# The Hidden Wounds Of The Faithful

**Bruce Reeves** · Galatians 6:1–9

## INTRODUCTION

- Lift up your head, beloved. The horizon is wider than the little circle that you can see.
- Leadership of all kinds, but especially spiritual leadership, sometimes can be a lonely place.
- We're talking about the hidden wounds of the faithful.

## 1 You Who Are Spiritual, Restore Such a One

**Galatians 6:1; Romans 8:2; Galatians 6:8**

- Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, you who are submitting to the Spirit's teaching, … Restore such a one in the spirit of meekness.
- This person has surrendered their life to Jesus Christ and is obeying the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, that is the gospel.
- This isn't just necessarily an elder or a preacher, even though I would certainly hope they would fall in this category. This is a faithful Christian.
- Those who mend, those who restore, those who are trying to help those who are broken, have to ensure that they are rooted in Christ.

## 2 Do Not Become Weary in Well-Doing

**Galatians 6:9; Galatians 6:2; Galatians 6:5**

- I think the reason he's saying, don't become weary is because he knows we could become weary in well-doing.
- In this context, the act and work of restoration is part of bearing one another's burdens.
- You holding me accountable because you love me is part of us bearing one another's burdens.
- There are certain wounds that should not destroy our spiritual lives, that should not devastate us, nor should they surprise us when it comes.

## 3 The Pull of the World

**2 Peter 2:7–9**

- Satan knows for most of us who profess faith in Christ, he will not get us all at once. But if he can get us with the little compromises here and there, eventually he gets the whole ball of wax.
- That righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul … tormented day after day by their lawless deeds.
- People can carry this wound around because they're not feeding and nurturing their faith. And eventually they leave.
- Even for the faithful Christian, the effect can be fatiguing if we do not continue to receive the benefit of our Lord and our relationship with him.

## 4 The Sorrow Over the Unfaithfulness of Loved Ones

**1 Corinthians 5:1–2; 2 Samuel 18:31–33; Matthew 23**

- You have become arrogant and have not mourned.
- It's right in those situations for us to mourn over a brother or sister that's fallen from the Lord.
- The king was deeply moved. And he went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, Oh, my son Absalom. My son, my son, Absalom.
- The reconciliation doesn't happen if the father compromised what was right at the beginning. You have to be an anchor.

## 5 That Can Be Our Own Brethren

**Hebrews 10:24–25**

- I wish I could tell you that you will never have to deal with a brother or sister that's going to mistreat you … but that's just not reality.
- There will be people like that. … that will grieve you, that will hurt you. But don't leave the Lord for those kinds of things.
- You are hurting your brother or sister through apathy as much as if you were hurting them in some other area.

## 6 The Remedy for Some of These Hidden Wounds

- You have to go back to the source of your strength repeatedly. God will heal the wound.
- Number one, always focus on pleasing God and not men. Don't be a man pleaser.
- Secondly, nurture your faith. … You must work through that grief by worshiping God.
- And then finally, … strengthen your hope. Keep your eye on the goal.

THE CHALLENGE

Rely on your Lord. Rely on your God. And you will be amazed of all the good that He can do through you. Do not let Satan overtake you. Let the great physician heal even your hidden wounds.

MY NOTES