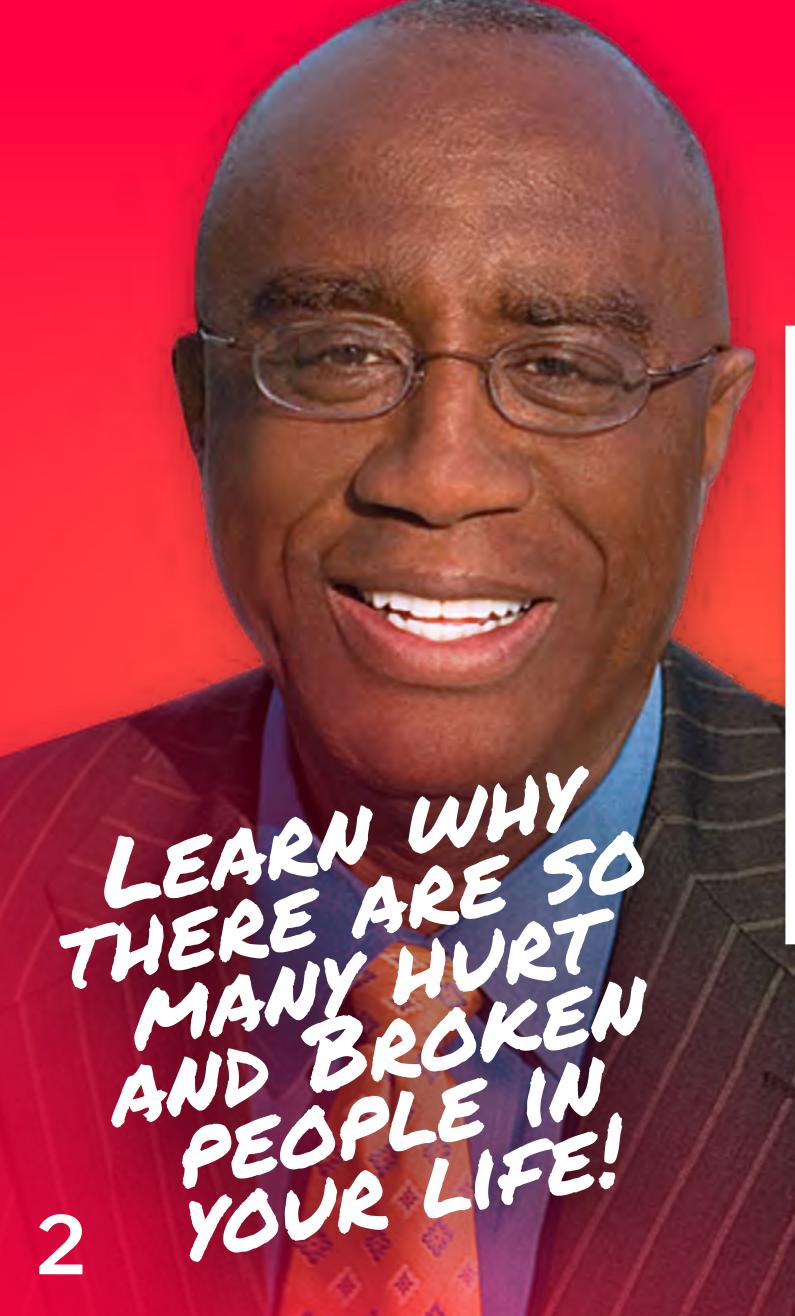


LEARN HOW TO HEAL FROM YOUR BROKENIESS!

















KHEART HURTS









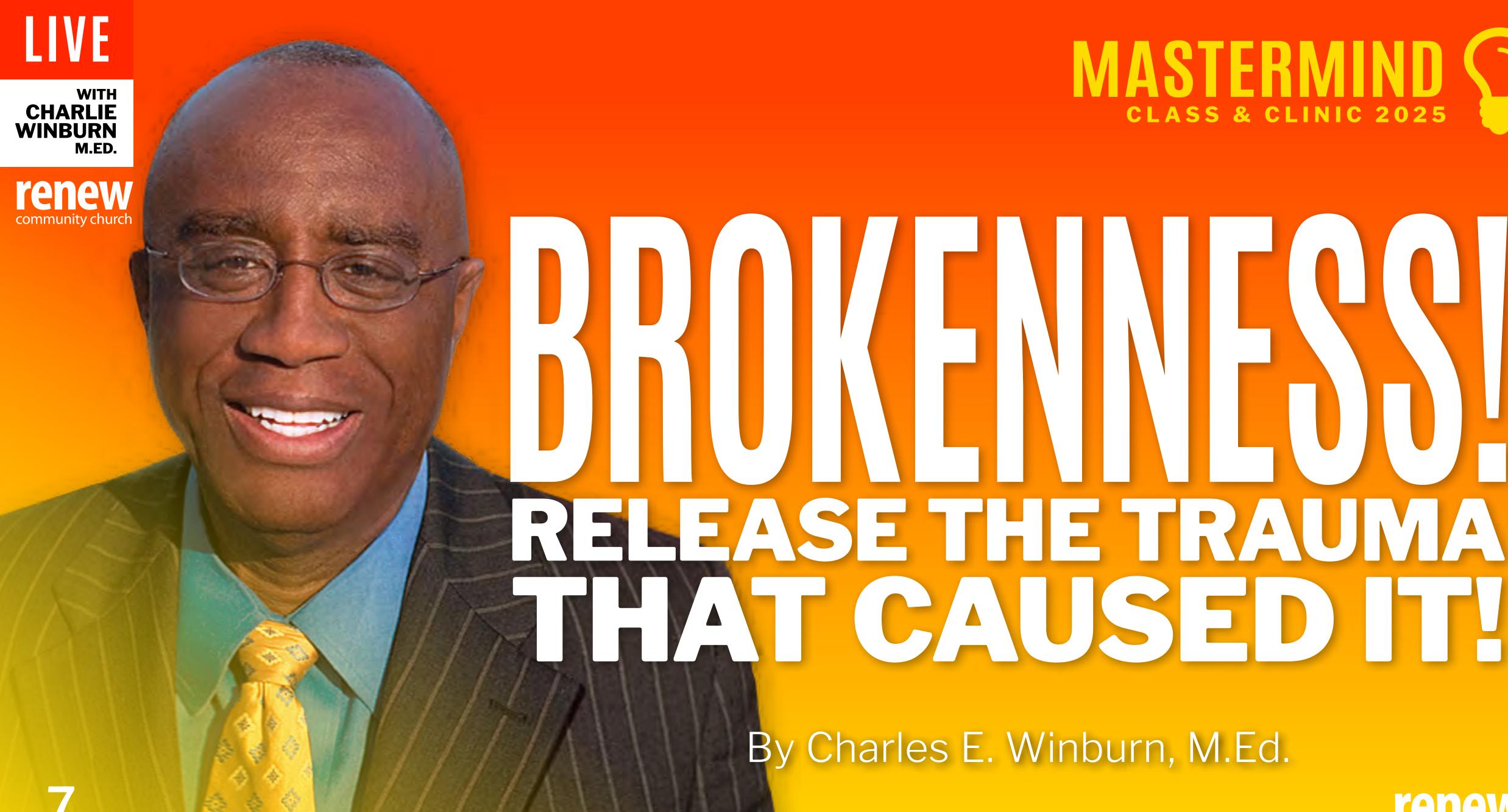
BUTNOT FORGOTTEN!





THE BIOLOGY OF BROKE SI







LEASE THE TRAUMA



Disclaimer: This teaching is for religious and educational purposes only and is not designed to diagnose or give medical or psychological advice whatsoever. Please seek the advice of your medical doctor, psychologist, or counselor.



Resources

We do not have any ownership stakes or financial investment in these businesses. They are wonderful services that could potentially benefit you.



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AIM for Wellbeing: Integrative and Functional Medicine



Life Extension Research-based vitamins and minerals

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John H. Thomas, Ed.D. Clinical psychologist 513-961-5682

(24-hour answering service)



Amen Clinics Brain SPECT Imaging 877-311-2828

Natural ways to heal your body



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Cincinnati, OH 45220
513-961-6111



Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) Helpline 1-800-934-9840 www.odvn.org

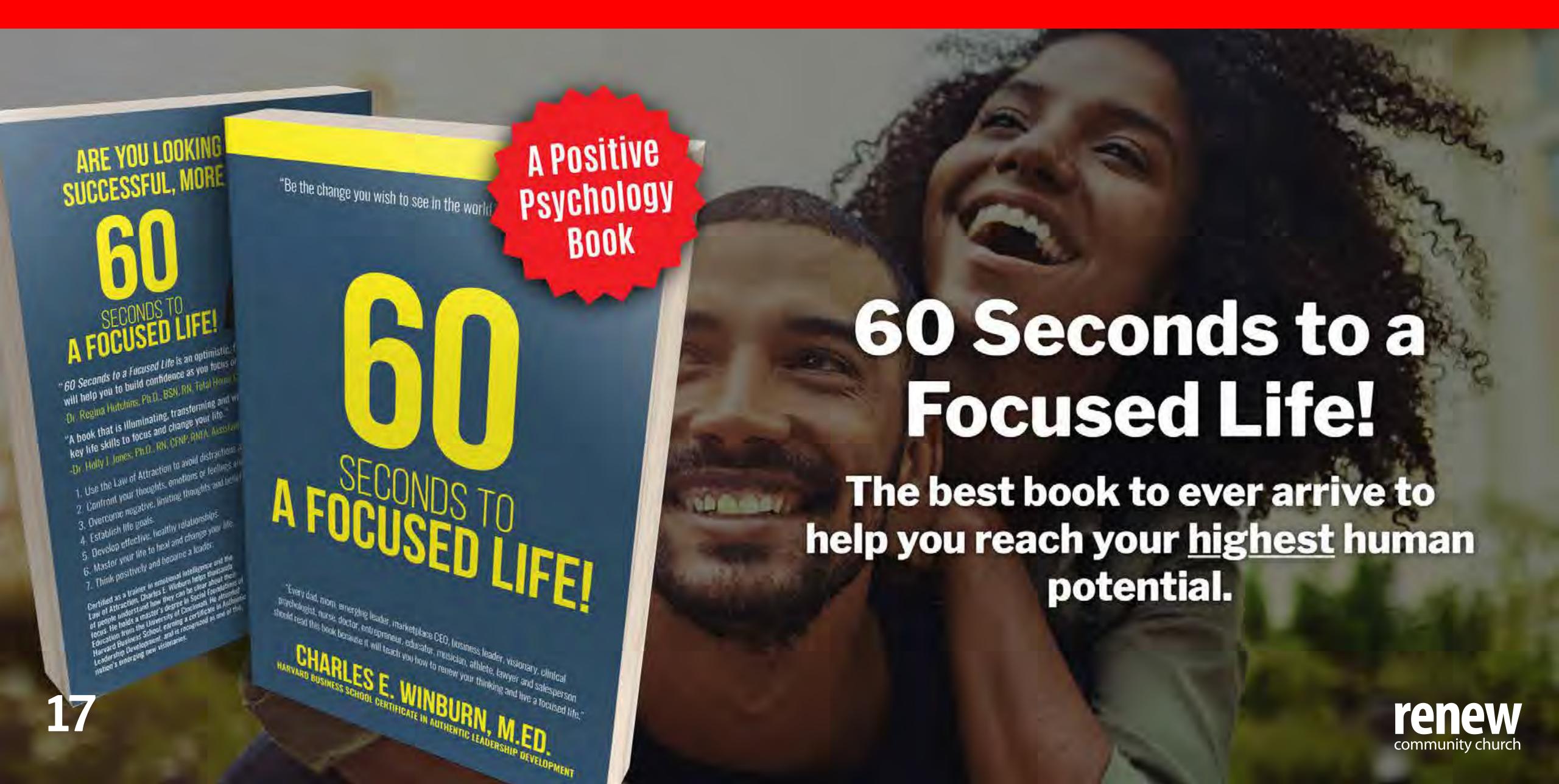


National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
www.thehotline.org



Visit today: 60SecondsToAFocusedLife.com



He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3



The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;



The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psalm 34:16



The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51:17



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30



He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up



with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31



Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:7



25 common characteristics of people who have experienced a broken heart because of life challenges

Al Research



1. Increased emotional guardedness: People may become more guarded to protect themselves from further pain, sharing less and vetting others more carefully.



2. Heightened empathy for others: After personal loss, some develop deeper understanding of others' suffering and may offer listening, comfort, or support.



3. Pessimism or cautious optimism: Expecting worse outcomes more often, yet sometimes balancing with moments of renewed hope after small successes.



4. Reluctance to trust easily:
Trust may be earned slowly;
they might test reliability
before investing emotionally.



5. Hypervigilance in relationships: A tendency to watch for red flags or signals of potential harm, sometimes leading to overanalysis.



6. Strong sense of resilience: Surviving difficult times can foster a belief in one's own ability to cope and endure future challenges.



7. Heightened self-awareness: Increased reflection on personal values, boundaries, and needs.



8. Withdrawal during stress: In times of overwhelm, retreating from social situations or isolating to recharge.



9. Heightened sensitivity to rejection: Even minor perceived slights can feel amplified, given past hurts.



10. Reassessment of life priorities:
A shift toward what truly
matters, such as relationships,
health, and meaning over
material gain.



11. Compassion fatigue potential: Caring deeply for others' pain can lead to emotional exhaustion if self-care isn't maintained.



12. Changes in routines and habits: Sleep, eating, or exercise patterns may become irregular as a response to distress or healing processes.



13. Increased need for control:
Attempting to control
surroundings or outcomes to
reduce uncertainty and anxiety.



14. Creative or expressive outlet development: Some channel pain into art, music, writing, or other forms of expression as a healing mechanism.



15. Difficulty with vulnerability: Sharing fears or needs may feel risky, leading to selective openness.



16. Persistent rumination:
Repeatedly revisiting past
events or "what-if" scenarios,
which can hinder moving
forward.



17. Boundary setting as protection: More explicit boundaries around time, energy, and personal space to guard against harm.



18. Shift toward self-reliance: A stronger reliance on oneself for problem-solving rather than seeking external support.



19. Faith, spirituality, or existential questioning: Some deepen or re-evaluate beliefs to find meaning, solace, or community.



20. Appreciation for small joys: A tendency to savor simple moments more deliberately as a counterbalance to pain.



21. Increased gratitude for support networks: Recognition of the importance of friends, family, or professionals who provide care.



22.Sleep and mood fluctuations:
Disturbed sleep or mood
swings can accompany
processing trauma or
heartbreak.



23. Avoidance of reminders of the pain: Steering clear of places, songs, or topics that trigger memories of the hurt.



24.Post-traumatic growth potential: For some, enduring hardship leads to growth in areas like personal strength, appreciation, or purpose.



25.Risk of compounded mental health challenges: Without support, chronic heartbreak can contribute to anxiety, depression, or burnout.



15 scientific, medical, and psychological explanations for what can happen when someone feels their heart is "broken" for long periods

Al Research



1. Chronic Stress Response (HPA Axis Activation)



- What happens: Prolonged emotional distress activates the hypothalamic-pituitaryadrenal (HPA) axis, raising cortisol and adrenaline levels.
- Mechanisms: Persistent cortisol alters glucose metabolism, lowers immune function, increases blood pressure, and can promote visceral fat accumulation.



- Symptoms/Effects: Insomnia, fatigue, headaches, weight changes, high blood pressure, muscle tension.
- Notes: Chronic cortisol can impair memory and mood regulation over time.



2. Inflammation and Immune System Dysregulation



- What happens: Ongoing emotional pain is linked with systemic low-grade inflammation.
- Mechanisms: Elevated proinflammatory cytokines (e.g., IL-6, TNF-α) can affect brain circuits involved in mood and pain perception.



- Symptoms/Effects: Fatigue, malaise, heightened pain sensitivity, slowed healing, increased risk for cardiovascular disease.
- Notes: Inflammation is a common thread in depression and heart disease risk.



3. Cardiovascular Strain and Heart Disease Risk



- What happens: Chronic emotional distress can increase risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- Mechanisms: Sympathetic arousal raises heart rate and blood pressure; prolonged exposure can lead to endothelial dysfunction and atherogenesis.



- Symptoms/Effects: Hypertension, arrhythmias, chest discomfort, and higher long-term risk of heart attack.
- Notes: "Broken heart" is figurative but maps onto measurable cardiovascular risk.



4. Autonomic Nervous System Imbalance



- What happens: Long-term emotional pain can skew autonomic balance toward sympathetic dominance.
- Mechanisms: Reduced heart rate variability (HRV) indicates lower parasympathetic (vagal) activity, signaling stress.



- Symptoms/Effects: Poor stress resiliency, fatigue, sleep disturbances, higher arousal at rest.
- Notes: Low HRV is a biomarker associated with mood disorders and poorer health outcomes.



5. Brain Structural and Functional Changes (Neuroplasticity)



- What happens: Prolonged distress can alter brain networks involved in emotion processing.
- Mechanisms: Changes in the limbic system (amygdala, hippocampus) and prefrontal cortex disrupt emotion regulation and memory.



- Symptoms/Effects: Rumination, negative bias, difficulty concentrating, intrusive memories.
- Notes: Some changes may be reversible with time and interventions like therapy.



6. Depression and Mood Disorders



- What happens: Persistent heartbreak can precipitate major depressive episodes or chronic depressive symptoms.
- Mechanisms: Combined role of HPA axis activity, inflammation, and neurotransmitter imbalances (serotonin, norepinephrine, dopamine).



- Symptoms/Effects: Persistent sadness, anhedonia, sleep/appetite changes, guilt, thoughts of self-harm.
- Notes: Early treatment improves outcomes; not everyone will develop a full major depressive disorder.



7. Anxiety and Worry Circuitry Activation



- What happens: Ongoing emotional pain can fuel chronic anxiety and hypervigilance.
- Mechanisms: Overactive amygdala and underactive prefrontal regulation; elevated cortisol and norepinephrine.



- Symptoms/Effects: Excess worry, restlessness, irritability, physical symptoms like muscle tension and palpitations.
- Notes: Anxiety often co-occurs with heartbreak and can amplify perceived heart pain.



8. Sleep Disturbances Exacerbating Physical and Mental Health



- What happens: Heartbreakrelated distress disrupts sleep.
- Mechanisms: Stress hormones, rumination, and nighttime awakenings interfere with sleep architecture (reduced slowwave sleep, altered REM).



- Symptoms/Effects: Daytime fatigue, impaired concentration, emotional sensitivity, worsened mood.
- Notes: Sleep impairment can create a vicious cycle with mood and immune function.



9. Pain Perception and Somatic Symptoms (Pain Brain Mechanisms)



- What happens: Emotional pain can activate brain regions overlapping with physical pain processing.
- Mechanisms: Anterior cingulate cortex and insula respond to both social/ephemeral pain and physical pain; neurotransmitter systems (e.g., endogenous opioids) are involved.

renew

- Symptoms/Effects: Chest tightness, tears, headaches, muscle aches—even in the absence of physical injury.
- Notes: This helps explain why heartbreak can feel physically painful.



10. Neurotransmitter Imbalances Affecting Mood and Motivation



- What happens: Long-term distress can alter dopamine and serotonin signaling.
- Mechanisms: Changes in receptor sensitivity and neurotransmitter release influence reward, motivation, and mood regulation.



- Symptoms/Effects: Anhedonia, reduced motivation, slower psychomotor speed, craving for relief/comfort.
- Notes: These changes can respond to therapy and sometimes pharmacological treatment.



11. Behavioral Changes and Coping Strategies



- What happens: People adopt coping behaviors that can harm health.
- Mechanisms: Avoidance, rumination, disordered eating, alcohol or substance use, and physical inactivity can worsen health.



- Symptoms/Effects: Weight gain/loss, liver strain, metabolic changes, sleep problems, and worsening mood.
- Notes: Healthy coping (physical activity, social support, psychotherapy) mitigates harm.



12. Hypertension and Vascular Aging



- What happens: Chronic emotional stress can contribute to sustained high blood pressure.
- Mechanisms: Sympathetic nervous system activation and cortisol effects on vascular tone.



- Symptoms/Effects: Headaches, fatigue, risk of heart disease and stroke with time.
- Notes: Regular monitoring and stress management help.



13. Immune System and Infection Susceptibility



- What happens: Chronic stress can dampen immune responses, increasing infection risk.
- Mechanisms: Glucocorticoids suppress certain immune functions; memory T-cell responses can be blunted.



- Symptoms/Effects: More frequent colds, slower recovery from illnesses.
- Notes: Psychological stress management supports immune health.



14. Self-Perception and Identity Shifts



- What happens: Long-standing heartbreak can reshape selfidentity and beliefs about safety, trust, and worth.
- Mechanisms:

 Neuropsychological integration of experiences; attachment style adjustments; cognitive appraisals influence behavior and emotion.

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- Symptoms/Effects: Low selfesteem, cynicism, apathy, or avoidance of closeness in future relationships.
- Notes: Therapy (especially attachment-based and cognitive approaches) can help rebuild a stable sense of self.



15. Neuroendocrine and Metabolic Changes from Chronic Stress



- What happens: Persistent heartbreak-related stress can disrupt thyroid function, insulin sensitivity, and metabolic hormones.
- Mechanisms: HPA axis interacts with the hypothalamic pituitary—thyroid axis and metabolic signaling pathways (e.g., insulin, leptin).

- Symptoms/Effects: Fatigue, weight fluctuations, energy dips, mood changes; longer-term risk for metabolic syndrome.
- Notes: Lifestyle factors (diet, exercise) and medical evaluation can address these changes.



15 practical, evidence-informed strategies to help someone heal from heartbreak, life challenges, or major hurts

Al Research



1. Validate feelings and normalize the experience: Validating feelings reduces shame and fosters a safe space to process pain.



 How to apply: Reflect back what you hear (e.g., "That sounds really painful."). Allow sadness, anger, and confusion without judgment.



2. Establish a daily routine and use Winburn 60 seconds to the Focus life story calendar!: Predictability and structure reduce anxiety and support coping.



- Evidence snapshot: Consistent routines are linked to better mood regulation and resilience in stressful times.
- How to apply: Set small daily anchors (wake time, meals, exercise, wind-down ritual).
 Build in short, doable activities.



3. Practice self-compassion:
Self-compassion buffers
against self-criticism and
promotes emotional healing.



 How to apply: Speak to yourself as you would to a friend. Use phrases like "This is hard, and I'm doing my best."



4. Engage in brief, regular physical activity: Exercise releases endorphins and supports mood, sleep, and stress regulation.



 How to apply: Aim for 15– 30 minutes most days (walk, stretch, yoga, light cardio).
 Find activities you enjoy.



5. Sleep hygiene and consistent rest: Sleep disturbances amplify emotional distress and cognitive rumination.



 How to apply: Maintain a regular bedtime, limit screens before bed, create a calming pre-sleep routine, and keep a comfortable sleep environment.



6. Mindfulness and grounding practices: Mindfulness reduces rumination and improves emotional awareness.



 How to apply: Try short practices (5–10 minutes) like breathing exercises, body scans, or grounding techniques (name five things you can see, hear, feel).



7. Social connection and supportive relationships: Social support is a strong buffer against depression and anxiety and aids recovery.



 How to apply: Reach out to trusted friends or family, join a support group, or work with a therapist. Schedule regular check-ins, even brief.



8. Identify and reframe negative thinking: Cognitive patterns like all-or-nothing thinking or catastrophizing perpetuate distress.



• How to apply: Notice automatic thoughts, challenge them with evidence, and substitute balanced statements (e.g., "This hurts now, but it won't last forever.").



9. Set small, meaningful goals: Goal setting provides a sense of purpose and progress, which enhances motivation.



How to apply: Choose 1–2
 achievable goals daily or
 weekly that align with values
 (e.g., "I'll call a friend," "I'll
 cook a healthy meal"). Track
 progress.

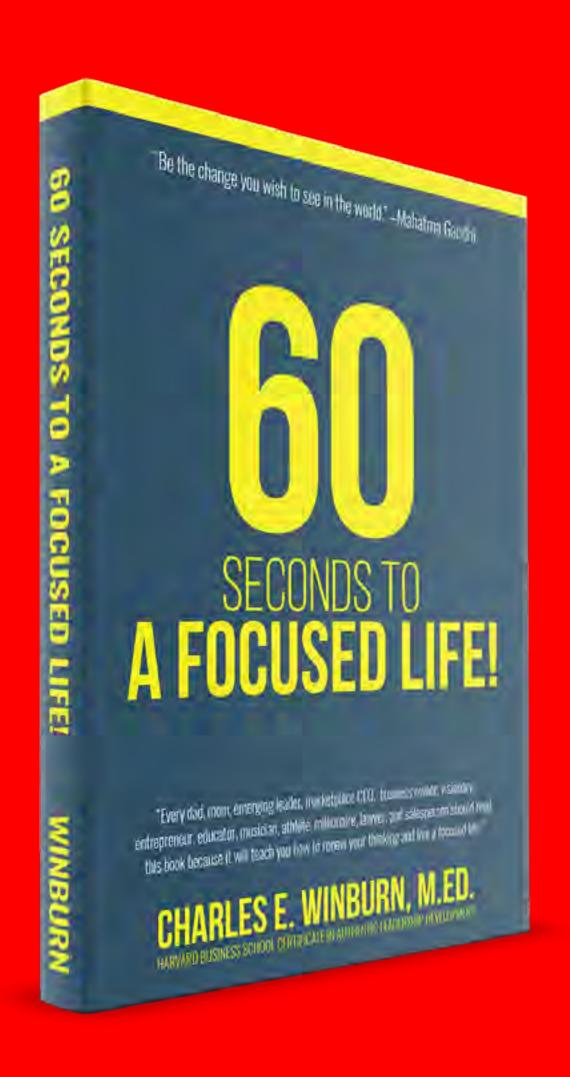


10. Engage in activities that restore meaning and pleasure: Pleasure and meaning help counter anhedonia and grief.



 How to apply: Reconnect with hobbies, try new activities, or contribute to others (volunteering). Start with low-barrier activities.





11. Seek professional support when needed and read Charlie Winburn's book 60 seconds to a Focus life!: Evidence-based treatments (e.g., cognitivebehavioral therapy, traumafocused therapy, interpersonal therapy) are effective for healing distress from life challenges.



· How to apply: Consider a licensed mental health professional. If cost is a barrier, look for community clinics, sliding-scale options, or teletherapy. If there are trauma symptoms, request traumainformed approaches.



12. Normalize healing as a nonlinear process: Recovery often includes progress and setbacks; this reduces frustration.



 How to apply: Remind yourself that ups and downs are part of healing. Track progress over weeks rather than day-to-day.



13. Limit exposure to additional stressors when possible: Reducing unnecessary triggers can prevent overwhelm.



 How to apply: Temporarily pause highly stressful commitments, limit negative social media consumption, or set boundaries with other people if needed.



14. Create a personal coping toolbox: Having ready-to-use strategies increases resilience in moments of distress.



 How to apply: List quick strategies (e.g., breathing exercise, call a friend, journal, take a walk). Keep it accessible (phone notes, card in wallet).



15. Cultivate hope through meaning-focused coping: Focusing on values and purpose fosters resilience and long-term recovery.



 How to apply: Reflect on what matters to you (values, roles, future goals). Align small actions with those values, even in the face of pain.







'S POSSIBLE TO TURN YOUR FEAROUND THIS SUNDAY!

By Charles E. Winburn, M.Ed.

renew community church