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Learning to Live As God's Masterpiece

# **Part 8**

## **From Hiding Our Wounds to Displaying Our Scars**

# John 20:19a

That Sunday evening the disciples  
were meeting behind locked  
doors because they were afraid of  
the Jewish leaders.

# John 20:19b

Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.

# John 20:20

As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.

They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

# John 20:21

Again he said, "Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I am  
sending you."

# John 20:22

Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

# John 20:23

**If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”**



# John 20:24

One of the twelve disciples,  
Thomas (nicknamed the Twin),  
was not with the others when  
Jesus came.

# John 20:25a

They told him,  
“We have seen the Lord!”

# John 20:25b

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

# John 20:26a

Eight days later the disciples were  
together again, and this time  
Thomas was with them.

# **John 20:26b**

**The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.**

# John 20:27

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t doubt any longer. Believe!”

# John 20:28

**“My Lord and my God!”  
Thomas exclaimed.**

# John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, “You believe  
because you have seen me.  
Blessed are those who believe  
without seeing me.”



# John 20:30

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you

# **John 20:31**

**may continue to believe that  
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of  
God, and that by believing in him  
you will have life by the power of  
his name.**



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## **From Hiding Our Wounds to Displaying Our Scars**

# Principle #1

**Jesus Christ intentionally and purposefully chose to be wounded unto death in every conceivable way in order to identify, forgive, heal, and save.**

# Principle #2

**Christ alone can understand our pain, suffering, wounds, and brokenness; and He has the scars to prove it.**

# **Wounds vs. Scars**

**There is a big difference between a wound and a scar. A wound is a devastating unhealed injury. A scar says, “I’ve been healed, and this is my story.”**

# **Our Wounds and Scars**

- **Past Mistakes**
- **Bad Choices**
- **Sins**
- **Failures**
- **Betrayals**
- **Abuse**
- **Broken Relationships**
- **Rejection**
- **Abandonment**
- **Insecurity**
- **Guilt**



# **Our Wounds and Scars**

- **Disappointments**
- **Tragedies**
- **Suffering**
- **Sickness**
- **Death**
- **Etcetera**

# Principle #2

**Christ alone can understand our pain, suffering, wounds, and brokenness; and He has the scars to prove it.**

# Principle #3

**Too many of us deny we are wounded, or we erroneously decide to bear through our untreated wounds silently and alone.**

# Principle #4

**It is through the sharing of our scars and wounds, with God and with others, that we can come to know and be known in deeper and more meaningful ways.**

# Principle #5

**The Holy Spirit desires to disinfect, heal, and transform our wounds, so that they don't dominate our hearts or define us.**

# Principle #6

**Our scars help us grow in our faith by sight, while our unhealed wounds help us grow in our faith based on the testimony and the promises of our Master.**

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# Principle #6

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# Principle #7

**Christ has commissioned us to offer His forgiveness and love to those who are wounded and to those who have wounded us while we are still wounded.**

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# Principle #7

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# Principle #8

**God desires to use our most painful wounds and our ugliest scars to release Christ's all-powerful ministries of acceptance, forgiveness, mercy, grace, healing, and salvation.**





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