



Spiritual Wheelchairs



Spiritual wheelchairs can't be seen. They are what we use when we feel too weak to walk with the Lord. They are the places where we sit spiritually waiting for someone to come along and push us because we can't make ourselves move. Spiritual wheelchairs make others feel sorry for us, and we use them to get attention.

We sit in them when we're we're rejected. We sit in them when we don't like ourselves. paralyzed by a circumstance in

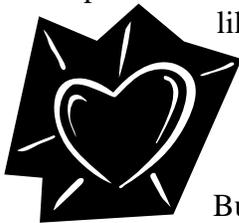


depressed. We sit in them when when we're afraid. We sit in them We sit in them whenever we feel life.

God can use people who are physically handicapped, but He can't use people who are spiritually handicapped. Spiritual handicaps can come in many forms; unforgiveness of past hurts inflicted by others can keep us in a spiritual wheelchair all of our lives; unconfessed sin, failures and weaknesses can immobilize us spiritually; low self-esteem and comparing ourselves with others will keep us seated in a spiritual wheelchair, never really walking the path to self-discovery of the "one of a kind" person He created us to be.

The Bible says, "*We (who have accepted Jesus) have not received the spirit of the world, but the Holy Spirit who is from God; so that we might fully know and appreciate the gifts and blessings so freely bestowed on us by God.*" (1 Corinthians 2:12)

The spirit of the world is unthankful, ungrateful, and unforgiving. All of those "un's" are like containers that are filled with anger, hate, rebellion and bitterness stored in the human heart. They are corrosive and when stored inside they eat away and rust out the heart container they are in and spread through the whole body.

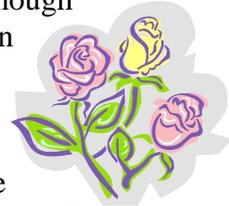


But, the Holy Spirit is our comforter, guide and counselor in all holy things. He always gently guides us to the Words of the Bible. When we are unthankful He reminds us of a Scripture like 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*" When we are ungrateful He will use something like Ephesians 4:29, "*Let no corrupt (rotten, worthless) words come out of your mouth, but instead, that which is good for building up so it will minister grace (the love of God in action) to those who hear you.*"

(Cont'd)

In the Lord's prayer, we ask God to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. It is likely that the Holy Spirit will remind you of that if you store unforgiveness in your heart. At the end of the Lord's prayer, after Jesus says, "Amen," He says to His disciples, "*For if you forgive men their sins against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive men their sins against you, your Father will not forgive your sins, either.*" (Matthew 6:14-15)

All things that keep us in emotional spiritual wheelchairs are forms of unthankfulness and ingratitude toward God – as though He didn't give us enough, or do enough for us. Somehow, we have the idea that nothing bad should ever happen to us. As though we should be wrapped in cotton and carried through life on a bed of roses without thorns. In our childishness we withhold our love and thankfulness from Him by asking Him why He let bad things happen to us, as if it was His fault; setting aside the fact that there is a devil in this world whose plan is the steal, kill and destroy as many of God's people as possible.



We reveal our ingratitude for what we have by comparing it with others who seem to have everything we wanted but didn't get. If we will begin to be thankful for what we do have, and to thank Him out loud, we will find we have blessings we never considered as blessings. It all depends on how you look at it.



Following is the prayer of a woman with children who doesn't seem at first to have much to be thankful for, but when she looks at what she has, compared to what so many don't have, her spiritual eyes are opened to "*the gifts and blessings so freely bestowed upon her by God.*"

LORD, THANK YOU

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes; we have plenty of food to eat.

Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry; we have nice clothes to wear.

I want to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds; they were so warm and comfortable last night. I know there are many who have no bed.

And, thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, with it's splattered mirrors; soggy, grimy towels and dirty lavatory; they are so convenient.

Thank you for this finger smudged refrigerator that needs cleaning. It has served us faithfully for many years. There are cold drinks in it and enough left overs for two or three meals.

(Cont'd)

Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today; it has baked so many things over the years.

We're grateful for our patch of yard. My kids are healthy and able to play.

Lord, the presence of all these chores waiting for me tells me "you have richly blessed us." I shall do them cheerfully, and I shall do them gratefully.

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, I thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many that are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off getting up, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to stand up and walk. Many are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud; I thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many that are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines, and our menu is at times not balanced, I thank you, Lord. There are many that are hungry.

Even though my routine job is often monotonous; thank you, Lord. There are many that have no work to do.

Even though I grumble, and moan about my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were not so poor; Thank You, Lord, for life!

Anonymous

"Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father, in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19-20)

AMEN!



Spiritual Wheelchairs

1. What are spiritual wheelchairs?

2. When we're in one, what are we waiting for?

3. When do we sit in them?

4. Why did God send the Holy Spirit?

5. What are the "un's" of the world like?

6. If we hold unforgiveness in our hearts, what will God do?

7. What are the things that keep us in emotional spiritual wheelchairs?

8. How do we withhold our love and thankfulness from God?

9. What's the main thing that reveals ingratitude in our heart?

10. What things are we supposed to give thanks in? (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Spiritual Wheelchairs

1. What are spiritual wheelchairs?

What we use when we feel too weak to walk with the Lord.

2. When we're in one, what are we waiting for?

Someone to push us because we can't make ourselves move.

3. When do we sit in them?

Whenever we feel paralyzed by circumstances in life.

4. Why did God send the Holy Spirit?

That we might fully know and appreciate the gifts and blessings so freely bestowed on us by God.

5. What are the "un's" of the world like?

Like containers filled with anger, hate, rebellion and bitterness stored in the human heart.

6. If we hold unforgiveness in our hearts, what will God do?

He will not forgive our sins either.

7. What are the things that keep us in emotional spiritual wheelchairs?

They are all forms of unthankfulness and ingratitude toward God.

8. How do we withhold our love and thankfulness from God?

By asking Him why He let bad things happen to us as if it was His fault.

9. What's the main thing that reveals ingratitude in our heart?

Comparing what we have with others who seem to have everything we wanted but didn't get.

10. What things are we supposed to give thanks in? (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."