

BLOW YOUR HEALING ON OUR MINDS AND HEARTS, HOLY SPIRIT

Hosea 6: 1, Hebrews 12: 5-11 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

A man and his dog were walking the beach when they came upon a newcomer walking the beach for the first time. The owner of the dog was proud of his dog's newly mastered feat, so he said to the newcomer, "Stay here a few moments and watch this!" Then the man with the dog tossed a piece of driftwood far out into the ocean. His newly trained dog immediately ran on top of the ocean, fetched the wood, and ran back. The newcomer walking the beach just shook his head in disbelief. Then the owner of the remarkable dog repeated the procedure two more times. Finally he asked the beachcomber, "Did you notice anything unusual?" The newcomer responded, "Your dog can't swim, can he?" Some folk never expect the miraculous to happen. They just know how to find the negative and they latch on for dear life like a bull dog on a bone. This whole subject of God moving in our hearts and minds so that our minds dwell on Him is a subject most people don't get. If you let God begin to move in your hearts and minds this weekend, don't expect everyone back home to get it. You may hear one of your parents or a friend at school or work say, "You can't have fun anymore? You'll get over it." I want to assure you that no one, in the entire world, can have more pure fun and joy, without a guilty conscience, than the person who says, "Come, let us return to the Lord." Similar words were once spoken by the prodigal son who said, "I will arise and go to my father." A true repentant return, a true revival, will be more remarkable to you yourself, and to others, than any dog that could ever walk on water. Dogs don't walk on water, but God can move in our lives until our minds do something even more remarkable; our minds begin to dwell on Him.

Hosea tells us in Hosea 6: 1 that He knows what will happen when we return to the Lord. He no longer is focusing on the tearing or the wounding, but on the healing and the bandaging. "For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us." So what will the Holy Spirit blow in? What will dawn upon us, and what spring rains will happen when His healing starts to come to our hearts and minds? Again today, I only have one additional movement to add to God's symphony when His movement continues in our lives. The first movement is—**GOD'S MOVEMENT WILL BRING PAIN**. Now we turn to the second movement as God begins to renew and restore our minds to dwell on Him. What is this second movement of God?

GOD'S MOVEMENT WILL BRING PRESCRIBED TRAINING. Turn with me to Hebrews 12: 5-11. When you see the word training, camp on it, because it is a special word. You may notice as I read that this passage has everything to do

with discipline, parental discipline and the discipline of God. But if God is moving to renew our minds and hearts, He moves, not only by loving discipline, but He moves through His prescribed training. God the Holy Spirit is our personal Trainer when we are saved, but He prescribes loving disciplinary training through multiplied millions of His personal training assistants. Let me read the passage. The word for God's prescribed training is found in Hebrews 12: 11. I read, "All discipline for the moment, seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." What is this Greek word for trained or training? The Greek word is **gumnadzo**. This word comes from the root word **gumnos**. This word means nude, bare, naked, and it was the Greek way of saying a gymnast must strip down to play or compete in the games. Most of us get the picture. When we go to practice a sport in the gym or the recreation center, we bring gym clothes, and we strip down. We don't try to do gymnastic training in our winter or our summer clothes. **Gumnadzo**, our word in our text today, means to train over a period of time. You know what it means to train in weight lifting, in cross country running, in swimming, in pole vaulting, and in so many other sports. Training coupled with loving discipline speaks of God's prescribed training which is not a lick and a promise, or something we can get out of—it is His way, and one way or the other, He will bring His prescribed training to every believer who prays for movement in His heart and mind to follow Jesus.

How many of you here today plan to go on to college? Did you know what training in college is called? You choose a field of study until you get your bachelor's degree, a BA or a BS in your discipline of study. Do all graduates do their training in their 20's? Many do, but many also begin college as a second career in their 40's and 50's and 60's. Do you know the oldest graduate of college? I remember when my daughter Amy got her master's degree. My wife and I were there and we watched a lady in her 80's get her BA degree. That memory set my mind to rolling. I decided to research the oldest person on record to receive training in a college degree in a certain discipline. Was the oldest person, Hazel Soares, the 94 year old woman who graduated from Mills College, a liberal arts college in Oakland, California? I was so close, but she is the second oldest graduate. Hazel Soares was quoted on May 15, 2010 when she got her degree as saying, "It's never too late to earn your college degree." Nevertheless, my experience back in Kansas led me to the oldest graduate. Nola Ochs of Kansas became the oldest college graduate when she graduated from Fort Hays State University in Kansas in 2006 at age 95, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Ochs, then at age 98, in 2009, topped her former academic feat when she received her master's degree in liberal arts studies from Fort Hays. Nola began college in 1930. After her husband died in 1972, she went back to college taking correspondence courses. She finally went

and moved in on campus at Ft. Hays State University and completed her work. Her dream was always to finish college. She did, plus got her masters. It was her dream come true—a long hard climb. Her dream as a master's graduate was to be hired as a story teller on Caribbean cruise ships. Her last job was a 9 day Caribbean cruise.

Why is it important to learn from Nola Ochs and Hazel Soares? It's all because millions of believers believe God's prescribed training is first of all just for little children, ages 2-10. That's a tragic lie. God has a much larger dream than Nola Ochs. His dream is that His prescribed training is to be ours, not just in growing up in our homes, with loving discipline there, but that we would never come out from under His prescribed loving discipline training as long as we have breath. If our minds and hearts are to be changed to be like Jesus, God's Word tells us—in Hebrews 12: 8 that we must receive God's discipline. I read, "But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons/daughters." So I want to introduce us here at Snow Camp 2012, to lifetime training from our School of Discipleship Founder and President, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Master Personal Trainer for every believer. He has millions of personal assistants, who are mentors and trainers and parents, whether believers are 3-5 years old or as old as Nola and Hazel.

Now what is this personal training and loving discipline supposed to produce in all of our lives? It is to produce four results in the lives of all believers: These four results are never fully completed until we go Home to heaven. But God does produce times when we know certain milestones have been achieved. We know that being released by our parents in marriage is a major milestone. It isn't the end of God's loving discipline, but it only means, we have passed a significant point in our lives that is wholesome and needed. Do we have to cycle back and relearn things we should have learned earlier? At times, we do, absolutely. Having children or grandchildren is another milestone. Have we now finished all our courses? No! But these are significant moments when we move into new roles in which much of our time is being an assistant to our Divine Personal Trainer. Nevertheless, talk to any honest parent or grandparent and ask them if God's training is totally over? No! God is still planning, designing, and orchestrating more training in our lives, more loving discipline, and His prescribed training is tailor made for each of us at every age if we are willing to receive His loving discipline and training or willing to be one of His millions of assistants to be used to train others. What are the four results God designs from His prescribed training?

Notice in verses 5-8 of Hebrews 12. **The first result is full acceptance of God's prescribed training.** I read, "And you have forgotten the exhortation which is

addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.” The first result of accepting the rod of God from Him, or from His assistants, parents or mentors is that the war is over of “I’m too big to be disciplined.” Proverbs 12: 1 declares, “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.” As long as we think we are too big to need correction, the first result is not there, and God will recycle our lives—like courses avoided or flunked in college. We get to go back and learn what we have not learned and what we have hated or shunned or tried to sneak out of. God will always take us back to pick up what is missing in this first result He requires—full acceptance of God’s prescribed training.

The second result of God’s prescribed training is full respect for authority.

Notice verse 9 of Hebrews 12. “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?” As long as any of us mock God’s plan or think we are above it, or can’t understand what the big deal is that we have to learn God’s prescribed way, then we are flunking the course and God must recycle us back into prescribed training to fully respect parental authority and the authority of any mentor, teacher, or assistant God appoints as well as of God Himself. What we dwell on in our minds will never be godly as long as we buck God’s prescribed training in our lives or in another’s life. Those who stand in the way of God are not advancing the cause of His dream for any life. Parents who oppose loving discipline of their sons or daughters will become targets of God’s judgment as was Eli when he failed to discipline his grown sons. Proverbs 19: 18 declares that not to discipline while there is hope is to desire the death of the one we neglect to discipline.

The third result of God’s prescribed training is sharing in God’s holiness.

In verse 10 of our text I read, “For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.” The sad part about not being disciplined is what I read in the context of Hebrews 12, down in verse 14 where I read, “Pursue peace with all men, and the holiness or sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.” How many of us here today have bucked God’s prescribed training of us? Can I tell you?—It is stupid to buck the Lord. It is less effective than beating a dead horse. God told Saul who became Paul that he was kicking against nails. How effective is that? It’s like lying down on cactus plants. I recently read an article called, “What To Do If You’re Riding a

Dead Horse: The Top Ten List. 10. Buy a stronger whip. 9. Change riders. 8. Declare, "This is the way we have always ridden this horse." 7. Appoint a team to revive the dead horse. 6. Ignore the dead horse...What dead horse? 5. Create a training session to improve your riding skills. 4. Outsource contractors to ride the dead horse. 3. Appoint a committee to study the dead horse. 2. Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses. 1. Harness several dead horses together for increased speed." If you are fighting God's prescribed training on any level, realize you are not going to be able to share the holiness He requires in you.

The fourth and final result of God's prescribed training is the peaceful fruit of righteousness that comes when we are so trained, exercised, or so coached in the gym training God designs. Hebrews 12: 11 declares, "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." When we are trained by God's prescribed training, we avoid His judgment here on earth that comes to everyone who fails to examine themselves mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and openly before God when it comes time to take the Lord's Supper. I Corinthians 11: 30, 32 speaks not of God's prescribed training program, but of His last ditch discipline program—teaching us the hard way when we refuse to be honest with Him. I read, "For this reason—"eating the bread and drinking the cup of the Lord unworthily") many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep, or they die prematurely...But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, in order that we may not be condemned along with the world." Weakness, sickness, or premature death is not part of God's prescribed training. No, it is all God has left when we oppose His prescribed training. I read of a husband who finally began to learn from God not to fight in his old way with his wife. God was healing his mind. His son noticed the change and reported it like this. "In the middle of one of my parent's memorable disagreements, my Dad jumped up from the table and grabbed 2 sheets of paper and said to my Mom: 'Let's make a list of everything we don't like about each other.' Mom started to write. Dad glowered at her for a few moments, but finally he began to write on his paper. Mom wrote again. Dad watched her, each time she wrote something, so did he! Finally they both stopped. Dad said, "Let's exchange lists." So they did. As soon as Mom saw Dad's list, she yelled, "Give me back my list right now!" All down the page my Dad had written, "I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU!" That day God did a work in my Dad and my Mom. Forgiveness brought a real healing!" Who can resist this kind of love? Who can resist the change in our minds when we accept God's prescribed training, and become respectful of authority, begin to share God's holiness and see the peaceful fruit of righteousness growing in our lives? Bow your heads. Do you need more pain before God's healing and prescribed training can begin and win?