



## Scars:Beauty from Ashes

Day 1 of 3  
DEVOTIONAL

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### Beauty from Ashes

Hurts come in all shapes and sizes. But God takes us from broken to beautiful, damaged to our destiny, and scarred to set free if we allow him to be part of our healing process.

Wounds come from anywhere: betrayal, trauma, loss, or abuse. Even being a Christ-follower is not the most comfortable lifestyle if we do it right. Scars are often the price we pay for faithful discipleship.

My own family has suffered some scars. We have been through addiction, PTSD, anxiety, and depression. We have even survived a suicide attempt. These things leave more than a few scars.

We now recognize the healing that our scars represent. We understand that though we were broken, the scars we are left with are now beautiful reminders of God's mending and strengthening in our lives.

Each person handles hurt differently. Some of us ignore it. Others of us fight, get angry at God, or turn to drugs, alcohol, sex, or food to numb ourselves.

God wants to heal us and promises to give us *beauty for our ashes and joy for our mourning*. (Isaiah 61:3)

That beauty comes from laying our hurts at the feet of Jesus. Childhood neglect, divorce, the loss of a parent or child—we can lay them down. The internal injuries from being left out, ignored, or bullied—we can lay those down, too.

God wants all your hurts.

He has healing for each one.

He has a divine way through human suffering.

He doesn't promise we won't have pain; he promises never to leave us.

He changes wounds into scars--reminders of how far God has brought us and proof that we have survived what the enemy meant for our harm.

Prayer: Father, take all my woundedness, grief, and pain. Make something beautiful from these ugly wounds. Please come in and work your healing into each hurt place. I want to be healed, whole, and restored! Take my brokenness and show me the way out of the pain. Begin turning my wounds into scars today, in Jesus' name, amen.

## ISAIAH 61

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
3and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.

## **PSALMS 147**

3He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

# PSALMS 34

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

## DEUTERONOMY 31

<sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,  
for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

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Damaged to Destiny

Only God can take the damage we have hidden in our hearts and use it to further our destinies.

Telling others about our scars is how God brings healing to them. And to us. Retelling the battles we fought gives hope to someone else. We can show our scars as a roadmap out of the pain we have suffered.

It is not easy to show our hurt places to others. Will they laugh or make fun? Will they walk away or talk badly about us? Showing our scars is part of walking out our destinies because that makes us Overcomers.

When we allow God to work on us from the inside out, we reach a point where our scars don't hold as much pain. They become reminders of all God has brought us through. They are beacons of hope and healing to others who aren't as far along in their recoveries.

Revelation 12:11 says *They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*

If we want to put the enemy in his place and take Kingdom ground, we need to start telling about all the glorious things God has done for us. Jesus died on the cross (the blood of the Lamb), and we overcome the enemy when we do our part and share our testimony.

We are all born to be Overcomers.

What stops some of us is the testimony part—what will they think of us if they know our wounds? How will they perceive us if we show our scars? Friend, don't let what others think be the obstacle that keeps you from your destiny of becoming an Overcomer.

Even if you're a little bit scared, scarred, worn or weary, share a piece of your story with someone who needs it. God will bring just the right person at just the right time across your path. Share what God has done for you and watch the light of hope come back into their eyes, even as you gather strength from the telling.

It's time to be an Overcomer. It's time to show your scars.

Prayer: Father, Comforter, Healer—allow me to share what you have done for me. Nudge my heart when there is one who needs to hear about the healing you have worked in my heart. Show me who needs to know the hope that my scars hold. Please give me the courage to be an Overcomer for you and walk out my destiny. In Jesus' name, amen.

## REVELATION 12

<sup>11</sup>They triumphed over him

by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony;

they did not love their lives so much

as to shrink from death.

## JEREMIAH 30

17But I will restore you to health

and heal your wounds;

declares the LORD,

'because you are called an outcast,

Zion for whom no one cares.'

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### Scarred to Set Free

The enemy would like you to think your scars are embarrassing.

The world says scars are meant to be hidden or covered up. You may be asking, *Why should I show my scars?*

The best reason I know is that Jesus did. In John 20, Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, has missed seeing his Teacher alive and says he won't believe Jesus has been raised from the dead unless and until he can see Jesus' nail-scarred hands for himself.

So Jesus did precisely that.

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. (John 20:27 NIV)*

Thomas gets a bad rap, but he just wanted what the rest of us want: hope that there is a reason for all the hurt. Once Jesus showed Thomas his wounded places, he believed.

Jesus knew the power of showing his scars.

He knew his disciples would believe in victory beyond the grave if he revealed his wounds. They and his friends and family had watched the worst things imaginable happen to their Jesus. They saw him tortured and killed. They knew he was dead and buried.

The hope that lives in showing our scars is full of resurrection power. This hope can breathe life into the dry bones of dreams and give breath to seemingly dead destinies. Showing our damaged places helps others understand that just because we were hurt doesn't mean we are finished.

*Scars are proof of battles fought and won.*

For today, instead of hiding away your scars or trying to cover them up, consider showing them to someone. Though the enemy tried to take you out, your scars prove that you are set free.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for the healing you have brought to my life. Thank you that every scar is evidence of my freedom in Jesus. I know you have more healing for me. As you do your good work in healing my wounds even further, please give me bold courage to show my scars as proof of your healing hope. Help me be more like my brother Jesus and offer my scars as a testament to your glory and power. In Jesus' name, amen.

## JOHN 20

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

## PHILIPPIANS 1

6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.