
In the Beginning

John 1: 1

In the beginning was the Word.

As I journey through life, I find there are few people who don't need healing in some part of their body. This *Word of the Day* devotional actually began because of this truth. In 2006 my father died of cancer. Within months of his passing, my brother was diagnosed with cancer. I knew immediately that he needed to hear what the Lord had to say about healing.

As you are undoubtedly aware, there is a great deal of misinformation out there about God's will and thoughts on healing. When we, or a loved one becomes sick, we turn to prayer relying on God's mercy to save us. At the same time, I frequently hear people accrediting their sickness to God. That is schizophrenic at best. Why should we pray to the one responsible for our sickness for relief from same? Yet, this incorrect theology plagues the church. When people die, people also attribute the passing to God thinking it must be God's will even though the Bible says differently. It is clear from these statements and ideas that we are confused about God's position on healing, health, life and death.

In 2006 when my brother received his diagnosis, I thought to send him a list of verses on healing. My first thought was just to send the list of verse citations like Proverb 4: 22, Jeremiah 30: 17 etc. I had a Word document with the healing verses listed. No sooner had the thought formed in my mind than I came to understand how overwhelming a long list of citations could be. So, I quickly revised my plan to sending one citation a day. Instantly I realized that to make the Word meaningful, I must make it accessible, so I decided to type out the verse itself rather than just sending the cite. Okay, I was on the right path. However, I couldn't finish that thought before this other one occurred to me; my brother was not the only person who needed to have the healing scriptures. Then I realized that lots of folks had some ache or illness that needed the touch of God. So, the epiphany was in full bloom, finally. I would send a healing verse, one a day, typed out with the verse citation to anyone who wanted to receive them. Thus, the *Word of the Day* was born.

As I type this, I am both reminiscent of those early revelations and aware there are new ones coming to light even as I type. Clearly, this is about God's desire to heal His children, but in that brief story, I, you, we, see how He speaks to us. That entire idea about sending the healing verses, even with all its revisions probably took less than one minute to come to me. Even as one iteration began to be revealed, the next one was awakening. God took me to His desired end in a matter of seconds even though my brain had to go through a sequence of ideas. Further, the ideas did not have to develop into full sentences like one would speak them. No, it was more like they flashed, fully formed, onto the screen of my mind. I saw them in an instant and then the Father moved on. I guess it might have been more like a very quick slide show. As soon as I grasped the idea or image, He moved to the next. It is a lesson in God communication. He can transfer tomes of revelation to us in a moment. Also, even though the ideas were "like" sentences to me, the message really was visual. I find that fascinating. Yahweh knows I am more of a linguist than artist, so He used words to paint the picture on my mind's canvas. Amazing!

I hope you have enjoyed this story, but I have additional purpose for bringing it to you today. This introduces a new series we will begin. It is a series on healing combined with some attendant faith scriptures which are necessary for applying our faith for healing. I will be trusting the Lord each day for a fresh, anointed message on each scripture which is full of His revelation on healing. I expect Him to tell us things we haven't known before. This is a personal series and not intended for your intellect. This series is meant for integration with your spirit. I pray these verses and the explanations Father provides will bless every hearer of the Word. This may be a good time to invite someone to the *Word of the Day*. Who do you know that could benefit from hearing God's Word on healing?

Egypt and Goshen

Exodus 15:26

And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.”

There is, in this passage, a presumption of sickness. Do you agree? Why do we need a healer if there is not disease in the world? However, God makes a distinction here between the Egyptians (the world) and the Hebrews (believers). He reveals that believers are not subject to the curse.

Think about what was going on here. The Israelites were in slavery to the world, if you will. The Egyptians were their slave masters. God has called Moses out of exile to lead God’s people out of slavery and into the land of promise. The land of Egypt is cursed. God has sent plague, boils, gnats, frogs, locust, turned the river into blood, and rained down hail in such a violent storm that it killed everything which was outside, even trees. The curse is wreaking havoc in Egypt. God was available to remove the curse even from the Egyptians if they would only obey His word. If Pharaoh would only “*earnest(ly) heed to the voice of . . . God*” Egypt would be spared. However, Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and He would not hear the Word of the Lord. His land was devastated as a result.

The curse is still operating in the world, but God would have us understand that the curse is for the Egyptians, not the Hebrews, i.e., for the world, not believers. When Moses lifted his staff in obedience to God, the plague struck Egypt. Meanwhile, over his shoulder, the land of Goshen, the place where the Hebrews lived, was untouched. God made a clear distinction. The thing which is interesting in this is that the land of Egypt didn’t have to suffer all those plagues either. God was willing to save them from their plight anytime they said so. Pharaoh begged Moses to remove the frogs from the land. Moses agreed and told Pharaoh, “*You set the time!*” (Exodus 8: 9) meaning that he would pray for the removal of the frogs whenever Pharaoh wanted him to. Pharaoh could have said, “Do it now!”, but he didn’t. He told Moses to pray tomorrow. What???? You see, Pharaoh, like all people, had the right to remain under the curse or to be free of it. Why didn’t he say, “Pray now?” Why does anyone choose to live under the curse? See, even the Egyptians, even Pharaoh himself could have chosen for the curse to leave his home. Instead, he opted for another day of frogs.

I know this is long but let me share one more bit from Exodus with you that goes right to the substance of today’s verse. I mentioned the hailstorm. You will find the account of it in chapter 9 of Exodus. What is so amazing about it is that God actually tried to save the Egyptians and their stock. He told them that a hailstorm was coming at “*this time tomorrow.*” He advised the Egyptians thus, “*Quick! Order your livestock and servants to come in from the fields. Every person or animal left outside will die beneath the hail,*” (Exodus 9: 19). Isn’t that amazing? God warned the fools. He didn’t want to kill the Egyptians. He wanted them to listen to Him. The needed only to do as today’s scripture teaches, “*If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments.*” Many people could have lived that day and their livestock as well.

So, what is the message from today? Well, I do believe it is in several parts and we will see them revisited. However, let us record these three points as we begin our journey. First, heed the voice of God. He is forever trying to steer us away from sickness and harm of every kind. I

will say this now though we are sure to hear this again. Sometimes healing is in the advice God gives you and sometimes that comes through another person. It may be advice about diet, exercise or emotional well-being. If we ignore it, we get hailed upon and it is no fault of God's. Second, the curse was never meant for believers. The curse is in the world, but you are supposed to be living in the land of Goshen, not Egypt. My advice, don't go to Egypt. Don't live in that space. Lastly, number three, God is our healer. He knows there is dis-ease in the world and that we need a healer. He has volunteered to be that person for us. That is not to say that He won't use physical therapists and doctors and acupuncturists, etc., but first and foremost, He is our healer. He is the attending physician who coordinates all the other modalities.

This healing journey begins with these words, *"Give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep His statutes."* The path of health begins here.

Kneading Bowl

Exodus 23:25

But you shall serve the Lord your God and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.

How is your bread and water? God will bless your kneading bowl and your well so that you may enjoy good health.

This verse reminds me of Hippocrates who is considered the father of modern medicine. He is famously reputed to have said, “Let food be your medicine.” So, I hear, let your bread and water be your medicine per this verse.

Food quality and the quality of our food choices play a direct and proportional role in our health. When the quality of our food is compromised, then so becomes our health. It doesn't take a physician of legendary importance to figure that one out. The fuel we feed our bodies is of primary significance and importance to our overall health. The human body was created with the ability to repair itself. However, it needs a full complement of nutrients in order to perform its vital functions. When we make poor dietary choices or the quality of our food is sub-par, then the body is robbed of the substances it needs to run the machinery, protect vital organs and repair itself.

In our first verse in this series, we saw God identifying Himself as our healer. The first way He fulfills this role is in blessing our food. The first thing today's verse says is that if we will serve our Lord, He will bless our food and water. What I hear there is that we must learn inquire of Him regarding food and to listen to Him as He coaches us. I have heard of people who have had God direct them in their diet. He can guide a person in specific ways. One person, I recall, heard God tell them not to drink coffee for a while. That is not a direction for everyone, it was specific to that person. Maybe there are specific foods your body does not tolerate well.

What is important here is to understand that the first way God fulfills the role of our healer is to coach us as to food and drink. We know that we cannot continue to put bad fuel in our bodies and reasonably expect it not to harm us. God created amazing physiology that cleans and restores the cells of our bodies but as we age, we find that years of pollution is getting the best of us slowly but surely. We don't necessarily get sick because we age. It is simply a matter of time and that the body's tolerances are being breached. So, not matter how old you are, health begins today by honoring God with our food choices. That means not only means eliminating junk food. It also entails trying to buy foods which are not laden with toxic chemicals. The more organic choices you can make, the easier it is on your body.

Mostly, listen to God. Serve Him in your diet and allow Him to coach you. The Great Healer has advice which leads to blessing. He says plainly that He is removing sickness by blessing your food and drink. That does not mean He is taking the damaging substance out of bad foods. It means He wants to lead you to where the blessing is. He will guide you in the way. Do you think it sounds silly to pray about food? I think it is crazy not to because our food is causing many problems physically. Bless the Lord, serve Him and receive health through the blessing of your kneading bowl.

Deuteronomy 7:15

“And the Lord will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you.”

We are on the third verse of the healing series and here is what I have learned so far. Both of the first two verses seem to suggest that a key ingredient of health is listening to the voice of God. Now, I suppose that should not come as a surprise but at the beginning of this series, would you have expected that to be the first point Father expressed? And, don't be surprised that I said that this is what I am learning because I am right there with you. The first verse said, *“give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments,”* (Exodus 15: 26), so I am asking and listening along with you.

Today's verse comes from a section in Chapter 7 subtitled, Promises of God. So, now you can say you have a promise from God regarding healing. He promises He will remove sickness. Here is the interesting bit though. You can tell that verse 15 is a continuation of previous verses. It even seems that it might express the result of what came before and, in fact, this is true. I don't want to beat a dead horse but maybe God does. You have to go back to verse 12 to find out the context of this passage. Verse 12 reads, *“If you listen to these regulations and faithfully obey them, the LORD your God will keep his covenant of unfailing love with you.”* How great is that!? Even more interesting is that the verses between 12 and 15 include blessing your food and drink. So, here we are again, if we will listen to the Lord our God and obey Him, He will remove sickness from our midst.

Do you remember that the Jews had specific dietary guidelines and that they differed from other populations? What is that about? Do you think those guidelines were exactly what these verses proclaim? I am not suggesting that God is telling you to go kosher. I am saying that He speaks to His people, leading them to healthy choices. I want to be clear in this too, what He speaks to me may not be the same as what He speaks to you. Maybe one person is advised to give up dairy or wheat while others are not. What I am explicitly saying is that Yahweh wants to remove all sickness from you because of the love covenant He made with you. He leads us to good health because that is what love does. It is imperative that we learn to inquire of Him and then to listen and obey.

Now, here is the hard part, listening. Tell the truth, do you sometimes get a little nagging feeling down inside of you about what you are eating? Do you get thoughts that would lead in a particular direction if you heeded them? God is rarely a loud voice in your head. He is gentle more often nudging than pushing. Or, perhaps you hear a thought go through your head about drinking more water or getting up and walking a bit. We all need to become experts at hearing God's voice and that often begins by listening to some of the quiet thoughts which float across your mind.

God is removing sickness from among us, as He promised to do. Our part in the bargain seems to be listening to His commands and faithfully obeying them.

Healthy Blessing

Deuteronomy 28: 2,3, 5, 14 – 17, 61

² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the Lord your God.

³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

¹⁴ And do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

¹⁵ But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to be careful to follow all His commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶ “Cursed will you be in the city, and cursed will you be in the country.

¹⁷ “Cursed will be your basket and your kneading bowl.

⁶¹ *Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the Lord will bring on you until you are destroyed.*

Chapter 28 of Deuteronomy is where you find the blessing. It also shows what the curse holds. You would be well served to at least read verses 1 – 14 for yourself so that you understand what the blessing means in your life. I have chosen a few select verses to talk about sickness and health.

We already saw in yesterday's verse that there were diseases in Egypt but that those are not for us. Today we will see that the blessing protects us from the diseases that are in the curse.

First, there is a condition which must be fulfilled, namely that we listen to the commandments of the Lord and obey them. When we do, our lives are ruled by the blessing. However, if we do not obey the words of the Lord, we subject ourselves to the curse. Obedience means we are blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Disobedience means the curse will impact us in the city and in the country, everywhere, in other words. Following God's instructions brings blessing to our basket and kneading bowl while obstinance curses our food supply.

It is obvious that when we obey God and follow His guidance, we receive the exact opposite benefit of the impact of the curse. Do you agree? This is important when we get to verse 61 because it tells us the result rebellion has on health. The cost of rebellion is all the sickness and disease of Egypt. Therefore, I conclude the prize of obedience is avoidance of Egypt's curse.

There is sickness in Egypt (the world) because the world does not listen to the counsel of the Lord. If we act like the world and follow the advice of the world, then we are going to reap the results of the world. We need to inquire of the Lord and listen to His wisdom. Then, importantly, we must do as He says. Sometimes what the Lord tells you to do will not make sense to you. Sometimes it may not even sound like faith. None the less, His wisdom will always lead to good results.

Here is one small example that you can relate to. We know that exercising is good for our health. Let's suppose you have a goal to exercise every weekday and rest on the weekends. What if you get to Friday and there is a nagging thought about not working out? Perhaps you feel a little tired. If you have faith, shouldn't you be able to press on and meet your goals? Or maybe, that voice is God telling you that your body is ready for a rest day now. If you press on maybe you injure yourself. We need to be able to listen to Father's daily guidance in our work, diet, exercise and even rest. You know, maybe He wants to make some changes in your schedule for better results. We've got to listen to Him and OBEY if we are going to live in the blessing. And, that is the Word of the Day for today – obey. So far that gives us an equation of inquire, listen and obey. Maybe it is, instead, a recipe, a recipe for the blessing.

Here is the point, God is your healer. That is what we shouldn't lose sight of. He can, and does, heal supernaturally, but He also wants to help you avoid feeling bad in the first place. I am thinking of the 23rd Psalm and the picture it paints of the Great Shepherd's care. Rest in His love and trust Him. There is the curse in the earth but, praise God, there is the blessing. Our beloved has provided blessing for every element of our lives including health. Let's follow Him to the green pastures and fresh water of the blessing. Amen?

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding close to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, so that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

So far, along this journey, we have seen that part of the Father’s health practice is to lead us into good choices. Yesterday we saw the blessing and the curse. Now, the Father says, very plainly that it is up to us to choose between the blessing and the curse. One leads to life, the other leads to death. He has given us the right to choose.

The right to choose is killing us. Yep, I said it. God loves and honors us so much that He has guarded our free will zealously. The problem is that we are not always good stewards of the right to choose. What’s worse is that when we make bad choices, and things go awry some people are quick to blame God. He is making it very plain in this passage that He is giving us the choice. He called all of heaven and earth to bear witness that He has set before us life and death. Then, amusingly, He gives us this bit of advice. “Choose life,” He tells us. Wow! Clearly He was concerned that someone might choose death.

This passage comes right on the heels of the explanation of the blessing. The blessing is life just as Jesus is life. It is to the Old Testament what our inheritance in Jesus is in the New. I like to think of it as a double measure of the blessing working in my body and my life. You should expect good things to happen in your life because the blessing is working in you.

Let us remind ourselves, though. The blessing “shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the Lord your God.” Don’t think of this obedience as a harsh task master. In real life it becomes, listening to God and doing what He says. If He tells me something about my diet or exercise and I choose not to do it, then the blessing is going to be hampered in that area. He is not punishing me for disobedience. He has pointed out the way to reap blessing. It is all on me if I don’t do it.

There is the blessing in the land but there is also the curse. God lets you choose between them. You can follow Jesus to the promises like the Israelites followed Moses or you can choose to do your own thing. You can go back to Egypt for that matter, but remember, you cannot live in Egypt and enjoy the fruit of Canaan. So, choose, which shall it be, blessing or living in the land of the curse? Choose life. Follow Jesus so closely that he cannot get a moment alone. Have breakfast with him and call him to watch over you while you sleep. Ask him to speak to you in your dreams and in chat with him throughout your day. Intertwining with him is the best way I know to choose life.

Exodus 23: 26 NLT

I will give you long, full lives.

I want to go back to Exodus today to tie this point in with the blessing and our choices. Let's think again about what is going on here.

God has liberated the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The people had a slave mentality, so the Father is having to teach them how to live with His presence and how to flourish. He is having to completely rebuild His nation, and this, really is, from the ground up. He has just taught them about the blessing of Abraham which is theirs by birth. He also warned them about the curse. Then He concluded by telling them that He has given them the choice between life and death but that, ultimately, it is their right to choose. This is of critical importance!

God very clearly articulates His will here. He wants to give us long, full lives. Jesus said, "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full,*" (John 10: 10 NIV). In this we see the continuity between the Father and the Son. God sent Jesus to earth so that we might have abundant, full lives. Now, why is this so important? For health to continue to bloom in our lives we must begin with the understanding that God wants us to have long full lives. We must settle in our hearts that God isn't trying to kill us. Remember the story of Job and how He struggled. Once He came to understand the truth, he was able to receive full restoration. As long as He thought God was tormenting Him, He was defeated. The same will be true for us. One cannot pray in faith for healing if he has the misconception that God created his sickness. You cannot believe in your heart that God has made you sick and that he is going to heal you. The two beliefs are inconsistent and will destroy your faith.

Go one step further, if we believe that God has caused us to be sick, then that is to say we believe God's will is for us to be ill. Why, then, would we pray for healing? That would be to pray against God's will. This is why it is so important that we begin by accepting God's desire for us to live long and fruitful lives.

Understanding God's will also impacts how we think about life and death. Many people think God holds the threads of our lives like the fates, toying with us like stringed puppets. That just is not Biblical as you will continue to see as we move forward. Yesterday's *Word of the Day* was the beginning of that revelation. God said, "*I have set before you life and death, . . . choose life in order that you many live,*" (Deuteronomy 30: 19). God gave us the choice. His will is that we live long, abundant lives. So, this means that we have to get out of our minds and hearts two things; First, that God is pulling our life springs and two that He is responsible for taking our lives from us. We are so accustomed to saying, "Well, if it's God's timing . . ." but now we know it is not God's timing. Say this aloud, "God isn't killing me!" We've got to get that down in our hearts. He isn't "taking people." He is trying to save people. It's what He does! We, however, don't have to follow His leading. We make our own choices. That is point number one. Beyond that is the curse. In God's perfect will there was no sickness to be had, but the earth fell into corruption and decay and now we must live with those consequences.

Here is the promise of God, "*I will give you long, full lives.*" Meditate on that night and day until your spirit accepts it as truth. God isn't taking life; He is the giver of life. Long, full and abundant life is His desire for you. Pray towards that reality.

Promises, Promises

1 Kings 8: 56

Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

Not one word of God's promise has failed. Those are important words. Do you remember last Tuesday's *Word of the Day*? It was titled *Promised Health*. Truly, every verse since we began series is a promise from God. Of course, that is important because we arrive at this verse which says that not one word of His promises have ever failed. See also that His promises are of good. Our God is a good and makes good promises to His kids. There is another element though, that I don't want us to miss.

Look at the beginning. Yahweh, our Lord, God and Father, gives rest to His people. We are not to be a restless people emotionally or physically. Do you hear that in here? He gives us peace and comfort in our hearts and minds so that we are not in despair. Emotionally we can, and should, be peaceful and calm. Our God gives us peace of mind. This is an element of our health and of critical importance. You cannot be healthy, physically, if you are not at peace. Anxiety, anger, angst create stress in the body which causes malady. We cannot live in distress and be physically healthy. It just does not work that way. So, this emotional rest the Lord gives us creates physical wellbeing.

Second, He gives us physical rest. If you are not resting well, then you need to speak with Father about it because you have an absolute promise and not one word of His good promise has failed. Expect to sleep and rest. Pray this verse over yourself when you go to bed. Rest well and enjoy all the promises of the Lord.

Job 22: 28

You will also decree a thing and it will be established.

You may wonder about the selection of this verse in a series on healing. I will go so far as to say this may be the most important verse in the whole series. If we wish to live in the Lord's health, prosperity, abundant life, or anything else he has for us, eventually we have to accept his words and make our words come into agreement with his.

There is more power in this verse today than my words can begin to touch upon. I am even sure that I do not yet have a full revelation of it. However, I am pressing in on this point so that the Father can show me more. One of Jesus' strongest teachings is found in Mark 11: 23. We, the church, are still trying to figure this one out. Kenneth Hagin spent a 50 year preaching, ministering life on verses 23 and 24. Let's look at verse twenty-three, *"Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him."* The word "granted" is in italics in the Bible indicating it was added. The text should be more like, "It shall be."

This was the lesson Job had to learn to get himself out of the trouble he was in. As long as he was mired down in his language, blaming God for his troubles and focusing on them, he remained in the muck. Once Job renewed his mouth, he was restored. His fears and doubts brought about his calamity but his faith in the God of Israel restored him.

In Mark 11 Jesus' disciples were astonished when they walked by a fig bush that Jesus had cursed the previous day. The fig tree had withered from the roots up. Jesus was astonished that they were surprised. That is when he explained to them that whatever they say, believing, will happen. When faith comes out of our mouths, things have to happen. Jesus was not surprised the fig tree had died. What other outcome was possible? Speaking faith fueled words is how God created everything. God said let there be . . . and it was. He didn't take out a magic wand and swing it around. He spoke, expecting the elements to obey him. And He is in you. The power that is alive in you creates through spoken language.

What you say, has an enormous impact on your life, including your health. Do you say you are going to get the flu because you get it every year? Guess why you get it every year.

Now don't get crazy. I am not telling you to go get in someone's face who has Covid. That is stupidity, not faith. Faith is in walking in God's wisdom. Get a word from God and stand on it. Job knew the Word of God but got derailed and began speaking the wrong words. We have the Word of God too. All we have to do is to take this list of verses and speak their truths. You don't have to make up confessions. Just speak the Word.

If you believe for sickness or injury and continually confess it, you are going to live in sickness. If you believe these verses on healing and speak them, then you will establish health. Do not accept a doctor's prognosis alone. Get God's advice too. I do not deny that God anointed doctors, but we need to include our healer also. Do not accept that once you reach a certain age you must accept aches, pains and sickness. Reject that junk. It is heathen garbage. You are the blessed of Abraham, Jesus' own inheritance. Stand on your promises and speak words of belief in those promises. As you say, it will be established. Decree something good.

Satisfied

Psalm 91:16

With a long life I will satisfy him.

Earlier we saw Exodus 23: 26 which in the NLT reads, “I will give you long, full lives.” That is some pretty simple stuff; good promises from God to you. What’s not to understand? Still, there is a place in these two verses where people get hung up. It’s this question, “What is a long life?” Today’s verse holds the answer. You get to determine what long life means. You can hang out here on earth until you get satisfied.

The best story I have ever heard on this was from Reverend Kenneth Hagin. He said, “If you ever hear I died, you will know I got satisfied.” Well, one morning he was eating some strawberries, I think. He ate the bowl of strawberries he had been served but then thought he would like a few more. So, he ate a few more, laid his head down on the table and went to heaven. He got satisfied. How cool is that? He punched out when he was good and ready. Not a minute before.

That story, and it’s a true story, creates a comfort within me. We don’t have to get sick and die. Just comfortably satisfied. We have gotten fooled that moving to heaven is a result of sickness. That’s not gospel. That’s a lie. It doesn’t even make sense. It’s like someone had the idea that God invented disease so that he could get people off the earth into heaven. Really? Nuts, right? No, God wants you to translate yourself to His Kingdom in heaven when you are ready. Doesn’t that sound more rational?

Hey, forget this sickness business. Let’s just leave that to the Egyptians. Let’s live in the promise of God, intertwine our lives around Jesus and get full and satisfied. Yeah, I like that!

Forget Not

Psalm 103:1 - 3

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget none of His benefits.

3 Who pardons all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases.

When we began this series, did you realize how many times God spoke about healing? Health and healing is not one of those topics with only two or three verses. God has been clear from the beginning and has reiterated His position that He is our healer.

So, it turns out that one of the benefits of life with Yahweh is that He heals all your diseases. Apparently, He pardons all our iniquities too. Do you find it easier to believe this one than the former? Certainly, we hear more about the forgiveness of sins than we do healing so it puts that benefit more in the front of our minds.

David, the author of this psalm, was preaching to his own soul. He would not let his internal self deny the grace the Lord had bathed him in. He commanded his soul to remember the benefits God has bestowed on His children but also, he ordered his soul to bless the Lord. I think that shows his relationship with God. He, David, certainly appreciated the benefits like healing, but he always backed it up with adoration and praise for the Father. He certainly was not taking his healing for granted. He wasn't ignoring it either, and that is a key for us.

Fully appreciate the benefits. Don't deny them or ignore them and in the balance be thankful and bless the Lord.

Healing Word

Psalm 107:20

He sent His word and healed them.

Okay, we have gotten to my very favorite healing verse. I love this one. Just a quick caveat though. It is not the one I use for myself in all circumstances. Often God leads me to a different verse for my situation which is why it is vitally important to inquire of Him rather than leaning to our own understanding.

Back in the Old Testament, they would not have had the revelation on this that we do. They didn't have John 1: 1, 14, "*In the beginning was the word . . . and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.*" We know that Jesus is the Word, and we know him as healer so combining the Word with healing seems consistent to us once we piece it together. It is a bit mind expanding though when you consider this is an Old Testament passage.

So, that leaves me with this question, when did God send the Word? My guess is as soon as the curse entered the earth and I think that would have been as soon as Eve and Adam bowed their knees to Satan.

In God's kingdom, there is no dis-ease. There is only ease. He made it to operate perfectly. When Satan got a foothold in the earth, corruption and decay entered in like a seething plague. It has been destroying the earth ever since. God had to implement a plan to save his creation, both humans and the earth. So, he sent the Word, and we know the Word has triumphed over Satan.

What does this mean for you and me? Well, it means that Bible you hold in your hands, also holds the keys to life. The more we immerse ourselves in it, meaningfully immerse, not just reading it like reading a school textbook, the more we find the Living Word, Jesus. Jesus is the Word, and the Word is life. "*He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity,*" (John 1: 4 GW).

So, God sent His healing Word and healed us all. Life and healing are in the Living Word. The Living Word is Jesus, as well as all the truths God sent us in the Bible. It is Jesus who brings those words to life. Getting to know one leads to knowing the other. Together they bring life and light. So, take daily as directed.

Psalm 118:17

I shall not die, but live, and tell of the works of the Lord.

Stop, pause, breathe and really take this verse in. I want us to get a deep revelation of this one. I feel this is dear to the Lord's heart. I believe He is saying to us today to really let this verse sink in.

Have we not seen several quotes from God that He will give us a long and full life? And didn't Jesus say that he came to earth to give us abundant life? If we believe those scriptures, it ought to be easy to buy into this one. Here is the thing, all of the verses that I will be sharing with you have God's healing power imbedded in them. For that matter, every verse in the Bible brings life since the Word is Jesus. This verse, though, truly has the power of life and death in it. You will see others that we could say the same thing about but this one is incredibly powerful.

Suppose you have received a frightening diagnosis from the doctor? What do you do? You've got to rehearse these verses over and over until they are so entrenched in your spirit that you believe them with every fiber of your being. I would recommend repeating this one over and over and over. Walk through the grocery store saying, "I shall not die, but live and tell the works of the Lord!" Say it while you are pumping gas.

Now here is the new revelation. What do you do with this verse if you are perfectly healthy? You do the same thing. Perhaps you are not as fervent as someone who just received a bad report, but this is a verse of life and praise. You can brag about what God is doing for your health right now. We don't have to get sick to praise God. He is feeding us life and health right now.

Let's glorify our Lord and God and relay on Him to give us strong, healthy bodies. Let us thank Him for what works well and for the healing power He has flowing through our bodies right now. Anything that doesn't feel good or isn't working quite right should be brought before God. Get in agreement with Him for full restoration and ask Him which verse you should lean on. Today's verse works on every occasion, but the most important verse is the one that goes off in your spirit when you read it. It isn't always the same one. Get a firm grasp on today's thought because God is showing you that He is the giver of life. And emulate this verse. Declare boldly that you shall live and not die. You are healed and blessed; and glorify the Lord.

Proverb 4:20 - 22

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body.

By now, probably most of us are convinced that God's Words have healing power in them. I hope so. This tells us that God's words are life to our bodies. Now, what is hard to understand about that? The challenge is in the preceding verses and even the preceding phrase.

First, we must find God's Words. Okay, how hard is that? We know the Bible contains a whole lot of stuff God has said. Additionally, this devotional sends you a "word" from God every day. What?! That is the power of this devotional. You don't have to be in love with what I write because you are getting a dose of what Yahweh said every single day. I just love that.

The second piece of this life in the words is that we must not let them depart from our sight. So, find God's words and then do not let them depart from your sight. Put them as your screensaver on your computer. Write out a 3 X 5 card with every one of these healing verses. Man, that would make a great deck of cards! Just sayin' . . .

Keeping these words of God in our sight is how we keep them in the midst of our hearts. You really must rehearse them. That is most easily done by having them where you can read them often. What if you made a list of all of the verses from this series and read one each day? Hmmm, there's an idea.

Lastly, pay attention! You know what, that is easier said than done. One really has to be intentional about this. Pay attention to God's words by keeping them before you. It is so easy to read a verse and then move on. God is saying something specific here. He wants us to manage our lives according to His words and we cannot do that if we are not continuously paying attention to them.

So, here we go . . . dust off that Bible because that is how you find God's words to begin with. Second, maybe do something with all these verses you are receiving. Many of them work for more than healing. All the Lord's words bring life to every facet of life. Hey, if you are still working on that New Year's resolution to lose weight, I've got your answer right here. His Word is the answer. Speak these verses over your weight loss and believe God. Find His word for your situation and then pay attention to it by keeping it in front of your eyes and in the midst of your heart. They are life and health.

Proverb 17: 22

A joyful heart is good medicine.

I was watching a movie over the weekend and noticing that the lead actor had a propensity towards smiling. It put me in remembrance of another movie I watched where the male lead seemed to struggle to smile. Just watching the movie, I didn't like that guy. It turns out that a joyful heart is good medicine to those around you as well as doing amazing things for your health.

You have heard that smiling and laughter, especially belly laughter aids health. As I have grown and watched people, I have learned a bit about our emotional content and our health. Because of what I have learned, I try to remain at peace. It isn't always easy to do, is it? Do you know this verse, Romans 12: 8, "*As much as it is possible, live in peace with everyone.*" That is not just spiritual advice, it is health advice.

Do you know someone who always seems to be embroiled in some kind of mess? Or someone who seems angry all the time? Maybe you know someone who is gruff. They are doing themselves harm. God gave Paul this message about remaining at peace. At the time Paul received this "Word" from the Lord, he may not even have known the purpose of it, but this I have learned. Being upset or angry is damaging to your body systems. I believe a person can do serious damage to their heart with these destructive emotions. We know that negative emotions inhibit digestion preventing the body from even nourishing itself.

We've all been through a couple of tough years. People have carried more stress, worry and anger than is healthy. Meanwhile, gyms were not always available to work off those toxic emotions. Now is a good time to do some healing. You need to work through your emotions with the Father. Talk with Him about the things that have upset you. Release those emotions to Him and ask Him to restore your joy. Meditate on Jesus. Imagine seeing Jesus face to face. How would you feel if you looked into his eyes? Push away all the bad emotions because, believe me, they are killing us. Let God's love pour over you like warm honey. Find your seed of happiness and water it. And, can I say, turn off the stressful movies for a couple of weeks and find some that make you laugh out loud? It is healing and brother, we all need some healing. Let joy and laughter be your medicine. Take at least twice a day.

Behold

2 Kings 20: 5

Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you.”

The sweet Lord brought this verse to my attention last year. It is the one I am currently standing on. I have made a screensaver out of it and have posted it at my desk so that I am reminded of His promise. This is the promise I needed, “I will heal you.” God said it. I didn’t make Him. I couldn’t. So, this promise wasn’t forced out of Him. He offered and that is important to me.

Of course, this is true of every one of these healing verses. God is love. He pours His love out upon us. That pure, pristine, beautiful love that is so reminiscent of a beautiful mountain spring has healing in it. It must because in Him is life. We can immerse ourselves in this fountain of health, allowing it to wash over us. Right this moment I can see myself lying on my back in a mountain stream. The water is cool, and I feel it massaging my body as it rushes by. As I open my eyes, I see a canopy of green above me as God’s beautiful trees reach out their branches to make a shade covering for me. Yet, streams of light filter through as if God’s smile cannot be withheld from me. I open my mouth and let some water in and drink it down hungrily. It refreshes and restores. I can feel the coolness going down my throat and through my chest. It feels like it spreads through all my veins taking that fresh revitalization to every cell of my body.

What do you feel when you hear God say, “Behold, I will heal you?” What emotion is foremost? Do you believe Him? Sometimes it is hard to believe Him. Sure, our minds agree and buy in, but in our spirits there dwells, still, the trembling fear and doubt. You want to reach down inside yourself and make your heart believe what your mind accepts but it isn’t that easy. How do you quell the fear that threatens to rip all your faith from you? You must take up your weapons. What are they? Your Bible, of course. Paul called it preparation in the gospel of peace. Peace, huh? Interesting. There was something about that in yesterday’s *Word of the Day*. I call it, putting on your *Gospel Boots*. Paul also said we have the weapons of salvation, faith, truth, righteousness and the Word is the sword. Let me add three more tools for your toolbelt.

First, conversation with the Lord. It cannot be beaten. It is so, so, very important that we all learn to have serious, sincere conversations with our Father. Second, visualization. You can do much with a visual bearing and it will aid you greatly. See yourself sitting with Jesus or with the Father. See yourself enjoying your healing. Watch yourself run, jump or even just stand up without creaking. Third, mediation. Ohhhh, don’t forget this one. My favorite meditations are ruminating on verses. I just think about each word and the situation in which they arose. What if God had used a different word? Why didn’t He? What did He want me to get out of this verse? What was going on in the author’s life? Answers come much more easily when you ask the right questions, so ask yourself some questions. How does this verse make you feel? Do others make more sense? Which other verse does this one remind you of? Just slow down and think about the verse, letting the fullness of its meaning sink in. Let today’s verse sink in. You’ve got a promise. What will you do with it?

Fruitful Speech

Proverb 18: 20 - 21

With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; he will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.

We keep coming back to this, our words. There is nothing in God's Kingdom that is not hinged on our word and His. The super key is getting our words to align with His. That is why I think this series is so important. You are getting a focused look at what God has to say about health and healing. Let us not forget, though, that God has constantly spoken to us about the words of our mouth. When we get our words in alignment with His teaching on healing then we will have healing tongues.

Truly life and death are in the power of the tongue. Let's recall Job 22: 28, from earlier in this series, *"You will also decree a thing and it will be established."* This statement tells us clearly, I think, that what we say is what we get. I am not saying there are not other forces acting on us, but if God said life and death are in the power of the tongue, and He did, then there must be a great deal of significance to what we say. Today's verse will not be the last time we see scripture on the importance of our words, but it is significant that God specifically tied our health, and literally life and death, to the fruit of our mouths. Is that fruit good, or rotten?

Let's think about this a bit more broadly for a moment. In the first place, I would not have you speaking about your life, health, or body in any negative way, ever. Period. That is the first level of this. However, let me dive deeper today by suggesting that other negative language may be impacting your health. Have you ever wondered why God made gossiping a sin? I will tell you that He had in mind your health. Not only does gossip harm the person about whom the tattler tells, it also harms the hearer and the speaker. It's kind of simple, really. You can't have garbage in your mouth without it poisoning you.

What about hateful language, words of anger, etc. Do you think those words go out from us without having any impact on our internal and external atmosphere and the people around us? If you remember some of those cartoons that depict foul language coming from a person's mouth, you will recall the ugly language usually being represented by a black cloud. In a sense, I believe that is the exact environment we create for our bodies when we use hateful, angry language. Remember that God wants us to be at peace and we will not be at peace when we allow ourselves to get into tirades of ugly expressions.

Think back on today's verse. With the fruit of our mouths, we will be filled. In other words, we will eat the fruit of our mouths. Is that meal going to be something pleasant or something vile? What we eat certainly impacts our health. No doubt about that. The part we didn't necessarily understand is that we should strive, not only, to eat clean food but to use clean words as well. This is important. In fact, it's life!

Don't Worry, Be Happy

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am you God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

This doesn't, at first blush, look like a healing verse. And, sure, you could, and should, be using this for any number of situations. However, is there any situation, which causes us to look anxiously around us more than a problem with our health? That is when God says, "I am right here with you. You don't need to look around."

Receiving a diagnosis that there is something amiss in your body is always a bit off putting. You feel rocked back onto your heels even if your faith is still in place. And, if we're being honest, there is a moment, no matter how brief, when your heart feels the sting. Even if you are not facing a life and death matter, having a health situation or an injury troubles your heart. So, here we are, at the feet of God, asking Him how we confront the issues that attempt to create anxiety within us.

You know, I am quite fond of giving you tools, and today's verse is a strong one. Here is what I want you to do. Stop reading this for a moment and re-read today's verse. Read it aloud, even multiple times if you want. I'll wait . . .

Do you hear something when you read this? I hope you were able to read it aloud. And, if you read it aloud several times you may have noticed that your voice became stronger each time you read it. That is what this verse gives you. I wrote above that it is a strong tool, but I wanted to write "powerful" because I believe it is. I figured, though, that if I said it was powerful, you would think I was embellishing. However, when I read this verse, I feel strengthened inside of me. It's like my spirit just rises up to take on whatever the world throws our way. Can you not hear the voice of God in this passage? Oh my, He is speaking right to us saying, "Don't be afraid. Don't worry. I am your God. I am with you, and I am going to help you."

How is this not a verse for healing? God told us early on that He was our healer. Then we get to this verse and hear Him saying, "Don't look anxiously around you because I am here. I am your healer." Anxiety is a thief. It steals your calm, and it actually compromises health. God is showing us how we can retain a healthy body by giving Him all our anxiety and worry.

Do not fear. Yahweh is God. Do not let fear and anxiety steal from you. Remember who your God is and that He is with you. He is upholding you with the might of His right arm.

Isaiah 53:4-5

⁴ Surely our griefs (sickness) He Himself bore, and our sorrows (pains) He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by **His scourging (stripes) we are healed**.

Many of you will recognize this language because it is quoted in the New Testament. We will cover that quote later. This is from the amazing prophet, Isaiah. You saw from yesterday's verse how in synch he was with Yahweh God. What really makes the prophet Isaiah and his book so astounding is the revelation he had of Jesus. He is the one who wrote, "*Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel*" (Isaiah 7: 14). I tell you all of this so you will understand this prophet's ministry and his revelation of the Christ. God showed him the Christ's coming and ministry. He saw Jesus being born and later being pierced for us.

Let me say first, read this verse in many versions. There is so much here and so many nuances that I believe you could spend all week on this verse. Second, there is no way I can cover all of what this verse says in this mini-message. The sound bite we must leave with, the minimum comprehension is this, "*By his stripes, we are healed*."

There are reasons for every part of Jesus' arrest, sentencing and crucifixion. One piece of those events was the beatings he endured. I have thought of this so many times and am completely convinced that Jesus was beaten and bruised in every single part of his body. Even the soles of his feet were striped by the whips. Now here is what makes this challenging. Jesus intended that it be so because he already knew what Isaiah saw. He understood the prophecy and the healing that would ensue because of his beating. It may break your heart to think about it, but Jesus was bruised and beaten so that we could be healed.

If you've thought much about Jesus' ministry you've come to recognize that he took all the bad things on himself so that we could have good. Obviously, the biggest example of this was that he took our sins in trade for his righteousness. We got his righteousness; he got our sin. What a deal. The same is true here. Isaiah is trying to help us understand that our healing was in Jesus' stripes. He bore our sickness in his body and carried our pains. The scourging he endured was the seed he sowed for our healing.

Now here is the bit I wanted to get to. I find this hard, but important and I have shared this with very few people. When I am hurt, sick or injured, I remember this verse and I remember Jesus' stripes. I have come to understand that the reason he was bruised in every part of his body was so that every part of mine would be healed. So, if I hurt my ankle, I think about the stripes and whelps that were on his ankle and I know that his stripes have made me whole. When you are sick or hurt, you might do this too. Remember that Jesus was bruised in that part of his body so that you might be healed. Wear your healing like he bore those stripes.

One last note. We must understand when we were healed. In this passage, Isaiah was looking forward to coming events. He was before Jesus, looking towards the cross. Isaiah, seeing those events, said, "*By His scourging (stripes) we are healed*." He said, we **are** healed, not that we will be. Isaiah places our healing at Jesus' scourging. That is to say, you were healed 2000

years ago. That means, we aren't trying to get God to heal us. That is said and done. We are trying to get ourselves in harmony with the Trinity, so that the healing and health which are already ours, is revealed in our lives.

Questions, comments? Click "reply" or go to [Ask Ivey at IveyMinistries.org](http://AskIveyatIveyMinistries.org).

Make the Call

Jeremiah 1:12

You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.

How many promises from God do we have from this series on healing? How much of His Word do we have? We have quite a treasure trove so far with more to come, but what does it mean that Father is watching over His Word to perform it?

God has given us His word. What does it mean when someone gives their word? It means we have a promise from them, doesn't it? However, it is stronger than a regular promise. A person's word is their bond. It is like an oath. Now, if a person's word is their bond, how much stronger and more binding should God's word be? It should be unbreakable. So, we have an unbreakable promise from God. What's next?

God said He is watching over His word to perform it. It sounds like He is waiting for something to happen. What do you think that is? He is waiting for someone to call in His marker, to put it crudely. It is as if He has written us a check and He is just waiting for us to deposit it. When we do, He will then transfer the funds to our account. You know, that is exactly what a check is. It's a promise to pay. Isn't that what Father has given us? So, He is saying, if you understand this, then you have seen well because I am keeping up with those promises to fulfill them when demand is made.

Let's get a bit more practical. So, we have God's promise for health and for healing, separate promises toward a common goal. Now, how do we make a demand on that promise or how do we cash the check? God said He is watching over His Word. His Word is His bond. So, He is watching His Word for when someone draws on it. We know that salvation comes by believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths. We saw in Proverb 4: 21 that we are to keep God's words "*in the midst of your heart.*" We have also seen a number of scriptures which tell us that death and life, health and wellbeing are in the power of our tongues. It is, therefore, reasonably easy to conclude that Father wants us to believe in our hearts that He is our healer and wants us to be in health and to speak "His Word" in that regard. When He hears His Word being spoken, He performs it. He has legions of angels who hearken to His Word. They can't help it. That Word is Jesus to them, so they are immediately attracted to it. When we get our Words in alignment with God's words and when we intentionally speak His Word over our situation there is an angelic host ready to perform.

Look at this passage from 2 Chronicles, "*Yahweh's eyes scan the whole world to find those whose hearts are committed to him and to strengthen them.*" (v. 16: 9 GW). God is scanning the whole earth watching and listening for people who will call on His Word. He is attentive to His Word and all the angels and heavenly beings are attracted to that Word. Thus, the way we "cash our check" is to believe the Word we have heard and to speak it with faith and confidence. Call in God's marker. He has given you His promise. He has given you His Word. He cannot go back on it. You just have to call Him on it, just as if I made you a promise and you called me on the phone and said you were ready for me to fulfill my promise. He is watching and waiting. Make the Call!

Jeremiah 30:17

For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds.

This verse is special to me among the healing verses and here is why. When I was in my 20's and just learning these verses, I didn't have to deal with sickness, but I did have three nagging injuries from my days of playing sports. Injuries and wounds seemed similar to each other and different from sickness. The sickness and disease scriptures didn't seem to apply to my injuries, so I was having trouble applying faith to those scriptures. I needed a verse that spoke to injuries and this one fit the bill for me.

Now that we are older and wiser, you and I know that every healing verse applies to every ailment regardless of type. An even broader perspective teaches us that the Word, in general, is filled with life so has healing in it. None the less, when you have something physical going on in your body, you need the verse that feels right in your spirit. I wrote early on that the verse which resonates with me at one time might not be the verse Father leads me to at another time. That is part of the value of this list. You will have a reasonably comprehensive list of verses to turn to when you have a need.

In that light, I hope you took my advice and made a list of these or have been writing them on index cards. This, truly, is an invaluable tool because it will help you quickly feed yourself in the time of need. When you read over them, a particular verse may grab your attention. If it does, that is the one you need for the present circumstance. That was the case for me with today's verse. It sounded loud when I read it. To this day, when I read it I mentally replace the word "wounds" with "injuries." Don't ignore the first part of this verse though. It is equally appealing, "I will restore you to health." You can't beat that. It is exactly what we need to hear.

Now, let me remind you of one thing before I let you go. These verses are powerful spiritual tools. They are not, however, magic pills. You have to mix your faith and your words with them. This is the work you must do and why I think it is important that you write them down. When you find one that really goes off in you, make sure that you read that one aloud every day. I am not suggesting that you ignore the others, just that you want to latch on to the one Father is quickening to your spirit. You know that you have some promises from God. Now you have to ingest them and rehearse them. As you do, your faith will grow. Don't forget that Father is watching over His Word to perform it and the angels are listening for these divine dew drops. Start speaking them. When someone asks you how you're doing you can respond, "God has restored my health and healed my wounds. Praise God." When you get out of a chair and your bones creak, you've got something to say. "Knees you have been healed by Jesus' stripes." Just don't let these verses be a moment's read. Make them an integral part of your life. Amen?

Mathew 8:16 - 17

And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases.”

In telling Jesus’ story, Matthew recorded scriptural prophecy being fulfilled. We read this passage from the Prophet Isaiah last Wednesday. It is Isaiah 53: 4 – 5. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would bear our infirmities and diseases in his body and that by his stripes, we were healed. Jesus took our infirmities, all of them, and he carried away our diseases.

You can hibernate on that language for a long time. If he carried away our disease, where did he carry it? I have a theory on that. I believe he took all of the disease straight to hell and left it there. He didn’t take it to heaven for goodness’ sake. Further, if he took our infirmities, then we don’t have them. Is that right? How can we have what he took? Also, have you thought about the word infirmities. I think that is worth meditation and journaling. What condition do you have in your body that could be classified as an infirmity? It can be any physical weakness. From our youth people, even Christians, convince us that our infirmities, our physical or mental weaknesses, are ours for life. We learn how to manage our infirmities, but first we must accept them. I believe in getting all the help you can from all the sources with healing modalities. I do not, however, believe the infirmity belongs to you or that any of us should accept those abnormalities as our normal. Scripture says Jesus took our infirmities. We have to establish who we are going to believe.

I am not trying to tell you that sickness and disease aren’t real. Injuries, disease, birth defects, that is all real world stuff. I am trying to get us all to believe what the scriptures say and to understand what Jesus did for us. Look again at Isaiah 53: 5, “*But he was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging (stripes) we are healed.*” We accept wholeheartedly that the piercing of his hands and feet to hang him on a cross was successful at taking away our sin. And as an aside, where do you think he left all that sin? Anyway, if we can believe that part of the verse, why are we challenged to believe the second part?

Isn’t this part of the good news? In fact, when I tell you that the scourging Jesus endured did for your health what the cross did for your eternal soul, that he has taken your infirmities so that your body is healed every bit as much as your soul is cleansed, isn’t that great news? How many messages have we heard on what the cross did for us? Have you heard even ten percent as much on the great miracle of healing? Why did Jesus endure such torture? It was not for salvation. It was for healing. Yet, we don’t preach this, or at least, not like we should.

Here is my point. First, you and I have been conditioned to be sick. We have been taught since we were children to accept infirmity and just live with it. Second, we have not been taught the good news about Jesus as healer. If it had been drummed into us at a young age like John 3:16 has been, we would be better able to believe. But since it wasn’t, the work is on you to reverse your programming.

Matthew is making a point in this passage. He is proving to people that Jesus is the Messiah because his healing of people is the fulfillment of scripture. This is an enormously important

scripture and lesson. It is by healing that Jesus showed his Messianic mission. The proof was in the healing. It makes perfect sense too because we already know that God said, "I am your healer." Then, when Jesus came to earth and healed in accordance with scripture, he showed that he was, indeed, from his Father. He healed according to the power that was within him. The Jews of the age should have been able to reconcile all of this for themselves. Some did, but mostly people were unable to connect the dots.

Matthew used examples of Jesus' life and ministry to prove his deity and here it is. He healed all that were brought to him. In fact, there is not one circumstance where Jesus didn't heal a person who asked to be healed. This passage specifically says he healed "all." That is important for us to realize. Maybe that one word is what you needed to hear to make this whole series come alive for you. Jesus isn't a specialist. He didn't only heal skin disease. He didn't only heal orthopedic issues. He didn't have his apostles sorting through everyone putting them in groups of diseases over which he had authority and others he couldn't help. He healed all!! Come on. Let this fire up your spirit!!! If you were in that group that day, the pain and infirmity that you carry in your body right now would have been vanquished back to hell where it belongs. **YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN HEALED!**

So, here is where we are. What makes Jesus different from today than on that faithful day? What makes our infirmities different from those people's infirmities? If Jesus walked into the room you are in right now, would he have the same power to heal you that he did on that day? Or, maybe because he isn't in the flesh, he doesn't have the same effectiveness. What do you think?

This could be the day that you get healed. This could be your moment. There are some among you who will be healed today. You will receive this good news and accept it into your bones and throughout all the tissue of your body and the good word will do its work. By his stripes you were healed.

Please write me and tell me about your healing!

Matthew 8:2-3

² And behold, a leper came to Him, and bowed down to Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

³ And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

People have messed up this passage so completely, but we are here to set the record straight today. This passage is more of Matthew recording the miracles of Jesus as proof of his deity. What we were supposed to learn from it was first, that Jesus heals and second, that he is willing.

It was forbidden to touch a leper. Doing so would make one unclean. In fact, the question arises as to why this leper was even in town. The beginning of the chapter tells us that a large crowd surrounded Jesus, so this fellow was mixing in a crowd. Lepers were supposed to isolate themselves outside of town. Then Matthew makes a point of saying that Jesus touched this guy. There are several messages there, but the one I wish to highlight is that Jesus became ceremonially unclean when he touched the fellow. Jesus knew the law. He knew the implications of touching the man. Okay, but then the leprosy was cleansed so what are the rules now? Legally Jesus would have needed to go through the rites of ceremonial cleansing, but do you see how he turned the law on its head? Most importantly, the chap was healed. Jesus proved his willingness to heal.

Here is how we have turned this passage on its head. We have made this passage a question about Jesus’ willingness to heal rather than a statement. The passage is Jesus saying, “I am willing.” We no longer need to ask him if he is willing to heal us. It is said and done. I hear people say often, “If God is willing.” We get prayer request for healing on our Prayer Request page expressing the same uncertainty, and if you have ears to hear, doubt. We don’t know if God will heal or not, don’t know if He is willing or not so we overload our immediate environment with the doubt laden words of, “if He is willing.”

Well, let us put that to bed forever. God is willing! Remember yesterday’s verse where Jesus healed all. He didn’t discriminate but was willing to heal all. Re-read today’s scripture. Jesus said, unequivocally, “*I am willing.*” We know “*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever,*” (Hebrews 13: 8). If he was willing 2000 years ago, he is willing today. He doesn’t change. He has not gone hardhearted on us during the ensuing years.

If you had any doubts about Jesus’ willingness to heal you, I hope they have been resolved today. He healed all the people who presented themselves to him, not choosing between them. He healed the blind, the crippled and those with infectious disease. He healed the broken hearted and abused. There is not one ailment, malady or disfunction that he is not willing and able to heal today. Let his willingness to touch you be resolved in your heart and mind today and forever and let that understanding heal you.

Let's Agree

Matthew 18:19

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.”

One of the characteristics I like about this verse is the emphasis one can hear in Jesus' tone. It is clear that he is being emphatic on this point about agreement. I wonder if it was a new concept to the disciples, this idea that there is power in agreement.

Jesus is talking about prayer here, but it goes beyond just muttering some words. Jesus is talking about two of us, any two people it seems, being of one mind on a topic and then asking Father to do something specific. He was teaching people to pray a prayer of agreement. When we combine our spiritual energy in agreement, Jesus says Father shall do what we ask. That seems like a pretty big promise to me.

So, what does this look like in practice? Well, pretty different from most of what we have been taught about prayer. We have mostly learned of prayer being a solitary event. There is nothing wrong with praying in solitude, but we have not learned, or been taught, about praying together or about agreeing in prayer and that is a shame. We have raised an entire generation of people who are embarrassed to pray in front others. Clearly that is not what Jesus intended.

So, what does this have to do with healing? I would begin to answer that by saying that any lesson on prayer has a large impact on healing. Second, prayer can, and should be more than solicitation. In its basic definition, prayer means to ask for something. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. In fact, isn't that what Jesus is talking about here? However, being in communion with God is another important aspect of prayer. What do I mean by that? Positioning ourselves, spiritually, so that we can speak with the Lord and hear Him speak to us is life blood. Suppose you and a friend wish to pray for healing for yourselves or another. As you slow yourself down and tune your spirit to hearing what God has to say, He may bring a scripture to your mind, or He may lead you in a specific direction for your prayer. Imagine the impact that has, not only on your prayer, but also on your faith. However, think about this for a moment with me. If you receive in your spirit guidance from the Lord on what to pray, doesn't that mean that you are getting into agreement with Him? Surely, knowing you are praying the Father's will stimulates faith and belief.

Here is the short and simple of what you should take away from today's verse. Jesus taught his disciples to pray together and to set their hearts and minds in agreement. Do not believe for a moment that your prayer closet is the only place to pray. Your kitchen with a friend is an important sanctuary. If we understand this, grasp it, and begin to pray together, we will revolutionize the church and the way we think about prayer. In the process, we will revolutionize our lives too.

If you need healing, get someone to pray with you, for you. Don't be bashful. Be healed!

What do You Want?

Matthew 21:21 - 22

“Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the seas,’ it shall happen. And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.”

Jesus was keen on prayer. All things, when approached through prayer, are, he taught, possible. He didn’t need to speak to us directly on healing because he was interested in all things. The conclusion being “all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.” So, here is the question, have we asked, while believing, for healing. Let’s do that today, shall we?

What physical ailment have you? I know we often have several but let us choose one to focus upon today. Imagine Jesus is holding a healing meeting. You see yourself walk up to him. He asks, “What do you wish healed?” You tell him. Then he asks, “Do you believe I can do this?” What do you respond?

Jesus deals with a world of unbelief. In fact, most of the people who read this verse read it in unbelief. Want me to prove it? When Jesus spoke of casting the mountain into the sea, was he speaking literally or metaphorically. Most people do not believe Jesus was speaking plainly. In fact, Jesus had a very difficult time being understood because when he was being quite literal, people took him as speaking figuratively. Let me give you the inside scoop on the meaning of today’s verse. Jesus spoke literally. He meant exactly what he said. You don’t have to look for the hidden meaning. He meant that if we understood and believed, we have power over the physics of this planet and could, literally, cause the mountain to be removed. However, because of doubt and unbelief, we have made his words capricious, though that is not how most of us would describe Jesus. So, it turns out that we only categorize him as fanciful when we encounter statements that our faith is too small to handle. This, then, is the task, to believe Jesus. How can he teach us if we will not take him at his word? Do we believe him or do we not? If we will answer this very basic question, we can move forward.

In yesterday’s *Word of the Day*, Jesus taught that God would do what we ask when two or more of us agree about anything. Today we learn that anything we ask will be done for us if we ask without doubting. This is where the work comes in. Twice Jesus has said that Father will do all things for us, but the condition of faith is sometimes a tough hurdle to get over. We have a difficult time believing Jesus’ words. How, then, are we going to believe he will actually do what these scriptures promise? Harder still is that we must move out of our thinking centers, our minds, and into our believing centers. You would either call that your heart or your spirit. You see, we sometimes “believe” with our minds though doubt remains in our hearts. How can that be? Well, your mind is not your believer. What we really should say is, “I think that is true,” because we are actually thinking in agreement but have not graduated to believing in agreement with Jesus. How do you get your spirit to come into alignment with Jesus’ words?

It comes down to these tools again: mediation, prayer, visualization, rehearsal. This is where it is beneficial to write down a key verse and talk with Jesus about it continually. Visualization is very helpful. See Jesus sitting in a chair at your house and ask him to teach you how to have the kind of faith you need. See him sitting there teaching you and even praying for you. Watch as he lays his hand on you and prays for your healing. Do this until the switch goes on inside you. All of a sudden you have an “aha” moment.

These things should be the most natural things in the world, but because the world is broken, it has come down to work for us to believe and see as we should. You, however, are built as a faith machine. You are God's own handiwork. Listen to me in this! He has prewired you with the network to believe all things. You even have the capacity to look with your God given visionary ability and see that mountain get up and jump itself into the sea. Do not be discouraged. Jesus sends you this good word today so that you will be encouraged. All things for which you ask and believe, you shall have. It has been proven time and time again. You are the blessed living in the blessing. This is your birthright and God's will. Fire up that believer and ask what you will because the Father is willing and waiting to get into agreement with you. What do you want?

Mountains, Again?

Mark 11: 23 - 24

“Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted you. “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.

Well, here is our mountain again! Is it still insurmountable?

When Jesus began a teaching or sentence with “truly” he was trying to get people’s attention. He was saying, “Listen to me. I am telling you something important which is the absolute truth.” He wanted people to hear him yet he knew that some hearers would not be able to accept the truth.

We are back to “all things.” What does “all things” mean to you. I know for myself that I exclude things. It happens in my brain so fast that it could outrace lightning. I read a verse like this and think, “Yes, all things! That means, my knee can be healed,” but in the back of my brain I hear, “but not my finances, not my relationships.” In my heart and mind, God has limitations, and it is true. I do have the ability to limit God by my lack of faith and belief in Him and His desire to bless me. Let’s go back a few sentences though.

How many of you caught me? Should I think “my knee can be healed” or should the thought spring quickly to my mind, “my knee is healed?” Is there a substantive difference? I think there is.

If we believe Jesus healed us 2000 years ago when he endured the torture which injured every part of his body, then isn’t it true that I am healed now? My believer needed to kick up to my brain that I am healed. I should read a verse like today’s and have my spirit recognize the truth and then inform my brain. By his stripes, we were healed. So, when I ask Father to heal me, I am simply asking Him to fulfill the truth in my experience. I am saying to Him that I accept His truth and with my faith, I lay claim to it by asking Him to reveal His health and restorative power in my body. He has healing in His hands and truth be told, that healing power is running all through our bodies right now. Do you believe me? I can prove it.

I am not asking you to cut yourself, but what do you think would happen if you got a paper cut right now? Would you have that cut for the rest of your life? Why not? You see, you have the two necessary ingredients working on that cut, the Father’s healing power and your faith. It might take a day or two, but you are going to manifest healing. Right? You probably aren’t even going to ask Him to heal your finger because you know you already have the healing. See, you are a faith machine.

When you were a child, you couldn’t jump over items you now step over without thinking. There was probably a time when you practiced jumping over things, each obstacle getting progressively higher. It’s the same thing. We need to practice jumping with our faith. What is bigger than a papercut? Just jump a little higher. Practice jumping. Increase your ability to believe bigger. Remember Jesus’ words, “*all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.*” Believe you have already received the healing Jesus bought for you 2000 years ago, then pray, ask, and watch that mountain move!

Mark 16: 17 - 18

And these signs will accompany those who have believed; in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**

Here is a passage written in red that we are challenged by! I would like to preach on the whole bit for a week, but I cannot. I hope you, though, will ponder all the things Jesus said. Each of these should accompany those of us who believe. Thus, the question becomes, “Do we believe?” Today I am just trying to get us to believe the last one, “they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Have you already conceptualized this statement even as you read it? What does it mean to you? Surely, this puts us in a different position. No longer are we necessarily the sick person, though that could still be where we see ourselves in this scenario. However, we could also be, and the passage suggests this, the person who lays hands on the sick.

We have already seen that there is power in agreement. Jesus is taking us a step further today. He suggests that if we are the sick, we should call for a believer to pray for us with the inevitable outcome that we will recover. However, he really wasn’t speaking from that perspective. He was sharing what the life of a believer looks like. Wherever they go, the blessing follows them. Not only do they benefit from the blessing but also, others share in that benefit.

If you are sick, you should call for a believer. Apparently, that believer should lay hands on you and pray the prayer of faith. The prayer offered in faith shall quicken mortal flesh and the sick will recover. You recover from sickness.

Now, the other side of the coin. Are you a believer? Well, of course you are! Then, you may be the person called upon to pray for the sick, and what should you expect when you lay your hands on a person and pray for them? You expect them to recover, right? It is not by our power nor our might but by the loving grace of our Father and big brother. Jesus already healed every one of us. So, we are simply the marshals of his good will towards them. You are the point of agreement between the sick and the Lord. In that moment of contact, there are three of you in agreement and whatever you ask, the Lord shall do.

Okay, what if the sick person is a believer? It doesn’t actually change the equation. Call for another believer knowing the signs that are supposed to follow believers. Have that person pray for you. You can still use your faith too, but Jesus is giving us a model here. He was teaching that signs, wonders, and miracles should follow believers. Where we go, there goes the Spirit of God and where there is the Spirit, there is always healing power.

Can your heart embrace this today? I know some of you accept this truth readily and would be the first to pray. For others of you, this passage presents a challenge. You have been very private in your faith and perhaps have never prayed for another person. We have not done enough corporate prayer in church, so we have learned to be bashful. I can promise you this, no one ever described Jesus as bashful. Faith needs an outlet, and here is a bit of good news. It grows as you let it out.

Now, I understand that laying hands on others and praying for them may not come easily to you but if Jesus said it, we must move ourselves towards compliance. Do you agree? The easiest thing is when someone asks you to pray for them rather than you having to offer so do a believer a favor, ask them to pray for you. Require that they lay their hands on you. If you are the pray-er, you can just put your hand on someone's forehead or on their hand. It doesn't have to get weird. Just make a physical and spiritual connection and ask Jesus to make the person whole. We know his healing is running around in their veins. It just needs to be made manifest in their flesh. Jesus said the sick will recover so let it be so.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

One cannot claim every verse in the Bible is their favorite, but this one certainly ranks well towards the top on many people's lists. We can see why. First of all, Jesus spoke this. All the words in red tend towards the top of folks' lists. Second, he expressed one of the key reasons he was sent to earth. That makes this a very important verse for us all. Mostly, though, I think we like it because of the monumental promise it contains. The promise of a full and abundant life.

Jesus is so big, and his thinking is so big that it is hard for even his words to express, much less our minds to absorb it. Had he said that he came to earth so that we might have life, that would have been good. There would be tomes of theology from that statement alone. He didn't stop there though, because that did not express what he was thinking or trying to convey. He didn't just come so that we would have life, but that we would have abundant life. Immediately, that phrase takes our minds out of the eternal life paradigm and lands us right here on planet earth. Of course, we will have abundant life in heaven. Since that truly goes without saying, that is not what he was communicating. Besides, there will be no thief in the after earth life to steal, kill or destroy. Yahoo! So, Jesus' message has something important to say about our life here on earth.

The New Life Version of John 10: 10 reads, "*The robber comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I came so they might have life, a great full life.*" Think of Jesus' statement this way, God sent Jesus to earth to bring us not only life, but a great, full life. First, It wasn't life such as just breathing and hearts beating that Jesus came to bring. People were already living on earth. So, when God said to him, "Go to earth and give them life," He must have had something else in mind. Second, when Jesus said he came to bring us a great, full life, there was certainly a great deal implied in those words. We need to consider what that means. What did God intend in sending us abundant life through Jesus? The answer to that question affects every facet of life. That is why I think we need to seriously ponder these questions and this verse.

Of course, life is certainly not ours in abundance without our health. A healthy body is foremost to a great and full life. So, did God have our health in mind when he sent Jesus? Of course, He did. Remember that Isaiah foresaw the torture that Jesus would endure so that he could bear our disease in his body.

A full life also suggests a long rich life. Surely no one would consider a full life to mean thirty or forty years of abundance and then a bunch of years of a half empty life. That doesn't make sense. The glass must be full and overflowing from beginning to end.

Jesus came to earth to bring us life in abundance. It was one of his main objectives. Let's not let anyone talk us into anything less than God's intention and Jesus' purpose. Believe God for fullness. Believe Him for overflowing abundance. It is His will.

Calling Those Things

Romans 4: 17 - 21

- ¹⁷ (as it is written, “A father of many nations have I made you”) in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.
- ¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, “So shall you descendants be.”
- ¹⁹ And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;
- ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
- ²¹ and being fully assure that what He had promised, He was able to perform.

This passage is a keg of dynamite ready to go off in the spirit of the one who can receive it. There is so much to glean from it, but I wish to focus on three points.

1. He grew strong
2. He believed the promise of God meant something and could be relied upon.
3. Speak those things

First, this passage, speaking of Abraham says that he “grew strong”. This shows that he did not begin strong. Abraham is called the father of faith, but that faith was no more inherent to him than to us. He grew in faith. If you read the account of Abraham’s life, you will see that he was not a paragon of faith in the beginning. He learned and he grew and his faith grew with him. Notice also that he considered the “true” facts, his age and Sarah’s inability to have children. It is okay to acknowledge facts, but you do not have to accept them as truth. They are only circumstantial and temporary. Abraham was able to recognize the obstacles, but he did not let them negate the promise of God. He grew such that the promise of God was bigger in his heart and mind than the facts.

Second, Abraham took God at his word. He believed that what God said, He would do. He also believed that God was able to do what He promised. When your faith feels small and weak, don’t look at it. Look at God. We measure the value and weight of our faith, but we need not. We only need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12: 2). As we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and the Father all things, do, seem possible. If we measure the size of our faith, it always seems wanting. Our faith never looks large enough to measure up to the task. Yahweh, however, is large enough to believe in. Focusing our attention on Him brings us to a place of agreement with Him. Abraham believed that God was not a liar and would do all He promised. So, we don’t focus on the facts or the littleness of our faith but rather on the majesty of the God who promised.

Last, Paul recognized a key behavior of God’s. Namely, that God calls into being that which did not previously exist. Hence, we are back to the power of words. The simplest expression of this principle is you shall have what you say. Because we are made in God’s image and live according to His authority, we operate in this earth as He does. The power of intentional speech

is beyond what we currently understand. It is how God created the universe. Unfortunately, the influence of unintentional speech is impactful too, which is why Jesus warned us about careless speech (Matthew 12: 36).

We have been given authority in the earth to call things into being as our Father does. This is one of the key things Yahweh is teaching us. What we say matters, but more than that, when we appreciate the link between speech and creation, we will use our words as a painter uses her brush. The creative power of the universe is in our mouths. We can call into being that which does not exist, and the truth is that we are affecting our health daily with the things we say. So, we must use this power, this power of God, to call health into being where it does not exist.

There is a reason Jesus taught us to “say” something to the mountain. He understands creative power and he knows that reality is shaped by what we say. That is also why he said nothing when he was being tortured and questioned. He knew he would shape destiny with his words. He had to keep silent. Likewise, we shape our destiny. We can call those things which currently do not exist into being.

Set your eyes on the promises of God and on He who promised. Gaze upon His majesty and allow yourself to grow in faith and belief and marshal your tongue into agreement with all He says. Call yourself the healed. Call yourself strong. Be the healed and the strong of Yahweh.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your moral bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

I would love to be in a room discussing this passage with you. I would like to know what this verse says to you. Is it a strong encouragement or is it a bit outlandish?

I have been thinking about the creation of the universe and the creator. We know Him, of course. We also know that Jesus was with Him in the beginning and that nothing was made apart from Jesus (John 1: 1 – 3). Jesus also told us that he is in us (John 14: 21), and the Holy Spirit too (John 14: 17). So, the power of creation lives within us. He is the source of all life and Jesus is the life (John 14: 6).

Because of these things we conclude that the creative power of God lives within us and also life lives within us because where there is Jesus, there is life. With all of this living within our very cells, you would think that life would bubble forth from us. I think, though, that Paul wrote this verse trying to get people to grasp this amazing truth so they could experience the benefit, thereof.

What do you think God made the earth from? Have you pondered that? Well, I will tell you. He created the earth and everything on it of His own substance. What else was there really? If Jesus is the life, then it took a bit of the life to create life. That makes sense, doesn't it? At one level this sounds so simple yet at another, it is mind blowing. The key for us is in the simplicity of it. *"In the beginning was the word (Jesus) . . . and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being"* (John 1: 1, 3). So, the building blocks of the universe, frankly, are resident in our cell structure. Then, above all things, Yahweh breathed into us the Spirit, His own Spirit. With this pedigree it is no wonder Paul saw the great healing potential within us all.

The power which formed us in the first place, and which had enough healing power to raise Jesus from the dead is inside you right now. Further, the power that raised Lazarus from the dead is alive in you. Since you have resurrection power in you and you have Jesus, who is life in you, then that same power can aid your physical body. Isn't that exciting? The power which raised up Jesus is flowing in your veins. Your very breath is God's own Spirit moving and breathing in you. You have the triformity of healing power in you. I reckon if this power could raise a dead body, then it can heal what ails us too, no matter the ailment.

Today could be your day. It only takes one revelation of God's Word to set off a cascade of miracles in you. I pray the healing of the Lord is fully manifested in you today!

Romans 12: 1 - 2

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

There are two aspects of these verses that are important for health and healing and they both point to our obligations. The hard truth is that we are responsible for our health. That is not to say that poor health is a reason to condemn ourselves, but while God can put all the tools in our hands, we must be good stewards of these gifts. This series is meant to help us all steward the great gifts the Lord has given us so that we can live in the divine health which He purposes for us.

The first thing you should do with your body, a new car, new house or anything is to dedicate it to God. This is worship. It is our service to our Lord and King. We have to get the revelation that our bodies are the temple of God. Didn't we see in yesterday's *Word of the Day* that all three persons of the Trinity live in us? Bells should be going off in our heads on that. Christians likely find this idea attractive, so the first step is to present your body to the Lord as a temple, a sanctuary and as Paul wrote, a holy sacrifice. Whoa! That is big stuff there. Give your body to God. Ask Him to come live inside you, to be with you and to strengthen your mortal body with His presence. Doesn't that sound good? Then, let that revelation sink into your heart that God is with you. He never, for one moment, leaves you, never abandons you. When you have dedicated your body to Him, and have received the truth of His abiding presence, you will think about yourself and your body differently.

I want to make one caveat here though. This series is meant to help you grow in the grace and mercy of our dear Lord. Do not use this as an opportunity to criticize yourself. As you and the Lord walk through life, He will likely show you things you can change to improve your life. Let it be a positive change. Do not take this dedication and offering of your body to the Lord as a time to condemn yourself. That is what the devil does, not us. We are to love ourselves in generous humility.

Okay, here we go. Let's move to the second point. In verse 2 Paul wrote, "*do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" Why? So that we can learn, hear and prove the perfect will of God. So, he said, first, present your body to God. Then, don't be conformed by what you learn and hear in the world. Instead, let God transform you. Think of it this way, give God your body and then let him transform your mind about what to do with it. Let Him author your health plan. He wants to guide you and teach you. He is going to transform your thinking so that you will be on that right path.

Does this sound good to you so far? I really hope so. Here is a challenging truth though. When God begins to transform your thinking, it may come to you through other people, and it may be that God is actually transforming your habits as well. This would all be so easy if God would send His big booming voice out of heaven to very clearly tell us what to do. That is not how His revelation usually comes to us. More often than not, it comes through other people. God believes in miracle healings, and I don't want you to lose sight of that but He uses many methods to heal.

I will use myself as an example. I have been praying about my knees and believing God for healing. I listen to Him in my own prayer time and try to be diligent about anything I believe is Him. Well, recently I realized that all the things I was doing weren't getting the job done. I said to a friend, "I think I am going to have to break down and see a physical therapist." The next day a postcard came in the mail telling me that a new service had been added to my health insurance that allowed me to work with a physical therapist virtually. It didn't take a nuclear physicist to figure out that was God. Then, within two weeks of that a friend introduced me to a product with great potential for health and renewal.

So, what was happening here? God began sending people to me to offer me different opportunities for my health. A cynic is not a faith person, so I choose not to be cynical. I choose to believe and to embrace hope. Even though I wanted my faith to miraculously heal my knees, Father had people waiting in the wings to bring me good news. I tell you this as a warning. God wants to renew your thinking, so you absolutely have to be open-minded. You must let Him guide you. Of course, it is going to be new to you and sometimes even strange. Otherwise, you would have already known it and would be applying that knowledge. How is God to teach us if we won't learn? I don't want you to miss out on what He is saying because the knowledge comes from a person. People are God's hands in the earth. People are how He spreads His good news. If we knew it all, we wouldn't need His wisdom. So, let the Lord renew your mind. Allow Him to shake up your thinking.

In conclusion, here is how you can cooperate with God in your own healing and in sustaining good health. First, dedicate your body to Him and to His service. Present it to Him as His own temple. Second, allow Him to renew your thinking. Shake out the cobwebs. Get some new thoughts. Read a book. Reach out to someone for their thoughts. Let the Lord speak to you in your spirit but also through other people. Never, ever get so holy that you think God doesn't speak to you through people. Be transformed in mind and body. Be renewed.

Healing Weapons

2 Corinthians 10: 4 - 5

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

According to this scripture, we have weapons of warfare. These weapons, however, are not as we would initially expect. Paul tells us that they are divine weapons, imbued with divine power. What are these weapons and from where do they draw their power? What kind of fortresses are they able to destroy?

Even a novice would speculate that the source of power for these divine weapons is the trinity, specifically, the Holy Spirit who is the power of God. He has given us weapons that he has empowered. Notice something interesting here. These are weapons of destruction. They are not weapons of defense. Isn't that interesting? These weapons have offensive capabilities.

Verse four says they are used for destroying fortresses. What are these fortresses? Other translations call them strongholds. Verse five begins to reveal what these strongholds are. One translation reads, *"We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God."* Another says, *"We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God."* To state it plainly, these divine weapons are empowered to destroy false ideas and beliefs.

Here is the coup de grace, and it is in the last phrase, *"We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."* That is the final blow, the death strike. We cast down these vain imaginations that attempt to stand above the truth of Christ. The reason I call it the coup de grace is because it is in this final stroke that we realize the battle is not against the reasoning and arrogant arguments of others. Instead, the weapons are formed, by God, to give us power to take our own thoughts captive in obedience to him. Now, that should set you free.

Look, other people's thoughts aren't really your responsibility. The challenge is the space between our ears. That is where the battle takes place. We must take our own thoughts in hand and make them bend their knee to the truth in Christ. When your mind says you cannot be healed, you are going to have to have your knee replaced, you will live with this condition all your life, you must arrest those thoughts and ask, "What does Jesus say about this?" Only what God says is important. When you know what He says, then you lasso your thoughts and make them come into line with Him. Those speculations, wonderings, worries, all those mental gymnastics, must be brought to kneel at Jesus' feet. The strongholds or fortresses are our beliefs. Over the years we have each built a paradigm of beliefs and, frankly, Jesus' Word doesn't fit into that paradigm very easily. It is a battle to wrestle those old beliefs into submission, allowing our minds to be transformed by the Word of God.

So here are your guiding questions: 1) What does Jesus have to say about this problem you are facing, 2) What does the Word say? The world says one thing and the Word another. God has given you power to destroy the thoughts, imaginations and opinions of the world. Take those thoughts and mental images captive. Put them in chains. Create a new picture of a healed you.

How does your body move when Jesus' truth touches it? How do you feel and what does that look like? Wrap words around your revelation but create pictures too. See yourself doing what was difficult. Take every thought and imagination captive to the Word of Christ so that you can defeat the strongholds in your own mind. Destroy the fortress of doubt that says you cannot, will not be healed. By his stripes you are!

Malachi 4: 2 NLT

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

Are you enjoying this healing series? Are you getting something out of it? I certainly pray so. I would love to hear from you. Reply and let me know what God is saying to you.

What a happy picture this is. If you are from the country, you probably can see the calves running and jumping in your mind’s eye. They are so fun to watch. Imagine being so carefree that you just romp around in the pasture. Imagine your knees and hips and back feeling so good that you can jump like calves. I wish we could all get such a big revelation of God’s will inside us that healing would spring up from within.

I always think this verse should read, the SON of Righteousness. Jesus is righteousness and he certainly has healing in his wings. Whatsmore, he lives inside us! That is the revelation of revelations. If we ever really get a hold of that truth, we will be unstoppable. We will do all things in his name, and nothing will be impossible to us. However, let’s talk about healing today because everyone of us has something in our bodies that needs addressing.

Are you agreed with me that it is God’s desire and Jesus’ intention that you should be made perfectly whole? Do you think they want you healed, because if you can answer that affirmatively your spirit will be juiced with the power of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. Look, the Trinity is just waiting on us to get into agreement with them. Then, this force which is resident within us can go into motion healing our bodies right from the cells themselves. Our bodies are comprised mostly of water. Our cells are predominantly water. The Bible often refers to the Holy Spirit as water. In fact, I believe the Holy Spirit is the river of life from Revelation 22: 1, *“The angel showed me a river filled with the water of life, as clear as crystal. It was flowing from the throne of God and the lamb.”* My point is that God’s Spirit is the substance of our cells. That water transports nutrients into our cells and flushes waste out. It nourishes and hydrates our bodies and carries the very essence of God into every atom of our being. Does that not blow your mind a bit? But see, that is what it means that Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are living in us. They do not live in the empty places of our body. They are completely intermeshed, intertwined, if you will, with the very fiber of our bodies. That is where healing can take place. God in you. The power that raised Jesus from the dead living in your cells just waiting to go off. The healing force which called Lazarus from the grave is inside each and every one of us. The more we accept this and let our hearts embrace it, the more freedom we give that energy to move within us. We can actively cooperate with what God wants to do in our bodies.

Jesus has healing in his wings, and he wants to share all of his healing ability with each one of us. Bit by bit we are growing and believing. We are stronger and have more belief than when we began this series. Healing is here.

Please email me and tell me your healing story. I know God is healing people who are reading this series because I have already heard some testimonies. Send me more. Your testimony helps other people believe and thus receive their healing. In his name.

Every Disease

Matthew 4: 23

Jesus was going about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Isn't it easy to believe that if Jesus walked up to you, healing would be an simple matter? Of course, the people of his time didn't always believe he could heal them or that he would. Those are two forms of doubt we still must deal with today. Even if we accept that Jesus wants us healed, we have a challenge receiving it. How do we get his healing? "If he were still here," we think, "it would be easy." However, Jesus said it was to our advantage that he go away (John 16: 7). That hardly makes sense though. Do you agree?

Jesus explained to his disciples that if he should go away, he could send the helper, the Holy Spirit who would come and live within us and be with us forever. Jesus wanted us all to understand that we were not losing him, but rather that we were gaining the third person of the Trinity.

Do you think the Father lost all His power when he sent Jesus to earth? Was He unable to act as long as Jesus was here? Or how about this? We know that Jesus was with the Father in the beginning of time. Was he powerless while he lived with God, before he came to earth? Why did Jesus think it advantageous for the Holy Spirit to come?

Finally, with the coming of the Spirit we can talk about living with the Trinity. If Jesus went around healing every sickness and disease, why can't the Spirit do that now? Furthermore, Jesus is still with us, isn't he? Sometimes we don't have a big revelation of that. Where are you right now? Look up from your computer. Look around your office or the room you are in. Where is Jesus? You know, he is right there with you. Really look around. Where do you think he is? We know he inhabits every cell of our bodies. We've talked about that, but he is walking the earth too. He is there in that room with you even as he lives and breathes inside you. Imagine him putting his hands on you. What does that feel like? Can you feel the fire? How are your own hands? Do they feel hot in the palms? That is the anointing. Put them on your body and release the healing power.

Look, we decree and declare things to be. We command, but sometimes with healing I like to be sensitive. Think about healing hands. Sure, sometimes they are strong. You should have seen the forearms on my orthopedic surgeon. All in all, though, don't we imagine healing hands to be sensitive and gentle? What does Jesus look like when he prays for you? Open up your mind to unfolding pictures and see Jesus praying for your health. What does he look like? The reason I bring this up is that sometimes we need to be kind to our bodies. We need to encourage healing rather than demand it. You follow what the Spirit is telling you but consider talking calmly and nicely to your body. Encourage it to heal. Speak prosperity over your cells and organs.

The healer is with you. Not one person he has ever prayed for has been left sick. Just some people wouldn't let him heal. Their doubt shut him out. Let us be the people who receive the healing that is in his wings. Really imagine opening up your injuries and letting him in there. All sickness and disease, leave in Jesus' name.

Proverb 3: 7 – 8

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

Interestingly enough, this verse, though it is about healing, does not advise about diet or exercise. What is the root of this? Some people will think it is about doing evil and that evil doings make you sick or that God curses those who are doing bad. That is not what this verse says. You've got to start at the beginning of the verse and there are really two parts. First, do not be wise in your own eyes and second, revere the Lord and His wisdom. That is really what this is about. Turning away from evil is a natural by-product of serving the Lord. So, let's look at this more closely and see what the Lord is teaching us.

This passage is really about whose wisdom you will follow. When we inquire of the Lord, which is step one, we fare well. When we rely on our own wisdom, we don't always make the choices that lead to healthy bodies and refreshed bones. It isn't that we do not try to make right decisions. It's just that we don't know all God knows. I will tell you another implication of relying on our own wisdom and knowledge. It is stressful. The more we learn to rely on God's direction, the less stress we are under. The less stress we experience, the healthier our bodies.

I have taught in the past about hearing God. I have even sent you my testimony about when I could not hear Him. It was the most frustrating thing! In our fast-paced society, it is definitely harder to hear Him. Another factor is involved too. As the pace of life increased, people found it harder to hear Him. Now, we are raised in the expectation that we won't hear God speak to us. Of course, that is unbiblical, but church culture is influenced by societal pressures too. Eventually, a doctrine arises to support our failure. The converse is to have to face up to the failure and that is not so easy.

We, however, are fortunate. We are not the generation that created the problem or accepted not being able to hear God speaking to us. That makes the problem existence emotionally neutral to us as far as blame. We can be the fixers since we carry no guilt. Yes, our generation has accepted the failure and believed pastors who taught us wrong but now we have the ability to get free.

If we can follow God's wisdom for our health, then surely, we will live healthy. If we forsake any pride we may have, choosing not to be wise in our own eyes, but rather to rely on the Father, we really can turn things around. Even if you are a medical professional, did you know that it is not your responsibility to have all wisdom? Your wisdom, too, is supplied by the healer.

Today's verse is about relinquishing control and not having to have all the answers. It is about expecting God to be God. In our reverence of Yahweh God, we are to turn to Him with questions and, not only expect Him to answer us, but to demand it. Honestly, He is on the edge of His throne wanting to answer you. Let's get good at hearing God's voice. Let's follow His wisdom to arrive at the place of healing.

Faith in the Blessing

Galatians 3:13 - 14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”-

14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

By now, you know about the curse. Hopefully you know about the blessing too since I have been teaching on it for a while. You understand the curse entered the earth through disobedience. However, we see plainly that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse. We no longer live under the law but under faith and faith is how we inherit the blessing.

What does this have to do with healing? Well, literally, everything. Father God told me recently that my health, healing and prosperity were paid for on that cross right along with salvation. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” he meant everything is done. He didn’t leave healing for later. He didn’t make a plan to work out our financial provision later. Everything pertaining to life, the curse and the blessing was accomplished. Jesus arose with no more work to do. It is done. Finished.

So, Father asked me, “Why are you trying to earn what Jesus has already done?” What? That is a revelation each of us could use. Whatever we need today, it has already been done. Now, we appropriate those things by faith and there is the rub. It’s not necessarily that we don’t have faith, but we don’t always know how to use it.

So, let me ask you, if Jesus has already purchased everything you need, including health, and you accept that you claim it by faith, what does that look like? What would you tell another person about acquiring all of God’s good blessing? I wish the answer was, “Lie on a chaise until the blessing falls upon you.”

Jesus said, “*If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer,*” (Matthew 21: 22). The answer, then, is that we must believe. Sometimes we have to talk ourselves into believing. We have to chase out the doubt. That is why I have you write on 3 X 5 index cards. If you read God’s Word and keep reminding yourself of His promises you whittle away at the doubt. You’ve gotta preach to yourself, keep reminding yourself of God’s promises until your heart is convinced. We all have doubt. We all have to put down fear. But we make the Word of God bigger in our minds and hearts than the fear and doubt until the faith rises up and eradicates the doubt.

You have been redeemed from the curse. You are under the blessing. You are an heir to the promise. Those sound like just a bunch of nice words but it is the gospel. It’s what Jesus did for you. Your healing is right there in verse 14, in the blessing of Abraham which you receive by faith.

Healing Faith

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Yesterday, we saw that faith affects healing. What, though, is faith? We talk about it a lot, but do we assume too much, that everyone understands, truly, what faith is? It is a nebulous term in the mouth of many, but the Bible has a definitive explanation of what it is.

Here is another reading of today's verse, "*Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.*" It is the certainty of the things we pray for. It is the proof. The Amplified has this language, "Faith is . . . the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses." It is a fact, not to be argued. Let me give you an example.

Do you believe in Jesus, that he is the Christ, that he came from the Father, that he is alive? Prove it to me. What if I try to talk you out of it? Is there anything I can say to dissuade you? Even though you have no tangible facts, no verifiable evidence, you believe with all your heart that he is alive and that he is the Christ. There is nothing I can do or say to talk you out of it. That is faith. Jesus is unseen but you are 100% convinced. What if you felt the same way about your healing?

Your healing is assured by the blessing of Abraham. It is every bit as certain as your salvation. It was made absolute at the cross. It is real and it is done. So, why is our healing less sure in our hearts than our salvation? Do you have any doubt about your salvation? Do you feel just as strongly about healing?

The point I am trying to make is that most of us are not absolutely convinced that God will heal us. Frankly, most people are a little afraid even as they pray. We are afraid Father won't heal us and look, there is some legitimacy to that. How many people do you know who are living testimonies of God's healing? More of our Christian buddies are hurting than healed. We have, as a body, fallen into a place where it is harder to believe that God still heals. If we ask people to answer, intellectually, about what they think, most will say they think God still heals people today. If, however, we were able to dig down in their hearts, we would find that few have experience with God's healing power, so they don't have much belief. The people at church are not experiencing healing; the pastor has stopped talking about much less preaching about healing so as a body, we have descended into this place of doubt. It's not that we are bad people. It's just that the actuality of God's healing is not being manifested in our near environment and that is a problem. It is harder for each of us to believe because we don't have any nearby examples. So, what do we do?

I am attempting to raise your belief by showing you what God's word says. The thing is, though, that you have to rehearse it over and over before your heart believes it. Your mind will accept God's word on the surface, at least most people will. Getting the belief built up so that our faith can call that healing into manifestation is different and for most people, more challenging.

Faith is that ability and the substance down in our hearts that knows that it knows. You do have some experience with that kind of faith as I have shown you. There are other things that you know beyond doubt. My goal here is to get your faith for healing to that point. So, think about it for a moment. What do you believe about healing? Is this a doctrine for past times or does Jesus

still heal today? I can give you the scriptural answer, but the answer of your heart is the one that matters. Your healing may be very close at hand. Please go back to these verses and continue to meditate on them. Our Father is faithful and wants to do many great and wonderful things for each of us. Let's agree with him for great things! Do you want to?

Healing Shepherd

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This passage may surprise you. Yes, we are still talking about divine health and healing here. Please, go back and read it again. What part of this psalm is not about divine health? This is the perfect picture of God with us. In other words, it is the exact image of Immanuel, Jesus. He is the shepherd. If we follow him, we shall have no want, nor any need. He leads us to the perfect food (pasture) and perfect water. He leads his sheep to the very best so that they may be in perfect health.

He restores our soul which means that he heals our emotions, redeems our thoughts and beliefs and transforms our minds. Is that not absolutely about healing? Of course, it relates to emotional healing but guess what, much of our physical health and well-being is tied to the stress and emotional discomfort in our lives. And, of course, the “paths of righteousness” are as simple as his footprints. In other words, he leads us in “his way” so that we avoid stress, trouble and live in the blessing.

The next stanza talks about walking through the valley of the shadow of death. How is that not about health and healing. We talk through that stinking valley every day. Sometimes it feels like death is trying to get its steely fingers on us. The thing is, though, if we will mind Jesus and listen to his counsel, he will navigate the mine field for us. It really is that simple. I am not suggesting blind courage where we profess our faith and then run through the shadows of death. I am talking about following the shepherd because he knows the way and he will protect us every step of the way. His rod and his staff guide us. My faith is anchored in following him and yours can be too.

He prepares a table for us. Surely by now we understand that an enormous amount of our health is tied to our diet which also includes our drinks. When he prepares my table, he doesn't put soft drinks on it. That is my doing and even though I enjoy sodas, they do not serve my health. Who is your enemy? That is a pretty simple question, but also think about who his agents are. Who is putting food on your table? Is it the food and drink which will encourage health and healing in your body?

The last stanza, I shall dwell with the Lord all the days of my life and even through eternity. When we dwell with the Lord, when we have that revelation of God with us every moment, then, we constantly are in the path of healing. God with me means He is constantly teaching me,

leading me to new technologies, new products and even new ways to think about health and medicine. I think I told you that my good friend has introduced what I call Eden water. It is new to me, but it is helping my health. What if I had not been in the flow of God and had not received His blessing. What if I had not been listening or was closed minded. I would have missed the blessing. I have also been doing physical therapy for my knees. Is this divine healing? Absolutely! My Father provided that for me and, again, it is helping my knees. I want health, so I am inspired to seek the Father and listen to Him. The fact that He lives with me, makes it a bunch easier.

So, there you are. The 23rd psalm. You've known it all your life, but did you know it? That dear shepherd is leading you to paths of his own wisdom and knowledge for your health and well-being. I have to think that is some really great news.

Poisoned Stew

2 Kings 4: 38 – 41

NLV

Elisha now returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. One day as the group of prophets was seated before him, he said to his servant, “Put a large pot on the fire, and make some stew for the rest of the group.” One of the young men went out into the field to gather herbs and came back with a pocketful of wild gourds. He shredded them and put them into the pot without realizing they were poisonous. Some of the stew was served to the men. But after they had eaten a bite or two they cried out, “Man of God, there’s poison in this stew!” So they would not eat it. Elisha said, “Bring me some flour.” Then he threw it into the pot and said, “Now it’s all right; go ahead and eat.” And then it did not harm them.

How can one not love this story? When I read this story is when I decided to pray over my food. It seems the blessing of God can take poisoned food and turn it into something nutritious and delicious.

How many toxins and poisons are in and on our food these days. frankly, we have a bigger problem than those guys did because much of our food has been sprayed with poison and we can’t always get it all off simply by washing. So, we sure better be praying over our food.

It would be great if we could all afford to buy everything from the organic food section. It would be even better if all our food just was organic, but we live in an age where that is not always possible. Sometimes there isn’t even an organic option. So, we all do the best we can to get food that is clean and made as God intended it.

One thing that intrigues me about this story is Elisha’s response. He didn’t just pray over the stew which is what I would have expected. Why did he throw flour in the pot? What would you have done? I wouldn’t have thought about adding flour. Do you think, as I do, that Elisha heard from God? Did he inquire of God and flour was the answer God gave him? I think so. It does not seem that Elisha panicked, and he didn’t overreact. I would have turned the pot over and started over, but that’s me thinking in my own wisdom instead of God’s.

Look, there is a lot we don’t know about our food supply these days. We trust our grocery store to sell us good products but guess what. There is a lot they don’t know. It’s best we place our trust in the Lord and follow His advice. Now you might understand why I pray as I grocery shop. It’s a mine field in there.

Were Therefore, Are

1 Peter 2:24

For by His wounds you were healed.

Does this sound familiar to you? The great prophet Isaiah foresaw the wounds Jesus would bear on his body that would redeem our every sickness and disease. We looked at Isaiah 53: 4 – 5 on March 2nd. If you would like to review, click [here](#).

It seems obvious that Peter understood the prophecy from Isaiah and just as clear that it was fulfilled in Jesus. Isn't it interesting that Peter wrote that our wounds were healed? Isaiah, many years before Jesus came to earth, wrote, "*we **are** healed*." So here is an interesting question, do you think Isaiah, relying on the wounds of Jesus, could receive his healing then, hundreds of years before the scourging that paid for our healing? I would love to hear your thoughts.

It's clear that by the time we get to Peter, we are talking about past events and that we were healed. Neither author wrote that we "will" be healed. Isaiah wrote that we are healed, Peter that we were. There is no bargain in either's proclamation. Neither one made our healing conditional. If we were to take Peter at his word, it would mean our healing is a done deal. It was a past tense event when he wrote 2000 years ago. It is certainly a past event now. We were healed so we are healed.

"But I have this malady and that disease." I understand that, but between "You were healed" & "I feel sick" which represents the truth? Are you sick or are you healed? The two statements are contradictory. You cannot be both. So, which is it? Is your experience bigger than your belief? This is not judgmental. It's about growing into this reality.

We all read these healing verses, agree with them and get excited but then, when faced with a cut, bruise or more serious situation, the healing truth does not spring to our minds. It is a matter of habit, right? You have experience with getting sick, going to the doctor, getting a prescription and then getting better. You likely have less experience with hurting yourself, praying and being healed in that moment; and then, even less experience with getting sick, praying and manifesting healing. So, because we have not been taught, trained and then experienced the healing power of Jesus, it really is not within the realm of our belief system. How do we change that? How does God get His healing to be your reality? We will continue to seek this answer as we begin to wrap up this series.

Truth about Words

Proverb 16: 24

GW

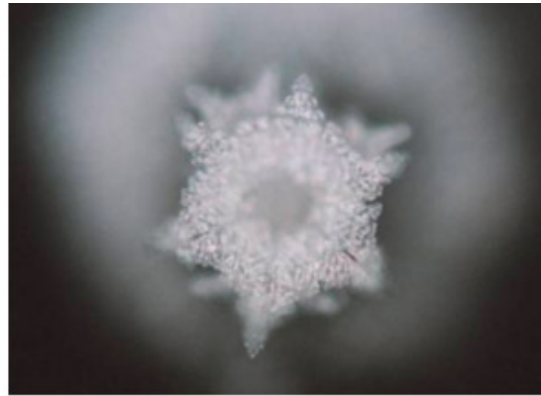
Pleasant words are like honey from a honeycomb - sweet to the spirit and healthy for the body.

Early in this series we discussed the enormous impact words have on our health. This verse teaches us that there is a direct correlation between pleasant words and healthy bodies. I do not think this truth can be overstated or repeated too often. Today, I present you with proof of the influence words have over us, our bodies and our health.

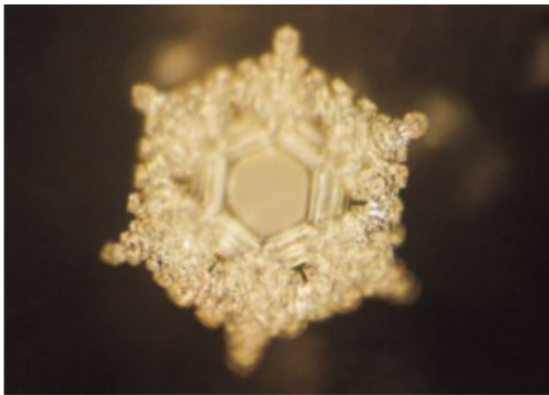
Masaru Emoto conducted experiments with water and language. He spoke kind words over some water samples and unkind words over others. Then he looked at the ice crystals under a microscope. The results are astounding. Look at the pictures below and the associated word.



Eternal



Peace



Love and Gratitude



You Disgust Me

Emoto conducted his experiments with many different words, but the result was uniform. Nice words yielded pretty crystals. Ugly words, well they produced ugly crystals.

I think there are at least two implications for us. First, our bodies are composed primarily of water. Therefore, what we say in the presence of our bodies is having a profound impact on the water within us. We are creating our own Eden within, or a cesspool. This is such a substantial truth that I we all need to grasp this with vigor. What are you saying about yourself? Your body

hears it AND responds. You may think not but just look at the pictures again. It really is profound.

Second, are you praying over your food? Are you speaking kindnesses as you partake of your meals? Does your family squabble and fuss at the table? Or, are you going to lunch with someone and complaining about your boss the whole time? Guess who is harmed by those harsh words.

This is the real deal. You can create what you desire. Pray over your food with words of grace and thanksgiving. Speak kindly over the water you drink. Would it hurt to pray over your water? Why shouldn't we thank God for providing. And when you talk about your body, speak kindness. Even if all is not working perfectly, the kind words are more likely to breed the result you wish than the negative ones.

One final thought. We certainly preach to mind what you say because we believe words are power containers and that they matter. Some people think the "word" preachers go too far and that what you say doesn't have that great an impact. Here is my retort. Your body and the water in your body does not know if you are serious or just using a stupid idiom like, "I was scared to death," or "I am sick and tired of such and such." Negative words are negative words. Period. They do you no good and they can cause you great harm. Let's speak kindly about ourselves, our bodies and others. Okay?

The River of God

Ezekiel 47: 9 NIV

So where the river flows everything will live.

First, let me say that this little snippet from Ezekiel 47 does the chapter, and you, a disservice. I really do think you will enjoy reading the beginning of the chapter down through at least verse nine. As you read through this story you will discover that the river of God brings health and healing to everything it touches. What an awesome reality!

When I read about water in the Bible, I always relate it right back to the Holy Spirit. In John 7: 38 – 39 Jesus tells us that the river of “Living Water” is the Holy Spirit. Further, he taught that river could flow right from within us. It is actually a huge revelation but one that has gone a bit unnoticed. Let’s be clear, though, if you believe Jesus, believe his words and teachings, then you have this river of living water flowing within you. That river brings healing. When we cooperate with Jesus and the Spirit then we, literally, have living water flowing through our veins and that flow is ministering healing to ever cell it touches. Think of that! Does it bring you hope?

Everything Jesus is and has done works together for our good. You believe that, don’t you? I think we all do. How, though, do we get his goodness to work for us? When we look at the world around us, it is hard to believe. When you watch the evening news, it becomes really hard to believe. What we need is more of the “Good News,” that is, more of the Bible. Most of us read and watch more of the world news than the Word news and that is tough on our spirits. It beats us down. The Word builds us up.

If you haven’t done anything with these Bible verses up until now, maybe today offers a fresh opportunity to think about writing them out on your own piece of paper or creating a deck of 3 X 5 cards.

There is a river of life, and it heals and blesses everything it touches. Jump in it. Dangle your feet in the water. Let’s get immersed and in immersion find healing and blessing. Let the river of life, the river of God, flow over you and anoint you with Christ’s goodness. Amen.

Luke 8: 46 NLV

But Jesus said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.”

Come on, somebody shout! Man, I don’t know if I can write today’s *Word of the Day* because I am so excited about this. What is Jesus saying here?

Do you know this story? There was a woman who, for twelve years, suffered with a hemorrhage and none of the physicians were able to help her. However, having heard about Jesus she kept saying to herself, “*If I just touch his garments, I shall get well,*” (Mark 5: 28). So, although there was a large crowd around him, pressing in on every side, this woman determined that she would touch him and she believed that as soon as she touched even the hem of his garment, she would be healed. She, therefore, pressed her way through the crowd and managed to touch the fringe of his garment. As soon as she did, the hemorrhage dried up and she was healed. Jesus said he felt power go out from him and wanted to know who touched him. His disciples scoffed remarking about the crowd that swamped them. No, Jesus told them, this was different, “*Someone deliberately touched me.*”

So, what was it about this woman that caused her to be healed? The scriptures record Jesus as saying, “*Daughter, your faith has made you well,*” (Luke 8: 48). There is a huge revelation in this story if we can mine it out of here, because if we understand what happened here, we can reproduce the result over and over again for ourselves.

First, we need to understand that Jesus didn’t heal her. Don’t believe me? What did he say? “*Daughter, your faith has made you well.*” So, it was her faith. Second question, what was her faith in, or perhaps whom? She had heard about Jesus and how he was going about healing people so she, apparently, had faith that there was healing power on him or in him. But look, she didn’t need him to pray for her, lay his hands on her or even be aware of her presence. She had a point of contact built up in her mind. It would have still worked if she said, “If I can get within three feet of him, I will be healed.” It was a point at which her faith was released. Just look at the Roman soldier. Jesus didn’t have to go to his house for the man’s servant to be healed. He just asked that Jesus speak the word. That soldier’s point of faith was in Jesus’ word. Jesus replied to him, ““*Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.*” And the servant was healed at that very moment” (Matthew 8: 13).

Alright, think about this. 1 Peter 2: 24 reads, “*By His wounds you were healed,*” but Jesus had not been wounded and striped yet. Come on, let that preach to you! What is going on here?

Did we not see verse upon verse from the Old Testament about healing? Jesus is the incarnation of the Word and he never deviated from the Father’s intent. Yahweh had healing in His wings thousands of years before Jesus graced the earth. What does that mean to us? What difference does it make?

The point is that God always had healing available to us. Jesus came to earth teaching and demonstrating. He was here to teach us how to walk in the earth, not to make it harder but to make it easier for us to gain everything the Father has for us. I am telling you that this river of blessing and healing is running through you and imprinted on your DNA. The woman in the story had simply made up her mind that she was going to get healed and Katie, bar the door, because she didn’t care who was between her and Jesus. She intended to touch him and be

healed. Jesus said someone touched him deliberately. He was being bumped and crowded on every side, but he recognized when determination reached out to him and drew on the healing power of God. He felt it. Glory to God. That woman has the same Father we have. She was less entitled to healing than we are, yet it worked for her. I think we just need to be more stubborn and more determined. I am making up my mind today that I am going to be healed. I am not going to accept brokenness, injury or sickness in this body, which is, after all, the temple of God. How about you?

Shift Gears

Psalm 30: 2

GW

O Lord my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me.

What do you hear when you read this? I can hear emotion and waves of relief. David's anguish turned into relief. You almost want to take a deep breath for him.

This verse reminds me of 2 Kings 20: 5, *"I've heard your prayer. I've seen your tears. Now I'm going to heal you."* Oh, I love that one. Of course, I believe we should speak words of faith. I think we should be strong in our belief. There is a time, though, to cry out to God. However, one of the things I have learned by reading David's psalms is that although he may begin with the most forlorn language you have ever heard, he always ends his song in praise and thanksgiving. There is something powerful to be gleaned from that. Cry with all your heart. Bare your soul to the Lord (not to others), but when you are ready, when your grief and despondency have waned, shift into affirmative language about the greatness of God. What does that look like?

You may begin by telling God how sick you are, how bad you feel and how desperate you are. Keep it up, tell him everything. Just pour out until you have emptied yourself. Then, shift gears. "Father, though I feel sick, alone and like I will never fully heal, I know that you are the healer. I know that you sent your word and healed me. Father, the Word tells me that I was healed by Jesus' stripes and Father, I thank you. Thank you for sending your beloved to earth to take all my sin, sickness and pain. Thank you, Jesus, that you bore, on your body, the stripes by which I am healed. Father, I confess before you that I am healed. Jesus has made me whole. I am not cursed but rather blessed. I am blessed coming in and blessed going out. I am blessed when I lie down and blessed when I arise. I am blessed, Father, when I inhale and when I exhale. You promised your healing power and Jesus has fulfilled every one of your promises. I may look sick, but I am healed. Father, I claim this healing blessing which you have provided for me. I declare, in Jesus' name and by his precious blood, that the healing power of the Ezekiel river is running through every vein, capillary and vessel in my body. Every cell of my body is saturated with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and I declare and decree, in the name of Jesus, that I am whole. I am healed from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. And I thank you Father. Thank you for your love and for your faithfulness. Amen."

Copy that down. Print it out. Read it out loud when you aren't feeling your best and speak loudly. Say it until you feel the belief rising up within you and then say what you wish to see manifested. "My knee is healed, praise God." "I shall live and not die and will proclaim the goodness of the Lord."

Cry out to the Lord with a loud voice. Complain, moan, groan and whine, but then shift gears. Get in sync with that power which is within you and proclaim the healing in your body. End with thanksgiving and praise. You are going to feel better. I promise.

Psalm 41: 3

The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, you restore him to health.

You are never alone, never abandoned. Sickness can be a lonely matter. It is easy to feel isolated, but God is with us even when we cannot feel Him.

He has a two-part plan when you are sick. First, He will sustain you and second, He will heal you. What does it mean that He will sustain you? It means that He is providing what your body needs to heal itself. We cannot see all the small processes going on inside our bodies which keep them running. Even when it feels like your body is betraying you, God is there providing the resources to keep it running and to heal.

Yahweh's ultimate plan, though, is to restore you to health. He never meant you to be sick one day of your life. We know there are bacteria, germs, etc. and they sometimes cause us problems, but Father's intent is to eradicate harmful germs and get you back to full strength.

Did you know that He never even intended for you to get sick as the means for you to exit the earth? It's true. His plan is for us to walk right into eternal life with Him when we are good and ready, indeed, when we are satisfied (Psalm 91: 16). This world has a sick and broke mentality, but that is not God's way. His way is the Blessing, nothing missing, nothing broken.

Did you also know that right now, wherever you are, as you read this, Father has His intention tuned to you that you might hear His word and believe. *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer,"* (Matthew 21: 22). In this very moment, He is strengthening your heart so that you may believe bigger than ever before. Then, when you are confronted with an issue, your belief rises up to confront it. God, your Father, is sustaining you now. He is putting His Word in you so that you will have power to confront every obstacle and circumstance that deigns to interfere with your life. You have the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of the Father sustaining and feeding you. Let the healing power of God flow, unhindered, through you that you may be blessed and whole.

Let Him Call

James 5: 14 - 15

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 offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

Earlier in this series I wrote to you on Matthew 18:19. Here is the text of that verse, “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” The point of the message, and indeed of the verse, is that there is power in praying together. James addresses this point specifically related to healing. We all want to know what to do when we get sick and here is Jesus’ brother telling us exactly what to do.

Let me ask you a challenging question. Have you asked an elder of the church or pastor to pray for you for healing? If not, was it because you didn’t know this instruction or was there another reason? Truthfully, we have not been trained in the way we should go, so when things come up, we do not default towards these kinds of instructions. It is a shame that we have not been taught. After today, though, none of us will have that excuse. So, what is the next excuse?

Would you be embarrassed to ask me to pray for you? This isn’t just prayer list praying, is it? This is in person, anointing with oil. What? Does this sound weird to you? I imagine to some it does sound odd and how tragic is that? Jesus’ own brother gave us explicit instructions and yet it sounds strange to us. Some of us have been in the church for many years. This should be old hat by now, but here we are, feeling awkward. I hope, though, by talking about prayer for healing it becomes more natural to us.

There is one other part that we must tackle. You know if you get sick you are going to be hesitant to call me or another elder to go lay hands on you, anoint you with oil and pray the prayer of faith. Can we predict that? The first question is why? Why are we hesitant? The second question is, what do we call it when we have been given direction by God and choose not to do it? I think you see the problem. How are we availing ourselves of God’s grace for healing while we are in disobedience? This is a very hard lesson, I know, but believe me, things have been changing in my household as well. Once we see what God has said to us, then it is incumbent upon us to obey. Embarrassment is not an excuse for disobedience.

God loves you. He is trying to get blessing and healing to you. He isn’t trying to embarrass you. We embarrass ourselves but don’t let that be an impediment. Do as the Lord says, receive prayer and be healed, in Jesus’ name.

Tomorrow's Schedule

Luke 13: 32

“Behold, I am casting out demons and performing healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I reach My goal.”

How did Jesus know he would be casting out demons and performing healings the next day? He knew because *“The Son is as God is in every way,”* (Hebrews 1: 3). *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way,”* (John 5: 19). *“The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me,”* (John 14: 10). Jesus knew he would be healing on the following day because he knows the Father's heart.

Think of all the Old Testament verses we saw regarding healing or even go back through them and see how many times the Father expressed His will regarding healing. Jesus could say, with confidence, that he would heal on the morrow because he knew, for a certainty, he would encounter someone who needed healing and further, he knew the Father's will for him was *“healing every disease and sickness,”* (Matthew 9: 35).

Here's the thing for us to assimilate. Jesus knows the Father as he knows himself. He knows the Father's thoughts and desires, so he knew that the Father would have him healing people every day. We can have that same assurance and though I cannot speak for you, that sounds like a great thought to have running around in my heart. Imagine incurring even the smallest injury and your mind leaping to the assurance that Father wants to heal that right now. Oh my! That would do our hearts good.

So, to take a page from Jesus' book, which is our calling after all, I know that Father wants to heal today and tomorrow. Apparently, He is also open to casting out demons both days, but I don't want to freak you out too much. However, what I know is that whatever the need is, Dad wants Jesus and us to be deliverers and receivers of His grace. Now, doesn't that just give you a warm glow?

Philippians 4: 6 - 7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I was talking about this verse in the context of healing with my friend Charity who is also a minister (www.glorywaves.org). I exclaimed, "How is this not a health verse?" She responded that of course it is since the majority of our illnesses arise from stress. Stress is a killer and is not how we are supposed to live before God. What we fail to understand is that stress is not an emotion. It is a condition. When we place our bodies under stress, it responds. We are also learning that when we stress ourselves emotionally, whether that just be traffic frustration, getting in a hurry, or really any discomfort or departure from peace, our bodies actually respond. I just was on a call recently where the speaker said that even our cell walls respond to stress as the cells try to protect us.

If you look at this verse again, I think you see the interesting synergy between anxiety and peace. We also need to understand that we are not speaking of clinical anxiety here. This is plain, old, garden variety anxiety. You know that feeling inside of you when you're running late? It's that kind of thing and what we are learning is that it is toxic to the body. When we give our anxiety to the Father, He restores us to peace and in that peaceful environment is where our cells get to perform their primary functions.

1 Peter 5: 7 says it so precisely, "*Turn all your anxiety over to God because he cares for you.*" Father God wants you to cast all your anxiety onto His shoulders because He doesn't want you to carry those bad feelings and because He knows that they stress your body causing sickness and disease.

However, let's take this one step further. Throughout this series we have learned that part of our healing is in learning to slow down and hear God speak to us. Okay, when you are under time stress or any other type of stress, you do not hear God as well as when you are in a state of peace. Believe me! I still make this mistake routinely. However, I am learning that when I have lost that peaceful feeling, you know, that kind you get at church when the Holy Spirit is flowing through the sanctuary, when I have lost that good feeling I need to stop whatever I am doing and just take a couple of deep breaths, really deep breaths, the kind that make your abdomen move. Then, in that moment we should redirect our focus. Put our eyes back on Jesus and then ask him to help us with whatever we are working on at the moment. Do that again when you move to the next task. I know for myself that I feel better, am kinder and get more done when I follow this pattern. We are all better, and more effective, when connected to God and we all need that peace which surpasses understanding. It is health to our bones and to our hearts. Give away all your stress today. Be intentional about abiding in peace. It's God's good grace for you.

Revelations 12:11

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony.

You may have noticed that the Old Testament and New Testament verses about healing are different from one another. The Old Testament has the promise, and the New Testament is much more about application. This is one of those application verses. It teaches us how to overcome.

Throughout this series we have seen the implication of our words. Here is yet another verse which leads us to understanding the power of the words we speak. In this case, we learn that our words are a key tool in overcoming the challenges we face. This verse also, I believe clearly, illuminates and resolves the question of who fights the battles of life. We shall never win in our own strength. It is Christ and his victory which has given us the power to be overcomers. However, and this is key, it was not the blood of the lamb alone which delivered. Victory is in the blood and the word of our testimony. In other words, victory is in Christ's blood and our words.

Jesus paid the ultimate price to gain our release from the shackles that had all humanity bound in slavery. We were destitute, humanity's only hope, the promised Messiah. Then he came, hallelujah, but was unrecognized by most. In the darkest of hours, Jesus nailed our enslavement to a cross. For all appearances it looked like the ultimate defeat, but out of the shadows arose triumph and that triumph set us all free. Or did it?

Today many remained enslaved. The victory of Christ is ours for the taking but look around. Many have chosen not to claim the freedom that is theirs in Christ Jesus. It is heartbreaking. Were they to know that their victory is as close as the confession of their lips, then they could be free. Salvation has been won by the bravery and love of the Christ. It is claimed and becomes our own through our words. It is like having something in lay away that all you need to do is claim it through the use of speech. Salvation is for anyone who will claim it.

The great revelation is that all that Christ won for us is claimed in this very same way. As I wrote to you previously, salvation, prosperity and divine health were all purchased at Calvary. The question is why we go to the hill and return with only salvation. It is all there for us if we would only submit our claim ticket. If we can, with confidence, claim, "I am saved," then we ought to also be able to say, "I am healed" with the same certainty. Likewise, our financial wellbeing is in the blood of the lamb and the words of our mouth.

Here is the point. Jesus' blood has done its part, but we see from this verse that we have a role as well. Honestly, this truth makes us a bit uncomfortable because we don't want anything to depend on us. None the less, this is how the Kingdom works. It is how it works for God and for Jesus as well. Remember, the world was not created because God thought it. He said something. That is also why Jesus remained silent when he was tortured and questioned. His words would have changed the outcome. We have been made in God's image and in Christ's image too because he is the exact representation of God. Thus, we must operate the Kingdom principles as they have taught and demonstrated. So, the reality is that we must say something. When this verse says "*they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony*" it means our words are how we participate in the overcoming blood of the lamb. The word of our testimony means the words of our mouth. What are we saying and

are we intentionally saying what we want to see manifested in our lives? Look back at the prayer from last Monday's *Word of the Day* titled Shift Gears. Borrow language from it, use it to help you write your own if you like. Let today's word from the Lord affect you. Let it impact how you engage with Christ over your healing. Praise him. Thank him. Oh, what marvelous things he has done for us!

Hang On!

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Throughout this series we have seen that our words impact our health. We've learned not to speak negatively about our bodies or our health and not to 'own' disease or sickness with our words by talking about "our cancer" or "my bad knees." We have learned to pray in conjunction with the Word of God so that our words match Father's words, not to get hooked on sayings like "I am scared to death" but the most important of all lessons is that we can use positive language to bolster our bodies. We saw that when good words were spoken over water, they produced pretty crystals and ugly words produced hideous looking crystals.

Yesterday's scripture was conclusively clear about our language, our confession, being part of the overcoming of any obstacle. We can pray with very affirming language knowing that He who promises is faithful. Looking back at yesterday's verse, **Revelations 12: 11**, I would add that we may be strengthened in holding onto our confession because of the blood of the lamb. Knowing that Christ took our sickness and disease to Calvary and nailed it to the cross should bolster our confidence. By his stripes we were healed and now we can boldly and confidently declare victory in his name.

Today's verse intimates that we will have need of endurance and perseverance. It is one thing to get our language straight. Quite another to hold onto our confession over time or when confronted with challenge. So, we have need of stamina so that we will not stagger in our profession of faith.

There is one more layer we should consider today. It goes right back to index cards or other memory and reminder devices. In that we have learned that the first step is to stop making negative decrees about our health and our bodies, and that the second step is to replace those words with edifying ones, the third layer is to make positive declarations. By this I mean that we can daily make a point of making affirmative pronouncements about our health. Every morning we can look into the mirror and proclaim our health and wellbeing. We know "they overcame . . . because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony," so we must hold fast to our confession of faith. One of the best ways to do that is through simply repetition. In other words, practice.

We have need of endurance, but we know that he who promised is faithful and that the blood of the lamb is victorious. Therefore, hang on. Jesse Duplantis says to not let time defeat you. Hold on and keep to your affirmation even when the situation looks rough. In the end, you win. Just don't give up and don't stop saying what the word says about your health.

Hebrews 10:35

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

Today we see a series within a series. Yesterday we talked about holding on to our confession of hope which built on Monday's word of our testimony, our testimony reflecting our confidence in Christ. You will have undoubtedly noticed that I have referred you back to previous Word of the Day devotions several times. The reason is that these verses build upon one another and intertwine. Together they form a matrix of revelation and a pattern of behavior.

We began with God's promises. Then we saw how to use those promises to affect healing in our bodies and now we have come to maintaining our stance in those promises, knowing that the blood will not fail and that He who promised is faithful. Our faith in God's word and in His promises bolsters us and gives power to our prayers for our confidence is in Him.

As we close this series, we arrive at this point, *"Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might . . . having done everything, to stand firm,"* (Ephesians 6: 10, 13). This is where the rubber meets the road, as they say. Yesterday's *Word of the Day* was titled *Hang On!* I wrote that we are in need of endurance, but when I think of the woman with the issue of blood (WOTD 4/14/22 *Deliberate Faith*) I think the better word is tenacity. That woman would not be denied. Or, how about the Canaanite woman who, wanting healing for her child, would not relent even when Jesus shunned her repeatedly and told her, *"It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."* He called her a dog, for goodness' sakes! Because she was a Canaanite, she had no promise upon which to rely. She had no right to the children's bread. None the less, she replied to Jesus, *"Yes, Lord; but please help, for even the dogs feed on the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."* That was a bold statement to make to the Lord. Indeed that was bravado, but she would not be denied. She was resolute, being full of confidence, not in her right, but in Jesus' ability. She was determined and though she had no covenant upon which to stand she moved Jesus. *"Then Jesus said to her, 'O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed at once,"* (See Matthew 15: 22 – 28).

Let that story minister to your heart because that woman did not have a promise to stand on, but you do. We have need of confidence so that we, too, will stand firm being unmoved by doctor's reports, the evidence of our eyes or other people's opinions. We've got to hang on even when it looks like we are denied even the crumbs from the master's table. We do have the promises. We have the right to petition Christ. In fact, he promised, *"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it,"* (John 14: 14). He expects us to call upon him and to receive what we desire.

We must hang on to our confession of faith maintaining confidence in he who promised. Don't let anything or anyone change your mind, heart or words from agreement with the Christ. He endured torture and the cross so that we can walk in divine health. Listen to the voice of the Lord guiding you in the way you should go. Pay close attention as he leads you in dietary choices and more. He is the Lord of wholeness, not brokenness. He is the Prince of Shalom, perfect peace in heart, soul and body. *"Bless the Lord, my soul, and do not forget any of His benefits,"* (Psalm 103: 2).

Be Healed

Acts 10: 38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth . . . and how He went about . . . healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Today's devotional is about Easter. Why do we celebrate Easter? It is because it is Resurrection Day, right? Our refrain is "He's Alive!" So, if he is alive, is he still going about healing all who are oppressed or has he sat down on his laurels. I think both answers result in "I Am Healed," or better still, "*by His wounds [I was] healed*," (1 Peter 2: 24) because Jesus is either still going about doing good or he has sat down because "*It is finished*" (John 19: 30). Either way, you win!

You probably cannot appreciate how fervently I hope and pray that this series is impacting your life and health. The revelation that the Lord has provided has been astounding. We've seen that long before Jesus graced the earth, God declared Himself as our healer. Then Jesus came and healed all who came to him even when they were not entitled, they pulled on that anointing within him and received. Some of them were just plain stubborn. Others, dared to hope.

God intended to spread His blessing across the earth. Initially, the blessing was sown in the Garden of Eden and that garden was supposed to expand until it covered the entire surface of the earth. Unfortunately, man's insurrection allowed the curse to enter the earth. However, God had a plan. He sowed the blessing back into the soil of the earth when He buried His own son. Today's verse capitalizes on that plan so perfectly in demonstrating God's intent. Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were sick because "*God was with Him*." Wow! That is remarkable. It seems, then, that "God with me" results in healing and the end of oppression and what is Jesus' appointed name and title? Immanuel, God is with me.

Because Jesus is with us and because he and the Father have come to live within us, there is no good thing which is unavailable. They are good, they only can do good. When Christ is with us, there is health, healing, anointing, blessing, grace, mercy, peace and all other forms of goodness.

Jesus is still going about doing good and healing all who are oppressed. He is not dead. He is alive, praise God! The power and love which is reflected in today's verse is still present and has no choice but to dwell in goodness. Jesus didn't go about cursing people. He went around blessing them so if he is alive now, then what is he doing? Is he without power now that he has been resurrected? I hardly think so.

Let this revelation cause joy to arise in your heart. Everywhere Jesus went, he healed. And, where is Jesus right now? Is he not in your very own spirit? Have you not invited him to come live inside of you? I mean, let this truth go off in you like July 4th fireworks. This is the day of the Lord's grace. This day he has healing in his hands. I pray you will be stubborn, confident, audacious and brave. If the Lord healed a Canaanite woman's child and a Roman soldier's servant, then why would he not heal you? It's okay for you to demand your rights and stand on your promise. Be oppressed no longer. Be healed!

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

Jesus is good, all the time. In the verse from yesterday, we read that he went about doing good. Everywhere he went, he healed the sick. The good news is that he is the same today as he was on that day and every day he walked the earth. He is still healing. He is still setting free. He is Lord and he has arisen with healing in his wings.

Today concludes the healing series. I hope you have enjoyed this series but, more importantly, that you got something from it. I hope you shared it with others and that they received revelation from the Lord too.

You have a plethora of verses which you can continue to review as often as you wish. All these daily devotionals are archived on the Ivey Ministries website. Besides that, I hope you have retained some verses which captured your attention. If nothing grabbed you, then I strongly encourage you to review them so that you gain what the Lord intends for you.

Today's verse reminds us that the God of the Old Testament and the God of tomorrow are the same and that the promises are for today. Healing is for today. Anyone who tells you differently is trying to steal from you. Don't listen to them because they are not speaking Biblically. I don't care how smart and educated they sound. You don't need a PhD. in Biblical studies to understand today's verse. Jesus is the same today as he was yesterday; the same as he was when he healed in the New Testament accounts. That is exactly what this verse was intended to teach us. He has not changed his mind about healing.

Feel free to write me at any time with questions or if there is something you would like to discuss. For those of you who do not own a copy of my book, this might be a good time to purchase it. It is a wonderful tool for a Bible discussion group. [Click Here](#) to go to our website to purchase your own copy.

I leave you with this, *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers,"* (3 John 1:2).

There is a lesson here. Your faith heals. Jesus felt power go out of him. He told the woman, *"Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well,"* (Matthew 9: 22). That statement causes me to pause. We know God is the healer, but our faith must connect with that healing power and that is when the miracle happens. Even though Jesus didn't know the woman was there, her faith reached out and took a miracle. Bless God!

Did you know that Jesus couldn't always work miracles? Mark 6: 5 reads, *"And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them,"* (NLV). As crazy as this first sounds, it does make sense when you recall Revelation 12: 11, *"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony."* We would think that the blood of the Lamb is sufficient to overcome all obstacles, but we would be wrong and unbiblical. This scripture is very clear in teaching that overcoming is the product of the blood and the *"word of their testimony"* or, in other words, the words of our mouth. This reality makes us uncomfortable for two reasons. First, it places responsibility on our shoulders when we just want Jesus to make everything alright for us.

Second, it defies our theology. We have been taught God is omnipotent and we took that to mean that He acts independently of us. That just isn't Biblically sound. There is nothing in the Bible that says that. In fact, it says just the opposite. Psalm 115: 16 says, "*The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men.*" God gave us freewill, and He gave us authority and He will not usurp either.

Well, this devotional might speak to a number of different things for you today. One take away for me is that you never know when God is going to move or when and how He is going to teach you something. I would have never guessed that the blessing of the Lord would manifest while I was walking from a shower truck to my tent with a towel slung over my shoulder, but there He was. Ready to bless someone. Oh, but this touches my spirit. Paul told Timothy to be ready in season and out (2 Timothy 4: 2) and brother, I am glad I was ready. We were also taught to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5: 17). That means even when you are not at church and not dressed up. Be ready to pray at all times.

You can see the implications for an entire message in each of those scriptures as it relates to this experience. So, be ready at any time to minister but also, stir up your faith for whatever you need. Pull on the anointing in your spiritual leaders. If you aren't calling me or writing me, you are missing an opportunity for God to minister to your need. Be filled and overflowing in Jesus' name.