



*Ministering Hope, Healing and Wholeness
to the Relationally & Sexually Wounded
Through the Power of the Cross!*

Journaling, a blessing for the future!

When is the last time you took the time to stop and journal? Have you ever taken the time to stop and journal? If not, ask yourself why. I know that many of us would say that "I am not the journaling type" or I don't have the time to sit and journal". Maybe we are afraid to write down on paper what we are really feeling, in fear that someone may find and read what we have written. However, I am approaching this topic not because I want you to just sit and pour out your heart in a personal journal for something to do. I am addressing this because I want you to see what God has, is and will continue to do in your life.

I know what you are thinking, what does God have to do with me taking the time to journal? Well, as Christians, disciples, followers of Jesus Christ, that would also mean that we are His sheep. *John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* As sheep, we can hear the Lord speaking to us. He speaks to us in many different ways, through His written word in the bible "logos" which He makes come alive for you "rhema", for some its

through words, for others it may be in song, still others may see pictures, or some of you may hear Him as you express yourself through artistic talents. It does not matter how, but that we take the time to listen to His still small voice. *1 Kings 19:11-12 The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. (highlights mine)*

As we prepare to journal we must first spend time settling our hearts, mind and emotions and aligning our heart with His heart. We can then begin to pour out our heart to God and allow ourselves the freedom to express what ever we are dealing in the current season of our lives. Then we must be willing to stop, wait, and listen to what He desires for us to hear from Him. Begin to write down

what ever comes to your mind. Write down every thought, picture, song or expression He gives you. Then trust that it is the Lord himself who has just spoken these things to your heart. I know that some, maybe even most of the time the enemy will cause us to discount the things that we think we hear or see from the Lord as our own ideas or thoughts. However, if you take the time to get into His presence, He is speaking; it is only our hearing that may be impaired. If you will trust that he will speak and take the time to hear Him and write it down He will confirm His word through two or three others at given times.

Just this past Friday as I took the time to be still and know that He is Lord of my life. I prayed, poured out my heart to Him and then waited for His word. As I finished writing, I so wanted to believe that these thought I had just written down were directly from the Lord himself, but I must confess the enemy caused me to doubt. I am grateful that I took the time to be still, listen, and write, because just three days later He confirmed those same words through two other men. His greatest desire is for us to know Him and to be known by Him.

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Financial News

<p>Operating Budget January 01, 2008 thru December 2008 \$109,548.00</p> <p>Current Income to date \$10,551.00 Deficit -\$9,893.02</p> <p>Please help us meet our monthly budget of \$9,129.00 .</p>

<p>Ministry Needs!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Partners • Financial Partners • Teaching Opportunities <p><i>Psalms 117:2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.</i></p>

<p>SPECIAL GUEST Mike Winkler, M.A., M.Div., L.M.H.C Christian Therapists</p> <p>Speaking on "Faith"</p> <p>Mike is a gifted counselor who is doing a considerable amount of work with clients struggling with same-sex attraction.</p>

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The greatest benefit in taking the time to journal is that we sit in the Lord's presence and allow Him to speak to us and record what He says. This discipline in your life will be a great source of encouragement to you in the future. When you can pick up a journal that you have from years past and read it, you will be amazed all that God has done in your lives. He, your Lord, who began a good work in you the day you invited Him into your life will continue that work until the day that you stand before Him face to face. Why not have the opportunity to look back and reflect on all the wondrous things He has done in you and through you as you are becoming more like Him

May journaling enhance your relationship to your Lord and be a blessing for you in the future.



Homosexuality?
By Matthew Walker

Homosexuality; it's not a choice, and it's not genetic! That leaves us somewhere between "Hallelujah" and "Hate Speech". Simply because I have something in my life that can't currently be explained or that I won't examine, doesn't mean I can blame my genes. It has to be genetic, right? If it's genetic, I can't fight. I am powerless against it. On the other hand, if it's behavioral? I can fight it. Change it. The dilemma comes when people stop at "It's not a choice!" and refuse to explore "It's not genetic!", stopping just shy of resolution.

What if the church said, "We finally understand that you didn't choose to be gay". Or if the gay community said, "We believe a person can change their sexuality, but we want to be free to accept or deny the opportunity to change." Instead we are left with the question—"If I didn't choose to be gay and there is no genetic origin, then what happened?"

One major factor in my life was early "Learned Behavior". The people training me to be human taught me key survival instincts, but imparted a healthy amount of dysfunction as well. Today it looks like this. Mothers shaping their son's behavior out of a feminine perspective. Fathers shaping their daughter's behavior out of a masculine perspective.

Homosexuality. Blame God! He won't verbally defend himself. Blame genetics! If I yell it loud enough and long enough, no one will argue. Clinging to genetics absolves me of guilt or responsibility to fix anything. I didn't choose it. It isn't my problem. It is the problem of the hateful people who don't accept me.

The only problem is that it is my problem. I am the only one who has the power to fix it. I know that homosexual feelings were some of the earliest feelings I remember. I also know that my parents were around long before those feelings emerged, teaching and shaping behavior. I learned that they brought me food. They gave me clean diapers. That I could summon them if I cried loudly. At a young age, I was learning to respond to my environment. I gravitated closer to what was comfortable; my mother. I grew up and learned how to take on the world through the eyes of a woman.

If Hurricane Katrina knocked down Maggie's house, it would not be her fault. However, what would happen if the insurance company offered to build her a new house and she refused? Instead she decided that it



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was too embarrassing to ask for help. She will simply live in what is left of her old house. The world would think she is crazy. Perhaps she doesn't really believe that they can build her a new house.

I was like Maggie in that a storm had ransacked my life as well. It was the storm of homosexuality. It blew me off course, ripped at my foundations and destroyed my life. It wasn't my fault. It wasn't my choice. It was my problem. We don't have to spend one more minute living in the tattered remains of a life ravaged by homosexuality. Christ wants to step in and begin to rebuild and repair all that is broken.

Please pray with me for our facilitators, who give themselves unselfishly to this work. We greatly appreciate their dedicated service and without them this ministry would not be possible!

Bob Bryce	Mark Schumacher
Ken Carter	Robin Somerville
Gabrielle King	Scott Shattuck
Bill Nance	Matthew Walker
Cherrie Rowe	

Current Groups through April 28, 08

Our support groups meet every Monday evening at 7:15 p.m. in room 104/108 of the Education Building at Calvary Assembly in Winter Park.

Men's Open Group

Women's Open Group
Restoring Sexual Identity

Men's Closed Group
Quest for Authentic Manhood
Video series

Parent's & Loved Ones Group
Meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in room 105 or 106.