

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

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DELIVERANCE MINISTRY
A NEED IN THE CHURCH TODAY
PART ONE

A careful look at the healing ministry of Jesus reveals that He healed many by casting out demons from their physical bodies. That part of His healing ministry has been ignored by the Church for too long. Therefore this will be the first in a series of letters I plan to write on that subject.

I believe the miraculous healings performed by Jesus during His three and one-half year personal ministry are a microcosm of the healing issues we face today. In that light I have prepared the following chart of **healing miracles performed by Jesus**. This chart is limited to documented cases where the individuals healed were identified in the Gospel records. Healing miracles not included in the chart are those where the individuals were not identified, such as the whole city that gathered outside of Peter's home after Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. The record reveals that Jesus healed many of them with diseases and cast out many demons without any individual being identified (Mark 1:32-34). Items marked with two asterisks** indicate cases where Jesus cast out demons.

	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
1. **Man with unclean spirit healed. Jesus rebuked (talked to) the spirit, told him to shut up and come out.		1:21-28	4:31-37	
2. **Peter's mother-in-law healed of fever. Luke's record: He "rebuked" the fever.	8:14-17	1:29-34	4:38-41	
3. Healed a Leper. Cleansed him.	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
4. Healed paralytic. Forgave sins & then healed to prove His authority to forgive sins.	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
5. Infirm man, crippled for 38 years, caused by sin that had not been dealt with.				5:1-16
6. Man's withered hand healed, made whole.	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
7. **Centurion's tormented servant healed. ¹	8:5-13		7:1-10	4:43-54
8. **Mary Magdalene and others healed of evil Spirits and infirmities.			8:1-3 ²	

¹Matthew and Luke report that a centurion's servant (Strong's #3816) was healed while John reports that a nobleman's son (Strong's #5207) was healed, an apparent difference in reporting. The context of John's account and that of Matthew and Luke appear to be identical. The key passage is in Matthew whose description states that the servant [son] was *grievously tormented*. Tormented (Strong's #928) comes from the same root as the word *tormentors* (Strong's #930) in Matthew 18:34, referring to demons. Hence my conclusion that demons were present in the servant [son].

²From the context of this scripture, one may conclude that the three women who were named and "many others who ministered to Jesus of their substance" were healed of evil spirits and infirmities. But since the record cites Mary Magdalene as the one out of whom Jesus cast seven demons, this incident is listed as only one healing miracle. If all of the facts concerning each one who was healed of evil spirits and infirmities in these three verses of scripture had been reported in detail, this list would not only contain considerably more than twenty four separate healing miracles but would also contain more than nine healing miracles performed by the casting out of demons.

	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
9. **Blind and dumb man healed by casting out devils or demons.	12:22-32	3:20-30	11:14-23 ³	
10. **Gadarene demoniac healed by casting out demons. Two demoniacs reported in the Matthew account, but Mark and Luke report that there was only one demoniac.	8:28-34 (2)	5:1-20 (1)	8:26-39 (1)	
11. Woman with issue of blood for 12 yrs healed.	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
12. Two blind men healed.	9:27-31			
13. **Dumb man healed by casting out demons that possessed him - then the man spoke.	9:32-34			
14. **Syrophenician (Gentile) woman's daughter ill or vexed with demons healed.	15:21-28	7:24-30		
15. Deaf & dumb man healed who saw and spoke.	15:29-31	7:31-37		
16. Blind man near Bethsaida healed. Only case where Jesus required two efforts to heal.		8:22-26		
17. **Demoniac boy who fell in fire & water. Jesus rebuked the demons, cast them out and the boy was healed.	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-43	
18. A man born blind (not caused by sin) was healed. Question of a generational curse raised.				9:1-41
19. **Crippled woman bent over and bound for eighteen years by a spirit of infirmity was loosed, set free and healed.			13:10-17	
20. Man with dropsy healed on Sabbath.			14:1-6	
21. Ten Lepers cleansed. One returned to Jesus to thank him and was made whole by faith. Where were the nine who were not made whole?			17:11-19	
22. Two blind men healed near Jericho. Matthew reports there were two blind men; Mark and Luke report only one (Bartimaeus).	20:29-34 (2)	10:46-52 (1)	18:35-43 (1)	
23. Reattaching (healing) ear of Malchus cut off by Peters sword.	26:50-54	14:47	22:47-51	18:1-11
Number of healing miracles recorded by each writer	15	14	16	4
Per cent of total healing miracles recorded by each writer	65.22%	60.87%	69.57%	17.39%

**Ten of the twenty-three documented cases of healing by Jesus, as recorded in the Gospels, required the casting out of demons to heal the “condition,” “infirmity” or “illness.” If all of the facts were known, there might be

³ A number of references list these three scriptures as parallel or harmonious. However, Luke 11:14-23 records that the man healed was **dumb**. Matthew 12:22-32 records that he was **both blind and dumb** while the Mark 3:20-30 record makes no mention of the man at all. This appears very much like the reference to the Gadarene demoniac in Item #11. Matthew reported that there were two demoniacs while Mark and Luke reported that there was only one. If the Luke reference (8:28-34) is not harmonious with the other two references, then it should be treated as a separate healing incident bringing the total number to twenty-five.

more than nine. Here is why: When Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Item #3 on this chart) only Luke records that Jesus *rebuked* the fever, that is, He *spoke to the fever* (or expelled a demon or demons) to heal the woman. Matthew and Mark, who also reported this incident, *left out that detail* and only reported that Jesus healed her. Had Luke failed to report this healing incident, as he failed to do seven times as reflected on the chart, we would not have known that Jesus expelled a demon to cure Peter's mother-in-law. The word *rebuke* in this healing incident is translated from the Greek word *epitima* (Strong's #2008) meaning "to censure or admonish; by implication forbid:-- (straightly) charge, rebuke." This is the same root word used when Jesus arose and *rebuked* [spoke to] the wind to calm the storm.⁴ If reporting by the Gospel writers had been complete as to details, I therefore believe more than nine of the twenty-four cases of healing on the chart could have been demonically induced.

Also see footnote #2 for the possibility of one additional documented healing, in the event Item #10 on the chart actually lists two separate cases of healing, instead of only one as indicated. If, in fact, Item #10 does list two separate cases of healing instead of one, that would increase to twenty-five the number of healing miracles Jesus performed, where individuals were identified, based on this survey.

Fasten Your Seat belts!

As reflected in the chart, ten of twenty-three, or 43.48% of the illnesses Jesus dealt with were demonically induced. The demons that were cast out did not die. They are still alive. The same types of illnesses exist today. It appears to me that neither the medical profession, psychiatrists nor psychologists are equipped to handle demonically induced illnesses. For this reason I believe that not only is this the responsibility of the Church but also that the Church should be equipped to minister to this need. Jesus left instructions for such a ministry. If you think that demonically induced illnesses are not real or that this is not a real need today, read on -- that's the purpose of this letter.

The need for such a ministry began with the origin of Satan. Satan, not God, is the cause of the world's (including all of man's) problems. In my letter of January 10, 1999 entitled **EARTH 101**, I explained from the scripture what I believe to be the origin of Satan, the

reason for his fall from an anointed cherub of God to the position of one who is in violent opposition to God's creation, including man. Therefore, this explanation of Satan's origin will be in the form of a brief overview.

In Isaiah 14:12-19, Ezekiel 28:13-19 and Jeremiah 4:23-27 (along with some other supportive scripture), there is an explanation of Satan's origin as an anointed cherub (probably an archangel and the praise and worship leader of heaven and fourth in command of the heavenly hosts), his fall and present condition and position as the archenemy of both God and man. The explanation of man's fall is found in the third chapter of Genesis. The earlier Genesis record reveals that God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. He also told them to *subdue* it and *have dominion over* the earth.⁵ In essence, God set the world in order and "leased" it to Adam. When Adam sinned, the terms and conditions of the Lease Contract were violated. The moment the violation occurred, the Agreement became null and void, Adam *relinquished his rights* under the contract and fraudulently *forfeited them to Satan*.⁶ Fraud was involved because of the enticement of Satan's lie.

Now fast forward from the third chapter of Genesis to the first century A.D. Jesus told a parable⁷ to the Jewish priests and elders outlining the lease contract between God and Adam, after Adam had forfeited his Lease rights to Satan through disobedience. In the parable a man owned a vineyard and leased it to vinedressers. At vintage time the owner sent his servants for some of the fruit and the vinedressers treated them shamefully. They beat one, killed one and stoned another. Then the owner sent his son saying they will respect him, whom they also killed. In the parable the owner is God, the vineyard is the world, and the vinedressers are the devil and his demons. The servants are Gods servants and prophets, and the Son is Jesus.

When Jesus was about thirty years of age, He was baptized in physical water by John the Baptist, and in Living water by God.⁸ He was then led by the Spirit (driven by the Spirit according to Mark's account) into the wilderness to fast in preparation to begin his three and

⁵See Genesis 1:28.

⁶Read the third chapter of Genesis for the story of the fall of man.

⁷See Matthew 21:33-44, Mark 12:1-12 and Luke 20:9-19.

⁸See Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22.

⁴See Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25.

one-half year ministry.⁹ After fasting for forty days, the devil came to him with three temptations. In each of the temptations, Jesus replied with, “It is written. . .” I call your attention to the third temptation. “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things *I will give You* if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”¹⁰ The point I want to make is this. *Satan had the legal right to make Jesus that offer because **he had obtained from Adam the world lease.** Further, Jesus could have accepted the deal!! But He didn’t.* Therefore the “Second Adam” succeeded where the first Adam failed. **Hallelujah!** Jesus passed the first test of his ministry and was on the Way to accomplish that which was prophesied about Him four thousand years before.¹¹ To Him be the glory for doing what had never been done before and will never have to be done again!

The apostle John pinpoints the focal point of the World War that began with Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden with these words, “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”¹² Jesus didn’t come to say to us, “Be good or I’ll zap you!” He came to tell us we have already been “zapped” by Satan through the Adamic sin and that our only hope for redemption from eternal death and hell is Jesus Christ. But don’t blame God for that. Blame Satan! It is time we understood that Satan, not God, is the cause of **all of man’s problems, including disease and death!** John further affirms Satan’s grip on the world with this somber note, “We know [positively] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one.”¹³ To help identify the location of the World War between Christians and the enemy, I refer you to the first chapter of the book of Ephesians. There the apostle Paul gives an accurate description of the spirit of a born again Christian. He writes that such a believer **already has every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.** Here is

a list of those blessings: He is *chosen, holy* and *without blame* (verse 4), *adopted* (verse 5), *accepted* (verse 6), *redeemed and forgiven* (verse 7), has *all wisdom and prudence* (verse 8), has obtained *an inheritance* (verse 11) and is *sealed* with the Holy Spirit (verse 13). This is great news (the gospel), total grace and pure covenant blessings without limit! But these are blessings of our *spirit man only.* To explain further, when Adam was created, God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man *became* a living soul.¹⁴ God’s breath *became* Adam’s spirit – his **ETERNAL LIFE.** It was sin that changed the *eternal Life* of Adam’s spirit to eternal death through disobedience to God or **through obedience to Satan.** Disobedience to God and obedience to Satan are the same act! After Adam’s spirit died, God’s grace [through Jesus Christ projected four thousand years into the future] was obtained through the shedding of blood when animals were killed by God to provide skin garments [coverings] to clothe Adam and Eve.¹⁵ This was the first declaration in the scripture that life is in the blood¹⁶ and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.¹⁷ Through this marvelous grace, Adam and Eve became justified by grace four thousand years before grace and truth came in the person of Jesus Christ. The cross confirmed that marvelous transaction.

Hallelujah!

That same eternal life, initially imparted to Adam’s spirit by God’s breath, is imparted to every believer when he is born again of the Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit of God touches the spirit of man (the lamp of the Lord) the light and Life of the Lord is imparted to man’s spirit, as it was initially imparted to Adam, as described in the book of Ephesians, chapter one. But where man’s conflict lies is with the other two parts of his triune being, his soul and body. The soul comprises the mind (or intellect), the will and emotions. And one compartment of the soul, **the mind,** is the battlefield where the World War takes place. That is where Satan attacks us.

And that is where I will begin in my next letter . . . the Lord willing.

⁹See Matthew 4:1 & 2, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1 & 2.

¹⁰Matthew 4:8-10, italics added. All scripture quotations are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

¹¹See Genesis 3:14, 15.

¹²1 John 3:8 (b).

¹³1 John 5:19 (AMP).

¹⁴See Genesis 2:7.

¹⁵See Genesis 3:21.

¹⁶See Leviticus 17:11.

¹⁷See Hebrews 9:22.