

Keys to the Transformation of the Soul

Doug Balzer
Soul Care Equipping Conference

Story of WCD - Alliance

“be” vs “do”

Top priority: re-pneumatization of the church

My Story

End of rope - disproportionate emotions

Sought help - discovered healing presence of Jesus

The Dream

Making disciples that make disciples - true transformation - THEN be on mission.

Every church - ministry that EQUIPS people:

Freedom from...

Freedom to...

Soul Care EQUIPPING Conference

Mt. 10:8, “*Freely you have received; freely give.*”

Context: proclaim gospel, healing sick, cast out demons

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
in you I trust, O my God.*

Psalm 25:1

It is a sobering thing to ask ourselves this question: Have I learned enough about how to wait on God in my own life to be able to call others to wait when that is what's truly needed? Have I done enough spiritual journeying to lead people on this part of their journey?

Ruth Haley Barton
Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership

Realities of the Soul

We reproduce what we are

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit...A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Lk. 6:43-45

Out of the overflow

Metaphors of the Soul

Suitcase (Reimer)

Strengthening / healing / emptying

Ephesians 3:16-18 - strengthen inner being

Capacity. Displacement. Healing.

Garbage / Rats (Hammond)

Enemy preys on vulnerabilities / garbage

1 Pet. 5:8 - enemy looking to devour

Inertia - Heb. 12:1

Throw off hinderances/run race - stuck/weight

Mt 11:30 *"My yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Soul Care Themes

Repentance / Forgiveness

Family Sin Patterns / Blessing

Lies / Identity

Bitterness / Forgiveness

Healing Wounds / Processing Grief

Defeating Fear

Deliverance

Soul Care Principle #1:

Your Father is FOR the Transformation of Your Soul

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23)

Your Father is FOR the Transformation of Your Soul

Luke 7:1-9 - Story of Centurion

To operate in faith is to understand authority.

God is both good and holds all authority. Do you believe this for your own life?

Matthew 28:18 *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."*

Jesus has all authority, therefore the enemy has none except that which we give him.

"What got you here won't get you there."

Marshall Goldsmith

Your Father is FOR the Transformation of Your Soul

Deep transformation vs behaviour modification
"God does not want a slightly better version of you; he wants a transformed version of you." (Sanders)
"God is far less concerned about your behaviour than you think he is. He is much more concerned about your heart than you'll ever know." (Reimer)
God is powerful enough to redeem every situation.
Bonding with my boys - distant, intimacy barrier
- now no memory of it.

Soul Care Principle #2:
Self-awareness is a key to life change

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 - "unveiled faces"

"But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Soul Care Principle #2:
Self-awareness is a key to life change

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 - "unveiled faces"

Grow in self-awareness
Live in reality - authenticity - your true self
"Self-awareness is the gateway to life change; it doesn't guarantee it but you can't get there without it."
(Reimer)

Soul Care Principle #2:
Self-awareness is a key to life change

Walk in the light - 1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Soul Care Principle #2:

Self-awareness is a key to life change

Walk in the light - 1 John 1:5-7
There is no freedom in darkness
Welcome the light of God upon darkness in the soul
God cannot heal that which we will not admit
My story: casting out shame
Go after roots not merely symptoms
Say "NO" to fear and shame - Genesis 3

What are you afraid of? Of leaving that which will soon leave you? What are you afraid of? Of following too much goodness, finding a too-loving God; of being drawn by an attraction that is stronger than self or the charms of this poor world? ...I implore you, be afraid of nothing so much as this false fear — this foolish, worldly wisdom that hesitates between God and self, between vice and virtue, between gratitude and ingratitude, between life and death.

Francois Fenelon

Soul Care Principle #3:

The Power & Presence of Jesus Transforms the Soul

2 Corinthians 3:18 - "contemplate the Lord's glory"
God alone can heal the soul- story -vision at the farm
God redeems wounds and brokenness
"For Moses the presence of God was the promised land." - Ruth Haley Barton
So pursue the face of Jesus this week

Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear to enter the Holy of Holies. God wills that we should push on into His presence and live our whole life there. This is to be known to us in conscious experience. It is more than a doctrine to be held; it is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day.

A.W. Tozer
The Pursuit of God

Soul Care Principle #3:

It's the Power & Presence of Jesus that Transforms

How can we invite his presence?
Ask. Pursue. Surrender. Confession. Word.
Thanksgiving. Worship. Community.
Communion. Silence.
Pause and ask...Jesus, guide me in your pathway
Many pursue freedom from...but not freedom to...
Commit to Plan A. There is no Plan B apart from him.



Reepicheep
Oil canvas by Beth P. Stone

C.S. Lewis
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader



*“My own plans are made.
While I can, I sail east in the
Dawn Treader. When she fails
me, I paddle east in my
coracle. When she sinks, I shall
swim east with my four paws.
And when I can swim no
longer, if I have not reached
Aslan’s country, or shot over
the edge of the world into
some vast cataract, I shall sink
with my nose to the sunrise.”*

Soul Care Principle #4:

Holy Spirit sets your curriculum, timing, process

2 Corinthians 3:18 - “are being transformed”
We are the object, not the subject
We need to cooperate
No defensiveness, rationalization, excuses
He will never lead you into fear or shame
Do you want to get well? Jn 5:6 - Jesus to lame guy
We tend to avoid, mask and medicate pain and
brokenness. Jesus wants to lead us into it.
This will require a different posture for many of us

*“Spiritual achievement costs much,
though never so much as it is worth.
It means at the very least the painful
development and persevering,
steady exercise of a faculty that most
of us have allowed to get slack.”*

Evelyn Underhill

Holy Spirits sets your curriculum, timing & process

Choose his pathway for you.
Pay attention to the dashboard of your life: symptoms
Give Holy Spirit access to you mind, the roots of your
brokenness and invitation to lead you.
Teresa of Avila / Ashbrook, *Mansions of the Heart*
Active pursuits / passive pursuits.
Striving vs receiving.
“What got you here won’t get you there.”
A lifetime of MORE. Not about being fixed this week.

But now, I would like us to develop a new pattern. I would like to tell you when we are to talk, what we are to talk about, what I would like you to do, and when you are done.

R. Thomas Ashbrook
Mansions of the Heart

Tell Your Story

Triads

Same gender. Avoid family members.
Some came in groups. Include those here alone.

Why tell your story? It reveals...

- ... a current view of your life
- ... themes present or missing
- ... events that have shaped you
- ... lies and sin patterns you are subject to
- ... fears, areas of unforgiveness, etc.

Tell Your Story

Why go backwards?

Time does not heal all wounds, i.e., forgiveness, trauma, etc.

Our past effects our present.

“Out of the overflow” - what’s there is there.

Let’s address the roots not merely the symptoms.

Telling Your Story

Invite Holy Spirit to guide your memory

Include

- Highs and lows in your life
- Relationships with significant people
- Painful points, hurts, wounds
- Spiritual encounters with darkness or light
- Family slogans
- Tragedy, loss, shaping moments
- 3-4 adjectives describing each parent

Triad members

- Ask Holy Spirit to give you insight
- Listen horizontally and vertically
- Listen for what is said
- Listen for what isn’t said (gaps in time, childhood)
- Listen, ask questions, but don’t prescribe or “fix”
- Not amateur psycho-therapy
- Offer compassion without judgment

Triad Guidelines and Etiquette

What happens here stays here. What is said here stays here.
Listen for whispers from Holy Spirit.
Share when he tells you to share in the manner in which he tells you - humbly and openly.
Share the time throughout equitably.
Don't dominate your group.
Be present to the person sharing.

Telling Your Story

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