

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

4305 Bretton Bay Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75287-6712

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Jim Ash letter No. 79

V-972.267.7187 F-972.267.7399  
email: jimash3@sbcglobal.net

**NOW CONCERNING HEALING**

It will soon be forty years since I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. Not long thereafter I began to have requests to pray for others with the laying on of hands for healing. Since then I have learned some things about praying for healing. Something the Lord taught me within the past year has piqued my interest again and has prompted my writing this letter.

More than seven hundred years before Christ, Isaiah proclaimed the gospel of Christ in prophecy in detail with these words: "But He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."<sup>1</sup> In this scripture *transgressions* are defined (Strong's #6588) as "sin, rebellion, trespass, transgression" against God committed by the individual. *Iniquities* are generational sins or curses passed down from one generation to another.<sup>2</sup> *Peace* is defined (Strong's #7965) as "well, happy, health, prosperity, peace, rest." *By His stripes we are healed* means by the brutal lashes of the whip *received in His own body, Jesus paid the penalty for our pain, cancer, Parkinson disease, ulcers, heart trouble, high blood pressure, asthma, allergies, diabetes, arthritis, chronic fatigue syndrome, etc., etc.* Since He paid the penalty for all our pain and disease at Calvary, it therefore behooves us as believers to learn *how* to access the benefits of that payment. That's the purpose of this *letter*.

Immediately prior to His ascension, in His parting instructions, Jesus clearly gave believers a mandate to pray for healing with these words, "They [believers – not apostles] will lay hands on the sick and they will recover"<sup>3</sup> and "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved."<sup>4</sup> The word *saved* is translated from the Greek word *sozo* (Strong's #4982) which means "to heal, preserve, save, deliver and make whole."

The apostle Peter who likely wrote his first *letter* in the A.D. 60's, quotes part of Isaiah's prophecy with these words, "—by whose stripes you *were* healed [past tense],"<sup>5</sup> while in his prophecy Isaiah used present tense – "By His

stripes we *are* healed." Of course Isaiah's prophecy looks *forward* to the cross while the writing of the apostle Peter looks *back* to the cross.

James confirms prayer for the sick with these words: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, *and the Lord will raise him up*. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."<sup>6</sup> Here we learn that healing is promised through prayer and anointing with oil and that *unconfessed sin causes illness*.<sup>7</sup> This is in line with the teaching of Jesus when He healed a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been lame for thirty-eight years *because of unconfessed sin*.<sup>8</sup>

From these scriptures we learn that healing, as well as salvation, are clearly part of the Atonement.<sup>9</sup> Why then have believers been reluctant to accept this principle clearly taught in scripture while succumbing to illnesses? Why are many believers robbed of a vital life and in some cases robbed of life itself, only to die untimely deaths as victims of diseases? Or said another way, what may believers do to combat these illnesses other than fall prey to the *robber*? What is the antidote for such robbery?

Let's see if we can find some answers to these questions. First, the scriptures are clear as to the cause. The robber is Satan<sup>10</sup> who comes to steal, kill and destroy (that's the way he robs) us in every subtle way (suggestion) that we are willing to accept.

Secondly, the apostle Peter reveals a major reason for this deficiency in the church today with these words: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled *to those who are perishing*, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory

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<sup>6</sup>James 5:14-16.

<sup>7</sup>This Word does not say that all illness is caused by sin but that unconfessed sin causes illness.

<sup>8</sup>See John 5:1-14.

<sup>9</sup>Included in the Atonement is the covering of the sin of man through the substitutional, sacrificial, vicarious suffering and death of Jesus on the cross inclusive of His resurrection from the dead to forever deliver man from sin and death through faith in Christ Jesus as the resurrected Savior, Lord and Redeemer of mankind.

<sup>10</sup>See John 10:1.

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<sup>1</sup>Isaiah 53:5, brackets and underlining added.

<sup>2</sup>See Exodus 20:4-6.

<sup>3</sup>Mark 16:18 (b), brackets added.

<sup>4</sup>Mark 16:16 (a).

<sup>5</sup>See 1 Peter 2:24 (b).

of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”<sup>11</sup> This Scripture references unbelievers, but it likewise applies to believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century who have also been blinded by the enemy, the source of their *unbelief*. It is actually more popular among most believers today to accept the enemy’s work and surrender to medical treatment than to exercise faith. This is not intended to criticize those who do so, nor the medical profession, but to explain that those in the medical profession were not trained in the supernatural – and unfortunately, most of the church falls within this same classification. Both salvation and healing in Christ are promised to believers supernaturally by faith as confirmed by scripture quoted in this *letter*.

In our home we have learned to fight physical illnesses supernaturally in the spiritual realm and have found it effective. We are still learning, but we have come a long way from the unbelief and scepticism which surrounds many believers in this area. One thing that has been very helpful is our experience in the Healing & Deliverance Ministry we are involved in. When we minister to someone, we sometimes see physical healing as the result of successful spiritual warfare. An example of a spiritual warfare prayer against the enemy was included as a two-page insert in my last *letter* (October 14, 2005). Knowledge of the Word of God is a prerequisite to successful spiritual warfare prayer.

It is evident therefore from the above words of Isaiah, Jesus, Peter and James that healing was included in the Atonement from the beginning. *Since salvation in Christ is supernaturally obtained by faith, healing may also be obtained the same way because both were simultaneously purchased for us on the cross, according to Scripture.* But you might say, why haven’t I been healed since I am saved and have prayed in Jesus’ Name for that blessing? That’s a good question and one I intend to answer, so stay with me. The apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Rome wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”<sup>12</sup> There are *two things* in these two verses of Scripture that are essential in order to receive and maintain your healing by faith. They are (1) You must believe with your heart, *not your mind*, for your healing and (2) your *confession*, or what you *say with your mouth thereafter must support what you believe in your heart*. Many who pray for healing are not healed because they believe in their minds but not in their hearts. When you believe in your heart, your mind will follow, but

not vice versa.

Concerning healing, the righteousness of God comes in three parts: (1) His righteousness toward you by promising healing through faith and (2) your righteousness toward Him by believing with your heart to receive what He promised and (3) thereafter confessing with your mouth, not your symptoms, but what He has promised through His Word. More about confession later.

As we shall discover, out of the heart of man comes both *faith* and *unbelief* as well as *good and evil*. For that reason let’s look at the heart.

Every man has two hearts. (1) The one that circulates (pumps) life-giving blood through his arteries and veins (physical life is in the blood) and (2) the one that is not physical but is involved with his mental/spiritual make-up and is man’s decision-making apparatus, whether for good or for ill. I wish to examine *that heart* from a biblical standpoint. Since healing involves *that heart*, here are some of its characteristics:

That heart is:

- (a) the seat of love (Matt. 22:37),
- (b) the seat of hatred (Lev. 19:17),
- (c) the source of obedience (Rom. 6:17),
- (d) where understanding occurs (Isa. 44:18; Acts 16:14),
- (e) where all good and evil thoughts, words and deeds originate (Matt. 12:34; Mark 7:21),
- (f) where lusts and passions meet (Rom. 1:24),
- (g) man’s thought control center (Prov. 23:7),
- (h) the means by which man sees God (Matt. 5:8),
- (i) the seat of conscience (Heb. 10:22; 1 John 3:19),
- (j) the field into which the seed of the Word is planted (Matt. 13:19; Luke 8:11).

It is clear from this limited Scripture reference list that all good and all evil done by man originate in his heart. For that reason I offer you the following definition of the heart given to me by the Lord one morning during my prayer time. “The heart is the soul of man [the mind, will, intellect, memory & emotions] when led by the spirit for good or when led [or influenced] by the flesh for evil.” Implied in this definition is (1) the influencing (and the leading) of man’s spirit by the Holy Spirit in born-again believers and (2) the thought or dart of an evil spirit often influencing man’s decision in the flesh.

Led by the flesh means to be influenced by the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch & hearing). Lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life are the three classifications of evil with which Satan tempted Adam<sup>13</sup> and

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<sup>11</sup>2 Corinthians 4:3, 4.

<sup>12</sup>Romans 10:9, 10.

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<sup>13</sup>See Genesis 3:6.

Jesus.<sup>14</sup> These *three classifications* are also catalogued by the apostle John<sup>15</sup> and all three are related to the senses or draw attention to self. Several years ago the Lord told me that these are also *three classifications* of evil which include all classes of demons – not fallen angels – but demons. This is a very useful and practical tool which we use in our ministry and also use in doing effective spiritual warfare. When, in Jesus’ Name, you bind all demons of the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life, you bind them all!

God’s way of leading a born-again believer is from the inside out, that is, the Holy Spirit dominating man’s spirit to control the soul and the body. Satan’s way is through the senses from the outside in, so that the soul and spirit follow. As Jesus said, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing [spiritually].”<sup>16</sup>

Now let’s talk about the prayer for healing. Here are specific instructions that will bring forth fruit in the kingdom:

1. If expedient, instruction in the Word to build faith will be beneficial. So many times when Jesus healed someone, He said something similar to, “Your faith has made you well”<sup>17</sup> and He couldn’t do very many miracles in His hometown because of lack of faith.<sup>18</sup> Faith in the one wanting healing is very important. If faith building seems expedient, reading this letter and/or a compiled list of scriptures on healing might serve that purpose, for example.

2. Make certain the one coming for prayer has all his known sins confessed and repented of. If this has not been done, allow him time to do so privately between himself and the Lord. Unconfessed sin will block the prayer.

3. Make certain the one coming for prayer is walking in forgiveness toward EVERYONE – no exception. Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a choice and a necessity.<sup>19</sup> Unforgiveness will block the prayer. Forgiveness AND repentance are necessary. Allow time for the individual to do this privately with the Lord if needed.

4. Begin to pray for the individual by first binding and casting out the spirit or spirits of infirmity, including all of the symptoms by calling each one by name. Command them to leave, never to return and go straight to the feet of

Jesus.<sup>20</sup> Every born-again believer has the authority to do this.<sup>21</sup> This may not be needed in every case but without absolute discernment, it is always a wise thing to do.

5. Then pray for God to heal the individual based on a specific Scripture or Scriptures. Quote the Scripture. Remember, this is spiritual warfare. This kind of faith moves God and the enemy will respect the Word when spoken in Jesus’ Name. It is the Word that heals.<sup>22</sup>

6. As you finish the prayer, thank the Lord for healing the individual by the power of His Word. His Word guarantees the healing. Now, reinforce it by quoting Scripture. For example, you might say, “Thank you Lord for healing –(name)--for your word says in Isaiah 53:5 “With your stripes Lord Jesus –(name)--is healed!”

7. After the prayer, tell the individual that the enemy will not like what the Lord has done and will tempt him just as he tempted Jesus. The temptation will come in the form of the symptom or symptoms of the illness. When that happens the individual should do exactly what Jesus did along these lines: (1) Say out loud, “It is written.” (2) Then quote a passage of Scripture on healing – any Scripture on healing – (3) then thank the Lord for His healing.<sup>23</sup> If the healing is instant, this will maintain the healing. If it is not instant, by confessing the Word as outlined above, the healing will become manifest because the Word of God will not return to Him void, but will accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sent it<sup>24</sup> (healing).

8. Henceforth the individual must neither talk nor complain about the illness or the symptoms. To do so will strengthen and reinforce the illness. Jesus said, “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, to confess the Word as outlined above will either maintain the healing or cause it to be manifested in one’s body. As one confesses what the Word says, that will build faith and reinforce his healing. On one occasion the Lord spoke to me and said, “You are propelled in the direction of your confession.” If what comes out of your mouth is according to God’s Word on healing, you will be propelled in the direction of that confession! And believe me, it works.

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<sup>20</sup>This disposition of demons is something the Lord has revealed to us in the H & D Ministry.

<sup>21</sup>See Luke 10:19.

<sup>22</sup>See Psalm 107:20.

<sup>23</sup>These three things to insure healing were given to me by the Holy Spirit when I was praying for a lady to be healed of a physical problem for which she had been taking medication for fifteen years. God healed her. This is the Holy Spirit’s prescription for healing and it works.

<sup>24</sup>See Isaiah 55:11.

<sup>25</sup>Matthew 15:11.

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<sup>14</sup>See Matthew 4:3-10.

<sup>15</sup>See 1 John 2:15, 16.

<sup>16</sup>John 6:63 (a), brackets added for clarification.

<sup>17</sup>See Matthew 9:22; Mark 10:52.

<sup>18</sup>See Mark 6:4, 5.

<sup>19</sup>See Matthew 6:14, 15; Mark 11:25, 26.

This does not mean to lie about your symptoms. If you are under the care of a physician, speak to him or her openly and frankly. Otherwise, confess the Word of God. Someone for whom I prayed recently said to me something like, “What should I tell my friends to whom I have complained about the arthritis pain in my ankles?” My reply was, “Say to them, ‘I have been prayed for and ‘by the stripes of Jesus I am healed.’” Remember that “confession is made unto salvation” and that this is a spiritual battle, not a physical one.

Quit thinking in terms of the physical – train yourself to think in terms of the spiritual. God is a Spirit. All things He created originated in the Spirit in order to be manifested in both the spirit and the physical. Healing is no exception to this rule.

Those of us in the so called *advanced* western world and those trained in the physical sciences may have more difficulty in accepting the power of the spirit over the physical. That is why Spirit-filled evangelists often see many more miraculous healings in parts of Africa and in some eastern areas of the world, for example, where Satan’s power is known through witchcraft. In these areas, once the power of God’s Spirit is “seen” to have power over the evil spirits, many supernatural manifestations of God’s power to heal are seen.

9. If the individual is taking medication and/or is under care of a physician, he may continue that relationship as advised by his physician. When the healing comes, that will be obvious to both the physician and the patient.

10. Never give up on confessing the Word as outlined above and never give in to confessing and/or complaining about the illness or the symptoms. Complaining is not a healthy endeavor for a believer.<sup>26</sup>

I have experienced instant healing and healing that took time. Here is one that took time – more time than I wanted. If I remember correctly it was about eight months ago that I had a sinus infection, prayed for healing and did all the right things that I have outlined in this letter. This went on for weeks and still no complete relief. There was no discomfort but the other symptoms remained. Then one morning I talked to the Lord and said to Him, “You haven’t done what You said you would do. You haven’t healed me. I’m tired of this. Should I go to a physician and get an antibiotic to clear up this mess?” And He said, “You are right. I haven’t done what I promised, but you have forgotten Hebrews 10:35 & 36.” Here is what Hebrews 10:35 & 36 says. “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward, for you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you

may receive the promise.” The meaning of these two verses is that one may be walking in the center of God’s will in perfect obedience without having received *the promise* [healing]. In spite of that, persevere in obedience until the answer comes. I did exactly that and still had an additional wait but then received my complete healing. Retrospectively I know that He was doing something in my sinuses that required time and I know now that the problem will not occur again. That’s the bonus that comes with obedience. This is simply the power of the Word of God when believed in the heart and confessed with the mouth. I recall hearing someone talk about a rather well-known Christian who had a weekly syndicated radio program. This person made it a point to investigate several of the claimed healings seen on a TV program and said that within a year some or all (?) had lost their healing. That is to be expected if the individual is not instructed on how to maintain their healing as I have outlined in this *letter*.

Dale quit work several years after we were married on December 29, 1995. As she tells it, when she was working, she would develop a case of the flu toward the end of each year. She looked forward to her illness because she could take time off from work and rest. However, after she quit work, she decided not to put up with the flu any more. Sure enough, toward the end of the year she could feel the flu *coming on*. Instead of succumbing to the illness and medication, she decided to fight with spiritual weapons. The first night she fought it most all night with very little sleep. The next morning she went to a luncheon at our church and was told that she looked radiant. The next night the same thing happened but she only had to fight for three hours and went to sleep. The next night she fought it for one hour. The following night when she again felt the flu *coming on* she held up her hand and it left and hasn’t been back since. Believing in your heart and standing on the Word of God is the way to fight against the enemy.

Without relating the details, since space left in this *letter* is inadequate, here are a few other instances of God’s healing grace that come to mind: a woman who had chronic asthma and was taking medication prescribed by a physician had been unable to work for two years was completely healed, no longer needed her medication and went back to work full time; another woman healed of allergies for which she had been taking over-the-counter medication for fifteen years; a man who had nosebleed problems for many years God healed completely; a woman scheduled for heart surgery was healed, surgery was cancelled and her health restored; a man in the hard drug scene for eleven years was delivered and set free of demons and drugs; one woman saw her cataracts disappear.

The teaching in this letter is God’s truth that has been tried and proven. It works. Believe it, put Him to the test, and be blessed.

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<sup>26</sup>See Numbers 11:1-4; Philippians 2:14, 15.