

MOVING BEYOND THE PAST

Lesson 7: Inner Vows

Introduction: Inner vows are made early in childhood, mainly in a more unconscious manner. Unless those inner vows are consciously made null and void they can keep a person stuck in the past and control their future. Many Christians are living a life with inner vows and wondering why Christianity does not ‘work’ for them. They need to be set free from the inner vows they have made and have lived out.

- I. What are Inner Vows?
 - A. An inner vow is a determination set by the mind and heart into the very being of person’s life at a very early age.
 - B. Many times an inner vow is made unconsciously and even if it is made consciously it becomes forgotten. However, our inner being persistently retains such programming.
 - C. The distinctive mark of an inner vow is that it resists the normal maturation process. A person does not ‘just grow out of it’. Inner vows resist change. “When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.’ (1 Corinthians 18:11)
- II. How Inner Vows Operate
 - A. Inner vows may not manifest themselves immediately. They may be like the programming of an electric clock on a range, they may not ‘kick on’ until the time is set by the vow.
 - B. They may ‘rest’ totally forgotten and dormant until triggered by a person or a situation. Thus a person, and others, may not realize a person has an inner vow until the ‘trigger’ occurs.
 - C. At times individuals may reveal what their inner vows are by their behavior, actions, or the words they speak. It as if the inner vow is controlling them-it is.
 - D. Even though behavior may reveal an inner vow, inner vows certainly do not want to be exposed and many times individuals are very resistant to acknowledge and overcome an inner vow in their life. Inner vows have great power, and most cannot be broken by simple repentance.
 - E. Inner vows were used at childhood for protective purposes. Thus inner vows can be used to build walls of protection. The outward manifestation can be anger, anxiety, fear, incapability to trust, a heart of stone, etc Anything to make sure the inner vow is not exposed and made null and void. What was meant to protect the child can destroy the adult.

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- F. Many times two people get together there is the potential that their inner vows will conflict. What the couples see and understand is the surface conflict, not the underlying issues.

III. Examples of Inner Vows

It needs to be understood a person may have made any of these inner vows early in life and have no awareness that they did. So when they are confronted about their inner vows, at times they adamantly refuse to acknowledge them. It is because their identity is totally wrapped up in their inner vows.

- A. You cannot trust anyone.
- B. You can't trust men or women.
- C. It is not safe to share emotions or feelings. It is not safe to share what you think.
- D. Don't let someone have all of you-hold back.
- E. Prejudice, racism, bigotry.
- F. Never speak in public.

IV. Breaking Inner Vows

- A. In order for deliverance to take place from inner vows there needs to be an acknowledgment that what is seen on the surface may not be what is really taking place. Cannot always judge by what is seen on the surface. Need to look at the root of the problem.

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- B. Ask the question-what is behind what the person thinks or does? What could be the root behind it?
- C. Stubborn behavior can be indicative of inner vows-Again dig deep within to determine if there are inner vows that are controlling the behavior. Are there hidden resentments, hidden fears?
- D. When there is ongoing resistance to change, lack of change, or there has been what seems like amazing progress in living in a transformed life, but a person still seems to be stuck.

E. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what may be inner vows. Pray for complete

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exposure. Remember, the inner vow was most likely used as a toll of protection at an early age and will not like to be exposed. However, for a person to be free, they must mature.

1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I become a man, I did away with childish things.”

The person needs to come to an understanding that Jesus Christ is their protector and deliverer.

John 8:36

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

F. Speak against the inner vow, declare it is no longer valid. Declare it null and void.

Matthew 16:19

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”