

An old adage says, “Those who can, do, and those who can’t, teach.” Bishop David Evans blows this saying away, inasmuch as he is a teacher who also “does.” His ministry at Bethany Baptist Church is wide-reaching in its scope. This gifted communicator seems to have a passion for bringing to wholeness anyone who is hurting. In an age of pop psychology and easy answers, he dares to believe that emotional scars are not necessary if we serve the same God the Bible reveals to us—the God we see active in the lives of both Old and New Testament saints.

David Evans is a skilled soul-physician, and in his hands, many lives have been incredibly metamorphosed from tremendous pain to awesome delight. The message of the “three Hebrew boys” is still the same: If God can do it for them, He can do it for anyone. This message is desperately needed in an age when Christians are being encouraged to “live with it” or “get over it.” David Evans’ message is sorely needed in the church today.

**Joseph L. Garlington, Sr., Ph.D.**

Senior Pastor, Covenant Church of Pittsburgh  
Presiding Bishop, Reconciliation Ministries International!

Bishop David Evans comes to the body of Christ with a book that is based on his vast experience, which includes the tremendous suffering and persecution he has had to endure. Ministry on any level demands sacrifice (a price must be paid), and he has paid the price. So then, this book will release healing, anointing, and blessing.

**Bishop Tudor Bismark**

Jabula-New Life Ministries International

Bishop Evans is an insightful instructor of spiritual truth. I know that the anointed revelation God has given him will assist you in getting to your next level.

**Pastor Chip Radke**

God's House Westbank Cathedral

New Orleans, Louisiana

Healed Without  
SCARS



Healed Without  
SCARS

SPECIAL



TBN EDITION

DAVID G.

EVANS



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

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**HEALED WITHOUT SCARS**  
Special TBN Edition

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# Dedication

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In memory of my grandfather, Albert Quincy Prince—God's gift of wisdom, patience, dedication, productive manhood, consistency, and love.

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# Foreword

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**T**he capacity to lead is marked clearly by the capacity to serve. The choice that a leader makes about serving determines the level of success, accomplishment, wholeness, well-being, and potential of those being led. In an era when dysfunction has become an acceptable buzzword and individuals find themselves continually sorting through unfinished business from their pasts, it takes a courageous and cutting-edge individual to embrace and evoke the possibility of a radically new world, a world where you can be healed without the residue of scars from the past.

A prophetic leader lives out of a creative paradigm, which casts a vision of healing for individuals that is based on where they are going and not where they have been. Such leaders invite those whom they lead into a world they deeply want to belong to, yet rarely ever experience until that leader creates a path for them to get there. The book you are holding was written by such a leader—a servant-leader!

The kind of world that he leads you to is one where people are healed to such a degree that there are no scars remaining

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within or without. The message of that truth is waiting for all who dare to believe it exists and are prepared to embrace a powerful vision of their future in God.

Bishop David Evans is a compelling leader with a compelling vision because he has been gripped by a compelling future. You hold in your hands not simply a book, but also a life experience. This experience will open the pathway to being elegantly healed without scars by the One who bore the scars on your behalf. You can't be around the likes of a servant-leader like Bishop Evans without experiencing the irresistible healing presence of Christ inviting you into a world that you have always wanted to belong to, yet never knew how to access.

Bishop Evans' insights on the healing process and the power of God to do the seemingly impossible will present some difficulties for those who are looking for a reason to stay in their unfinished business and wear their former pains as badges of survival. His insights about the nature of the life that is healed without scars, available to everyone who dares to believe, will become a chariot of fire to catch you up into realms of transcendent glory.

*Healed Without Scars* takes you on a journey of healing, wholeness, well-being, possibility, and prophetic potential. Bishop Evans leaves no room for anything less than total recovery and restoration. In the process, he connects with the part of all of us that wrestles with the profound changes required in today's dysfunctional world to rise above it all. If that weren't enough, he then gives us the wings to do so.

When you grasp what the Spirit of God is endeavoring to tell you through the message in this book, it will be totally impossible for you to walk away from it with the idea that

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your scars must be with you forever. In addition, it will be impossible for your life to ever be the same again!

**Dr. Mark J. Chironna**  
Overseer, The Master's Touch International Church  
Orlando, Florida

*“O GOD the Lord, for thy name’s sake: because thy mercy  
is good, deliver thou me. For I am poor and needy, and my  
heart is wounded within me.”*

—Psalm 109:21-22

# Introduction: Life's Fiery Furnaces

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**T**hree men found themselves in a very uncomfortable place—a fiery furnace. It was a situation that should have ended their existence, but somehow they survived. At the very least the experience should have left them emotionally and physically scarred. The evidence of this experience should have been obvious to everyone around them, yet it wasn't. Why?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego survived because God was literally in the midst of their experience. Because of this vital factor, they emerged from the furnace with their identities, self-esteem, and emotions apparently unaffected, with no evidence of this negative past upon them.

## The Secret of the Presence

How have you fared in life's "fiery furnaces"? Most of us allow the fires of life to burn and scar us. This is because we don't yet know the secret of living in the presence of God even in the midst of our difficulties and trials.

The trauma of negative experiences—broken homes, child abuse, fractured relationships, squandered opportunities, and

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unfulfilled expectations—has a profound effect on all of us. While we are often wounded in our early years, the aftermath of our experiences persists throughout our lives. We somehow hope that time alone will heal the pain of the past, only to discover that the old adage, “Time heals all wounds,” is woefully incorrect. Time does heal some of our wounds. But time alone is powerless to heal all of them. It also cannot remove the layers of scars that build up on our emotions when our pain is unresolved. Rather than being healed, our wounds actually grow larger—producing relational, social, and spiritual difficulties.

One of the great dilemmas many people face today is trying to function productively while bearing the injuries that life inflicts. Often, in order to survive, we retreat into a safe place within ourselves that helps to shield our emotions but, at the same time, stunts our emotional growth. We struggle day to day, hiding behind masks of success, confidence, education, or political correctness. Privately struggling with issues of the past, we fight a losing battle within the isolation of our thoughts and emotions. We appear to mature while, in reality, we struggle inwardly to develop as men and women. When we are adults, facing adult challenges and expectations, our immaturity and unresolved issues sabotage vital relationships and opportunities.

Yet trauma does much more than rob us of portions of our lives. It seeks to consume our very identities and robs us of our peace. We appear to live “normal” lives—going to work, raising families, and making plans for the future—while secretly dealing with the shock of unresolved hurt. The distress of these situations often causes us to feel confused and betrayed. Trauma isolates, alienates, and leaves us feeling as though the future holds nothing positive for us.

## Introduction: Life's Fiery Furnaces

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Though all of us have come through fiery situations in life, we have experienced a variety of effects from them. Some of us exhibit no visible evidence of injury, while others bear obvious emotional scars. Sometimes, we're not aware of the effects of the fire until well after the incident, when a wound or scar suddenly seems to manifest itself. When this happens, we are often bewildered at the intensity of the pain.

Again, the answer to our hurt is in learning to live in God's presence. Many people are surprised to discover that they can love God and be reconciled to Him through faith in Christ, yet still continue to be deeply wounded and heavily scarred from the fires of abuse, rejection, depression, abandonment, disappointment, and hopelessness. When they hear that God can deliver them, they passionately "proclaim" their healing—while continuing to suffer. In this way, they are often contradictory fountains, producing both sweet and bitter water at the same time.

### Living in Wholeness

We need to understand how to allow God to heal our wounds and scars so that we can be whole people. Your heavenly Father wants you to know that (1) He has the power to heal you of your past wounds and scars, and (2) in the future fires of life, He can—as He did for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—deliver you from being scarred by tragic experiences so that they won't have any lasting negative effects on you.

Let God come into the fire of your experiences. His love and compassion will transform your anger, sense of injustice, loss of identity, and alienation as you emerge unscarred from the fires of your life. As you read this book, you will find the

## Healed Without Scars

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courage to open the dusty box of your past. *Healed Without Scars* provides you with a safe haven in the privacy of your own thoughts to acknowledge your wounds and scars and to allow Jesus to heal you.

You may find yourself in these pages; or you may recognize loved ones and friends and finally discover a way to assist them in overcoming the emotional weights in their lives. This book is written to the multitudes who, like me, have endured the pains, disappointments, and shame of the past. It is a ladder that will assist them step-by-step in their climb out of life's valley, which is shadowed by negative events and experiences. Though it is written with the Christian community in mind, it is relevant to all who have wondered, "Will I ever feel any differently? Will the pain ever go away?"

Grace, like rain, falls on the "just and the unjust," the saved and the unsaved. Through this book, God will lead you to a healing that is evident to you and also obvious to others. The fire of your experiences has no power over the present. The heat of past challenges is unable to permanently alter the positive maturation of your personality. You can have the security of coming through the ups and downs of life with your sense of self intact. God will give you the gift of a new life that will clear away the burnt aroma of victimization that continually sabotages the meaningful events and relationships of your life. As you receive your heavenly Father's touch, you will be *Healed Without Scars*.

## Chapter One

# The Wounds and Scars of Life

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*Is pain from your past holding you back?*

I was settled into my seat on the airplane, but it didn't look as if we were going anywhere soon. The plane was waiting on the runway for permission to take off from Dallas International Airport. All around me, I could hear the usual protests from those who thought our plane should just nudge the others out of the way and take off. Tension born of impatience and inconvenience began to fill the cabin. As if he could sense the passengers' mood, a child two rows behind me started crying. Nearby, a woman talked loudly into her cell phone. She was attempting to give all who were in earshot the impression that she had some influence with the airline—but she was traveling in coach with the rest of us.

Slowly, I realized that it was getting hot in the cabin. Warm air was hissing from the overhead vents. I could feel the tension rise even more with the increased temperature. Someone a number of rows away coughed—guaranteeing that

the passengers would share his germs as well as the flight. The shoulder-bruising service cart began to make its way up the aisle. Then the lights went out in the cabin. It was now dusk both inside the airplane and out, except for overhead lights above some of the passengers' seats.

We continued to wait our turn. I began to wonder if there was a spiritual purpose for the delayed flight. It was one of those situations in which conversation with your seatmate becomes almost mandatory. I didn't really feel like talking to anyone, so I was trying to hide in plain sight by reading my Bible. I have found that reading the Word can polarize people into those who want to avoid you and those who are truly looking for life's answers.

### A Mixture of Disappointment and Hope

The woman sitting next to me began to move around in her seat, breaking my concentration. I wondered whether she was nervous about air travel. Once again, I promised myself that I would fly first class in the future. When I looked up in response to one of her movements, she quickly seized the opportunity and started a conversation with me. The pilot came on the intercom saying that we had been cleared for takeoff. As we taxied down the runway, Del began to talk to me about her life. Apparently, it wasn't fear of flight that was making her restless; it was something deeper. I closed my Bible and began to listen. I knew at once that the Holy Spirit was involved in our meeting.

Del's tone was one that I had heard many times before. It was a mixture of disappointment and guarded hope. It was obvious that she had told her story to many other people, looking for some sense, some explanation for her broken life.

## The Wounds and Scars of Life

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She began by unfolding her story tentatively, one layer at a time. Then her words began to overflow, not because I was listening, but because she could see that I understood. She spoke of her childhood tragedies, her history of broken relationships and lost opportunities, and her despair for the future. I realized that for her, as with many other people, the scar-producing pain of her past had become the blueprint for her present and the structure of her vision for her future.

When Del was a child, her parents had given her up for adoption. Over the years, she had developed a shell of protection. You could feel her defensiveness. She had experienced the ultimate rejection—greater than the rejection of an employer, friend, or boyfriend: Neither parent wanted her.

**The pain of her past had become the blueprint for her present and the vision for her future.**

She had been in so many foster homes that eventually she had forced herself to lose count. In the process, she had experienced various levels of treatment from those she was living with—from brutal to loving, abusive to caring. In order to survive, she had developed her own protective world. This world did not allow reality to factor into her life. When things became too difficult, she simply retreated into her shell. She no longer felt that she could really trust anyone.

As Del talked, I began to recognize another tone in her voice that was not evident at first. I was looking at a woman, but I was talking to a child. Her appearance had deceived me. Hidden inside an adult facade was a child pleading for rescue. Occasionally, the injured child in her would reveal herself with an immature response to a question or a pouting expression when an inconsistency in her story was pointed out.

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The most revealing part of the conversation was that she had been a Christian for about fifteen years. Some of her wounds had been inflicted before she was saved and some after her conversion, but the resulting scars were very evident. Becoming a Christian, in itself, hadn't alleviated the pain from her wounded past.

The Holy Spirit shifted my approach in talking with her. I realized that, while her adult mind had an objective acceptance of the reality of God, the child in her did not trust her personal relationship with Him. She feared that God would give her away just as everyone else had. The child within her was pleading for love while the woman she had become was searching for acceptance. Her problem was evident to me: She was struggling with shame because she had been trying to satisfy the need of the child in so-called adult ways.

Although genuinely caring people had come into her life, her fear had caused her to reject both male and female friends. She attempted intimacy with many, trying to satisfy the ache of both the child and the adult. She placed herself in one compromising sexual situation after another, never saying no to anyone or anything. Those she was intimate with, she eventually pushed away. Those who had no sexual interest in her, she found a reason to distrust.

Del despised who she had become. She'd been wounded by others, and she had wounded herself. As a result, she could not hold down a job, maintain her finances, or develop true friendships. Anger always simmered beneath the surface of her life.

I have learned that nothing seems to scar as deeply as an emotional wound. Since I know the truth of that reality from personal experience, I assured Del that she was not alone in

her pain. I began sharing with her some of my own defeats and victories in life, in both childhood and adulthood. I didn't tell her these things for the purpose of relieving her hurt, but

**Nothing seems to scar as deeply as an emotional wound.**

in order to give her a frame of reference for her pain. From my own life, as well as my experience in counseling others, I have learned that company in misery is no real consolation. Just knowing that others have suffered doesn't necessarily relieve our own suffering. It is deliverance from misery that brings consolation, hope, and healing, and that was what Del really needed.

### The Father's Touch

The words *father* and *mother* come with a long list of expectations, and when these expectations aren't met, the emotional consequences can be great. In Del's life, the situation was especially complex. I knew that I first had to reach the adult in order to position the child for healing. I explained to her that her parents had both strengths and weaknesses, just like everybody else. One of their weaknesses was that they had lacked the tools to effectively parent her.

I told her that I didn't think her father and mother had given her away out of hatred, but because they felt that they were not equipped for the job of parenting. They knew that they were missing something inside. They had put her up for adoption with the hope that someone else would do what they could not do. Her being given away was *not her fault*.

The woman heard me, and the child began to cry. She said, "I thought something was wrong with me." I reminded her that, despite the foster homes, the lifestyle choices, the broken

relationships, the shame, pain, and guilt, she had survived. Even though there had been times when the voice of Satan had told her to kill herself, she was still alive. I told her that she had not been allowed to die because God had His hand on her and was still working out His purposes in her life. The enemy must have been aware of God's purposes for her because he had tried very hard to destroy her. But the Lord was with her; He had not abandoned her.

**Our heavenly  
Father promises  
never to leave or  
forsake us.**

The heavenly Father had looked into the nursery of the rejected and had chosen her, saying, "I want *that* one." I shared Romans 8:15 with her: "*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of **adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father*" (emphasis added). On the day that she was saved, she had not received a spirit of bondage. She had received the Spirit of adoption with the power to overcome her fear of the future. Now she could cry "*Abba*" or "*Daddy*." She could call God her Father.

As I told her this, the power of the Word of God was working to transform her outlook. Del realized that God had always been there with her, and she began to look to Him to answer the child's cry for love and the adult's plea for relationship. But something was still unresolved within her. She asked me one last question: "Considering all the things that I have done, does God still love me?" After all the years that she'd been saved, she was still testing God's love. I told her that God would never leave her or forsake her. (See Hebrews 13:5.) She wept. The hard shell that had formed from years of scarring was broken, and she finally began to heal. She had experienced the Father's touch.

## The Wounds and Scars of Life

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Years later, Del called me after seeing my ministry on television. She told me that she was successfully married, had her own children now, and was working in ministry and helping others with histories similar to hers. The flight from Dallas had been her defining moment. Until that time, her life had been stalled from moving forward. The hurts of her past had been blocking her heart and restricting her freedom.

Like many other people, Del had missed opportunities for deliverance because she had misunderstood God's love, acceptance, and power to heal. Once she understood these things, however, her scars were removed, and her wounds were finally healed.

### What Scars Are You Bearing?

To varying degrees, we all suffer from the pains of emotional and psychological wounds, and we bear the hard scars that are the aftermath of these experiences. What pains of disappointment, regret, fear, or abuse are holding you back in life? Whether from broken homes, abusive relationships, disconnection from loved ones through death or abandonment, or lost opportunities, our wounds have torn away our peace and separated us from our strength and vitality.

To be healed, we first have to realize that being hurt is an inescapable part of life in the fallen world we live in. The problem comes when the pain of our past controls the way we live our lives today and shatters our faith and hope for a positive future.

As it did for Del, perhaps the scar-producing pain of your past has become the blueprint for your present. It hinders your relationships, your job, your dreams for your life, and your ability to fulfill those dreams. You've built a protective

wall around yourself, which is really a prison that provides no escape from your frustration and despair.

**What hurts are holding you back in life?**

If you are a Christian, you may be feeling guilty or bewildered because there doesn't seem to be any consistency to your life of faith. You're on a roller coaster ride: One day you're up—full of faith and love—and the next day you're down—ready to throw in the towel. You feel you should be living in victory, but all you seem to experience is defeat.

### The Infinite Realm of Possibility

If you struggle with any type of unresolved hurt, I want to invite you into what I call the infinite realm of possibility in God. Your heavenly Father wants to give you a new blueprint for your life—one of His design—that will move you beyond the pain and scars into a meaningful and fulfilling existence. In this realm of possibility, you will understand what it means to live in the presence of your heavenly Father. In His presence, you will find rest from your hurts and a renewed vision for your future. God loves you and will never abandon you in your pain and loneliness. He will bind up your wounds and gently remove your scars so that you can be whole, at peace with yourself and others, and living in the fullness that He created you to live in. Come, let's enter together into that realm of possibility...