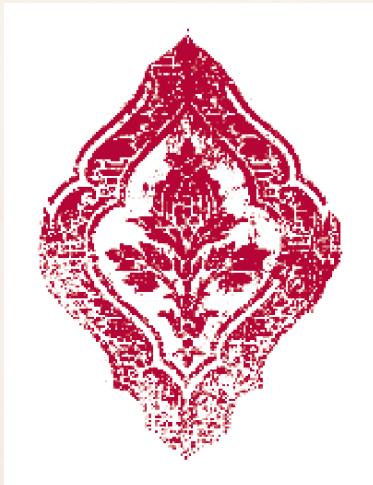


TAPESTRY



HOPE & HEALING

ADRIAN ROGERS

TAPESTRY: HOPE & HEALING

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Jesus Christ is the **answer** to **every** need a person has.
He's the answer to the needs of **your spirit**, and He wants you to be **holy**.
He's the answer to the needs of **your soul**, and He wants you to be **happy**.
He's the answer to the needs of **your body**, and He wants you to be **healthy**.
We don't have to be born crying, live complaining and die disappointed—
not if we know the Lord Jesus Christ. For the Bible says,
"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches
in glory by Christ Jesus"
And if you need to be healed, my God can supply that need.

—ADRIAN ROGERS

WHY “TAPESTRY”?

“The Bible is like a garment. You pull a thread here, and it wrinkles way over there. It’s all tied together.”

—ADRIAN ROGERS

The inspiration for *Tapestry* came in part from Dr. Rogers' own words about the unity of the Bible. Add to that what he taught about the Bible being the infallible, inspired, life-giving, life-changing Word of God. What you have is a focus on the importance of taking in His Word each day and drawing from it the things we need to live victoriously, grow closer to Jesus and learn to share His love with those around us. Indeed, God's marvelous Word must become part of the very fabric of our being if we want these things to be true in our lives.

Pastor Rogers had a unique way of helping us take hold of the Bible's truths and incorporate them into our lives. Featured in the front of *The Adrian Rogers Legacy Bible* is his simple yet effective outline for how to assimilate the Word of God. While researching materials to include in that special publication, we were re-energized as we examined so many powerful, biblical messages collected from a lifetime of serving the Lord. But there was so much more material we wished we could include!

Tapestry is the answer to that desire. Through what will become a series of devotional journals, we hope to present a more substantial portion of Dr. Rogers' work, from which you can glean biblical truth to enrich your life. The format for these journals will utilize Dr. Rogers' 5-step process for examining God's Word.

WHY 5 STEPS?

We feel this wonderfully simple process Pastor Rogers shared is an ingenious way to get the most out of your time spent in God's Word! The principles are basic and memorable, and so effective for helping God's truths to become embedded in your heart and life.

Here's the basic outline for this powerful approach to studying God's Word:

When you get ready to read the Word of God, first **pray over it**. Ask God to teach you. Say, "Dear God, open my eyes. Move my heart. Give me understanding as I read Your Word."

Then **ponder it**. When looking at a passage, ask these six questions:

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

Put it in writing. Have a pen and paper ready to write down the things God is showing you. Expect God to reveal essential truth to you and be ready to record it!

When God teaches you a truth, it is vitally important that you **practice it**. Be quick to obey what you are shown and find ways to implement that truth in your daily life.

Next, **proclaim it**. God doesn't just give you knowledge for your own edification, but to share with others. The more of the Bible you give away, the more it sticks to you!



We've taken these steps and incorporated them into the devotional studies you'll find beautifully presented within this journal.

How To USE TAPESTRY

Each day of study in *Tapestry: Hope & Healing* follows the helpful 5-step format for taking the Word of God into your life.

PRAY OVER IT

Before you begin each study, you'll be reminded to pause for a brief **prayer** asking for God's

cleansing and for the ability to receive what He wants to teach you. You can use your own words; this is just a starting point to help you consecrate this time to Him.

Focus my heart and mind on what you want to reveal to me, Lord.

Lead me through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among

you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

With a renewed mind, there are several ways we may think of ourselves. This verse gives us the dimensions of a healthy self-image.

POUNDER IT

Next is the featured Scripture with some words in bold to emphasize portions of the

verses which will be highlighted in that particular study. As you meditate on God's Word and read Dr. Rogers' insights, keep those six "Is there a..." questions in mind to help you **ponder** what message is there for you.

PUT IT IN WRITING

Now, get ready to **put into writing** what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you, personally! The first question on the facing page will always prompt you to record what you've discovered as you've pondered the Scripture and lesson, applying the six "Is there a..." questions.

PRACTICE IT

In the next space provided for writing, you'll be prompted to record ways you can incorporate the truths you've just been shown into your own life and begin to **practice** them. This is a great way to hold yourself accountable for

acting upon what God has revealed to you, purposing that you will respond with obedience to the truth you've received.

What lessons did you find here today about genuine humility and the value of a proper self-image?

Do you ever find yourself wavering toward either false pride or false humility? What are some specific things you can do to avoid these faulty ways of thinking and think in a "sober" (not half-wavering) way?

PROCLAIM IT

Lastly, you can contemplate ways to share the new knowledge God has given you. Anticipate how you can **proclaim** His truth to friends, co-workers, family members, loved ones—whomever God brings across your path!

We truly believe applying this simple yet powerful method to your Bible study times will make God's Word come alive in your heart and life!

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE USED IN TAPESTRY: HOPE & HEALING

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen.	Genesis	Ecc.	Ecclesiastes
Exo.	Exodus	SOS	Song of Solomon
Lev.	Leviticus	Isa.	Isaiah
Num.	Numbers	Jer.	Jeremiah
Deu.	Deuteronomy	Lam.	Lamentations
Jos.	Joshua	Eze.	Ezekiel
Jdg.	Judges	Dan.	Daniel
Ruth	Ruth	Hos.	Hosea
1 Sam.	1 Samuel	Joel	Joel
2 Sam.	2 Samuel	Amos	Amos
1 Kng.	1 Kings	Oba.	Obadiah
2 Kng.	2 Kings	Jon.	Jonah
1 Chr.	1 Chronicles	Mic.	Micah
2 Chr.	2 Chronicles	Nah.	Nahum
Ezra	Ezra	Hab.	Habakkuk
Neh.	Nehemiah	Zep.	Zephaniah
Est.	Esther	Hag.	Haggai
Job	Job	Zec.	Zechariah
Psa.	Psalms	Mal.	Malachi
Pro.	Proverbs		

NEW TESTAMENT

Mat.	Matthew	1 Tim.	1 Timothy
Mark	Mark	2 Tim.	2 Timothy
Luke	Luke	Tts.	Titus
John	John	Phm.	Philemon
Acts	Acts	Heb.	Hebrews
Rom.	Romans	Jam.	James
1 Cor.	1 Corinthians	1 Ptr.	1 Peter
2 Cor.	2 Corinthians	2 Ptr.	2 Peter
Gal.	Galatians	1 John	1 John
Eph.	Ephesians	2 John	2 John
Phi.	Philippians	3 John	3 John
Col.	Colossians	Jude	Jude
1 Ths.	1 Thessalonians	Rev.	Revelation
2 Ths.	2 Thessalonians		

WHY HOPE & HEALING?

The devil wants to blow out the light of hope in your heart, in your mind. He tells you you're too sick. He tells you you're too bad or the situation is too desperate. He wants to blow out every light of hope.

—ADRIAN ROGERS

Can you think of anything more needed today? Hurts and heartaches, disappointments and discouragement, failures and frailty—these things affect us all. Christians are not immune to pain and suffering. Yes, we can look to the day when this fallen world will be redeemed and long for ultimate healing in eternity with Christ. But in the mean time, just walking through this world each day may leave us battered and bruised, weary and wounded.

Is this the best we can hope for in this life? Not according to God's Word. Jesus said He came that we might experience life *abundantly*. His sacrificial death made way for us to enter into the joys of a relationship with our Creator—and that means not just in eternity, but in the here and now. As Adrian Rogers pointed out, God cares about our happiness, holiness and healthiness in this lifetime. He created us as complex beings and He knows precisely what kind of healing we need—physical, emotional, mental or spiritual—even relational and national. Applying God's Word to these topics, Dr. Rogers presented many messages aimed at helping us realize the complete healing that is ours through Jesus Christ. These poignant lessons became the basis for this second edition of *Tapestry*.

No matter what you're struggling with or what you might face in the future, these studies can help you yield your life to the Great Physician's care and learn how to take steps to further the healing process. Fear, loneliness, depression; bitterness, guilt, brokenness; sickness, sorrow, insecurity—so many things can plague us, even incapacitate us. But God has made a way for us to exchange our weakness for His strength and overcome what daily assails us in this sin-cursed world. May your faith be renewed, your hope restored and the fabric of your life repaired and reinforced as you take in these truths and experience the Savior's healing touch.

Lord, cleanse my heart and open it to Your message for me today.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

REVELATION 21:4-5 A

Do you know why the world is in such a mess today? Things are out of place. Jesus is the King. The King belongs on His throne. The church, the Bride, belongs with the Groom. And the criminal, Satan, belongs in prison. The book of Revelation tells us how all these things will at last come to pass. It unlocks the mystery of history, and that's one reason God says this book is such a blessing (Rev. 1:3)—because it helps to bring sense to our suffering.

Jesus didn't say we would get out of this world unscathed with no pain or problems. In fact, He said just the opposite: "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Yet, what do you say to a child of God who is suffering unbearable pain so great that even the doctor's drugs cannot nullify it? What do you say to a man standing at the graveside of his darling bride, holding the hand of a motherless child? What do you say to a mother longing to enfold the little baby who has been torn from her embrace and carried away by the angels into heaven? What do you say to Christians who are being tortured, as millions are in the world today? What words can you possibly offer to precious believers who are hurting so deeply? Well, here's one thing you can say: "*This is not God's final plan.*"

There is coming a day when our Lord will heal every hurt and wipe away every tear. He will make all things new. One of these days—when the King is on His throne and the Bride is with her Groom and the criminal is in prison—we'll understand the way things are meant to be. And we'll realize the blessed truth stated by the apostle Paul: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

The verses in this study are full of glorious promises—which ones bring the most comfort to you and why?

What did you find today that can help you? Can you think of some “future glories” to meditate upon that might put your present difficulties into perspective?

Who do you know who is hurting and might be encouraged by these insights? How could you pray for them using the truths revealed in these verses?

Lord, please bless these moments I'm about to spend in Your Word.

*"...Cursed is the ground **for your sake**; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground..."*

GENESIS 3:17 - 19

The perfection of God's creation was shattered. Sin had entered the world through the willful disobedience of Adam and Eve. As God explained the grave consequences of their sinful actions, you would expect Him to say, "I'm doing this for your punishment" but instead He said, "for your sake."

He basically told them, "I'm not doing this as a part of your judgment. I'm doing it because I love you. The thorns, the thistles, the sweat, the labor, the heartache, the sorrow—it's for your sake." You see, if Adam and Eve were allowed to stay in paradise—living with a sinful nature in a world without difficulties—they would never see their need for God. And they might never realize that their only hope of escaping the ultimate consequences of their sin would come through Jesus Christ.

We suffer today because we are sinners living in a world infected by sin. The curse that God decreed upon mankind and our environment remains because the worst thing that could happen to us would be for us to have the sickness of sin, yet feel no pain.

If a doctor could give you an injection which would make you forever immune to pain, would you take it? Answer carefully, because pain is the gift of God. Pain is God's way of telling you there's something wrong and you need to do something about it. If you couldn't feel any pain, you might seriously injure yourself or become ill without ever knowing you were hurt or in need of medical care.

Difficulties in the universe are what pain is to the body—God's signal telling us that something is radically wrong and needs to be fixed. We face hardships, heartaches, sickness and sorrow; we see tragedy and tyranny plaguing our world. And it causes us, sinful creatures though we are, to depend upon the Lord. It keeps us coming back to the Great Physician, Who alone can heal completely.

Did today's study provide any new thoughts for you about how God sometimes extends His grace to us—in ways we might not expect?

Consider the difficulties you face each day and what you see happening in the world around you. How might you view these things differently after today's study?

What insights did you gain today that could help you reach out to others with God's truth?

Lord, help me apply the insights in these verses to my life.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin...I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.

PSALM 38:3 , 8

The sweet singer of Israel, a man after God's own heart, was in misery. King David had done something terribly wrong and tried to hide it. And his conscience was killing him. Psalm 38 is really the prayer of a guilty man. Its title says the purpose of the psalm is "To bring to remembrance."

Many of us may complain about having trouble remembering things. But the truth is most of us wish we had a good "forget-ory," not a good memory. There are things that haunt us—memories lurking in the dark corners of our minds. And much of our daily routine may be spent trying to forget all manner of hurtful things: unkind thoughts, selfish acts, immoral deeds, wickedness of every kind. We look for anything to distract us from these things which are too painful to think about.

The word *amuse* literally means "not to think." And there's nothing wrong with amusement, *per se*. But we see people who stay plugged into their electronic devices—always listening to something, watching something, playing something—constantly trying not to think. And we have a generation that is amusing itself into hell, trying somehow to quell their conscience.

King David said, regarding his acts of adultery and murder, "my sin is always before me" (Psa. 51:3). We don't want our guilt staring us in the face all the time. So we try to tuck it away. But that doesn't work, because then the memory resides in our subconscious mind. You can put something out of your conscious mind only to have it run around the house and crawl in the basement window. It's no longer in the living room; it's in the basement. And there it shows up as a migraine or the inability to concentrate, a bad temper or the inability to pray.

Guilt can cause all kinds of emotional and physical problems. It makes the soul like a yellow, dingy, grimy window, distorting our whole outlook on life. Unless we come clean, everything we see will be discolored by the dirt and grime of guilt.