

HEALING OUR IMAGE OF GOD/INNER HEALING

*NEW COVENANT: "They shall all **know** me...says the Lord..."* Jeremiah 31:31-34

According to Thomas Aquinas, this is the main prophecy of the Hebrew Scriptures!

OT times: only certain people (Moses, prophets, high priests, etc.) personally knew God.

Our beliefs about God can cause us to have a whole image of God or a distorted image.

C.S. Lewis: "I want God, not my idea of God." *A Grief Observed*

Jesus: *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.* (John 14:9-10)

St. Paul: *I want to know Christ* (Philippians 3:8-10)

Hebrews 1:3 – *He [Jesus] is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature...*

Jesus came into the world to be the face of God; to show us who God is and how he acts.

At Jesus' death, the veil of the temple was torn in two, signifying the fact everyone can now know God because of his life and sacrifice. We can all enter the "Holy of Holies". We have access to the heart of God.

Abba! Romans 8:15 (Mark 14:36)

Distortions of our image of God:

- Unpredictable God - not safe, keep distance, fear (instead of reverence, awe)
- Legal God – keeps accounting of what we do, waits for us to step out of line
- Gotcha God – waiting to catch us like a policeman; humiliate us
- Removed God – emotionally distant, withdrawn, absent, cold, do not disturb
- Pharaoh God – unpleasable taskmaster, impossible expectations
- All A's God – must live up to the standard, no room for failure, I'm not worthy, longing for approval
- Angry/abusive God – punishing God

These distorted images take root in us through:

- Authority figures: parents, teachers, pastors, etc.
- Teaching, how the scriptures are interpreted to us
- Trauma: our beliefs about ourselves and God lodged in wounds and hurts "Children are good recorders of events but poor interpreters."
- Loss and death: abandonment, grief
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Healing our image of God

- Scripture (Romans 12:2)
- Learning to listen to God in prayer
- Inner healing/forgiveness
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Solid teaching

Resources:

Norma Dearing, *The Healing Touch: A Guide to Healing Prayer* (Grand Rapids: Chosen), 2002.

Mike Flynn & Doug Gregg, *Inner Healing* (Downers Grove: IVP), 1993.

Francis MacNutt, *Healing* (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press), 1974, 1999.

Francis & Judith MacNutt, *School of Healing Prayer, Level I* ®, Christian Healing Ministries, Jacksonville, FL

David Seamands, *Healing for Damaged Emotions* (CVP, 1991).

David Seamands, *Healing of Memories* (David C. Cook, 1986).

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