

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

September 19, 2016

DEEP PENETRATING HURT

MATTHEW 5:43-44 NKJV - (43) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **(44)** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Jesus explained to His followers that they should adhere to the real meaning of God's law by loving their enemies as well as their neighbors. A Pharisee once asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (**Luke 10:29**). Jesus then told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Here, Jesus taught that His followers must demonstrate love to all kinds of people—no matter what faith, nationality, or personality—enemies included. If you love your enemies and "pray for those who persecute you," you then truly reveal that Jesus is Lord of your life.

Remember this about our enemies.... Something has happened in their lives setting them back, creating a void in their lives. When we are afflicted with a wounded spirit we are unable to step out boldly and obey the Holy Spirit. God's purposes for us is lost in our inability to walk in faith consistently. The subject of a wounded spirit is an important one, often misunderstood, but it affects so many people.

A wounded spirit comes as a result of a reaction to negative words, events, actions, or a violation of your person or rights – a repeated reaction that knocks you down, creating an environment that you cannot rise above. It crushes your spirit, causing devastation. A wounded spirit cannot be healed privately. We need someone else to release the spirit through positive, believing prayer. Jesus is the answer. Find refuge in **Philippians 4:13** and allow God to show you how to love those who persecute you.

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 12:14-15

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls.