

WALLS
By Cathy Greer

Good Morning

1. I want to talk about walls.
 - a. There are good walls, God put it in the heart of Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. You can find the entire story in the book of Nehemiah.
 - b. There are controversial walls, certainly in our own nation there is controversy around the building of a border wall.
 - c. Then the battle of Jericho and you can find that story in Joshua 6. The Israelites bring down a huge wall around a city. (Joshua fought the battle at Jericho, the walls come tumbling down.

(SHOW WALL IMAGE)

- d. Today I want to talk about the unseen walls we surround that can surround our own hearts.
 - i. The walls we think protect us from ever being hurt again. The walls that block us from encountering our King Jesus, from deeper intimacy with God and with others.
2. How do these walls get built?
 - a. **For many of us it all starts with our childhood, our family traumas, our own experiences with rejection. It's at that moment our enemy can take advantage of us.**
 - b. It could be harsh words spoken or abuse by those who were supposed to love us.
 - c. Wounds in our childhood or in our personal lives make us vulnerable, and that is when the enemy of our soul like to strikes.
 - i. **Jesus said when Satan lies "he speaks his native language" (John 8:44 NIV).**
 - d. **The enemy of our soul Satan wants us to absorb his lies so that we will build a wall between God's heart and ours.**
 - e. Each lie, like a malignant grain of sand in the soft flesh of an oyster, but instead of a pearl we get another brick or stone on the wall.
 - f. Years later we may have become a Christian, we know God's word but we find ourselves still dealing with this Wall.
 - i. It's a wall that will isolate us and keeps us from Encountering our King, Jesus. It's a wall that keeps you from going deeper with God.

(SHOW WALL IMAGE)

3. Personal Testimony – Family divorce and alcoholism.

- a. Rejection and Abandonment. Ultimately my Father left us.
- b. It makes no sense but as children we have a tendency to turn it inward. What is wrong with me that Dad would abandoned us.
- c. When I came Christ, I had a hard time trusting God because of past rejection and abandonment
 - i. I started trying to be perfect for God. Earning his love instead of receiving it. I was trying to be good enough for my heavenly Father so I wasn't rejected.
 - ii. I was plagued with doubt about God's love for me although I knew what the Bible said.
 - iii. Slowly I began to believe God I received God's love. I discovered he is love so he had to love me but I thought how could anyone else love me when I didn't love myself?
- d. Then one night I encountered Him the Living God. I encountered God's presence. God himself in such a radical, tangible way through the power of the Holy Spirit and the wall began to crumble.
- e. **Encountering the transforming power of God's love changes everything.**
 - i. Suddenly I realized this is what the Christian life was meant to be!
 - ii. Me loving Him and Him loving me. I understood God desired me, rejoiced over me, and treasured me. He even liked me.
 - iii. I now had experienced the depth of God's love like Paul and understood why he said in Galatians 2:20
 - iv. **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20**
- f. Encountering His love is where He asked me to tear down that wall!
- g. I remember laying down Self Rejection. Laying down shame. Giving it to him and not picking it up anymore.
 - i. He asked me to believe and agree with what He said about me in His Word.
 - ii. He asked me to fall out of agreement with the lies of the enemy. These were all the thoughts I perceive were my own but contrary to what was said about Him and His love for me in His Word.
 - iii. I could now say like David, **"I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well."** Psalm 139:14

(BACK TO WALL IMAGE)

4. Some walls in our hearts are built for self-protection.

- a. If you were a victim, hurt by a divorce, by parents, those in authority, people in the church or on the job we can become critical, bitter and judgmental towards people or because of certain situations.
- b. **The stones of unforgiveness can feel like self-protection.** Some people never want to be hurt again so they build a wall. Walls to a degree can keep us from being hurt, they keep out the bad things but they also keep out the good!
- c. Love can't get through. It comes and bounces off the wall.
- d. Forgiveness is not an option according to Matthew 6:15 Jesus says we need to forgive if we want to be forgiven.
- e. Some of you may need to make a decision to forgive others, yourself or even God. Today you can remove those stones.
- f. **Choosing to come out from behind the wall of self-protection and take down these stones will take you from victim to victor.**
- g. We will be free to Encounter our King, Jesus and experience his love in a deeper way.

5. It's time to tear down the wall fall out of agreement with the lies of the enemy.

- a. We hear things like, "If you really knew me you wouldn't love me." "I just can't forgive myself for that." "I don't know why I don't feel good enough but I just never do." "Why did this happen to me? What is wrong with me?" "I love God it's people I have a problem with."
- b. Of course, these are lies and when we agree with them it keeps the wall up! It's time to fall out of agreement with these lies.

(BACK TO WALL IMAGE)

- c. John said, "we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us" I John 4:16,
- d. It time to believe God agree with him and no longer agree with the enemy, accept his love for us and accept ourselves. It's time to stop rejecting ourselves. Walk in our true self our God-given identity and destiny. No more hiding behind this wall.

6. Jesus wants us to unite with Him. He wants our true self to come out from behind these walls. Why?

- a. He wants to share with the world all that only you and He together can offer.
- b. Paul said, "I am the chief of all sinners" We all know we have fallen short and still do at times.

- c. Paul celebrates in Romans: **“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8**
 - d. But Paul also said, “God loved me and gave himself for me!” Galatians. He experience this love.
 - e. Paul based his life on his confidence, that Jesus went to the cross because he loved him! —a simple yet elusive truth for some of us.
7. **True self-acceptance joyfully receives into the deepest places of our heart the truth of who God says we are.**
- a. Paul believe God, agreed with His love, experience his love and was compelled by His love. He knew he didn’t deserve his love but He received the love. He knew nothing could separate Him from that love.
 - b. Nobody could tell Paul he wasn’t loved by God. He was rejected and persecuted but it didn’t affect him because he was walking in confidence and his true self as a son of God. He knew he was fully accepted and loved by God.
 - c. That love compelled him to share the gospel with the gentiles and to a degree we are all here because of the ministry of Paul.
 - d. Can you imagine if Paul was saved but then shrunk back because of his past, because of shame, guilt or continue walking in self rejection. What if Paul would have wasted his life sitting behind this wall in self-protection, self-hatred, shame, guilt or self-rejection? What would have been lost?
8. You have lived a unique story; The Father is telling you the truth today with love. He wants your true self to come forth. He wants to bring down your wall or any stone still left there. **(SHOW WALL IMAGE AGAIN)**
- a. **Do you see words on this wall that you can identify with? Maybe the Lord is touching something you don’t see here? Maybe for you one of those stones is unbelief?**
 - b. Can you see the crippling effect of just even one of these stones?
 - a. Where are you at in your love relationship with God?
 - b. Are you longing for a deeper relationship with your King, Jesus? Maybe you know there’s more but feel something is blocking you?
9. Matthew 20:29-34. Jesus often asked people, “What do you want me to do for you?”
- a. Can you Imagine Jesus asking you that question right now?
 - b. Think about what you would like Him to do for you in your relationship with Him today?
 - c. Others who have Encounter God’s love describe the love they experience like this

- i. Charles Finney said, "Indeed, it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love.... No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love."
- ii. St. Augustine, "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." (Augustine)
- iii. Charles Spurgeon said, "Nothing binds me to my Lord like a strong belief in His changeless love." (Charles Spurgeon)
- iv. Johnathan Edwards said, this "There, in heaven, this infinite fountain of love — this eternal Three in One — is set open without any obstacle to hinder access to it, as it flows forever. There this glorious God is manifested and shines forth in full glory, in beams of love. And there this glorious fountain forever flows forth in streams, into rivers of love and delight, and these rivers swell, as it were, to an ocean of love.
- v. What were these men experiencing?
- vi. Of course, there is Paul who again was so overtaken by God's love that he prayed that we would all experience the immensity this love. **"that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God"** Ephesians 3:17-19
- vii. Again, what you would like God to do for you in your relationship with Him today?

10. CLOSE

- a. I am going to ask as we close in worship to take a moment to ask God the following questions
 - i. Do I Have a Wall in My Heart? **(SHOW WALL IMAGE)**
 - ii. Are there any stones left I need to give him?
 - iii. If you need to forgive then give him that stone.
 - iv. Let remove those things that hinder love! Let's break down these walls in our hearts today!