

## Healing Attachments to the Land, Place, Community

I've been learning about attachments. As you know, the Word promises that the Lord will never forsake me (Hebrews 13:5), but feelings of being rootless and unwelcome, a stranger in the land have persisted throughout my life.

Now there are lots of reasons why I feel the way I do: Obviously, I have attachment issues with my parents that affect my attachment to the Lord and to others. I am working on that and will talk more about that as I get those things settled, but this morning, the Lord impressed me with a generational reason why I feel detached and rootless.

My mother is the daughter of immigrants who never felt welcome here in America. They were despised and rejected by the natives who were themselves descendants of recent immigrants.

*"You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt." Exodus 23:9*

My point is this: Science shows that information flows from mother to child through the eye gate. This is one primary way that generational blessings and curses are transferred. My grandmother and grandfather desperately wanted to fit in here in America, so much so that they did not allow my mom to speak Italian, which meant she could not communicate with her own father! My Grandfather never learned to speak English.

Mix that anxious longing for acceptance with the rejection of their new community, and I think you arrive at a persistent sense of not belonging. The name calling, the rude treatment, the open hostility make it very obvious why you feel unwelcome.

So how does that look when it is passed down to the following generations?

You lose the reason why you don't feel comfortably attached to the land or your community; you just experience a persistent, yet vague, sense of not belonging along with an anxious need to belong. Depending on your personal tendencies that will result in anxious attachment or dismissive attachment to your home and community; either way, you will feel like you don't belong here. Wherever here is.

If you stop to listen, you might hear your heart painfully asking, "What am I doing here, Lord? Why do I feel so out of place?"

(Please see note below.)

Here's another example of circumstances that can result in attachment problems with land, place and community. A year or so back, the Pool provided the prayer room for a youth outreach. We prayed with a young man of African-American descent whose family was haunted by depression and failure, addictions and problems with the law. As we prayed, I received a vision of his early ancestors being torn from their beloved homeland and shipped

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to America as slaves. What struck me as odd was the sense that his ancestors were not as distressed by being forced into slavery as they were by being torn from their land. Imagine how such a deep attachment wound is transmitted to the next generation and the next and the next. Maybe it feels like this: We have lost our place and our home. We can never return. What we love the most can never be ours again. We will always be strangers here. We don't belong here. This is not our home.

Think of the aching agony that is transmitted from parent to child. And remember that the reason for the pain, the loss, the rootlessness is forgotten.

### **Here's the truth**

The earth is the Lord's and He is the one who ordained all of our days here on the earth. We are actually created from the dust of the earth. We are meant to feel like we belong here in the earth. I'm not talking about being a part of the world system or part of the kingdom of darkness, but we are supposed to be here in the earth at this time. This is where we are supposed to be.

Here's something else to consider. Since the Lord formed our bodies from the dust of the earth, feeling detached from the land will cause us to feel detached from our own bodies. You know the enemy likes that one.

#### God put us here

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1: 26*

#### God created our bodies from the earth

*Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7*

#### Our time here is ordained by God

*Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them. Psalm 139:16*

Let's take it up a notch. Mix that lack of welcome into a community with the pervasive sense of rejection that is a consequence of generational sin and our own personal sin, then add in a family that does not welcome you.

#### Community rejection

*God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years." Genesis 15:13*

#### The consequences of generational and personal sin

*"Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." Genesis 4:14*

### Family rejection

*"Those who live in my house and my maids consider me a stranger. I am a foreigner in their sight." Job 19:15*

What do you get when you stir all the ingredients together? You get pain-filled attachment issues that cannot be completely resolved because they include, along with the obvious, a lost attachment to the land, place and community. Essentially, we don't feel welcome here and we don't know why.

### **Here's the prayer.**

Lord God, please forgive me and my ancestors for believing the lie that we should not be here, that we are not welcome here, that we do not belong here on the earth. You put us here and ordained our days here. Regardless of the reaction of our communities, the sin of our ancestors, our personal sin and the rejection of our families, the earth is our home during this present age.

Lord, I choose to be here, properly attached to the earth for as long as you have ordained. Please cleanse and heal all my attachment circuits so that I can be safely and securely attached to the earth by You. Amen

Simply praying a prayer like this one brought peace to me in a new way. I pray that it will do the same for you. (Be sure to read the note at the bottom.)

### Here's a few more scriptures

*"There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 24:22*

*"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:34*

Note: I realize that the Word mentions living as strangers and aliens in the earth in Hebrews 11:13 as if that is a good thing. I believe that passage is describing our attitude while living here. We are to set our minds on the age to come in order to endure this present evil age. In another words, life on earth is not the beginning and end of me. I am here to accomplish a greater purpose that will be fulfilled as eternity unfolds. But developing an eternal mindset is not the subject of this discussion.