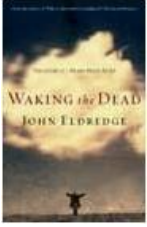


Digging Deeper Question . . .



Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive, by John Eldredge

Chapter 8

1. Can you relate to where Eldredge says, "Well, part of me wants to, and another part of me doesn't" (p. 129)? What are some of those areas in your life where you tend to feel that tension? According to Eldredge, why do we feel this way?
2. "Anytime we find ourselves doing something we wish we could stop but cannot, it ought to raise some concerns. For that matter, anytime we find ourselves *unable* to do the very thing we want to do, it also ought to raise some concerns" (p. 131). What are some of those recurring walls, habits, or patterns that you keep running into that either: keep you boxed in repeating certain unwanted behaviors; or block you from doing what you want to do?
3. Did reading through the list of phobias and idiosyncrasies (pp. 129-130) strike any chords within you? Had you ever before considered that these could result from "broken places in our hearts crying out for relief" (p. 132)?
4. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). Have you ever experienced this personally? Was it a one-time event or a process?
5. John Eldredge argues that the emphasis on healing has been significantly softened and even abandoned in much of contemporary Christian teaching and practice. He points to pride, fear, and an overemphasis on sin as some possible reasons for this. He then states, "Jesus can, and wants to, heal your heart. What does that rouse in you? Is it hope Is it cynicism? Is it 'I tried that—it doesn't work?'" (p. 136). What response is stirred up in you?
6. "Walking with God leads to receiving his intimate counsel, and counseling leads to deep restoration. As we learn to walk with God and hear his voice, he is able to bring up issues in our hearts that need speaking to. Some of those wounds were enough to break our hearts, create a rift in the soul, and so we need his healings as well. This is something Jesus walks us into—sometimes through the help of another person who can listen and pray with us, sometimes with God alone" (P.140). This will not happen in a hurry or in the midst of busyness. Commit to moving through the deep restoration process with God that Eldredge offers on pages 141-144. Ask God to show you if there are others that He has placed in your life to come alongside you through this process. Be vulnerable and ask others to join you in prayer and fasting as you do this. Once you have gone through the process, be open to share your experience with others as God directs.