn from my mistakes instead of making your own. The Bible says here are things you can learn from. God gives us warnings and rules He tells us how to live, because he loves us and wants us to have a fulfilled life.

Proverbs 119:71 *“It* [this painful situation that was going on] *was the best thing that could have happened for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws!”*  In our painful times, we depend on God’s love, and then we learn to follow God’s Word.

The third thing we can learn from painful times is, **Learn that I need other people.** This is why it’s so important that we’re in small groups. There are times when I tell Jan, “I don’t want to go. Can I just stay home?” And she goes, “But you are the pastor honey, you need to be there.” And when it’s over “How could I have not wanted to come? This was great.” God uses other people to teach us about ourselves. in relationship, he uses that other person in the relationship. 1 Corinthians 11:11 *“Remember that in God’s plan men and women need each other.”*  He says I created you in my image. I put some traits in men, and some in women. You need each other. Men, need a good, godly, spiritual women to come alongside to talk into your life. Women the same thing. In that, we find we get a bigger, better picture of who God is. We can also see what’s going on in our lives that needs attention.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *“Two people are better than one… If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help him up.”* Usually, we’re not willing to face the truth about ourselves until we’re forced to. Other people can encourage us and pray for us like we talked about last week. They can also point out flaws in our character that help us; and when we need them, when we go through the hard times, they’re the people we call; the people we lean on. They encourage us and walk with us through the hard times. You’re not fully healed, until you’re able to start sharing with other people your hurts. This doesn’t mean you’ve worked them all out of your own life. It means you can say, I’m one step ahead of you. Let me tell you how I got through the difficult time in my life. What do I share? I share how pain got my attention; I share how I learned from pain, and the third thing God wants you to share.

1. **He wants you to share how God can bring good out of bad.**

All of us have examples of this in our lives that we can share. Romans 8:28 is a well-known verse in the Bible; let’s look at it word by word. *We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God* First, it doesn’t say we know that everything will work out the way I want it to. It does not promise that all things will have a happy ending here on earth. What does this verse promise to us? First it says, “We know.” we’re not guessing, we know for certain that we can stake our lives on it. What do we know?

“We know God causes.” your life is not an accident. There’s no such thing as random chance, fate, or accident. God had a plan for your life long before you were even born, there’s a grand design. We make mistakes but God never makes mistakes; and everything that happens in life happens because of choices. Choices that God has made, choices that I have made, and choices that you have made. It’s not by chance; it’s a choice.

What is included in “all things”? My mistakes? Your sins? Yes. The sins of others? Yes. Your genetics and DNA? Yes. All the circumstances throughout history? Yes. All the bad decisions other people make, and I make? Yes. *All* includes *all*. Miscarriage? Divorce? Failure? Yes. God says I fit it all into the plan. “We know that God causes all things”… if we just stop there, that would make God the author of evil and God is not. Nothing that is evil in the world was caused by God.

So look at the rest. “We know that God causes all things to work together for good.” That verse does not say all things are good. They’re not. There’s a lot of bad in the world. It says “God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God.” There are lot of things don’t taste good on their own, but mix together, they taste good. When somebody makes a cake all the individual ingredients taste nasty by themselves, I don’t go into the kitchen and take a hand full of Crisco and eat it. It taste nasty. I don’t automatically open up the refrigerator and eat a couple raw eggs I don’t even take a swig of vanilla straight. It doesn’t taste good. But put them together, you don’t even have to cook it; I’ll eat the batter and like it. When it’s worked together, individual bitter elements actually come to taste good.

There are things in your life you’ve experienced that were bitter and they left a bad taste. God says, I’m bigger than the bad and can work it together and make something good. Can God really bring good out of bad? Yes he can. How about the crucifixion? The death of his Son, that was bad. They tortured him, they spit on him, they beat him, then they hung him as a criminal. Did God bring any good out of that? Oh yes. Just the salvation of the world. God specializes in bringing good out of bad.

*“We know that God causes everything to work together for good for those who love God.”*  This promise is only for those who are giving God the pieces and saying, “God I love you. Take the pieces of my broken life and put them back together.” If you’re not following Christ, if you haven’t given him every piece of your life, it is not working together for good in your life. In fact may just get worse.

God owes you nothing. He owes you zip. If you’re going your own way, he made you and gives you the choice to love him back God’s not going to force you to love him, to follow him, to obey him. But if you’re going to have it your way, you’re stuck with the consequences of it. One day you’re going to stand before God when you die and God will say, obviously you didn’t love me, so have it your way for the rest of eternity. You’re going to last forever either with God or without him.

God says I want to work all these things for good in your life.

One of the great examples of this is the line of Jesus Christ in the Bible. The interesting thing it is the only genealogy that has women listed in it. This makes Jesus’ genealogy unique because four women are mentioned in the line. And when you look at those stories, each woman had a very painful story to tell. Tamar was a mess. She was seduced by a relative; had two different husbands a highly sexual scandal in this woman’s life. Her reputation was tarnished. Rahab, was a prostitute. She on the list for the right she did in helping godly men, so Ruth wasn’t even Jewish; she was Moabite married a Jewish man, which was illegal. Her marriage wasn’t even legally recognized. Bathsheba had an affair with King David who had her husband murdered. Not exactly a stellar story.

God chose these four women to be mothers in the line of the Savior of the world. God weaves even our mistakes, disappointments, hurts, even our sin, into his plans. I want you to think of the biggest mistake in your life right, biggest disappointment; what you’re most ashamed of; the biggest hurts in your life. Realize that before you were born God already knew those things were gonna happen. he planned ahead to bring good out of them. What a God! What a Savior! That is the God we worship; why we can be optimistic and realistic at the same time.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we don’t deny our mistakes don’t hide them in the closet. don’t pretend it didn’t happen; that we never screw up, that other people didn’t hurt us. Be open about our feelings, faults, failures, frustrations and our fears. In spite of that, God still loves me and not have a Plan B for your life. There is no Plan B; only Plan A which each of us are on.

There are people in your life who have intended to hurt you. They intentionally meant to hurt you – physically, emotionally, sexually, verbally. They meant it for bad. But God is going to use it for good. The grace of God gets my attention through pain, that helps me learn from the pain. And it is the grace of God that brings good out of bad. There’s one more thing God wants you to share to get to the final stage of recovery.

1. **God says he wants you to share with others how Jesus gives me hope.**

Jesus gives me the hope I need to change; everybody is hungry for hope. As you go out this week and meet people consider this, everybody has a hidden pain. Everybody you meet needs massive doses of hope. When you share hope, you’ll have a willing audience.

So many feel hopeless. As a pastor I see them all the time. Everybody needs hope to cope. The best hope to help us is the hope from somebody who says, been there, done that. I have a former student named Jade who was a heroin addict. God helped Jade to get clean, but not without struggles, losses, and hurts; she lost her boyfriend who died of an overdose, and she has relapsed a time or two; by God’s grace she is clean and working to help others get clean and stay clean. She can tell you about the facts of heroin addiction and life. She’s been there and done that and she can tell you what’s going to happen; where you will end up, and how you need to change. Jade is using her pain to help others be set freed from their addictions and shame.

That’s how God wants to use you. God wants you to be a hope dispenser. a hope pusher. He wants you to promote hope wherever you go. That is the core message of the church, to be the Hope Giving Hands and Feet of Christ in this world, *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.”*

You know what I’m doing today? I’m teaching you how to witness. Jesus said, *“You will be my witnesses.”* Most people have got it all wrong and they’re scared to death to be a witness, they would rather die than stand up in church and share their love for Jesus; let alone share it with somebody who desperately needs to hear it. They think a witness needs explain why Jesus died on the cross, quote memorized Scripture verses, and know theology and doctrine.

But, you don’t, you don’t have to know a single Bible verse to be a witness. Do you know the difference between a witness and an attorney? The job of the attorney is to press the case, show the evidence, and ask for a decision. That’s not your job, to convince people to accept Christ. That’s the Holy Spirit’s job. You are called and commanded by God, if you’re going to be his child, to be a witness.

What does a witness do? A witness tells what they saw with their own eyes. This is what I saw. I saw the blue car run into the red car. Are you an expert on cars? No. Do you know anything else? No. I just saw the blue car hit the red car. Thank you, you’re dismissed. That’s witnessing.

What does God want you to share with unbelievers in your life and all around you? He wants you to say, “Pain really got my attention. Let me tell you what I learned. I learned that I need people in my life when I’m going through pain. God is all I need. You don’t know God is all you need til God is all you’ve got. I learned that God’s going to hang with me no matter what.” Share the lessons; tell them when something bad happened and God brought good of it. That’s witnessing and God commands you to do it. Tell your story of hope in a hopeless situation; pass it on. That’s what God wants you to do.

Some of you have been going through some really difficult times. Scared to start this journey of healing and recovery because of what it might unveil to you. These eight choices don’t end with this series; they’re choices you’ll have to make every day for the rest of your life. Healing and recovery are an ongoing process. Maybe what you need to do is walk through the steps and get help so you can be healed. get it over with; give it up. Get rid of it.

Has God been trying to get your attention through pain? Is he saying *Hello*? Are you learning anything from your mistakes? Are you learning to depend on God? Are you learning to obey his Word? Are you learning that you need people in your life? Will you trust God to bring good out of the bad that’s going on in your life? Will you trust him to do that? Are you saying, I want it your way, God. Are you trusting in God’s power to make the changes you want to see?

Here’s the big one, the Sharing Choice. Will you allow God to use your mistakes to help other people this week? You didn’t get in the mess overnight. And you’re not going to get out overnight. That’s why these eight Life's Healing Choices are an ongoing process.

Let’s pray this prayer together. In your mind say, God thank you for loving me enough to get my attention. I ask you to bring good out of the bad in my life. Help me to learn the lessons I need to learn. I want to learn to be totally dependent upon you. I want to learn to follow your Word. I want to learn to become all that you made me to be. I want you to use me to help others. Please give me hope when I feel hopeless. Give me the power I need to change. I’m willing to follow your steps of recovery from here on out. I ask you to help me to be more honest than I’ve ever been with you and with myself and with others, about my faults, my fears, my frustrations, my feelings, my failures. Use me to encourage other people. Thank you that you’ll always be with me.

If you’ve never opened your life to Jesus Christ, say Jesus Christ come into my life right now. Take over every area of my mind and heart. I want to follow you and trust you. In your name I pray. Amen.