

# Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,  
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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## Upcoming Seminars

### **Freedom Weeks**

August 5-9  
October 7-11

### **Freedom Weekends**

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September 20-22  
October 18-20

## Hot off the Press!



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Dear,

***I used to keep a cartoon on my church office door** which showed a woman in a Bible study saying to the other ladies, "I've never actually died to self, but I did feel faint once." These three articles will give you a graphic picture of how crucifying the flesh works (when we work it).*

*Steve*

## "Put It In the Pot!"

***Before your goose gets cooked..***

"**Put it in the pot,**" was a very funny line in the movie "Cold Mountain", referring to a rooster which was acting like a barnyard terror and badly needed to be cooked. But it also applies to us--that is, anything about us that doesn't match up with Jesus.

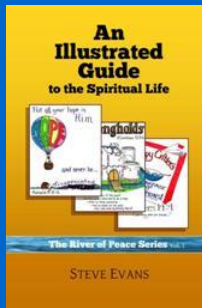
**The first stage of "crucifying the flesh"** is containment: realizing what we shouldn't release into the world around us and "putting it in the pot" instead. Are you getting angry and want to let some choice words rip into someone? *Put it in the pot!* Feel like slamming a door? *Put it in the pot!* Want to give up and phone in for a pity party? *Put it in the pot!* Oh, and make sure that pot is an old style pressure cooker with latches on it to keep stuff from getting out!

**New recruits to our recovery program** at the Mission have to practice this 24/7 for the first time in their life. Let's face it: when you're strung out on drugs or alcohol,

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### Hot off the Press!

crucifying other aspects of your flesh are as low a priority as sobriety. But now they have come under new rules (ours) and new Management (the Lord's): if they don't put a lot of their old behaviors "in the pot", they'll get booted out and they don't want that, so... They practice containment. ***This is good; but it is not enough!*** After a few days, even with the best of intentions, good vents (sounding off to others) and strong latches (will power), they are about to blow their lids!

**That's because the second stage** of crucifying the flesh is carrying whatever you have successfully "put in the pot" as a captive to Christ and holding it up to Him in earnest prayer until you finally and fully release it to Him (2 Cor 10:4-6). If you don't cast ***all*** those cares on Him, they will stay stuck inside you (your spiritual insides are the "pot") and they ***will*** keep simmering. Guaranteed. So, whenever you see something unChristlike about you wanting to get a little "air time", ***put it in the pot!***

**But don't leave it there:** make sure you empty that pot out in the Lord's presence and with His help!

(more in the next article)

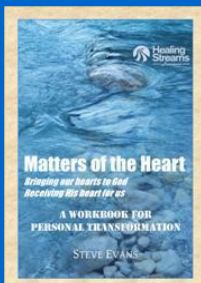
## What Goes Into Containment?

***Nothing of any real value..***

**Attitudes, actions and activities** that don't come from Christ in you--these have to go! Jesus *in you* is your hope of glory: Jesus in you wants to live *through you*. That means that the old you has to go "into the pot" of containment. ***The key to crucifying your flesh is finding a superior motivation.***

**Let's take anger for example.** Anybody can manage their anger if they can latch onto a superior motivation. In the "Illiad" Homer gives us an unforgettable picture of proud Achilles who "beat his anger down" in order to keep from killing the king of the Greeks (Menelaus) during a dispute over a woman. Achilles was only able to put his anger "into containment" because he had a superior motivation: he didn't want to divide the Greeks and lose the (more important) battle for taking the besieged city of Troy.

**Consider addictions.** At the Mission we only see men coming into the program of recovery when they are "mature in their misery"--when they have reached the



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point where their desire to forsake the substance has reached a tipping point of motivation. It's "killing them" with misery, so they finally want to put it to death.

**Cigarettes also can be extremely addicting.** I have a Christian friend who prayed for years for the Lord to "take them from him." God did, but not by lifting out the desire to smoke (though He sometimes does it that way). My friend's respiratory health reached a point where he realized that cigarettes really were going to kill him unless he made a concerted effort to "put them in the pot." God gave him the victory, but it was by a deliberate choice every five minutes over a period of months, based on reaching for a superior motivation: *He wanted to live more than he wanted to smoke!*

**You can put any unChristlike thing into containment--if you want to badly enough.** God has given you the power and it is entirely your choice (see Deut 30:19-20). The key is motivation.

**I have two main motivations:** 1) I don't want to betray Jesus *who saved me from hell* by crucifying Him instead of my flesh; and 2) I don't want to wreck my life all over again and miss out on the opportunity of living in the "glorious liberty" promised to us in this life.

The flesh is **always** bondage; Jesus is **always** life. The pleasure of living in His peace is sufficient motivation to put any peace-robbing thing of the old nature "into the pot!"

### **Take the Lid Off!**

***"Stuff's gonna 'splode" if you don't!...***

**One of the key abilities** of the grace-filled life is learning how to get to your places of "containment" **before they get to you!**

**No amount of will power**, good intentions, denial of true feelings, or talking with others can keep you and me from "spilling the beans" by dumping them on the person who has aggravated or annoyed or offended us--or dumping those feelings on ourselves in discouragement and depression. The truth (that we try to suppress) will ultimately come out!

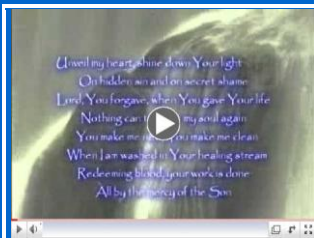
This means that I need to not only master the art of **acting** like a Christian (by crucifying my flesh and responding to each affront or disappointment as Jesus would want me to, rather than how hurt feelings would

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dictate), I also have to get really good at **praying** like a Christian (by fully, freely and finally releasing every cause of hurt or concern to Jesus), so that I can **live** like a Christian (in childlike trust and simplicity of spirit). That's a tall order! **Learning how to do it will mean that we will grow up into Christ**, who is already doing these things.

**The first step comes** for me when I realize that the prayers I made when the incident first happened to forgive the individual or to pray over an anxious concern didn't fully release my heart to God. In the time since I made those prayers, I have been **acting** with the **intention** of forgiveness and/or trust for the person or situation that troubled me, but I have not been **living** with the interior reality of a heart set free. Can you relate to this? Essentially, I "put it in the pot" (of contained emotional response) and talked it over with God, **but I didn't successfully empty the pot!**

**It's now time to take the lid off the pot** and let the Holy Spirit stir me on the inside to get the job done--so that I can get my peace and joy back, even over the situation that God allowed which troubled me so much. **This is hard work!** I have learned that I simply cannot pray over things lightly and get the deep gunk out of the bottom of my pot! It takes a lot of spiritual "elbow grease"--and the scouring power of God's ultimate cleanser: **His Words of truth.**

**"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."**  
John 17:17-18 ESV [Jesus to the Father]

## From We to Thee

*Preparing for the Harvest...*

Check out our new site for people seeking to be saved! Appropriately, it is called **forerunners4Him.org**. We are targeting "seekers" who don't know the Lord and "forerunners" who want to know Him so well that their lives are grace-filled and free! We want to run into His heart (our intimate devotion) and carry out what we find there to the world around us (our devoted service).

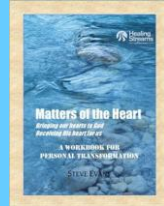
Let me know if you see things that can be improved! But keep in mind that it is still very much under construction, so a lot of the pages are far from being finished. Still, your spiritual eyes may see things I am blind to...



*Steve and Eunice*

## Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are **"truths with traction,"** guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with.



All it takes is a small investment your time and treasure to have so many secrets of the heart opened to your understanding. In our seminars it is a constant thrill to see **"the lights go on"** for the students. Now you can have the seminar experience in the comfort of your own home! How can you resist? This is the 176 page 8 1/2" x11" ring-bound booklet that we use in class.

**Our Price:** \$17.50

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**Healings Streams** is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living--plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace.

***Let's all jump in!***

Sincerely,

*Steve and Eunice Evans*

**Healing Streams Ministry**

A branch of Forerunner Ministries, Inc.