

Dealing with the soul

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Adapted from an audio teaching by Waltraut Reimer

When Adam and Eve were created, God breathed His breath into Adam and he became a living being, a living soul. His spirit, soul and body were in unity and he and God were joined and in relationship. When they were separated because of sin his sense of who he was became fractured. That still applies to us today.



God wants to bring about a restoration of how it originally was. Our spirit is to be joined to the Lord so we can become one, our soul will be encompassed by our spirit so that it can be re-integrated and we can come into oneness and unity.

When I was looking at this in my own life, I first worked through the different steps of transformation, cleaning the gateways of my soul, looking at my behaviour patterns and getting rid of the familiar spirits in my soul. Those things were hindering me being led by my spirit. Instead they made me draw from the outside, from where all the hurt and damage had come into my life to begin with. Once I had worked through those things I got to a point where I had to deal with the essence of who God had created me to be in my personality.

I had no problem when God said 'here is this sin which is a hindrance to our relationship so you need to get rid of it'. But when He started to put His finger on the very essence of who I was, it became more difficult. I needed to realise the difference between living and reacting out of how He had created me to be redemptively (which has to do with my redemptive gift or the way my soul is wired up to function) and my soul using my redemptive gift for its own independence.

Even after I had dealt with the gateways, the familiar spirits, the thoughts, intentions and motives of the heart, I never really became fully integrated as a person until I dealt with what Ian Clayton calls the dragon`s well. That is the very essence of our being and the way God made us to be, which the enemy uses to draw us into living independently of God.

For me it looked like this: My redemptive gift is prophet-teacher. I am wired to find things out, to understand them, to see how they work so that I can explain them to others. I am wired to solve problems and find solutions. Today I know that my need to know things came out of insecurity. That need to know, to have information, was very strong! When God started to put His finger on that, I had to surrender it.

In another article I will talk about the time when God took me through the dark cloud, a four month period of not knowing anything so that this one area of my soul would be exposed and die. God said 'come into this dark cloud because now I am going to test your soul and our relationship so that you can see what it is based on'. I was surprised and shocked by the level of lack of trust that I actually had. I had all the trust in the world when I understood what God was doing, when I knew. But when I didn't know, all of a sudden the need to know and to understand was the primary motivating force I had. I had to die to that need. I needed to learn to trust God alone, to trust Him when I did NOT know. That meant that I had to come to the point where I would stop using my redemptive gift, or the way He had wired me, to control my own life.

It will be a similar process for you, if you truly want to come into everything the Lord has for you. That process starts with going through different layers of transformation. You may have stripped away the surface behaviours, you may have even looked at the aspects of your heart and worked on iniquity or your genetic material, but having done all that, it comes down to still having to surrender who you are in that area of your soul that is still independent.

All the inner healing and other things we can go through in transformation brings us to that point where we can actually, totally yield and surrender. Until you remove all the defence- and coping mechanisms, get rid of the familiar spirits, work through the motives of your heart and the trading floors, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to totally yield.

But when I finally did yield it felt so different. After that the level of my relationship with God increased dramatically because I no longer needed to work on my own security, my peace, my rest, my joy. All that came in the relationship, He was truly meeting my needs.



When God took me into the dark cloud, that four month process of not knowing anything, He just said 'be still, I'm not going to tell you anything, you're in the dark cloud here'. My soul reacted dramatically because of my need to know in order to be secure. During that time those deep areas in me suddenly got highlighted and eventually, after four months, I truly yielded and surrendered.

Whatever those deep areas are in each of our lives, it is always fear based.

People have different redemptive gifts. That is not referring to the gifts of the spirit, but to the way God created us, the way we are wired. In fact, we *are* God's redemptive gift to the world. God wants us to be us, the way He made us and to live and act redemptively. As long as our soul is still using our redemptive gift for its own purposes we are striving, not resting. Our motives are impure and we don't really act as a redemptive gift to the world, because the soul still reigns over the spirit.

For me, having the redemptive gift of prophet-teacher, the essence or the key area was needing to know or having revelation and understanding. When I had that I felt safe. For someone with a ruler gift, the key would be to be in control because the ruler is supposed to bring rule and government. When that is not totally surrendered, the soul takes over and they control situations in their life independently from God. As long as they are in control themselves, they feel safe.

The danger for someone with the redemptive gift of mercy is that co-dependency takes place if the gift is not fully surrendered. Their motive will be 'I feel good about myself when I'm helping somebody.' But how do they feel, when they are not helping somebody? So they need to look at. What was their motive of helping someone in the first place?

This really gets down to the very essence of the motives of our heart and that is ultimately the key to wholeness. The issue to be overcome is the independent acting of the soul. As soon as I had truly dealt with that I found that the process had separated my soul from my spirit and re-integrated it correctly. Now I was re-connected to God in a totally different dimension. Whereas in the beginning I needed to know to be secure, now the need to know was gone. Because it was gone, God was free to unveil things and give me all kinds of revelation and knowledge. The revelation that I have experienced has multiplied exponentially since my need to have it has gone. Now I am able to receive so much more than before, and that had been amazing already.

But to get to that point of freedom, of trust, of feeling secure, your soul has to die to independence and to being in control. I emphasise that this was not a light process. It was a really hard one for me. But once my striving stopped I came into total rest and that is absolutely vital. Everything has to come out of rest in relationship with God as the primary, foundational way of being. And that rest cannot develop as long as the soul wants to have its demands met, as long as the soul is in control. Rest only comes out of a relationship of trust with God.

Everything about where my identity comes from in terms of performance, of works, was challenged in this because I was not doing anything wrong at all. It was my motive for doing it which was wrong; it was to meet my own need for security and safety.

For example, a person with the redemptive gift of exhorter exhorts in private settings, in groups or even in writing. There is nothing wrong with that; God made them that way. But as long as their deeper motive for doing that is to validate themselves, to get their identity, purpose and importance out of that, the soul is still in control. The soul takes for itself what God made for His own glory and it becomes a negative trading floor.

The ruler might rule to meet his own need, the person with the redemptive gift of giver might do all his giving to meet a deep need of his soul, someone who is a servant might serve to meet a need of his soul, a teacher might do all his teaching out of a need to be in the forefront and to be known etc. If someone is getting his or her identity from doing instead of being, then God will deal with that major issue.

When I personally was at that point I was doing exactly what God wanted me to do. I was living and reacting according to my redemptive gift, according to how God had created me. But I did not realise that I was not integrated in my personality. My soul was still ruling over my spirit in the sense that it used my being a prophet-teacher, my redemptive way of living, for its own ends.

Our soul needs to be cut off from our spirit and re-integrated, so that we become a harmonious unity of spirit, soul and body. I can personally testify to the fact that it feels totally different once that has been done. Now I feel whole and unified, I am totally resting in Him, no longer striving, and I have a deep trust in God without having to "help Him out" in any soulish way. Whereas before my soul needed and used my redemptive makeup to feel validated and secure, now I am just resting in Him in total trust.

God wants all of us be at rest in our relationship with Him. It feels great to be at rest, it really does!

But this whole process is not easy. You really have to identify who you are, what your redemptive gift is and how it functions in you and then you need to surrender that so

that you are no longer using it for independence. You then carry on to outwork who you are. You don't stop doing what you are doing, you just do it from a different motivation and a different level of relationship with God. As long as you are in control God cannot be in control. Until you surrender and allow God to be in control, you are not experiencing the fullness of your relationship with Him.

If you want to go through this process to become totally free, then spend much time with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, spend time in intimacy and relationship and then be proactive about this whole process. Tell them you want to, you are willing to go through whatever you need to go through, even if it hurts. Being proactive will speed the process up.

Whatever the essence is of who we are, the basic truth is always that we have to come to a point of total surrender so that soul and spirit get separated and re-integrated to become one. Then we will no longer need to work at bringing about our own security or validation of who we are. All that and much more comes with the relationship; He alone will truly meet all our needs.

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