

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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SUMMON THE PHYSICIAN
PART IV

My last three letters were entitled, Summon The Physician, Part I, II and III, wherein I attempted to show that healing and health of Christians can be directly related to their daily walk with God. In each letter I examined some (very few) of the scriptures which promise such blessings. In this fourth letter on the same subject I will point out additional scriptures on healing, along with some of the ways to acquire God's healing blessings and some of the conditions under which these blessings may be received.

The prophet Isaiah ministered for more than forty years from 740 to 697 B.C. during the reign of four Judean kings¹ referenced in Isaiah 1:1. Concerning the coming Messiah, the prophet wrote these words around the year 725 B.C.:

“Surely he has borne our griefs [sicknesses] and carried our sorrows [pains]; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.”²

Concerning the brackets inserted above, “Where the choice between two meanings [meanings of two Hebrew words] is particularly difficult or doubtful, we³ have given an alternative rendering in a footnote.”⁴ Therefore, without doing any harm to the

¹The four kings referenced by the prophet are Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, whose reigns easily assign a date to Isaiah's ministry and writing.

²Isaiah 53:4 & 5, RSV, underlining, bracketed and parenthetical insertions added.

³“We,” meaning the thirty-two scholars who were members of the Committee charged with the responsibility of making the textual revision of the American Standard Version which became the Revised Standard Version.

⁴This quotation is from the Preface of the Revised Standard Version, Reference Edition, p. v.

above scripture quotation, one may conclude that “on the cross Jesus **bore our sicknesses, carried our pains**, was wounded and bruised for our transgressions and iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that **made** (past tense) **us whole** and with his stripes **we are** (present tense) **healed**. According to this scripture, not only were forgiveness and salvation purchased for us on the cross, but wholeness and healing were also purchased as well. During the personal ministry of Jesus, it was all right in the eyes of the religious orthodoxy for Him to heal provided it was not done on the Sabbath, but it was blasphemy for Him to forgive sins. Now it's just the opposite. Today it's all right for Him to forgive sins but it is taboo in many churches to offer *salvation and healing* in the Name of Jesus even though the scripture affirms such blessings.

As I have previously written, the word “salvation” means “to make whole.” Everything man lost through Adam's sin was restored or made available *again* through Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit on The Pentecost after His resurrection.⁵ This restoration of necessity includes His considerable activity during the time His body was in the tomb. After His death when He literally gave up His life,⁶ He was “made alive by the Spirit by whom He also went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient...”⁷ The apostle Paul also speaks of the same activity with these words, “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”⁸ On the same subject again the apostle wrote, “Therefore He says: ‘when He descended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’ (Now this, ‘He

⁵There is no record of illness, disease or death in the world prior to Adams sin.

⁶His life was not taken from Him, He gave it up. See Luke 23:45.

⁷1 Peter 3:18 (b), 19 & 20 (a).

⁸Colossians 2:15.

ascended?—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above the heavens, that He might fill all things.)”⁹

I believe the preaching “*to the spirits in prison*,” refers not to a second opportunity for salvation, which would be contrary to “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”¹⁰ In the light of this scripture, I believe what Christ *preached* or proclaimed was a declaration of His victory over death and the grave. His ascension in this scripture refers to Him taking His own blood to be placed on the mercy seat before the Father.¹¹ When He led captivity captive He disarmed Satan, expropriated his power over death and shared the spoils of victory with the *spirits in prison* and then made them available to us.

Prior to Christ, Hades was the resting place of departed souls/spirits of the righteous and unrighteous dead and was comprised of two compartments. There the righteous and the unrighteous could see, recognize and speak to each other although neither could go from one side to the other because of a great gulf fixed between the two compartments. The unrighteous were tormented and the righteous were in comfort and at peace in Abraham’s bosom or Paradise. These facts are revealed in the story of Lazarus and the rich man as told by Jesus. In the story, Lazarus died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s bosom.¹² While Jesus’ body was in the tomb, I believe He *emptied Abraham’s bosom or Paradise* and that angels transported everyone there to heaven. This was confirmed by the apostle Paul when he wrote that when we are present with the body (alive) we are absent from the Lord and when we are absent from the body (dead) we are at home with the Lord.¹³ From the same scriptures

(footnote #13) I have also concluded that as angels transported Lazarus (the righteous dead) to Paradise prior to Christ’s resurrection, angels now transport the righteous dead to the Lord.

Although the last three paragraphs do not have to do directly with healing, they concern Christ’s activity while His body was in the tomb. These activities, through which He came forth victorious over Satan, were necessary in order to offer us salvation, healing, deliverance and wholeness as a result of the cross.

There may be several reasons why one does not receive healing. The most obvious one was demonstrated by Jesus. Matthew, Mark and Luke all record the incident: On one occasion Jesus and His disciples went back to Nazareth, His hometown, and attracted a lot of attention. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue and Jesus stood up to read. He was then handed the book of Isaiah, turned to what we now know as Isaiah 61:1 & 2 (a),¹⁴ and read the passage, a prophecy about the coming Messiah. He then closed the book, handed it back to the minister, sat down and said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”¹⁵ If Jesus had brought a pipe bomb to blow up the synagogue that day, I don’t think He could have caused any more calamity. His comment that He was the Messiah in fulfillment of the scripture He just read, along with some other remarks¹⁶ He made, so incensed those in the synagogue, they wanted to kill Him.¹⁷ Remember that this happened in His hometown. It was here that Jesus said, “A prophet is not without honor except in His own country, among His own relatives, and in His own house.”¹⁸ And with this kind of setting, the scripture records, “Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief.”¹⁹

⁹Ephesians 4:8-10.

¹⁰Hebrews 9:27.

¹¹Read Hebrews 9:11 & 12.

¹²For this complete story read Luke 16:19-31. I believe the facts related by Jesus in this story are literal and not figurative. I have concluded that Abraham’s bosom is the same as Paradise since Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” See Luke 23:43.

¹³Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 and Philippians 1:21-24.

¹⁴There was no such thing as bible chapters and verses when Jesus stood up to read. This method of referencing with chapters and verses came into existence in the 1500s.

¹⁵Luke 4:21 (b).

¹⁶For these remarks, read Luke 4:23-27.

¹⁷Luke 4:28, 29.

¹⁸Mark 6:4.

¹⁹Mark 6:5 & 6 (a).

We seldom think of Jesus as being limited, *but He was!* In this case, *He could do no mighty work in His hometown* and the reason was *a lack of faith*. The laying on of hands, anointing with oil and prayer are all points of contact, but they do not heal. They are avenues through which our faith, together with that of the minister, may be released. Faith was essential for Jesus and it is essential for you and me today, for, “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”²⁰ The woman with an issue of blood for twelve years was healed when she reached out and touched His clothes. Jesus did not say, “I have made you well,” He said to her, “Be of good cheer, daughter; *your faith* has made you well.”²¹

But back to the synagogue in Nazareth. Jesus chided His detractors by saying to them in so many words, “You want Me to do here in Nazareth what I did in Capernaum, but since a prophet is without honor in His own country, you do not have the faith for such works.” Jesus then compared Himself to two other prophets, Elijah and Elisha and went on to relate these two events: There were many widows in Israel when it didn’t rain for three and one-half years, but Elijah was sent only to one in Zarephath in Sidon.²² When the widow, who was destitute from the drought, accepted Elijah as a man of God, neither her meal barrel nor her cruse of oil failed during the drought. Elijah also raised the widow’s son after he had died. Jesus likewise reminded his synagogue detractors that there were many lepers in Israel at the time of Elisha, the prophet, and that none was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.

The message of Jesus that came through loud and clear to those in the synagogue was this: By rejecting Jesus, the people of Nazareth were doing the same thing Israel had done by rejecting the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Or said another way, to reject God’s messenger is to reject God! Only the widow in Sidon and Naaman, the Syrian leper, *believed* God’s prophets and therefore received God’s blessings *through faith*.

²⁰Hebrews 11:6.

²¹Read Matthew 9:22, italics added.

²²For these stories read 1 Kings 17:8-24 and 2 Kings 5:1-14.

In essence, a similar thing exists today. Jesus, as God’s Messenger, with all power and authority,²³ included things in His Great Commission that many churches have excluded as not being relevant for today. God’s word promises healing. If unbelief hindered the ministry of Jesus, it will hinder His healing ministry today.

Nine gifts of the Spirit are enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Those gifts will always be manifested in a congregation where *that part of the Word* is preached and taught and *received by faith*. After listing the nine gifts, the apostle wrote, “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually *as He wills*.”²⁴ This means that one may have the gift of prophecy, for example, but He can prophesy only as the Spirit wills. The same holds true for the other eight gifts as well. There are prophets, pastors and evangelists anointed by God today to minister in the realm of Spiritual gifts, but these blessings are received *only as the Spirit wills*.

Praying for healing through the Word is different however. Since the word of God promises healing, that blessing is available **all the time**. Jesus bore our sicknesses and diseases and provided for wholeness and healing at the cross. But we must avail ourselves of these blessings – that is our part of the equation. God spoke to Moses and said “...that He [God] might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”²⁵ The Psalmist wrote, “Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven.”²⁶ The apostle Peter quoting the prophet Isaiah, wrote, “But the word of the Lord endures forever.”²⁷ When we pray for healing based on the word, we must trust by faith in what is promised. But we must “...ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded

²³Read Matthew 28:18.

²⁴1 Corinthians 12:11.

²⁵Deuteronomy 8:3 (b).

²⁶Psalms 119:89.

²⁷1 Peter 1:25 (a).

man, unstable in all his ways.”²⁸ Here is an avenue by which one may acquire such faith. First, believe what God’s word says about your healing. Appropriate the power of that word by praying as a child of God for what His word promises. Then begin to thank Him for your promised healing. Do not talk about (or glorify) the symptoms which only serves to reinforce the illness that God did not cause.²⁹ Drive out all doubts that may come with what the word says. Doubts are of the enemy who doesn’t want you healed. Then begin to confess your healing and thank the Lord for it. Continue this procedure through the healing process. This is not hypocrisy. It is being obedient to God’s word and way which certainly is not man’s way. The scripture, speaking of the promise given to Abraham who was too old to produce an heir, states that he “...believed God who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did.**”³⁰ That’s God’s way!

What comes out of our mouth is important. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”³¹ Therefore confess *life* (the word of God) not death [or disease] (caused by Satan) and start down the road to recovery. Look for God’s promises of health and healing in the scripture, ask for them as a part of your legal inheritance as a child of God. Then begin to confess His word to appropriate the blessings of health and healing.

Practice what the word of God says to become victorious, but remember that “practice without proper teaching equals failure.”³² As the prophet Isaiah wrote, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”³³ Use God’s word as though

it was your possession, live by it and God will bless you. Forgiveness *and* healing were both purchased for you on the cross. Claim them both as your inheritance. If you have claimed salvation only, you have been cheated by the enemy who does not want you to believe what the scriptures teach. That’s the way he does his job since he came to kill, steal and destroy (you). Jesus, on the other hand, came that you might have life and that you might **have it more abundantly.**³⁴ In Christian churches, salvation is accepted by faith without question. Now begin to trust Him by faith for health and healing based on what the word of God says.

Hear these words: “My son, give attention to My words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are *life* to those who find them, and *health* to all their flesh.”³⁵ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”³⁶

To have health and healing, one must control the tongue. “He who guards his mouth preserves his life; but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.”³⁷ On this same subject the apostle Peter wrote, “For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.”³⁸ “The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.”³⁹ “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and *health* to the bones.”⁴⁰

And lastly, praise God for health and healing, *serve* God just as earnestly as you sought Him for healing and be prepared for a blessing.

....more later, the Lord willing.

²⁸James 1:6, 7.

²⁹Do not deny your symptoms but do not reinforce them by talking about them.

³⁰Romans 4:17 (b). Also read Romans 4:17-25 for this reference to Abraham by the apostle Paul.

³¹Proverbs 18:21.

³²This quotation comes from a two-audio tape teaching by Kenneth Hagin entitled, Healing Belongs to Us, which I recommend.

³³Isaiah 55:11.

³⁴Read John 10:10.

³⁵Proverbs 4:20, 21 & 22, italics added.

³⁶John 15:7.

³⁷Proverbs 13:3.

³⁸1 Peter 3:10.

³⁹Proverbs 10:11.

⁴⁰Proverbs 16:24, italics added.