

GOD'S PROVIDENCE FOR HEALING

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

It is important for Christians to realize that healing is a part of God's redemption for lost humanity. When Jesus Christ came to earth and paid the price for our sins, He also paid the price for our healing. It is God's intention for mankind to enjoy good mental, physical, and emotional health.

Healing and health are an important part of God's plan for our lives and ministry. Healing is one of God's promises. We know that after believing and taking action, any promise from God unleashes His power in our lives. We should then find His promises, believe, and act on them.

Pr 4:20-22 "My son, heed my words, incline your ear to my sayings; never depart from your eyes, keep them in the center of your heart; for they are life for those who find them, healing for their whole body.

If we believe that illness can come from God, we would not be able to believe in Him for our healing. For this reason, we need to understand the source of the disease.

The Father

The Holy Spirit inspired John to write and tell us that healing is the Father's will.

3 Jn 2 Beloved, I desire that you should prosper in all things and enjoy good health, how your soul thrives.

It is necessary for us to know that healing is always God's will.

The Son

Jesus said:

Jn 6:38 'Cause I came down from heaven, not to make my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

As we follow Jesus through the Gospels, we find that He has ministered healing in many different situations. His compassion for the sick person it was constantly evident. Healing was a part of the important in his ministry.

Mr 1:40-41 And a leper came to him, and pleaded with him, and fell on his knees before him, and said to him, If thou wilt, thou mayest cleanse me. And Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him: "Yes, I will, be clean!"

Healing was important to Jesus because He came to do the Father's will.

Heb 10:7 "Then I said, 'Behold, I am coming; in the scroll of the book it is written about me; I come to do, O God, your will.'"

As Jesus walked around healing people, he was doing the Father's will.

Mt 9:35 "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every disease among the people.

The Holy Spirit

Healing is important to the Holy Spirit and is part of the purpose of His anointing. In Luke we read how the Holy Spirit anoints Jesus to heal those with a "broken heart".

Lk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free.

He anointed Jesus to heal those who were oppressed by the devil.

Acts 10:38....How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

Healing was an important part of the growth and ministry of Jesus' disciples and followers. Just as Jesus was going about healing the sick, he commanded the twelve disciples to do the same.

Mt 10:1,7-8 "Then he called his twelve disciples to him, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out, and to heal any infirmity. Go and preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give.

Jesus said that everyone who believes in Him will do the same things He did. Healing must be important to us if we are really to do what Jesus said.

Jn 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; indeed he will make greater than these, because I am going to the Father.

Mr 16:15-18 And he said to them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; he who believed and was baptized will be saved; but he who has not believed will be condemned. And these are the signs that will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons, they will speak new tongues; they will take snakes in their hands, even if they drink something deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

Does the disease come from God or from Satan?

As long as there is any doubt about these statements in our minds, we will be doubly inclined, with little faith in healing, to live lives in defeat. In order to know correctly how to treat the

In the case of disease, we must have a solid knowledge of its origin, its source and its purpose.

To find out the truth about the origin, source, and purpose of the disease, we will begin by looking for answers to some typical and frequently asked questions.

Is it God's will to heal the sick?

The biggest barrier to healing is uncertainty about God's will to heal everyone. Satan comes against us and puts words of doubt in our minds and if we are not careful we allow that doubt to work. We often hear this doubt expressed in the words of traditional prayers such as, "Lord, if it is your will, we ask for your healing touch....." Thus, a prayer expresses uncertainty and doubt as to whether it is God's will for all to be healed. Without a

certainty in our spirit that it is God's will to heal, it is impossible to make a prayer of faith for ourselves or for others. We see an illustration of how doubt is expressed in a leper man when he says: "If you will."

Mr 1:39-41 And he went on preaching in their synagogues throughout Galilee and casting out demons. And a leper came to him, who, pleading with him, fell on his knees before him, and said to him, "If you wish, you can cleanse me." And Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him: "Yes, I will, be clean".

Jesus erased the "if," simply saying, "Yes, I do." Everything Jesus did was a revelation of the Father's will for His people.

Is it God's will for me, to be sick?

It is God's will above all things that we live in good health every day.

3 Jn 2 Beloved, I desire that you should prosper in all things and enjoy good health, how your soul thrives.

If Jesus healed the sick then it is the Father's will to heal the sick. Since it is the Father's will to heal the sick, then it is the Father's will to heal you!

Does God make people sick in order to correct them, discipline them, punish them, or teach them patience?

Satan, not God, is the one who brings sickness and infirmity to people.

Job 2:7 "So Satan withdrew from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with a malignant ulcer from the soles of his feet to the top of his head."

We should not imagine a loving father, sensitive to human nature, who makes his children sick with cancer in order to discipline them. How can we imagine our heavenly Father bringing sickness or infirmity to his children?

Jn 10:10 "The thief cometh only to steal, to kill, and to destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Jesus said that it is the devil who comes to kill, steal our health, and destroy us with disease and infirmity. But Jesus came to give us abundant life, a life without sickness, infirmity and pain. He came to restore for us

all that He created for mankind when He created Adam and Eve in His image.

What can be said about Paul's thorn? • Does the Bible say that Paul's thorn was a disease?

Through the misunderstanding of scripture, some have taught that the thorn in the flesh of the apostle Paul was a serious disease of the eye. But Paul wrote that his thorn was an evil spirit, a messenger of satan sent to slap or torment him.

2 Corinthians 12:7 "Moreover, that I may not be proud of the excellency of the revelations, I have been given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to slap me, that I may not become arrogant.

Nowhere does the Bible teach that the thorn in Paul's flesh was a physical illness.

Illness, a necessity to bring death? When God is ready to take us home, do we need to get sick to die?

If it is God's will that we live in health every day of our lives, why would He necessarily make us sick in order to bring us to the Death?

Moses is a wonderful example! He was 120 years old when God called him home. His health was so good that he was still able to climb the mountain to meet God. He has lost none of his vision or natural strength.

Deut 34:7 And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eyesight had not weakened and his vigor had not failed.

When an elderly person is sick, God's will is that he be healed. When God's time comes, his spirit will leave his body and his heart will cease to beat.

Does God allow sickness to occur? Does God allow sickness or premature death to come to His people?

Many rebuke God when illness or premature death comes, saying, "Why did God allow this to happen?"

Adam and Eve had been given authority and dominion over all that happened on this earth when they were created in God's image.

Ge 1:26 "Then God said, Let us make man in our image and after our likeness, and let him have dominion....

The authority or dominion that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned has been restored in Jesus.

Mt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Sickness comes through the power of satan, but Jesus said that believers today have authority over the power of the enemy.

Lk 10:19 "Behold, I have given you power to trample down serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing can hurt you.

By not exercising our God-given dominion over this earth, we, not God, allow the devil to bring sickness, sickness, and death upon ourselves and our loved ones.

Source of the disease

All sickness and infirmity come from the devil and not from God. Many are sick because they have given space to spirits of infirmity through sin, disobedience, or principles that have neglected good health and nutrition. Ruins, death and destruction are always the work of satan.

Eph 4:27.... and give no place to the devil.

By applying our restored authority, we can resist the spirits of infirmity or sickness that has come and they will flee from us.

Joh 4:7.... Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Believers have authority to cast out the spirit of sickness and heal all kinds of sickness or infirmity.

Mt 10:1 "Then he called his twelve disciples to him, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity.

The only things the devil can do to us today are the things we allow him to do. The question should not be, "Why is God allowing this to happen?" But rather, "Why are we allowing this to happen?"

During the painful agony of the scourging, Jesus experienced how flesh was torn into pieces from His back. He became our Substitute. He carried the pain of sickness and infirmity.

His work of redemption on our behalf has not only paid the penalty for our sin, it has also freed us from having to bear the physical consequences of that sin.

The full revelation of the Redemption concerns three realities:

Liberation from the slavery of satan through faith in Jesus as our Lord.
Eternal salvation through faith in Jesus as our Savior. Healing of soul and body through faith in Jesus as our Healer.

Difference Between Belief in Feelings and Faith in God's Word	
TRADITIONAL RESPONSE	RESPONSE OF FAITH
Question: Are you saved? Answer: No! I don't know! Question: How do you know? Answer: I'm not sure! Question: Are you cured? Answer: No! Question: How do you know? Answer: I still feel the pain or illness!	Question: Are you saved? Answer: Yes! Question: How do you know? Answer: The Word of God tells me so! And the Holy Spirit confirms it to me! Question: Are you cured? Answer: Yes! Question: How do you know? Answer: The Word of God tells me so! And faith in Jesus confirms it to me!

Sometimes we wonder, why, if it is God's will for all to be saved, aren't all people saved? And why is it God's will for all to be healed, not all people are?

The answer to both questions is: They must believe!

Matthew believed God's message as prophesied by Isaiah.

Mt 8:16-17 "And when evening came, many demon-possessed men were brought to him; and he cast out the spirits by the word and healed all the

sick, that what was said by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, when he said, "He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

Peter believed God's message as Isaiah prophesied it.

1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the wood of the cross, that we, dead to sin, might live for righteousness; and by its stripes you have been healed.

Peter believed God's message when he healed the first person after Jesus had left, leaving the earth.

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, "I have neither gold nor silver, but what I have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, arise and walk."

Just like the lame man, we must believe God's Word which is truth.

We receive salvation by faith in God's Word, and we also receive healing by faith in God's Word.

All that is necessary is to believe God's message! Even if my traditions, the conductors, my appearance or how I feel, say differently.

Jesus ministered in the gifts of the Holy Ghost just as believers must do today. The apostle Paul wrote of Jesus coming as a man.

Phil 2:7....but he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming like men;. ...

Jesus' First Two Miracles

1) Turning Water into Wine • Whatever He says, do it!

To experience Jesus' miracles in our lives, we must listen to God's voice and be ready to obey.

Jn 2:5" Do whatever He tells you."

2) The healing was Jesus' second miracle!

A nobleman had heard of the miracle Jesus had performed at the wedding, and hearing this gave him faith. As a result of that faith, his son who was dying, lived.

Joh 4:46-51 So Jesus came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had turned water into wine. Now there was a royal official, whose son was sick at

Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and begged him to come down and heal his son, because he was about to die. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe." The royal official said to him: " Sir, come down before my boy dies ". Jesus said to him, "Go, your son lives!" And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him, and he went away. Just as he was coming down, his servants came to meet him and informed him, saying, "Your son lives."

The man could not persuade Jesus to heal his son as he wanted. She asked Jesus to come and heal her son. Instead, the man received his miracle of healing when he believed the Word that Jesus spoke! Like servants and the nobleman, we too can experience miracles if we listen to Jesus' voice, believe the Word He speaks, and obey everything He tells us to do.

Another mission of Jesus was to destroy the works of the devil:

1 Jn 3:8 for this reason the Son of God was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil.

Since the destruction of the evil one's work, Jesus has given life abundantly for His people. Jesus said:

Jn 10:10.... But I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance.

Heb 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

If He healed while He was on Earth, He will heal even today! Anyone who comes to Him in faith can receive His healing.

Final Instructions

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave us His final instructions. We call this the great mandate. Mark recalls these last important words of Jesus to his believers.

Mr 16:15-19 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he who believed and was baptized will be saved; but he who has not believed will be condemned. And these are the signs of those who will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons, they will speak new tongues, they will take

serpents in their hands, even if they drink something deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed. The Lord Jesus, therefore, after speaking to them, was taken into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

This is not great advice, **it is a command!**

Many people find it difficult to believe that Jesus is our example when it comes to His healings or miracle ministry. It is thought that all of these supernatural manifestations resulted from His power as the son of God. This is not true.

Jesus was uniquely qualified to be our example because He provisionally set aside His rights as the Son of God and came to this earth to live and minister as a man, like the last Adam. Even though He was still truly God, He lived and ministered on this earth as the Son of man.

There was no miracle that can be remembered in His life before the Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism in the Jordan River.

His ministry has been carried out in the power and work of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, and it is precisely in this way that we are to live and minister as Spirit-baptized believers.

Jesus' ministry included:

Teaching, Preaching, Healing and Liberation.

Mt 9:35 "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every disease among the people.

Jesus' supernatural ministry multiplied when he sent out the twelve disciples. They had to perform the same ministry that He had shown them.

Mt 10:1,7-8 "Then he called his twelve disciples to him, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and every infirmity. Go and preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give.

The disciples who had recently received the mandate had to:

Preach, Heal the sick, Heal lepers, Raise the dead, Cast out demons.

They had to do this gratuitously and with the same love and compassion as Jesus. Their ministry was to be like Jesus'. After the twelve were sent forth and experienced, Jesus sent forth the seventy.

Lk 10:1,9 "After these things, the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them forth two by two in front of him, in every city and place where he was about to go. "And heal the sick who are in it, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'"

The mandate has not been changed. The seventy had to:

Heal diseases, Preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. The ministry was expanding. Jesus first duplicated himself in the lives of the twelve disciples and then in the lives of the seventy. Certainly they still had much to learn, but they were growing. Most important, they had to be obedient to Jesus. As a result, they experienced great miracles, joy, and victory.

Lk 10:17 And the seventy returned with rejoicing....

With the instructions of the great commission, Jesus sent all believers. All who are born again have the same mandate, to go in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

After Jesus' ascension to heaven, did the healing work stop? No, the disciples continued to preach the gospel and heal the sick. Consider the examples of Peter, Philip, and Paul.

When the apostles died, did the healings stop?

No, the great commission is for "those who believe," not for the apostles alone. Believers today are to teach and preach Jesus Christ as Savior and Healer, and as they teach truth, the faith to receive and minister healing will be set free. The believers were sent to:

Preaching, casting out demons, speaking new tongues, laying hands on the sick.

All who believe (not just apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) must lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed. All believers must do what Jesus did, daily.

Jn 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do

the works I do; indeed he will make greater than these, because I am going to the Father.

All believers should share the gospel expecting the Lord to work with them and confirm His Word with the signs that accompany it.

Mr 16:20 And they went forth to preach everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word with the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

All believers who have had full power from the Holy Spirit must be witnesses. They must begin in their own city, and then reach the world as well.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Mt 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth to redeem all mankind. This redemption included healing. Jesus became healing in His personal ministry. Then the process of multiplication began when the disciples were instructed and sent. This process continues to this day. We, as believers, are sent to bring the gospel to the lost and dying world. All believers must continue to do the same works that Jesus did.

Healing provides opportunities to share the gospel with the lost. Before a person can respond to the gospel, we must first gain his attention. In this world of pain and anguish, healing secures someone's attention and quickly establishes the validity of God's Word. The first evangelistic meeting after the Resurrection of Jesus began with a healing. The miracle of healing of the lame man at the Porta Bella, opened the door to the five thousand to be saved.

The apostle Paul ministered in the same power as Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We find many examples in the book of Acts, of the manifestation of this power in Paul's ministry when he laid his hands on the sick and again to the transfer of his power through towels and aprons.

Ac 19:11-12 "And God worked extraordinary wonders for Paul's hands, so that towels and aprons that had been on his body were brought on the sick, and sickness departed from them, and evil spirits went out of them.

We can learn several things from this example:

God's healing power is so real and tangible that it can be transferred through cloth. This method of ministering healing could be used by Paul when he could not go to the sick or could not be brought to him. The cloth was a point of contact to free faith. The same result was as if Paul had personally gone and laid his hands on them. Paul ministered with God's healing power in his ministry. Like Jesus, Paul had the healing power of the Holy Spirit working in his life, and by faith, people received healing.

Many say, "I know of this power that was in Jesus' hands! I know of this power that was in the hands of the great apostle Paul. But what does it have to do with me today? I am an ordinary believer. How could I expect this same power to be manifested in my life and ministry?"

To answer these typical questions, let's go to those last words of Jesus written in the book of Acts:

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

This is the same word for power that was used in the description of the healing power in Jesus and Paul. As Spirit-baptized believers, we have the exact same power in us that was in them. The power must be released as we witness, allowing the healing power to flow out to others. As God confirms His Word through us, ministering healing to the sick, we will be effective witnesses who bring the gospel to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the furthest parts of the earth.

Just as it was in the book of Acts, we too will have great power to be his witnesses.

Ac 4:33 "And the apostles with great power bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

God's ability to do great works for us and through us comes from the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

Many Christians today do not experience the power of God in their lives because they have not been taught correctly or worse because they deny the power of the Holy Spirit. **The same power that was in Jesus and the apostles came to us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** We are only limited in what we can do by our lack of faith or dedication to Him. We were authorized from above!

We, like Jesus, must be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we minister healing to the sick. In the same way that Jesus was led to the sick man in the pool of Bethesda, the Holy Spirit will guide us to the person who is ready to receive healing as we go about our daily lives.

Many say, "If I have all this power in me, why haven't I experienced many miracles in my life?"

We need to learn how to be guided by the Holy Ghost. We need to learn how to activate faith so that the power of the Spirit can flow through us into the bodies of the sick.

Activating Faith

An example of this can be found in the power of electrical systems in cities and buildings today. High-voltage electricity produced by generators (dynamos) flows through huge metal wires to transformers. From there it is distributed through other metal wires that reach many buildings and finally the lights where we are. Like this

Despite the power that surrounds us, it may happen that we remain sitting in total darkness until someone turns on the switch and allows the power to flow and the light to fill the room. Faith is like this switch.

Jesus revealed the key to the miracle of healing that the woman from the bloodstream received.

Mr 5:34 But he said unto her, Child, thy faith hath healed thee; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

It was her faith that delivered from Jesus the power that flowed into her body. Faith is always the switch that allows the flow of God's power. It can be the faith of the person who needs healing, the faith of others who

are with him or her, or the faith of the person who is ministering healing. Faith came to the woman from the flow of blood when she heard of Jesus. Faith always comes from hearing.

Rom 10:17 "Faith therefore cometh by hearing, and hearing cometh by the word of God."

By faith, she knew she would be healed. When faith comes, things move from what we have hoped for a future time to the realm of the "now."

Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the demonstration of things not seen."

The writer of the book of Hebrews began his definition of faith with the word "now." If it is faith, it is always "now"! She knew that her miracle would happen the moment she touched Jesus. Faith performed its miracle so real that she had already believed in reality for what had been revealed to her in the spirit, before she received the manifestation in her body. Faith acts, the woman acted on her faith and touched Him's garment. Touching was a point of contact, which freed his faith to receive, allowed the healing virtue to flow into his body.

Faith is limited or freed by the words we speak.

There are four categories of words of full faith that must be spoken in addition to the declaration of the positive expectation of our faith. **God's healing power is unleashed:**

by mentioning the name of Jesus

rebuking the spirits of infirmity to go away

proclaiming creative miracles

and proclaiming the Word of God

What authority is there in Jesus' name?

All authority in heaven and on earth.

Mt 28:18 "Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Above all other names; **The name of Jesus is above every name.**

Phil 2:5-11 "Have the same feeling in you as was in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God something to cling to, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men, and finding himself in the outward likeness of a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, and death on a cross. Therefore God also has sovereignly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name, so that in the name of Jesus every knee of creatures (or things) heavenly, earthly and subterranean may bow, and every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Every disease and infirmity has a name. Cancer, arthritis, and cerebral palsy are names. The name of Jesus is above the name of these infirmities, and they must bow when, by faith, we say, "Jesus!"

The early Christians proclaimed healing in the name of Jesus. Consider the example of Peter and John when they healed the lame man from his mother's womb. They did so in the name of Jesus.

Acts 3:4 "Then Peter and John looked upon him and said, 'Look at us.'

Peter under the anointing of the Holy Spirit tells us that it is through faith in the name of Jesus that man was healed.

Ac 3:16 "And by faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was strengthened by his name; and the faith which is through him has given him the complete healing of the members, in the presence of all of you.

Threatened for the use of the name. As a result of this healing, Peter and John were arrested, held in prison all night, and threatened by Jewish leaders who told them not to speak in Jesus' name. The religious leaders recognized the power of Jesus' name. Peter, frankly, answered their questions about the healing of the lame man by saying:

Acts 4:10 Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, and whom God raised from the dead. by virtue of him this man appears before you completely healed.

In Colossians we are taught to do all things in the name of Jesus.

Cl 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Part of the mandate we have been given is to cast out demons.

Much of Jesus' healing ministry was accomplished by casting out demons. Similarly today, many are freed from sickness and infirmity by believers who take authority over those spirits who have been designated by the enemy to steal, kill, and destroy. In Luke, we read of a woman who was held in bondage to Satan by a spirit of infirmity.

Lk 13:11-13,16 "And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, and she was all bent over, and could not by any means make herself straight. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands on her, and she was immediately straightened up, and glorified God. Was not she then to be loosed from this bond, on the Sabbath, who is the daughter of Abraham, and whom Satan had bound for eighteen years?"

Jesus clearly identifies this spirit of infirmity as a bondage of Satan.

With God, there is no incurable disease. Most of the ailments that doctors describe as incurable are caused by demonic spirits. In ministering to these cases, we can either speak to the spirits of infirmity or call them by the specific name of the disease. For example, we talk to spirits about cancer, leukemia, or arthritis.

Included in the list of diseases that are generally caused by spirits of infirmity are the following:

AIDS, inclination to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, allergy, arthritis, asthma, blindness, cancer, cerebral palsy, deafness, depression, diabetes, epilepsy, infection, madness, leprosy, leukemia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's disease, pain, paralysis, sclerosis, tumors.

Biblical examples:

Mute

Mt 9:32-33 "And as the blind men went out, a dumb and demon-possessed man was presented to him. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke and the crowds were amazed, saying, "Such a thing has never been seen in Israel."

Deaf and Dumb

Mr 9:25 And when Jesus saw the crowd coming in, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying, O dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, and come out of him, and never enter into him again.

Epileptic

Mt 17:15,18 said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers greatly; he often falls into fire and also into water. Jesus then rebuked the demon, who came out of him; and from that moment the child was healed.

Blind and dumb

Mt 12:22 "Then a demon-possessed man was presented to him, blind and dumb; and he was healed, so that the blind and dumb man spoke and saw.

Arthritis

Lk 13:11-12 "And behold, there was a woman who had been in the spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, and she was all bent over, and could not by any means straighten up. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity."

Binding and freeing:

In dealing with spirits of infirmity, we have been given both authority and instruction for an effective way of ministering.

Mt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

To bind means to constrain, to bind (to tie certainly like a package, or to limit the ability to act. For example:

"I bind you spirit on this person's body....."

"I order you to go away spirit of cancer....."

To dissolve or even to liberate means to release the person from the slavery of illness.

Lk 13:12 "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity."

When a person has cancer, it has been sown like a seed in his body by a demonic spirit of cancer.

First, bind Beelzebub in the name of Jesus.

Bind the Cancer spirit and command it to go out in Jesus' name.

Curse the seed of cancer, or tumor, and command it to die.

We must put the ax of God's Word at the root of cancer.

Mt 3:10 And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Jesus cursed the fig tree. The disciples were surprised when they passed by later and he was dead.

Cancer is certainly not a good fruit. We can, frankly, command him to die and be destroyed from the root.

Place your hands on the affected part of your body, release the healing power by faith, proclaim a creative miracle, and command damaged tissues and destroyed and dead organs to come to life, or be restructured in the name of Jesus.

Jesus said, "Everyone says." He didn't say, "Everyone who prays and asks God to do it." To say, in this case, is to make a command. There is no mention in the Bible that the disciples prayed for the sick after the Holy Spirit came. They ministered healing to the sick through His power, the same healing power that is now in us.

We should not ask God to do something that He has told us to do through His power.

Mt 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give.

Mark 16:18 "They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

Take dominion; God has given his children dominion and authority to rule over all the power of the enemy.

Lk 10:19 "Behold, I have given you power to tread down serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing can hurt you.

This message of Jesus' authority is in us and still has power! Proclaim the Word; We can talk to the tree of disease.

Jesus rebuked Simon's mother-in-law's high fever. He took authority over it.

Lk 4:39 And he bent down over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. and she, rising quickly, began to serve them.

For example, we command the body to be normal.

"Blood pressure, be normal!"

"I command these kidneys to function normally in the name of Jesus!"

Proclaiming Creative Miracles

"I proclaim a new heart in this body!"

"I command these fingers to grow!"

Mr 3:1,3,5 And he went into the synagogue again, and there was a man there that had a withered hand. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Get up in the midst of all!" He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out and his hand was healed like the other.

He speaks frankly and forcefully; When we read about healing accounts in the New Testament, we often see exclamation terms such as:

Joh 11:43 And when he had said this, he cried out with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out.

Acts 3:6 ... in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

Paul ministered to the paralyzed man at Lystra.

Ac 14:9-10 "He heard Paul speak, and he fixed his eyes on him, and saw that he had faith to be healed, and said with a loud voice, 'Stand up.' And he jumped up and started walking.

We have examples and guidelines to proclaim, with frankness, words of healing. Although this is different from our traditions, we follow God's Word.

Proclaiming God's Word

What we say plays a very important role in bringing healing to God's people. Our words can bring life or death, sickness or health. It is God's Words that we must speak. God's Words bring healing. King Solomon made it clear that life and death are in the power of the tongue.

Pr 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruits.

Many people kill themselves and others with what they say. Others are learning to live by proclaiming God's Word by faith.

Complete salvation includes healing and deliverance. Just as we believe with our hearts and confess salvation with our mouths, so we should believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths healing and deliverance.

When the centurion came to Jesus and asked for his servant to be healed, he knew of the power that authority and words have. He said to Jesus, "Just say one word, and my servant will be healed." And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go, and let it be done to you as you believed." And his servant was healed at that instant.

Jesus greatly appreciated this centurion for his faith in recognizing that all Jesus had to do was to speak and his servant would be healed. Not only did he understand authority, but he knew the importance of speaking the Word. We have the authority of Jesus. We can send God's Word forth to us, proclaiming it in faith and authority.

God has promised that His Word will not return without results. It will not come back empty.

Is 55:10,11 "For as rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it until they have watered the earth, made it fruitful and made it sprout, so as to give seed to the sower and bread to eat, so will my word come out of my mouth: it will not return to me empty, until it has accomplished what I desire and fully fulfilled what I sent it for."

We see clearly that God's Word was given for a purpose and will not return as a failure. Part of God's plan is to bring healing to the nations. We are God's hands and mouth today. Let us listen to His voice, speak His Words of salvation, and bring healing to His people.

There are numerous ways to minister healing, but the laying on of hands is the method most frequently used in the New Testament. As we listen to the Holy Ghost, He will reveal to us how we should minister at any time. When we lay hands on the sick, we are providing a point of contact through which God's power can flow from us to others. It's like putting two electrical wires together, so that electrical power can flow. The laying on of hands, such as the anointing of oil, the use of handkerchiefs or other clothing, creates a point of contact that can free faith. Jesus and Paul healed many people, often touching the sick person when they healed them. We too, as believers, are instructed to lay our hands on the sick.

Mr 16:17-18 And these are the signs that will accompany those who have believed:..... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.

Anointing with oil today:

From one end of the Bible to the other, oil is always a symbol of the Holy Spirit. When a person has received baptism in the Holy Spirit, he has the healing power of God within him, and the symbol is no longer necessary; but it can be used as a point of contact to free faith! The anointing with oil must be accompanied by prayer, offered in faith, so that the sick person is well.

Jm 5:15 ... and the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will heal them;

Anointing with oil must never be an empty formality. But it must be done in active faith, releasing the power of God that flows.

The disciples anointed the unbelievers with oil.

Mr 6:13 ... and they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

The application of the anointing of the garments is mentioned only once in the New Testament.

Acts 19:11-12 "And God worked extraordinary wonders for Paul's hands, so that towels and aprons that had been on his body were brought on the sick, and sickness departed from them, and evil spirits went out of them.

The healing power of the Holy Spirit was transferred from Paul's body to towels and aprons. Diseases have been healed and evil spirits driven out.

Valid for today? Are greasy clothes good today?

God will use many different methods to bring a person to a point of faith. Don't limit Him! God's healing power is very real and tangible and can be transferred even with the use of a garment. The anointed garment becomes a point of contact, and faith is freed so that God's healing power is transferred, it is an act of faith that God will honor. This method can also be used when evil spirits or spirits of infirmity are involved. Many times a person is too sick to go to a Spirit-filled believer. The use of the anointing of the habit is a way to minister when it is not possible to be with her in person. Healing through anointing with oil and anointing of clothing is scriptural and also valid today. An example is shown to us by the prophet Elisha:

2 Kings 13:21 "While some people were burying a dead man, they saw one of these bands, and they threw the body into Elisha's tomb. As soon as he touched Elisha's bones, the dead man rose from the dead, and stood up.

For miracles to happen, we must do our part and wait for God to do His.

Noah built the ark - God submerged the earth.

Moses raised his staff - God parted the waters.

Joshua marched around the Walls of Jericho - God caused them to fall to the ground.

Elisha threw the stick into the river - God brought the head of the axe to the surface.

God's Part

In ministering healing to the sick, there is an action that we should do, and there is a corresponding action that God will do. It's important to understand this two-way process. As we believe Jesus' words and act based on faith, God will do His part and bring about the manifestation of healing.

All possible things

It is easy to say with Jesus: "All things are possible with God!"

Lk 18:27 "But he said, 'The things impossible with men, are

possible to God".

Mr 10:27 But Jesus looked upon them, and said, This is impossible for men, but not for God, because everything is possible to God."

It is harder to agree with Jesus when he said: "All things are possible to him who believes"

Mr 9:23 And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible unto him that believeth.

In the natural world, this may seem impossible. But if God said so, it is possible, not by our own power, but by the power of God. God would never tell us to do something we can't do.

Mt 17:20 And Jesus said to them, "For your unbelief; for I say to you truly, if you have faith as much as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Our part

Be obedient

God is not reluctant to heal the sick! He has done His part two thousand years while Jesus bore our pain and sickness in the stripes of His body. Now, He told us to do what He did; to heal the sick and raise the dead; lay hands on the sick and they will be healed! Our traditional example can be to have lines of prayer and praying for the sick, but **God told us to heal them.**

Other than James 5:14-15 where the sick can call the elderly to come anointed with oil and prayer offered in faith will make the sick person feel good, we have no other example of healing after the day of Pentecost from believers "praying **for the sick.**"

Jesus commanded us to lay hands on the sick. We must never allow fear to lead us to be disobedient to this command!

1 Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Doth the LORD be pleased with burnt offerings and sacrifices, as to obey the voice of the LORD? Behold, obedience

is better than sacrifice, and listening attentively is better than the fat of rams.

If we are going to experience healing miracles in our lives, we must be obedient to the instructions and commandments of God's Word. We must be ready to obey whatever the Holy Ghost instructs us to do, no matter how inappropriate it may seem.

Attitude Development: "I Can Do"

We can do everything God commands us to do if we develop our faith. If we stop to say: "I cannot!" we start again according to the Word of God saying: "**I can!**"

Phil 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Overcoming fear

The fear of failure or even shyness are not of God. They will keep us from doing everything God has planned for our lives. Abnormal fear is a spirit of fear sent by Satan to prevent us from obeying God.

2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of strength, of love, and of discipline.

To act in God's Word, we must overcome the fear of failure, and never be fearful for our reputation if a miracle does not happen. If Jesus lost His reputation for us, why should we care about ours?

Phil 2:7 ... but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, becoming like to men;

Never ask yourself, "**What if nothing happens?**" Instead, ask yourself, "**If I obey and others receive their healing?**"

Feelings of fear, shyness, inadequacy, and inferiority have prevented many from receiving the manifestation of their personal healing, or from moving in faith and ministering healing to others. We cannot work in fear and faith at the same time. As believers, we should live in the Spirit. Our minds should be renewed by the revelation of God's Word. Our actions should be in obedience to what God has revealed through His Word and said to our spirit.

As our souls have been restored, our feelings and emotions will respond in obedience to our spirit and not to negative experiences from the past. Satan will no longer be able to prevent us from being obedient to God.

Faith in the Word

If we are believing in God for miracles of healing, we must, first of all, know from God's Word exactly what He has said He will do.

Faith:

- It is never feeling and feeling is never faith.
- It has nothing to do with feeling - it ignores feelings.
- It comes through the Word of God.
- Knows, believes, and receives all that God has revealed in His Word.

Feelings say:

"I'm too tired"

"I don't know how..... I may fail."

"I've tried to do it before and...."

"I would like to, but you know I'm not really that brave....."

Faith says:

"I Will Believe and Act on the Word of God"

"I Will Believe and Receive"

"I will not doubt and I will do it without doubting!"

A person can receive his healings from the power of God and feel nothing. Another may feel great waves of God's healing power, a warmth, a coolness, a shock like an electric current.

For a healing manifestation, one should not expect emotions, but seek, believe and wait for the promised results.

Action on God's Word - believing, obeying, and acting by faith

Jesus ministered boldly and healed, often requiring courageous action.

"Stretch out your hand"

Jesus healed the man with the withered hand by commanding him to do something he could not do.

Mt 12:10-13 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" And he laid it down, and it was made as healthy as the other.

The same story is told in (Mr 3:1-5; Lk 6:6-10).

These scriptures speak of action. Jesus commanded the man to do something. The man did exactly what Jesus had told him, he stretched out his hand. By doing what Jesus told him, he was healed.

"Go wash yourself"

Jesus healed a blind man by telling him to wash himself in a certain pool.

Jn 9:6-7 "When he had said these things, he spat on the ground, and made mud out of his saliva, and filled the blind man's eyes with it. Then he said to him, "Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (meaning: "Mandate"); So he went there, washed himself, and came back to see us.

Did man receive his sight when Jesus made mud, when Jesus anointed his eyes, or when he washed them in the pool?

Man received his sight when he believed, obeyed God, and acted by faith.

"Take the Bed"

Jesus commanded the man with paralysis, "Get up, take up your couch, and go."

Mr 2:11-12 "I say to you," said he to the paralytic, "Get up, take up your couch, and go to your house." And he immediately got up, took up his couch, and went out into the presence of all, so that they all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like it!"

In the natural way it was impossible for that man to get up, take his bed and go anywhere!

But he knew what God had said. He acted on command and was healed.

The disciples in Peter and John also performed healing as Jesus taught; They commanded the lame man to get up and walk.

We must act on the Word of God, because faith without action is dead. As our faith goes into action, we unleash God's healing power to act. When God's power is allowed to flow into action, sickness must go away. Faith action is important in ministering healing. Sometimes it will come from the one who ministers the healing. At other times, the action will be exercised by the one who is waiting for healing in obedience to the instructions.

There are cases when the person is too sick to grasp the biblical truths about healing, or even to listen to God's Word, and it is in such cases that two believers can agree mightily in prayer for that person. When we agree together, our faith is multiplied and our effectiveness in ministering increases.

The moment you minister healing to someone, tell them to do something they couldn't do before. For example: "Move that arm" - "Bend over" - "Check" Ask frankly: "What happened to the pain?" Believe that God's Word is truth! Act as it says! Act on God's Word. Act on your level of faith. Faith goes into action. God's healing power is unleashed. Healing comes!

Be careful!

You must never tell a person to throw away a support or prosthesis, or to stop taking medicine even by insinuation. We don't know where that person's faith comes from, or even if they have obstacles in their life that will keep them from receiving the manifestation of their healing. We will have to speak positively and let faith grow in her. If he has faith to throw a support (prosthesis, corset, etc...) it's wonderful!

Note: You may be held legally responsible for any immediate or future negative results of any action taken because of instructions you have given that are contrary to those of the doctors.

Enemies of the faith

The strongest enemies of faith are in our unrenewed minds. We cannot operate in Spirit and in our intellect at the same time.

The lack of forgiveness

There can be no effective prayer of faith if there is a lack of forgiveness in our lives. Unforgiveness is a barrier between us and God. We cannot maintain the lack of forgiveness and operate in faith at the same time.

Mr 11:25 And when you begin to pray, if you have anything against anyone, forgive that your Father who is in heaven may forgive your sins.

Disbelief

Unbelief is the opposite of faith. The prayer of faith "believes that you have received what you are asking for." Unbelief prevents us from receiving what God has already done for us. True belief is not based on anyone's testimony, although testimony is certainly one of the ways that can encourage our faith. True faith is based on the Word of God.

Doubt

Doubt is also the opposite of faith. The prayer of faith cannot be made for healing if you doubt that it is God's will to heal. Teaching contrary to God's Word brings unbelief and doubt. Unforgiveness, unbelief, and doubt are all areas of the mind.

If God wanted us sick as a punishment, or to teach us something, or to bring glory to himself, should we not, then, accept that we are sick and do nothing to prevent God's will?

Praise God! He didn't tell us that he wanted us suffering from illness for his sake. He told us that he suffered pain and pain for us!

Does the prayer of faith always have imminent, visible results?

If we do not experience imminent results when we do the prayer of faith, we continue to believe that we have received what has been asked. God's Word shows the truth. It is up to us to believe and not to doubt, trusting in Him who completely and fully removes all the symptoms of the disease. Many times we experience the manifestation of healing after a period of time rather than in an instantaneous miracle. Prayer of faith is a vital part of the healing process. As we agree with God's Word and act on it as truth, great mountains will move.

Instead of focusing on whatever negative symptoms remain, start praising God because you know His Word is truth. Begin to praise God for any positive change in symptoms, no matter how poor they may seem. Don't lose

your confidence. Maintain an attitude of believing and receiving until full manifestation comes.

Praying the Word

Take a Scripture to God, and it will free your faith in God to do what He has said. For example:

Father, You wrote in Isaiah 53:5 that Jesus was pierced for my transgressions, crushed for my iniquities; the punishment for which I have peace has fallen upon Him; and by its stripes I have been healed. Now I'm believing that You mean exactly what You wrote. I'm healed! As we pray the Word we can be confident that we are praying in agreement with God.

Praying for Instructions

We will be most effective in praying for ourselves and others if we first spend time asking God for His specific instructions on how we should pray or minister healing. We have an example of this when Paul was ministering on the island of Malta.

Ac 28:8 "And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay in bed, sick with fever and dysentery; Paul went to see him and, after praying, laid his hands on him and healed him.

Why does the Bible highlight the fact that Paul ministered healing to this man after he had finished praying? It seems that his prayer was made to hear from God, to receive specific instructions on how to minister effectively.

Healing from within us

God's Word reveals the truth: the health and healing of our bodies are dependent on the health and healing of our souls. Studies by health experts have concluded that lack of forgiveness, resentment, bitterness, and hatred can be the cause of infirmities such as arthritis, rheumatism, and cancer.

Negative attitudes in both the mind and emotions can give space, an open door, a right for the devil to attack our physical bodies.

Eph 4:26-27 "Be angry, and do not sin; let the sun not set on your vexation; and give no place to the devil.

Often a physical infirmity is a symptom of wounds that are held within, in the soul. By forgiving those who have rejected, betrayed, or hurt us, by renewing our minds with God's Word, and by having our souls refreshed by God's healing power, we can close these doors and suppress satan's right to attack our bodies. Lack of forgiveness and other negative attitudes are obstacles to a person being able to receive the manifestation of healing in his or her body. Those who receive physical healing may lose their healing if they refuse to forgive those who have hurt them. Once a person has obeyed God and forgiven those who have hurt them, we find that it becomes easy to receive and maintain their healing. We call all this "being healed from within"! The apostle John wrote:

3 Jn 2 Beloved, I desire that you prosper in all things and enjoy good health, as your soul prospers.

Since, both our physical health and prosperity are dependent on soul health, it is important to know more about the soul.

The soul is the part of us that deals with our natural senses and represents our response to what they perceive in the mental or emotional sphere.

It consists of:

Our intellect - the part that reasons and thinks

Our emotions - our feelings that respond to our senses

Our will - our volition that produces our choices

Our minds need to be renewed by God's Word. Our emotions need to be guided to forgive those who have hurt us and to receive God's healing power. Our wills must become submissive to Jesus' authority.

Peter called this process of discipleship in faith, the salvation of our souls.

1 Peter 1:9 Obtaining the fulfillment of your faith, the salvation of souls.

It is a process of sanctification based on experience, of separation for God (secluding oneself for God), which is bringing our soul and body more and more into that place of wholeness as our spirit is.

1 Thess 5:23 "Now let the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Afflictions of the Soul

There are many sources of the afflictions that war against our souls. Because our parents, sisters, brothers, or family members were not perfect, we were abused to some extent emotionally, physically, or even sexually while we were growing up. Many other wounds have come through rejection, or feelings of rejection. Some feel unloved and have experienced betrayal from family or friends. David wrote:

Ps 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivereth him from all of them.

Jom 5:13 Is there any of you who are suffering? Pray. Is there anyone with a happy soul? Songs hymns of praise.

Attitudes of strict parents

The attitudes of strict parents can cause damage to the soul and produce disturbance for the child both in the present and in the future.

Eph 6:4 "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord."

Immorality

Immorality damages the soul and disturbs not only those involved, but also those around them.

Pr 6:32-34 "But he who commits adultery with a woman is devoid of sense; those who do this destroy their own lives. She will find wounds and contempt, and her shame will never be erased, because jealousy makes her husband furious, who will be merciless on the day of revenge.

Sinful Desires

Sinful desires, as well as sensuality, love of wealth or position, are enemies of the soul.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I exhort you, as strangers and pilgrims, to abstain from the desires of the flesh which war against the soul.

Actions of sin

Acts of sin make the soul sick.

Gal 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, debauchery, idolatry, sorrow, enmities, strife, jealousies, anger, strife, divisions, sects, envy, murder, drunkenness, gluttony, and the like, concerning which I warn you, as I told you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We have been taught about healing in the physical area, but is there healing for our souls? He restores my soul!

David prayed for the healing of his soul.

Ps 41:4 "I said, O LORD, have mercy on me; Heal the soul mine, because I have sinned against you."

David's soul was damaged by his sin.

Ps 6:1-4 "O LORD, do not correct me in your anger, neither chastise me in the heat of your wrath." Turn unto me, O LORD, deliver my soul;

Psalms 23 is a wonderful picture of the peace that God wants us to have in every situation. We can rejoice with David in the refreshment of our souls.

Ps 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie in pastures of tender grass, he guides me along restful waters. He restores my soul, leads me in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.

A Special Promise for Soul Satisfaction

Is 58:10-11 "If you provide for the needs of the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will rise in darkness, and your darkness will rise like noon. The LORD will guide you continually, and will satisfy your soul in dry places, and strengthen your bones; You will be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Isaiah wrote that if we selflessly gave of ourselves to help others, our darkness would become light. The Lord would guide us, give us strength, and meet the needs of our souls.

The Inner Battle

The Spirit

Before salvation, we were spiritually dead. Our souls and bodies dominated our lives. When we are born again, we are born of the Spirit. We have

become a new creature, a living spirit. God is Spirit. The only way to have friendship with Him is to live and walk in the Spirit.

Jn 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth."

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless anyone is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; Here, all things have become new.

Meat

Even though we are born again and are now spiritually alive as new creatures, we find that our fleshly bodies and souls still want to control our lives. We must choose to live and walk in the Spirit.

Gal 5:16-17,24-25 "Now I say, 'Walk by the Spirit, and do not you will fulfill the desires of the flesh, for the flesh has desires contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires contrary to the flesh; and these things are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you would like. Now those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, we also walk by the Spirit.

When we submit our wills to the authority of Jesus Christ, we initiate the process of death to sin. In fact, we crucify the flesh with its passions and desires so that we can live and walk in the Spirit.

The intellect

The intellect (a part of the soul) of those who have not been transformed by the renewing of the mind cannot know the things of the Spirit. They are madness to the natural mind.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 "Of these also we speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but taught by the Holy Spirit, expressing spiritual things with spiritual words. Now the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot know them, since they are spiritually judged.

The things of the Spirit are spiritually, not mentally, understood.

Transformed and renewed

To be submissive to our spirit, the mind must be transformed.

Rom 12:1-2 "I exhort you, brethren, by the compassions of God, to present your bodies, which is your reasonable service, as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God. And do not conform yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind

that you may know by experience what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Our minds can only be renewed by God's Word: By reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word daily. Listening to anointed teachers who are filled with God's Word and who teach about the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit. Meditating on the Word until the Word becomes more real to us than the problem.

For example, if we are afraid, we can quote (2 Tim 1:7) that expresses this problem and make it personal. God did not give me a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and a sound mind. As we read, study, and ponder God's Word, the Holy Spirit will reveal His thoughts to us through our spirits.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," says the Lord.

Healing the Soul

Faith to Heal

When God reveals His thoughts for us, faith invades our spirits. This faith unleashes God's power to heal and restore our souls. Faith says this way:

"I am no longer under guilt and condemnation. Through Jesus, I have God's righteousness in me!" "I no longer have hope that in the future, I will recover. God's Word says, "By his stripes I have been healed." I am believing that a total healing will be manifested now. "Let body and soul be in line with God's Word!"

To minister to ourselves or others and be effective, everything must be done in faith, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's forgiveness brings healing

To salvation

When we were born again through personal repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, all of our past sins were forgotten. We have received the justice of God himself. In ignorance, many have been plagued by feelings of guilt and condemnation, not realizing that they had already been forgiven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

Rom 8:1 "Now therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not commit according to the flesh but according to the Spirit..."

After salvation

After we have become believers, if we sin, we must be quick to repent and confess it to God, let the sun not set on your worry.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If we sin, we simply have to confess that sin and God will forgive us. This is especially important today, because we have so many people who deny sin, saying:

"I'm not responsible", "It's because of the way I was treated as a child!", "It's because of a lack of my husband/wife."

"It's because of my neighbors.", "It's because of my economic situation."

In our society, we have learned to think of our actions as someone else's mistake. We have been taught that we are helpless products of our environment. But this is not in line with God's Word.

By faith we can receive full assurance that we have been forgiven. **Forgiving others**

There are three frequent areas of unforgiveness: Others, ourselves, and God.

Mt 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also; but if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive yours.

We seek soul healing when we have forgiven others. Forgiveness is the only way that brings an end to a situation. We often hear of people saying things like, "They don't deserve to be forgiven" or "They just never acknowledged that they were wrong!" God never made this assumption before we were forgiven. These people cannot feel that they are the ones who have made a mistake and therefore do not want to be forgiven. All of this should make no difference to us.

We are worthy of freedom

While the people involved may not be worthy of being forgiven, we are worthy of being free from that offense, and the only way to be free is to forgive. For example, if you were abused as a child, abusers may never recognize it. Do not maintain the desire to see them punished, or to return the wound to them. Don't keep feeling hurt in your right anymore. If we don't forgive, we are allowing that person to hurt us more and more, year after year, with memories that continue to haunt us. We have a greater right! We are worthy of being free from the consequences of that abuse. So forgive them! Leave everything in God's hands, and then go to a rich and full life. It is obedience, Jesus commanded us to forgive others.

Mt 18:21-22 "Then Peter came to him and said to him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often shall I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, "I say not to you up to seven times, but to seventy times seven."

Eph 4:32 "But be kind and merciful to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

Mr 11:25 And when you begin to pray, if you have anything against anyone, forgive that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive your sins.

We are to forgive others in obedience to Jesus' commandments. We must forgive because Jesus who now lives in us, has forgiven us. Forgiveness is not something we wait to do when we feel it. Forgiveness is a choice. It is an action that we must do in obedience to God's command. Through forgiveness, we can find healing for our souls by not holding grudges.

Eph 4:26-27 "Be angry, and do not sin; let the sun not set on your vexation; and give no place to the devil.

Phil 3:13 "Brethren, I do not think that I have already obtained the prize, but I do one thing, forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching out to the things that are ahead....

When we maintain a lack of forgiveness and anger, we give space, or open the door to the devil for attacks in the physical, mental, and emotional spheres. After we forgive, we can receive the healing power of Jesus in our broken hearts. Our oppressed souls can be liberated and remain free.

Lk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed at liberty...

If we continue to talk about negative things from the past and all the old wounds, tensions and anger will still be there and that means that we have not really forgiven everyone or that we are allowing the enemy of our soul to put everything that is "garbage" in us. Once we have forgiven, we may need to fight the memories that attempt to come back for a moment, but eventually, we will recognize that we have not only forgiven, but we have forgotten and found ourselves untied from all those wrongs.

Rest and Refreshment

We can find soul healing through rest and refreshment. Many times our souls are burdened by normal daily worries. We have been so busy that we have not spent time with God or done the things we really wanted to do. Although it is difficult, we should reconsider our priorities. Learn to say no when you are pressured to take on many projects. Learn to listen to God and do only what He says. Jesus said:

Mt 11:28,29 "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.

The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of entering into His rest.

Heb 4:1-3 "Therefore, since there is still a promise to enter into his rest, we are afraid that some of you will not be excluded. For we, who have believed, enter into rest, as he said, ...

By faith and personal discipline, we can enter and receive moment by moment rest and peace in our souls. Glorify God for Your Healing As our souls are being healed, it is important that we begin to bless with expressions of praise.

Ps 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, my soul, and all that is in me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, and forget none of his benefits. He forgives all your iniquities and heals all your infirmities, redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with kindness and compassion; he fills your mouth with good things and makes you rejuvenate like the eagle.

Praise is an expression of our faith. Having therefore obeyed God in every area we have studied, we can in faith, ask for the healing of our souls while believing that we have received the full manifestation of our wholeness, soul and body.

Mr 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, Whatever things ye ask for in prayer, believe ye receive, and ye shall receive.

We glorify God because He has provided for the healing of our souls and bodies, and so we can be restored to be in all things as He created us, in His image, body and soul. What a joy it is to know that we have been healed from within! Because our soul is healed, satan has no more place, no open door, or right to put sickness and infirmity on our bodies. We can continue to walk healthily. We can continue to minister healing to others with boldness. This is God's will! This is our right according to the Pact! Truly, He has revealed Himself to us as Jehovah. Rapha, the Lord who is our healer!

The Holy Spirit and His Gifts

The gifts of healing are manifested as the Holy Spirit ministers His healing power, through Spirit-filled believers. They are His gifts, not ours. We are the vessels He uses to release gifts to those in need. When we enter into a deep, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, these gifts will work through us at different times as needs arise.

God is one in essence, yet he is identified in three distinct and individual revelations. The Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son, desires intimate communion with every believer.

Paul was referring to the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit." Communion is the Greek word "Koinonia" and means association or participation. We must be in association with the Holy Spirit. We must participate and associate with Him.

Helper and Comforter

In the Gospel of John, the Holy Spirit is reported as the Helper in four different passages. The King James version uses the name Comforter. The original Greek word is "Parakletos" which means "called in the place of another". It suggests adaptability to give help as an intercessor or counselor. The Holy Spirit has been called to our side as our helper, to walk with us, to communicate with us in intimate friendship. He intercedes, comforts, and consoles us. Jesus surprised His disciples when He said that it was for their own benefit that He was leaving. From this statement, he made it clear that we must esteem, value and appreciate the intimate presence of the Holy Spirit at our side even more than Jesus can walk beside us in the flesh.

Joh 16:7 "Yet I tell you the truth; it is good for you that I go, for if I do not go, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you."

According to Jesus' words at (Joh 14:15; Joh 14:26; Joh 15:26) the Holy Spirit would testify of Him, teach us all things, bring all things to our memory, and dwell with us forever.

Just as we place high value on our intimate moments of friendship with the Father and the Son in worship and prayer, we should do the same and appreciate the continued presence of the Holy Spirit as He is at our side as the Helper, the Comforter, the Comforter, the Teacher, and the Leader. The power of the Holy Spirit is explosive, grandiose and immeasurable. But, He has a very kind, caring, and loving personality and sensitivity that can be grieved or extinguished by indifference, disobedience, and sin.

Dwelling in us

Because Jesus worked on this earth as a man, He could only be in one place at the same time. How much better it is for us today, because the Holy Spirit and Jesus dwell in each of our lives continuously.

Jn 14:16-17 "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see him and does not know him; but you will know him because he dwells with you and will be in you.

Teach

1 Corinthians 2:13 "Of these also we speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but taught by the Holy Spirit...

It is the Holy Spirit who will give us the words to say in times of crisis.

Lk 12:11-12 "And when they bring you before the synagogues, the magistrates, and the authorities, do not worry about how or what to answer in your defense, or what you are to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you what you are to say at that very moment.

Gives power

The power we have to work is that of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.....

It gives frankness

At 4:31.... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and preached the word of God with boldness.

Gives guidance

Lk 2:26 "And it was divinely revealed to him by the Holy Spirit, that he would not die until he had seen the Christ of the Lord."

Lk 4:1 And Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

Acts 13:4 "And they went down to Seleucia, and from there they embarked for Cyprus.

Atis 16:6 "As they passed through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from speaking the word in Asia."

Gives love

The Holy Spirit is the One who makes God's love real for us.

Rom 5:5 "But hope is not to be founded, for the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Justice, Peace and Joy

Rom 14:17...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Guarantee of Redemption

The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance.

Eph 1:13.14 "In him you also, after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believing, were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise; which is the guarantee of our inheritance, with a view to the full redemption of the property acquired to the praise of his glory.

Eph 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Manifested Gifts

The Holy Spirit has given us nine different spiritual gifts. Six of these gifts are directly related to the healing of the sick. We can all learn to minister in these gifts, and so we will be effective in our ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:1,7-10 "Now, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. Now to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom by the Spirit; to another according to the same Spirit, the word of knowledge; to another faith, of the same Spirit; to another the gift of healing, through the same Spirit; to another power to perform powerful operations; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another diversity of languages; to another the interpretation of languages.

The working of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives is a sign of His presence in us. They should never be used to build our proud reputation. But only to show God's love to a wounded and dejected world. Six gifts of the Holy Spirit are related to the no, particularly in healing:

Discernment of spirits

The discernment of spirits is a supernatural capacity for observation within the spirit of the world. It reveals the type of spirit, or spirits behind a person, situation, action, or message. It is a knowledge in our spirit that comes from supernatural revelation concerning the source, nature, and activity of each spirit.

There are three areas in the spiritual realm that can be distinguished through the operation of this gift.

The Spirit of God or His Angels

The human spirit

satan or the Demonic Spirits

Spirit of Infirmary

Often demonic spirits of infirmity are responsible for a person's illness or infirmity. For example, there are spirits of cancer, arthritis, resentment and bitterness. Through the spiritual gift of discernment of spirits, the Holy Spirit will reveal or place His finger on the exact source of the problem, and in this way the person can be freed and healed. When a person is guided by the Holy Spirit, the manifestations of the gift of discernment of spirits will come from an impression, or a thought, that reveals the identity or name of the spirit that is the source of the problem.

Mt 9:32-33 "And as the blind ones went out, a man was presented to him mute and possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke and the crowds were amazed, saying, "Such a thing has never been seen in Israel."

In order to work in the spiritual realm and fight in spiritual warfare more effectively, we need to understand and give ourselves to the work of the gift of discernment of spirits. Through this gift, the Holy Spirit will direct us and empower us.

Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts, present or past, about a person or situation, which is not apprehended by the natural mind. This gift gives information from God that is not known naturally.

In the story of the Samaritan woman, Jesus knew from a word of knowledge that she had had four husbands, and that she was not married to the present one. (Joh 4:18)

Jesus learned of this woman's life, not because she was the Son of God, but rather, because He worked as the Son of Man through the gifts of the Spirit.

Often in ministering healing, God will reveal a word of knowledge about a specific illness. Sometimes it's for a specific person, and sometimes for a number of people.

It can be perfectly associated with the name of the infirmity, the point of pain, or the name of the part of the body through which God will manifest His healing.

The word of knowledge comes in different ways as healing is ministered. From a feeling of uneasiness often described as a pressure, a jingle, or a sensation. Sometimes it will be felt as a slight pain. The word of knowledge can come through a word, or a thought that describes illness, infirmity, or pain.

The Name of the Infirmary

The name of the affected body part

The word of knowledge can also come through a view of the part of the body that needs healing. Sometimes God will reveal the point, in general, where the person is, or even the exact person in whom the healing will be manifested. Sometimes the Lord will reveal people's names or give other identifications that will ensure that the Holy Spirit is highlighting them for a particular healing. When the Holy Spirit reveals a particular healing from the word of knowledge, and that person immediately admits that it is he or she who has been described, faith will be released and the healing will be manifested.

Beware of familiar spirits

The person who works in this gift must be careful that he is really receiving a word of knowledge and not listening to familiar spirits. An easy way to discern the presence of familiar spirits is to be careful of who is being glorified.

Is the minister drawing attention to himself and his ability?

Are people becoming spectators and having fun in the show?

Is the working of the word of knowledge bringing the audience to a higher level of faith in God, or faith in the person who ministers?

The Holy Spirit will never bring glory to an individual, always to God!

When the person who is learning to minister in this area of The word of knowledge receives a particular revelation from God, should move in faith and proclaim that word.

We will have to learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and obey God, move in faith, and allow God to be glorified in healing.

Word of Wisdom

The word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation given to the believer. It is God's wisdom to advance in one direction, in action, and it is based on natural or supernatural knowledge.

Reveal God's plan and purpose:

- for our lives and for ministries
- to be performed immediately or at a future time
- on how we should minister to a certain need

The word of wisdom comes in many forms: an inner voice, through waking vision, through dreams while sleeping, through the work of vocal gifts.

The word of wisdom works closely with the gift of discernment of spirits and the word of knowledge. It is a revelation of how to minister in a particular need. The word of wisdom is given for protection and instruction and often reveals how to apply revealed knowledge through the word of knowledge and discernment of spirits.

It can give an insight to minister in a certain way.

The word of wisdom can teach us to:

laying hands on a person

say a word

Performing a Creative Miracle

Hunt a demon

The word of wisdom gives us the wisdom to minister effectively in the gifts of healing. Create faith to minister with boldness.

Gift of faith

The gift of faith is a supernatural faith for a specific time and purpose. It is a gift of power to fulfill a certain task in whatever situation you are in that particular moment. The gift of faith comes in a supernatural way and without any effort on the part of the minister. It is not the measure of faith given to every believer. It is not faith that comes from the study of God's Word. It comes supernaturally from the Holy Spirit when it is necessary for a supernatural miracle.

The gift of faith is sometimes given when a creative miracle is to be manifested. Suddenly, the ministerer will see in the Spirit the missing part of a body being restored. This is the work of the spiritual gift of the word of wisdom. Example:

Peter manifested a gift of faith when he said frankly to the paralyzed man: I have no silver and gold, but what I have I give you: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk. ([Ac 3:6](#))

Performing miracles

Performing miracles is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature. It is a supernatural demonstration of God's power by which the laws of nature are altered, suspended, or controlled.

When it is used to bring about a restoration in the form of a creative miracle to a physical body, it operates as one of the healing gifts. Many times, people's body parts are missing due to accidents, surgery, birth defects, or deteriorating diseases. Perhaps, our faith has not grown to the point where we are able to believe in God that creative miracles can manifest. The faith we need must be solidly based on a knowledge of God's Word. We must have read, studied, and meditated on what God's Word declares about creative miracles. We must know that everything is possible with God.

Mt 19:26 "And Jesus fixed his gaze on them, he said, 'For men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

Jesus ministered a creative miracle.

Mr 3:3,5 And he said unto the man who had the withered hand, Arise in the midst of all. He stretched it out and his hand was healed like the other.

We know that Jesus said that we would do the same works that He did. We know Jesus' promise.

Mr 9:23 And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible unto him that believeth.

Suddenly, a word of wisdom in the form of an impression or vision can invade our spirits. We see ourselves ministering a creative miracle to that person in a certain way. In Spirit, we see the miracle take place before it happens in the physical realm. There is no longer a fight to believe. The gift of faith has come into our spirits. Our faith is overwhelmed with a fervent confidence that the miracle will happen. Immediately we begin to do what we have already seen, in us, doing in the Spirit. This is performing miracles. Let us begin, frankly, to speak and command that new tissue, bones or organs be formed. We operate with a positive expectation of our faith until the manifestation of the creative miracle is complete.

Jesus at work with us

We know that Jesus is right there at work with us as he was with the early believers.

Mr 16:20 And they went forth to preach everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that accompanied it. Amen

Gifts of Healing

The gifts of healing are supernatural imparts of God's healing power in people in need of healing. The spiritual gifts of healing are not like those of medical science. Luke, the writer of the book of the same name and the Acts is a good example. Writing to the Colossians, Paul introduced him as a physician.

Cl 4:14 Dear Luke the physician and Demas greet you.

Luca was on the island of Malta with Paolo, but there is no reference to sick people who came to him. After Paul healed Publius, the people brought to him the sick who were healed.

Ac 28:8-9 "And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay in bed, sick with fever and dysentery; Paul went to see him and, after praying, laid his hands on him and healed him.

Even though a doctor was there, it was the apostle Paul who healed people, supernaturally.

Note: As we minister, we want to be balanced and cooperate with doctors and medical science. Many of us are alive today because the doctors kept us alive until our faith could grow strong enough to receive our healing. But don't confuse medical science with the gifts of healing. Don't tell anyone not to go to their doctor or not to take medicine anymore. When people are healed, they will no longer need medicine. Their doctor who prescribed the medicine must be the only one who tells them to stop it!

There are three purposes for healing gifts:

- To free the sick,
- Destroy the works of the devil in human bodies,
- Confirm the message of salvation through signs and wonders.

As we move into a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit, the gifts of healing and other gifts of the Holy Ghost will flow and work through us. From a word of knowledge, we can receive supernatural knowledge that reveals that God wants to heal a certain person or disease. The gift of discernment of spirits can reveal a demonic source of disease that needs to be cast out. Through the word of wisdom we receive supernatural revelation of how to actually minister to that person: we see ourselves doing it, we see the healing or miracle happen. This frees the gift of faith and we begin frankly to minister in the work of miracles. As we learn to minister in all the gifts of the Holy Ghost and in faith, expect them to flow and work in our lives; we will find that it is just as easy to perform a miracle as it is to give a message in tongues or to work in any of the other gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Receiving and Maintaining Healing

Obstacles to healing

When a person does not receive the manifestation of his healing, there is a reason. That person should spend time with God to seek the cause. She must be careful not to enter into a spirit of condemnation while she is devoting this time to probing. God does not condemn. He corrects and instructs in His righteousness as He conforms us to the image of His Son. If you are believing in God for healing, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you why you have not received the manifestation of your healing. Questions to ask ourselves:

Unforgiven sin

Is there an unforgiven sin that is forming a barrier between me and God? Sin wounds the soul and opens the door to spirits of infirmity who bring sickness to our bodies. Confessing known sins to God and receiving His forgiveness is necessary to receive healing.

Jom 5:15-16 and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will heal him; and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayer of the righteous, done effectively, can do much.

Unforgiven sin allows sickness to remain. Satan can try to hide this sin in us. We can try to rationalize it, but the disease remains. We must confess this sin to God to receive His forgiveness.

Mt 9:2,5-7 "And behold, a paralytic was presented to him lying on a bed; and Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic: "Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven!" In fact, which is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or "Get up and walk"? Now, that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins: Arise (he said to the paralytic), take your bed and go home!" And he got up and went to his house.

If there is any sin in our lives, we must confess it to God and receive forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Lack of forgiveness towards others

Have I forgiven every person who hurt me? Have I forgiven myself? Have I asked God for forgiveness?

In ministering to people over the years, and talking to other ministers, we have found that lack of forgiveness is the primary cause for a person not to be healed.

It is easier to forgive others than to forgive ourselves. We hear people saying things like, "How could I have been so stupid. Why did I allow myself to fall into this situation?" Do we often apologize to others and expect perfection from ourselves? Forgive yourself! When terrible things happen, people often accuse God. "Why did God allow this to happen to me? He is God! He could have prevented it!" If this is the truth in your situation, confess your feelings honestly to God. He already knows how you feel. Say, "God, I misunderstood. I know that You are a God of love. I know you love me more than you can imagine. Now, I understand that it was Satan and not You who was responsible for this tragedy in my life. I had this against You. But now I forgive you and leave all these negative feelings to you."

Mr 11:24-25 "Therefore I say to you, All things that you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive them, and you will receive them. And when you start praying, if you have anything against someone, forgive so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your sins."

Unworthiness, guilt, condemnation

Have I allowed feelings of unworthiness, guilt, and condemnation to prevent me from receiving from God? Some of the devil's subtlest and most dangerous weapons are thoughts of unworthiness, guilt, and condemnation. The feeling of guilt is combated through the confession of sin and by receiving forgiveness, by faith. If feelings of guilt continue, it is good to know that they along with feelings of unworthiness and condemnation come from Satan. Our dignity is through Jesus. We are God's righteousness in Him. We are in the right position with God the Father because of Jesus.

Rom 8:1 "Now therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

He rejects those feelings. He begins to proclaim the Word of God and becomes strong in these areas.

False Hope

Am I allowing false hope to take the place of faith? Does a disappointment make me think that there will be a time in the future when I will be healed? There is a true hope that precedes faith. It is the belief that we will receive the manifestation of what we desire in the future. When we hear or read God's Word we will be moved by despair to hope. However, if we do not move from hope to faith, it can become false hope.

Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the demonstration of things not seen."

When we hope for our own healing, it means that we have not yet received faith to heal, but that we expect to receive it at some future time. Sometimes people believe that they will be healed when some future event or time comes. Often they put themselves in imaginary expectations and then we move in self-condemnation. False hope that does not advance in faith is a disappointment. It is an obstacle to healing that satan wants you to accept, reject it!

False teaching

Are there seeds of false teaching that I have received in the past that prevent me from being healed? Teaching that it is contrary to the Word of God or lack of knowledge has allowed satan to steal from Christians what is legitimately ours. The false teaching says:

Illness is God's will.

Pain will teach you patience.

Infirmity will bring you closer to God.

Suffering will bring glory to God.

Take every false teaching you've received and say, "I reject....today. I command every thought that is contrary to the Word of God to go away in the name of Jesus Christ."

Doubt and disbelief

Am I holding unbelief in my heart? Unbelief can come from past teaching, from unresolved sin in our lives, or even from times of disappointment when we tried to believe God for our healing in the past. Unbelief is the opposite of faith. If we are struggling with unbelief, we can pray, "Lord, help my unbelief!" And then meditate on what God's Word says about healing.

Mr 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, saying, I believe, Lord, help me with my unbelief.

Trust in your natural senses

Am I trusting in my natural senses instead of allowing my spirit to believe in God's Word?

With our natural senses, we believe in what we can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste. We must realize that the revelation of God's Word is more real and true than anything we perceive through the senses. Consider Thomas' doubting.

Joh 20:24-28 And Thomas, called Didymus, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. And the other disciples were to say to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "If I do not see in his hands the mark of the nails, and if I do not put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in the mark of the nails,

his side, I will not believe". Eight days later, the disciples were back in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came with closed doors, stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands; stretch out your hand and put it in my side; and not to be unbelieving, but believing." Then Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus' response to Thomas still remains the best answer for us today! v.29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed; Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Pray, "Lord, what Your Word teaches is more real to me than anything I see, hear, touch, smell, or taste. Let me move more and more into the realm of the Spirit and believe more in Your Word.!"

Recognizing the enemy

The devil is a marauder and a thief. He is the enemy of our health.

Jn 10:10 "The thief cometh only to steal, to kill, and to destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and we have it abundantly.

The devil comes like a roaring lion that seeks to destroy.

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be watchful, for your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion looking for whom he may devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are fulfilled in your brotherhood scattered throughout the world.

satan is the enemy of our body, our soul, and our spirit. We must recognize his strategy and keep him in defeat in our lives.

Be Strong in the Lord

We must learn to be strong in the Lord, to keep our armor on, to be vigilant, ready to win every battle. The great warrior, the apostle Paul, wrote this for us about it:

Eph 6:10-13 "For the rest, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may stand upright and steadfast against the snares of the devil, for our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the world of darkness of this age, against the evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day and stand when you have done all things.

Discern Satan's Arrows - Anxiety, Doubt, Unbelief, Negative Thoughts

The devil tries to steal our health using his fiery darts of pain, symptoms, negative thoughts, and doubt.

Eph 6:16 .. especially by taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.

We have been given the shield of faith to resist the attack of satan. Pain, symptoms, and negative thoughts of doubt cannot destroy us if we courageously continue to use our shield of faith. We must watch over our thoughts and not allow doubt to settle in our minds. The best way to do this is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Mt 14:27-31 .. but immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Reassure yourselves; It's me, don't be afraid!". And Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it be you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water to come to Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took him and said to him, "O man of little Faith, why did you doubt?"

When we begin to be influenced by our own feelings, fears, negative appearances, or the words of others, we are sinking. Anxiety, like doubt, is the opposite of faith. A person cannot walk in faith and anxiety at the same time! Anxiety is sin. Anxiety is believing that, at the moment, the Word of God is not truth.

Lk 12:22,29 "Then he said to his disciples, 'Therefore I say to you, Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body what you will put on. Also, do not look for what you are going to eat or what you are going to drink, and do not be anxious about it.'

We must learn to reject negative thoughts immediately. We must, deliberately, reject thoughts of sickness and infirmity the moment they strike our minds. Paul wrote that we must enslave all thought to Jesus.

2 Co 10:3-5 For although we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, because the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but powerful in God to destroy strongholds, that we may destroy arguments and every loftiness that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and make every thought subject to the obedience of Christ.

We must always guard our thoughts and keep them in accord and obedience to the thoughts of Christ revealed in His Word, which pertain to our own healing and health. Our minds must be disciplined to reject thoughts or symptoms that are not in accord with God's Word. We need to reject disease-carrying thoughts like, "I think I'm going down with the flu." This opens the door for satan to defeat us. While we remain vigilant about satan's plans, we must maintain our health.

Rising before the storms of life

In the parable of the sower, Jesus warned us that once we have received certain truths from His Word, satan will immediately come to steal it. Jesus also clarified Satan's plan to rob us, which will come from the action of tribulation and persecution.

What are tribulation and persecution?

The dictionary uses words such as anguish, affliction, torment, oppression, sorrow, suffering, trials, to describe tribulation. It says that persecution is persistent, unwelcome attention, infliction of pain, punishment or death especially for religious reasons. Satan knows that if God's Word is allowed to remain in a person's life, he will not be able to defeat him. So, he'll try anything to question that particular Word. If a person has received God's Word about healing and has received the manifestation of healing in his body, satan often hurls his fiery darts of symptoms and pain. Try to put the fiery dart of negative thoughts in our minds by telling us that the disease has returned.

Jesus sat in a boat as he taught the parable of the sower to a great multitude that had gathered on the seashore. He warned people that satan would immediately come and steal the seed of the Word. Later that day, as they were passing to the other side, He went to sleep in the stern in the boat.

Mr 4:37-39 And there was a great windstorm, and the waves were beating upon the boat, so that it was filled. In the meantime he was sleeping in the stern, on a pillow. They woke him up and said to him, "Master, do you not care that we perish?" And he awoke, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be quiet and calm down." And the wind stopped and it became very calm.

Tribulation and persecution have risen because of love for the Word in the form of a great windstorm. Just as Jesus said, satan immediately came to steal the seed of the Word from their hearts. Instead of acting by faith and speaking to the storm, like those in the parable, they take offense. These fishermen experienced frequent windstorms on the lake, panicking and fearing drowning. They were offended that Jesus had

asleep and seemed to be unconcerned about their situation. They woke Jesus up and accused Him, "Master, don't you care that we're perishing?" Perhaps, we have responded to the tribulations and persecutions of

sickness, infirmity, and pain by weeping to God: "Don't you care that we are perishing? Don't you care that these symptoms have come upon me?" Perhaps, we like the first disciples who were offended and rebuked God for allowing this to happen. In doing so, we also allowed satan to steal the seed of the Word from our hearts.

Mr 4:39-41 And he awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Be silent, and calm down!". And the wind stopped and it became very calm. Then he said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How come you have no faith?" And they were filled with great fear, and said to one another, Who then is this whom even the wind and the sea obey?

If satan can steal the Word we have received, he can also bring the symptoms of sickness and infirmity upon us. When satan brings storms against our lives, we, like Jesus, must get up in our boat and frankly, and confidently speak the Word of God. When we do, our faith will grow. We will test God's Word in our lives and become stronger and stronger in faith!

The moment the fiery darts of persecution and tribulation arrive, we must make a decision: Do we believe God's Word or our traditional beliefs? Do we believe God's Word or do we believe our symptoms? Do we believe the Word of God or do we believe the words of our own?

Doubtful friends? Do we believe the Word of God or the voice of the doctor? We must decide within ourselves to stay the course of God's Word, no matter what doctors, friends, or symptoms say. We cannot at this time stand on another's faith, teaching or testimony. We must stand with our own faith, firmly based on God's Word.

Jesus also warned us that the Word we have received could be stifled in our lives if we allow the cares of this world, earthly thoughts, and attitudes to come into our minds.

Mr 4:19 But the cares of this world, and the deceit of riches, and the covetousness of other things, which come upon them, choke the word, and it remains unfruitful.

As we keep the soil of our hearts cultivated, and watered while continuing to meditate on God's Word, our hearts will remain good soil. We will live in victory and abundant blessings.

Mr 4:20 But they that have received seed in good soil are they that hear the word, and receive it, and bear fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred.

We should not give any opening to the devil, not letting sin enter our lives.

No more sin!

After Jesus healed the sick man at the pool of Bethesda that he had the spirit of infirmity for thirty-eight years, went to look for him to give him an important message.

Joh 5:14 Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have been healed; sin no more, lest worse befall you."

If we keep the unconfessed sin, or the sin that we have not repented of in our lives, we give room for the devil to bring the disease into us, and rob us of our healing.

Eph 4:27...and give no place to the devil.

Don't give space to spirits

The spirits of infirmity are always looking for an opening to come and return to the house.

Mt 12:43-45 "But when the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, it wanders about in dry places, seeking rest, and finds it not. Then he says, "I will return to my house from whence I came"; but when it comes, he finds it empty, swept and adorned; he then goes to take with him seven other spirits worse than himself, who enter and take up residence there; and that man's last condition becomes worse than the first. So it will also be with this wicked generation."

Keep the house stuffed

We must keep our homes, our bodies, filled:

Of Jesus

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me.

Of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, God will spoil him, because the temple of God, which is you, is holy."

Of the Word of God

Jn 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what you will, and I will be done to you."

Of faith

1 Jn 5:4 "For everything born of God overcomes the world; And this is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.

God's perfect nature cannot tolerate sin. If we allow sin to continue in our lives, we move ourselves away from God's protection and open the door for satan to rob us of our health and peace of mind.

Fight to maintain your healing

Keep the armor on

Keep your shield of faith strong and always ready to extinguish the devil's fiery darts of doubt and unbelief. Health is God's will, you can walk in divine health knowing that it is God's will for you being healed.

At 10:38 ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

3 Jn 2 Beloved, I desire that you prosper in all things and enjoy good health, as your soul prospers.

Hold the Faith Firmly

We must hold fast to the faith we declare. What we declare is how we live, what we do and what we say.

Heb 4:14 "Therefore, having a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, we hold fast to our confession of faith.

Rom 10:6-10 "But the righteousness that comes from faith says thus: ... "The word is with you, in your mouth and in your heart." This is the word of faith, which we preach; for if you confess the Lord Jesus with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you

will be saved. For with the heart one believes to obtain justice, and with the mouth one makes confession to obtain salvation.

We must take care not to allow our mouth to destroy or testify with careless speech. Let us stand firm in the faith and in the Word of God by always saying what the Word of God says.

God's Word Speaks

Regardless of the symptoms to the contrary, keep believing and speaking God's Word.

Jol 3:10 Let the weak say, I am strong.

2 Corinthians 4:13 "But since we have the same spirit of faith, as it is written, 'I believed, therefore I spoke,' we also believe, and therefore we speak.....

It seems strange and difficult at first, but if we discipline ourselves to speak the Word and not doubt, we will live in the victory that is ours in Christ! Be more than conqueror! We must know that we are more than conquerors!

Rom 8:37-39 "But in all these things we are more than conquerors by virtue of the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things now present, nor things to come, nor heights nor depths, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Circumstances, demons, or other people cannot separate us from God's protection. We are the only ones who can separate. By knowing the Word and who we are in Christ, we can keep faith and stay healthy. It is God's will that people be healed, that they maintain their healing, and that they live in perfect health. We must know and follow God's plan of spiritual warfare and faith. We must avoid doubt and sin. By knowing, believing, speaking, and applying God's Word, we will continue to live in good health in body and soul!

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.