



Weekly Devotion

Weekly Devotion for August 19

By His Wounds We Are Healed

by Darwin VanderWal

*“By His wounds we are healed.” — Isaiah 53:5
(Read Isaiah 53:3-5 and I Peter 2:23-25)*

“By His wounds we are healed.” What an interesting turn of phrase. How can the wounds of someone else bring healing to our wounds? And what kinds of wounds are healed?

This chapter is one of Isaiah’s prophetic statements about the “suffering servant” and paints a picture of the Messiah who will come in the name of the Lord to bring justice, hope, forgiveness, and healing to God’s people. Peter and the rest of the disciples recognized this as a prophecy about the death of Jesus after His resurrection. They saw that His death brings about our forgiveness and the healing of our relationship with God.

But is that all that healed? Consider, if you will, what other areas of our life that our Lord touches with His healing power.

Isaiah says, “He took up our infirmities, ...carried our sorrows, ...was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities... and he brought us peace by his wounds.” In other words, Christ brings healing to everything in our life that damages and destroys our love for and trust in God and our relationship with our neighbors. Here is a partial list: our unconfessed sin, our mistrust and even hatred of others, the emotional or spiritual wounds we have received from or given to others, such as an unkind or critical word said about us, gossip that twists the truth, or a rumor that has no basis in fact.

This truth came home to me as I was meditating on these verses. God brought a picture to mind of small cuts all over my body that represented critical comments that had been made about me behind my back. The wounds were impacting my relationships in unknown ways. As I saw these cuts, I suddenly saw them disappear one by one as I sought the healing touch of God’s forgiveness toward those who had made these hurtful comments. This kind of healing is part of what is offered to all who need it by the gracious love of our Savior, who died so that we might be completely whole.

Journaling:

What hurts do you have that seem insignificant, yet hold you back from offering forgiveness and experiencing a fully restored relationship with others? What will you do about it?

What hurts have you caused others that need your repentance and apology, and the forgiveness from God and others to restore your relationship? What will you do about it?

Prayer:

Speak into my heart the fullness of your healing grace for every part of my life that needs your touch, Lord.

Amen.

