

Week Eleven Life's Healing Choices - Healing Choice Eight - The Sharing Choice



Healing Choice 8 The Sharing Choice

➤ **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. (Step 12)

- "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires." Matthew 5:10

Key points:

- ✓ Yield myself to God.
- ✓ Example is important.
- ✓ Serve others as Jesus Christ did.

Why Does God Allow Pain?

1. He has given us _____ which is not only a blessing but a burden, because sometimes we make wrong choices which can cause pain. (Joshua 24:15)
2. God uses our pain to get our _____ so we might change our ways (2 Corinthians 7:9).
3. God uses pain to teach us to _____ on Him. (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
4. God allows pain to prepare us to _____ others. (2 Corinthians 1:4)

The Trials of My Life have a Greater Purpose to Help Others

1. God uses trials to show that he alone deserves the _____.
2. Trials make it clear to the world that I am not in _____.
3. Everyone can see that I don't have the ability or strength to _____ the problem. (*Judges 7:2*)
4. Trials give me an opportunity to _____ to others about the hope that I have in Jesus Christ. God entrusts us with trials so that we can be a light to others.
(*1 Peter 3:14-15*)
5. As I go through trials or loss with peace and joy, others are _____ . They are observe see if I respond in joy. (Job 1:21).
"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:10).

Joshua 24:15 – *“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

“God whispers to us in our pleasures but He shouts to us in our pain.”

C. S. Lewis

How Can We Use Our Pain to Help Others

1. Accept your mission to use your story to reach the hurting, hopeless and helpless to bring them to Christ (Galatians 6:1-2, Acts 20:24)
2. Tell your story on paper.
 - Be humble as we are in the same boat as others
 - Be real, be truthful, be transparent, and be vulnerable which helps others to be open
 - Don't lecture, don't argue, and don't force - just be a witness of God's healing power.
3. Consider your beneficiaries

4. Two Things You Cannot Do in Heaven

1. You cannot _____.
2. You cannot _____ Good News to someone who has not heard it.

This last reason is why we recycle our pain

HOW TO WRITE MY TESTIMONY

Writing your testimony is part of the recovery process as we live out Principle 8 and Step 12 by sharing our hope in Christ with others!

This is a guide to help you write your Celebrate Recovery testimony. God's word tells us:

It is proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ-the gospel you say you believe-and because you freely share with them and with all others
2 Corinthians 9:13 (NCV)

TESTIMONY GUIDELINES

- Before you start writing, pray and ask God for help and the words to share.
- Your testimony needs to be about 12 to 17 minutes long. It needs to be typed out. About 9-12 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, 3,200 words or less.
- Please include 1-2 favorite scriptures, a step or principle & mention your Step Study & Open Share Group experience.
- Be honest. (No graphic descriptions or triggers. Avoid sharing someone else's inventory).
- Remember that you are not cured.
- Don't use religious clichés and avoid being "preachy."
- Keep it short and to the point
- HAVE FUN!

There are four major parts to our story. Relax and let's get started!

FIRST: The Old Me (Approximately 3 minutes---2 ½ pages)

1. Start out with, "I'm a believer who's in recovery and struggles with _____." (Limit it to 1 or 2 issues)
2. What was the insanity of my life before recovery?
3. What are some of my circumstances that others could relate to?
4. What was my relationship to God like?
5. What was my attitude of others like?
6. What was my lowest point?

SECOND: My Experiences & Changes in Working through Celebrate Recovery (Approximately 3 minutes -2 ½ pages)

1. How did I come into recovery?
2. How has my growing relationship with Jesus Christ influenced my recovery?
3. How did working the program help me? (Be specific)
4. Did a single step touch my heart in a special way?

THIRD: The New Me (Approximately 6 minutes – 4 ½ pages)

1. What changes has God made in my relationship with others?
2. What areas of my old life are gone and how have they changed?
3. How has my walk with God changed?
4. What are some of the benefits that I have received from working the program?

FORTH: Outreach (Approximately 3 minutes – 2 ½ pages)

1. What encouragement can I give to a newcomer? (Use the word “newcomer”)
2. Am I sharing the Good News with the world? Where? With whom? (How are you “giving back?”).

Helpful Tips: End your pages at the end of sentences to avoid long pauses while trying to turn the page mid-sentence. Number your pages in case of a mishap. Rehearse it several times so that you will be familiar with it. With your permission, we’ll set your font size to 18 for reading purposes (Smaller fonts are difficult to see in our meeting area).

Homework Assignment

1. Over time take the time to write a first cut at your own testimony.
2. Identify one or two people to whom that you might share your story.

(End of Week 11)