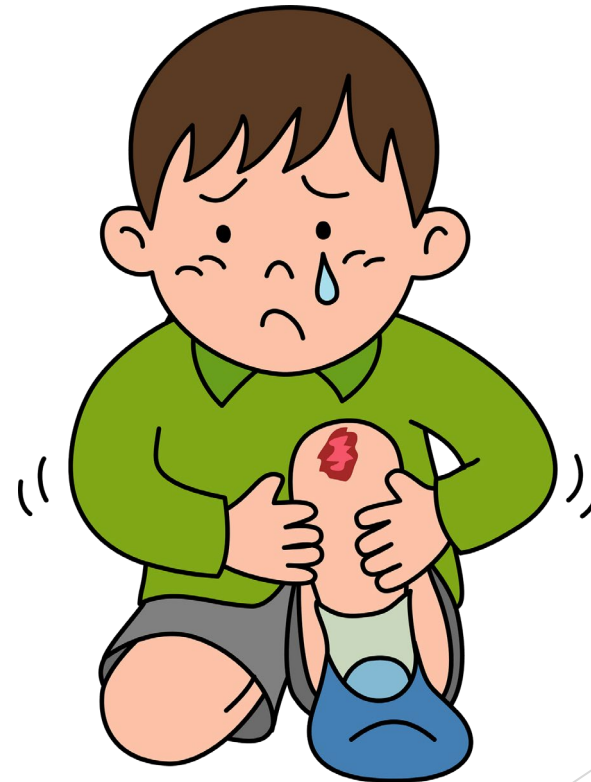


The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is a plain white space where the text is located.

# SPIRITUAL WOUNDS: THE HEALING OF CHRIST

# Introduction

- ▶ What is a wound?
  - ▶ An injury to the body or living tissue caused by a cut, blow, or impact, typically one in which a membrane is broken or cut (such as skin)
- ▶ Generally, happens suddenly and unexpectedly
- ▶ Usually painful and untoward
- ▶ Damages function, structures, and limits range of motion and ability to use body part completely in some cases



# Wound Depth

1

Stage 1: redness or irritation / superficial damage to skin

2

Stage 2: Skin (first line of defense)

3

Stage 3: Subcutaneous tissue

- Includes muscle (which move things)
- Nerves that “sense” and tell muscles to “take action”

4

Stage 4: Bones: foundations which everything is built upon

# Spiritual Wounds

- ▶ Disrupts relationship with God
- ▶ Disrupts how we relate to one another (offended?)
- ▶ Disrupts how we communicate
- ▶ Disrupts our overall mood
- ▶ Disrupts how we sense things
- ▶ Disrupts how we function collectively in the body
- ▶ Disrupts how we control our spiritual muscles and walk with God

Revelation 3:16 9 (NASB)

So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth.



# Examples of Spiritual Wounds

- ▶ Disconnection with God
- ▶ Rejection
- ▶ Disconnection to the body of Christ
- ▶ Diminished sense of value and worth
- ▶ Loss of purpose
- ▶ Loss of hope
- ▶ Inability to forgive (are we holding a grudge?)
- ▶ Shame or guilt
- ▶ Childhood training
- ▶ Taking offense or being offended

## Hebrews 12:1 (NASB)

Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us,



Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit *to them*—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this *would be* unhelpful for you.



# Phases of Wound Healing

- ▶ Covering
- ▶ Clotting
- ▶ Inflammation
- ▶ Growth and Rebuilding
- ▶ Strengthening

# Phase 1: a Covering

- ▶ First, a covering
  - ▶ To stop bleeding
  - ▶ To protect wound during healing process
- ▶ Fellow saints
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ God's grace and provision

# Phase 1: a Covering continued

- ▶ Implications of no covering
  - ▶ Uncontrolled hemorrhage that quickly starts to affect other parts of the body
  - ▶ Wound dries out
    - ▶ No materials or blood flow to heal
    - ▶ Opens door to infection

# Phase 2 - Clotting

- ▶ Clots
  - ▶ Platelet agglutination and fibrin response
- ▶ Saints laying on of hands and prayer are the “fibrin” (love and compassion) of God that strengthens

# Phase 3: Inflammation

- ▶ Inflammation is painful but necessary
- ▶ Vital blood and nutrients rush to area to help start the rebuilding process
- ▶ Too much or too little and the wound won't heal properly (Be in the Spirit?)
- ▶ We need protein and vitamins (building blocks), oxygen, and macrophages to help fight off infection and stop cell death
- ▶ We also need chemical messengers and growth factors to stimulate new tissue growth

Psalm 34:18 (NASB)

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

# Phase 4: Growth and Rebuilding

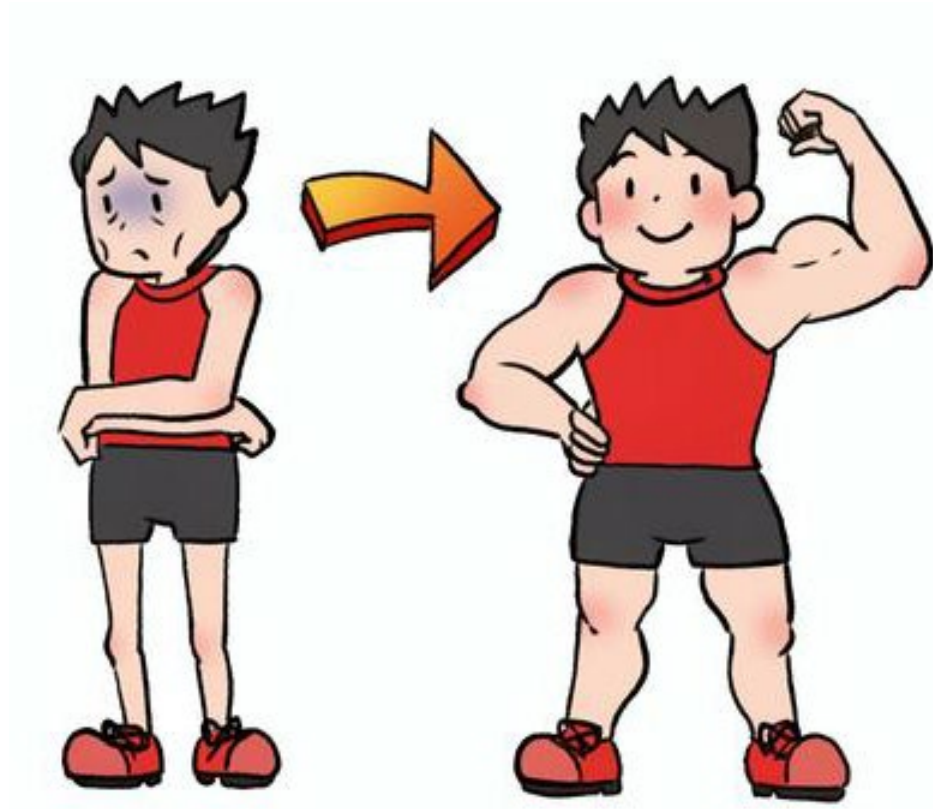
- ▶ Accomplished by continued blood flow to the area with regular fresh nutrients
- ▶ Is there a blood clot in the way of blood flow?
- ▶ The blood of Jesus
- ▶ “By His stripes we are healed”

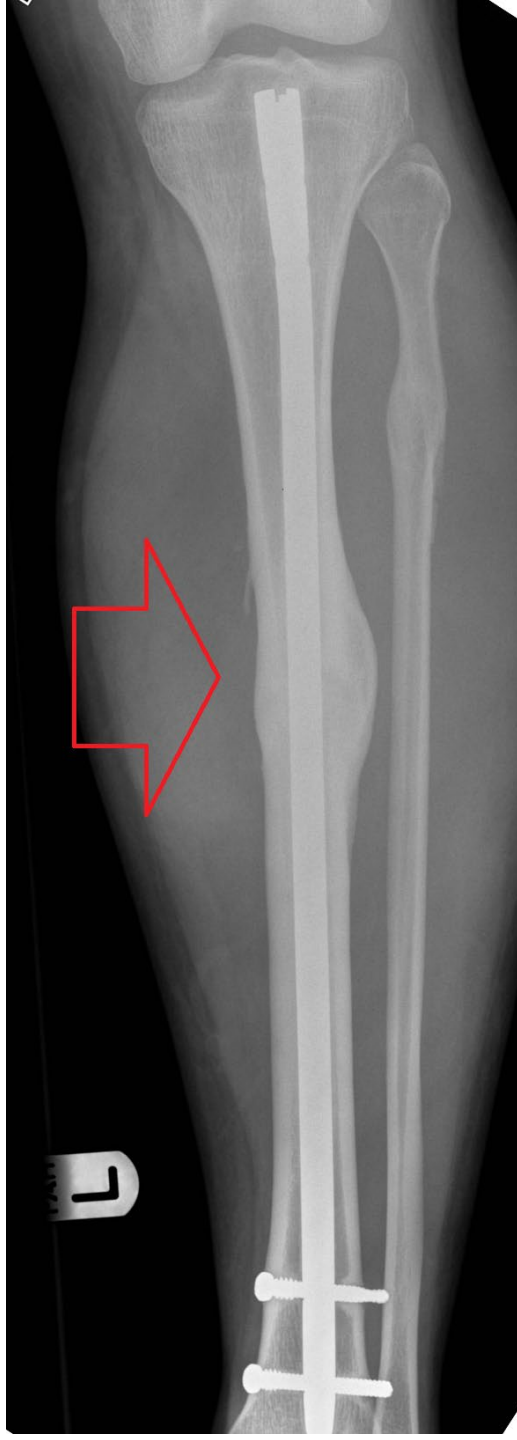
1 John 1:7 (NASB)

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

# Phase 5: Strengthening

- ▶ Happens over time
- ▶ Needs optimum conditions
- ▶ Stretching (sometimes uncomfortable)
- ▶ Puckering
- ▶ Wound gets solidified from surrounding tissues in most cases
- ▶ In most cases, a healed wound becomes stronger than even the surrounding tissue
- ▶ Typically, complete healing takes years





# Interrupted or Delayed Wound Healing

- ▶ Lack of blood flow
  - ▶ Aren't we redeemed for our sins?
  - ▶ Forgiveness?
- ▶ Lack of Oxygen (are we hypoxic in our reading of the scriptures or receiving at meetings what God has for us?)
- ▶ Are there co-morbidities that are delaying our own wound healing?

# Items to Consider

- ▶ Do we have spiritual wounds that we have been trying to heal for years?
- ▶ Have we skipped a step/phase?
- ▶ Are we stuck on phase?
- ▶ Are we out of spiritual covering?
- ▶ Is our wound infected? (hot to the touch, oozing yucky stuff)
- ▶ Have we just accepted it as a “chronic wound”
- ▶ Are we ignoring it?

# So How Do Wounds Actually Heal?

- ▶ Remodeling?
- ▶ Scar tissue
  - ▶ Costly, expensive, and inflexible
  - ▶ Has no sensation ability or control nerves
  - ▶ Essentially useless as it relates to mobility and function

Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your<sup>[a]</sup> faith;

# Contracture

- ▶ The actual way wounds heal
- ▶ Starts from the bottom/bed of a wound and slowly pulls it together
- ▶ In physical wounds, we jump start this process by butterfly band-aids, skin glue, sutures, or staples

James 5:14-16 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, [a]anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; <sup>15</sup> and the prayer of faith will [b]restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, [c]they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A [d]prayer of a righteous person, when it is [e]brought about, can accomplish much.

# But it doesn't stop there...

- ▶ If we simply close a wound on the surface, we have created an abscess
- ▶ Have we had a spiritual wound that we thought was dealt with but has opened up again?
- ▶ What are we doing for our wound? Are we still at the disinfecting stage?
- ▶ Are we still just asking for prayer and forgiveness but not receiving other steps?

# Final Thoughts

- ▶ What spiritual wound(s) do we have?
- ▶ Have these been chronic?
- ▶ Do we have comorbidities that need concomitant management?
- ▶ Are we stuck on a phase or missing key elements?

- ▶ “The disinfecting phase is over. Accept your covering. Let the healing of the blood of Christ flow through you. Accept the aid of the body through forgiveness, grace, and love. Stop the bleed and heal your spiritual wounds correctly for the benefit of proper function and full range of motion for the strengthening and establishing of God’s kingdom on the earth.”