

**PREMINISTERIAL AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS'
BLBLE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES
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COURSE NO. 1 HEALTH - HEALING - HOLINESS

LESSON 10

REVIEW LESSON 1 thru 9

No doubt, thousands who are now in their graves would be enjoying perfect health and happiness today had they received and believed and acted upon the right instructions dealing with the subject of divine healing, God's promises concerning health, and His requirements of those who would receive the blessing of His promises.

Since your health, your healing, even your very life may depend upon the manner in which you grasp the instructions given in the lessons of this Course, this lesson is being devoted entirely to a review of previous teachings.

It is not God's will that any person should be sick, any more than it is His will that any soul should be lost. Yet not all people are well and prosperous, any more than all people are righteous. There is a reason. I trust that this course of study has helped you to find, know and understand that reason (or reasons) as they apply in your own life, and then to your family, your friends, and to the entire world.

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life!"
Prov. 4:13.

God's Word declares, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2.

ALL THINGS BY FAITH

Whatsoever we receive from God is received by, through, or because of FAITH. "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:6, 7.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” I John 5:14,15.

So then, all that is necessary in order to receive healing -- or any other petition -- is to be assured that our prayer has been heard. To be sure our prayer has been heard is to be ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that we have asked a thing which God wills to give us. We know it is His will to heal us because of the teachings of Scripture and also because Jesus did not refuse to heal anyone when He was on earth in the flesh.

The person who prays for healing and then adds the words, “If it be thy will,” is openly confessing that he is not at all sure of receiving healing. The “if” indicates doubt, not faith.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS

When we come to God for healing, we find that He deals not so much with symptoms as with causes. In seeking healing through faith, it is just as urgent to remove the spiritual causes of sickness as to remove the physical causes.

SIN AND SICKNESS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Sin and sickness are as closely associated in New Testament thought as in the Old, Jesus Himself, in healing one who was sick, said, “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.” Mark 2:5b. To another, He said, “Sin no more” lest a worse thing come unto thee.” John 5:14b.

James admonished the sick, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed,” James 5:16.

God has not changed. In the Old Testament, we read: “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” Exodus 15:26.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments that I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.” Deut. 28:1.

Promises of health are given specifically with the giving of certain commandments. “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Eph. 6:2,3.

If it is not well with you (physically) your sickness could be the result of breaking this commandment. Or it could be the result of breaking other commandments, or in some way disregarding the plans and purposes of God.

GOD PINPOINTS A CAUSE OF SICKNESS IN OUR AGE

The entire eleventh chapter of I Corinthians deals with one of the most perpetual and important ordinances of the church, the Lord’s Supper, or Communion. The subject of sickness among Christian people is dealt within this way: “For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” (ie. Die prematurely) I Cor. 11:30.

“For this cause” is explained in I Cor. 11. (Read entire chapter.) ‘Whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.’ I Cor. 11:27,28.

Many professing Christians have refused to take the Communion because of this warning. However, worthiness does not imply that one is sure he has fully attained the goal of sinless perfection. Christ Himself served the first Communion to twelve men who were still subject to human weaknesses and short of perfection.

The word “worthiness” as used here has a threefold implication:

1. Attitude.

First and most simple is the attitude of the believer at the time of partaking of Communion. A worthy attitude would be a deep realization of the individual’s great need of a redeemer. Humility at the foot of the cross, sorrow for that sinful nature which made it necessary that the spotless Christ should be required to die for our sins, the just for the unjust. (1 Peter 3:18)

Appreciation for his suffering would be a part of our worthiness. (1 Peter 1:18, 19)

2. Not Discerning the Lord's Body --- Overlooking a Privilege.

The blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sins, but it was His body that bore the stripes whereby we are healed. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED." 1 Peter 2:24.

In partaking of Communion, many drink the wine with happy realization and praise to God for the glorious deliverance from sins through the shedding of the blood. Yet they eat the bread without any realization that this also typifies a definite price paid at a definite time for a definite blessing, which is ours if we will but accept it. This blessing is HEALING!

Only as we believe and accept the blood of Christ for salvation do we find salvation; drinking the wine of Communion, alone, will not wash away our sins.

Many fine Christian people have never learned that when "Christ our passover (was) sacrificed for us," (1 Cor. 5:7b) the blood was sufficient to deliver from spiritual death, and the BODY provided healing and physical strength. (Read the account of the first Passover in Exodus 12).

But the reason the minds of so many have been unable to grasp the truth may be found in the third phase of unworthiness, which goes beyond and includes the others.

3. Failure to Discern the Lord's Body which is Alive in the World Today -- His Church.

To discern is to recognize, or to understand, as well as to see or perceive. Christ Himself has ascended into the heavens. (Luke 24:5 1; Acts 1:9-11). But He left in the world a representative, which He has called "His Body!" That body is alive in the world today, still doing the same thing He did while He was here. "Now YE are the body of Christ, and members in particular." 1 Cor. 12:27. Because of failure to recognize this fact, many have been guilty of causing division in the body, of injuring other members of the body, and of setting at naught the work of others in the body. THIS IS SIN! Sin kills faith.

Discern the Lord's body. (1) Recognize by faith the importance of His sacrifice in bearing the stripes as a substitute for your sufferings. Remember that your bearing of that suffering NOW will not diminish the suffering that He has already borne. He is not PAYING the price; he has already PAID it! Honor it! Believe it! Accept it! It is

YOURS! (2) Recognize and honor the other members of Christ's body, the Church. Treat every member -- regardless of church affiliation or the lack of it -- with respect and honor that is due Christ Himself, for they are the members of His own body. Seek and find your own place in the body. Seek it humbly, not thinking of yourself more highly than you ought to think. (Rom. 12:3). Yet do not assume a false humility which prevents effective service. "Think soberly." Think of yourself as a son, an heir of God, a child of the King. Think of yourself as one, who by His Spirit and the power of His might, can do anything He asks you to do. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. Do not think of yourself as being above the other members of the body, for they share the same Lord, the same Father, the same promises, and the same power.

Do not be afraid to step out on the promises of God. You are His child (if you have believed). His promises are yours.

Never, in striving for honor or recognition, step on other members of the body. That is the WORLD'S way of rising. God's way UP is DOWN! Serve your fellowmen in humility, and God Himself will exalt you in due time! (1 Peter 5:6).

THE INFIRM SPIRIT

"And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself." Luke 13:11.

According to the Bible, much sickness is due to afflicting spirits. This is demon oppression -- not demon possession, since it has its roots in the flesh and not in the soul. It is apparent that at least a part of the mental and physical troubles people suffer today originate in demon oppression.

Jesus recognized the presence of afflicting spirits in certain cases and drove out those spirits with His command.

"Behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake:" Matt. 9:32, 33a.

"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." Matt. 12:22.

In dealing with these cases of demon activity, Christ used a very direct approach. Many fail along these lines today because they are afraid to command the demon to depart, or because they do not have faith to believe that he will go at their

command. As Spirit-filled Christians, we need have no fear. God has given us power over all devils. They are subject to our command, but they will bluff their way and ignore that command and that power unless we approach them with absolute confidence and faith in God's word and with assurance that God's power is in operation in our lives.

There are different kinds of infirm spirits, each having power to afflict the body in a different manner. Nervous disorders and mental diseases seem to be very closely related to the operation of tormenting demons. (See Mark 5).

PHYSICAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

The laws of nature are GOD'S LAWS for physical health, and cannot be broken without punishment in the form of sickness and infirmity. Divine healing was never intended to take the place of proper care of the body. This care includes rest, exercise, right eating, sanitation, and avoidance of weakening habits.

MISCONCEPTIONS IN REGARD TO HEALING

Many born again Christians, who are living sincerely and wholeheartedly for God, are sick and even remain sick after prayer having been offered for their healing. This may be due to some misconception in regard to the teachings of God's Word. God says, "Let him ask in faith, NOTHING WAVERING. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:6,7.

Such misconceptions are tricks devised by Satan himself. They are slander against the character of God, for God having promised, is true to His Word.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent; hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Num. 23:19.

Some of these misconceptions are:

1. The Idea that Some are Sick for the Glory of God!

This is the most prominent of misconceptions regarding healing. Many are taught that they are sick for the glory of God. If you are sick for God's glory, then let God be glorified NOW by accepting healing from Him and witnessing to all about you of the mighty power of God, who delivers all who trust in Him!

2. The Idea that Sickness is Chastening, or Punishment, from God.

Are you being chastened? While affliction or trouble may come upon Christians as punishment for disobedience or sin, a loving Father does not punish His child more severely than is needed for that child's correction. Even though such sickness may come as a penalty for sin, heartfelt repentance removes the reason for punishment. Thus it is not necessary for any Christian to remain sick.

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

Yes, you may be punished and chastened, but God will never punish without letting you know what for, and He will not continue to punish when the need for it is over.

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." Psa. 103:8-10.

3. The Idea that God Sometimes Refuses to Heal -- Answers Prayers "NO" or "WAIT"

Not once in all His earthly ministry did Jesus ever command any person to be sick, although He commanded many to be well, and healed them with His Word. Not once did a sick person come to Him asking to be healed and receive the answer, "No" or "Wait." Not once was anyone told "It is God's will for you to remain sick for God's glory."

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8. It is inconceivable that while He was here on earth He glorified the Father by healing "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Matt. 4:23b. Now having gone back to the Father, He is glorified by the people remaining patient in affliction, declaring to all they meet that this sickness is an evidence of the love of God toward them.

Nowhere in the Scripture are we told that God answers prayer by saying "No." "If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:20-22.

4. The Idea that Sickness is a Penalty for Sin and therefore it is not God's Will to Heal.

It is true that sickness is a penalty for sin. The reward of obedience is health and healing. God said, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." Ex. 15:26.

It is the will of God for his people to prosper and be in health. Therefore, let us come to God without wavering, in full assurance that we are asking in His will. If we will obey Him, He will remove that penalty for sin, and heal us.

5. The Attempt to Prove that Sickness is the Will of God by Quoting Certain Cases in Scripture Which They Feel are Circumstantial Evidence.

Job and His Boils: According to the testimony of God Himself, Job was a perfect and upright man, in that he "feareth God, and escheweth evil." Job 1:8b. No divinity or superhuman perfection is attributed to Job. Any Christian can and should be, at least, as perfect as was Job, for our opportunities and privileges and power are far ahead of his. Jesus Himself left us the commandment to be "perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

No Christian is in the will of God or in a position to seek healing, who is satisfied with being anything less than perfect. Though we may need to say with Paul, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after" Phil. 3:12a. Let us keep this goal constantly before us and earnestly "press toward the mark" at all times.

First, let us note that while Job was commended for his fear of God (Job 1:8) this was not his only fear. "The thing which I GREATLY FEARED is come upon me." Job 2:7. "Satan . . . smote Job with sore boils." Even this he could not do without God's permission.

Job repented and found a new relationship with God. After he had repented of self-righteousness and lack of trust, and had proven his humility and forgiveness by praying for his friends, and God had set him free, we see him restored to all his former glory, even more than at the beginning.

If you have been following Job's example, sitting in the ash heap bemoaning

your fate and blaming it upon God, you should take another look at your example (Jesus). God is the same today.

Cases in the Ministry of Paul:

Epaphroditus: We are told that Paul's fellow soldier and companion in labor, Epaphroditus, became sick while in the company of Paul, that he was nigh unto death. In fact, these are Paul's own words. (Phil. 2:27). Paul explains the reason for the sickness. "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." Phil. 2:30.

The gifts of healing do not guarantee an unlimited supply of strength and energy to the human body. It is possible to overtax the body, but even here, God shows Himself merciful, and while a period of absolute rest, or convalescence, may be required, there is no need to be permanently defeated because of a nervous breakdown or other illness caused by overwork.

Paul says "God had mercy on him" (Epaphroditus) Phil. 2:27, so that now he is able to make the long journey with Paul.

Luke the Physician: (Traveling with Paul). We are told that Paul had his private physician, Luke, who traveled with him to watch after his health. It is true that Luke had been trained as a physician (Col. 4:14). However, there is as much reason to declare that Jesus took Matthew with Him as His private tax collector as to assert that Luke was chosen to go with Paul because of his skill as a physician. There is no record in the Scripture that Luke ever treated either Paul or any other sick person in any place they visited, in the capacity of a physician. Only one time is his being a physician mentioned.

Paul's Thorn in the Flesh: As a final proof that God denies healing to some, the Scripture is quoted: "Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. More gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

Whatever Paul's thorn may have been, God's grace was surely sufficient for him, for the list of his achievements and sufferings given in 2 Cor. 11:23-28 would certainly be a sufficient test of grace. But to say that Paul's thorn was a physical defect

would require some backing beyond what is found in this passage of scripture, for sickness is not mentioned.

Careful consideration of the words used by Paul, comparing those words with their accepted definitions and the manner in which they are used in other scriptures, would indicate that Paul's thorn in the flesh was something from without, probably his treatment by other persons or another person. His reference to "buffeting" would apply more easily to the beatings, stonings, and the like which he received after he preached from city to city, than to any possible sickness in his own body. Added to this is the fact that in Paul's own writings are found many of the tremendous promises of healing.

Every one of these misconceptions has been used by Satan for generations to hinder or destroy the faith of God's people. Faith, in its simplest definition, is just this: Believing that God means what he says! Believe the Word of God, not the traditions that have been built up about it. As the flame of your faith is made to burn brightly, no longer wavering, you may ask God whatsoever He has promised! It shall be done unto you!

GOD'S GUARANTEE TO HEAL THE SICK

God has promised to heal the sick just as surely as He has promised to forgive sins. Whatever God has spoken, He is able to make good, and the Word declares that He SHALL make it good.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent; hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Num. 23:19.

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."
Psalm 89:34.

FAITH IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM GOD.

There is no way to receive anything from God except by faith. In reading the New Testament accounts of healing in the ministry of Jesus, and in the ministry of His early followers, we find many statements such as

"Thy faith hath made thee whole;" Mark 5:34.

“According to YOUR FAITH be it unto you.” Matt. 9:29.

“AS THOU HAST BELIEVED, so be it done unto thee.” Matt. 8:13.

God has promised to reward UNWAVERING FAITH! “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed . . . let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” James 1:6,7.

THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF FAITH:

1. Human Faith -- This is “head faith.”

This is the kind of faith you have when you board a bus, that it will take you to your destination. It is the kind you have when you mail a letter, that it will arrive in the hands of the person to whom you addressed it. This is the kind of faith demons have (James 2:19) and it is the only kind they have. They believe the record God gave of His Son, but that is as far as that type of faith goes.

2. Saving Faith -- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” Eph. 2:8.

This is putting “head faith” into action; it is committing ourselves to our belief in Christ. It is accepting Him as God’s Son, and as our Saviour. It is giving ourselves to Him as obedient and loving “bondslaves” bought with His own blood.

This saving faith is also a gift, we are told in Eph. 2:8, but it is not the supernatural gift of the Spirit of which Paul speaks in 1 Cor. 12.

3. Faith, the Fruit -- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, and longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, FAITH.” Gal. 5:22.

The faith mentioned in this passage is one of the fruits of the Spirit and it is for character. This is the faith without which no man can please God. “But without faith it is impossible to please him:” Heb. 11:6a. It is actually the development and growth of saving faith.

4. Faith, the Gift -- This faith is for power. This is the gift of the Spirit by which one may work miracles, or receive them.

Daniel, facing the den of lions, must have experienced a supernatural faith that

closed the mouths of the lions. “And of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.” Heb. 11:32b, 33.

Paul, on the island of Melita, shook off the poisonous serpent and was unharmed, because he exercised the supernatural gift of faith. (Acts 28).

When the disciples were out on the sea in a storm tossed boat, they could have, by faith, sailed through the storm as if it didn't exist. (Mark 4:35-40). That is what Jesus wanted them to do. That would have been a miracle of faith.

The operations of the gift of faith are not always immediately obvious.

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.” Heb. 11:20.

These things were a long time coming to pass, but Isaac had supernatural faith to pronounce these blessings upon his son.

Abraham believed God to lead him into a promised land, and to give him his son, Isaac. This was a long-range faith over a long period of time, and it was supernatural. (Heb. 11:17-19. Gen. 22:8-13).

The Gift of Faith, like all the supernatural gifts, is transient. That is, it is for a specific time and place.

THE NEED TODAY -- THE GIFT OF FAITH!

This gift is needed today just as it was in Bible days. It is needed for the same reasons it was needed then. Caleb and Joshua surely had this gift of faith operating when, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, they insisted that Israel was well able to march into and conquer the Promised Land. (Num. 13:17-33).

Today, anyone who does a great work for God must have this special endowment of faith in order to succeed against the terrific opposition that faces him. This special faith is needed to go through persecution. In the fourth chapter of Acts, we read how, in the face of persecution and even of danger to their lives, the apostles prayed for more of that which brought on the persecution!

That is real, supernatural faith in God and in His love and His purposes. Notice that they did not pray for their lives or for protection. They prayed for courage! It

takes special, supernatural faith to pray thus in the face of opposition, and not to pray selfishly. We need this gift of supernatural victories.

Probably George Mueller of Bristol, England, is the most striking latter day example of one who had this gift in operation in his life. In a span of fifty years, he cared for more than 10, 000 orphans through faith, without backing of any kind, and those orphans never missed a meal, although once breakfast was delayed for 30 minutes.

There is no thought of “trying to believe” in the exercise of this gift. It is a gift, a supernatural endowment of faith for a special purpose. You cannot work it up nor obtain it by mental effort. It is a “gift of the Holy Spirit.”

FAITH OPERATES ONLY IN THE WILL OF GOD

It is impossible to exercise the faith of God for anything that is not His will. George Mueller once made this statement “If we wish to find the will of God, we must first come to the place where we have no will of our own.” The Red Sea would never have opened for the Children of Israel if they had not been in God’s will. On the other hand, Jonah, out of God’s will, was a prey to any danger that came along!

NOTHING WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF YOUR OWN FAITH

Many have a mistaken idea today, that since many are exercising the gifts of healing and miracles, that they will be healed without faith on their own part. They think that the gift of healing will take the place of their own faith in God. This is unscriptural. The gift of healing WILL NOT take the place of our own faith in God. The gifts of healing possessed by the Lord Himself, did not bring healing independent of their faith. Neither will the gift of healing exercised by men of God today bring healing to you unless you have faith.

HAVE THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES

We have learned that faith is an absolute requirement for healing. There are thousands of promises in God’s Word. Every one is conditioned upon faith; faith that you can have; faith that God gives!

“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, AND SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, . . . he shall have whatsoever he saith.” Mark 11:22b, 23. It is plain to see that Jesus meant that others can have the same faith He exercised.

Really, He is telling them that they can have the FAITH OF GOD -- literally THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES!

THE PRICE OF FAITH

God gives faith to every person who wants it enough to pay the price required. That price is obedience, godliness, holiness, following in the footsteps of Jesus, living free from condemnation, and walking in the full light of the Scriptures.

The Apostle John declares, "If our heart condemn us not, then (and then only) have we confidence toward God." 1 John 3:21. Webster defines faith as "complete confidence in a person." Surely, no one can merit our complete confidence more fully than God!

SCRIPTURAL METHODS OF OBTAINING FAITH

1. Love God. "Perfect love casteth out fear:" 1 John 4:18. Fear is the direct opposite of faith. There is no fear in love. You cannot have faith if you do not love God. If you love Him, you will keep His commandments. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15."He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21. Many fail to have faith because they cannot really love God.

2. Obey God. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." 1 John 3:21, 22.

Probably you have always thought of Abraham as a great example of faith, and he was! He demonstrated his faith by obedience. In contrast, we have Saul's example of disobedience. (1 Samuel 13). It is the belief of this writer that disobedience is the greatest hindrance to faith, and that obedience is one of the most effective methods of obtaining great faith.

3. Abide in Him. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

One must abide in Christ before he is in a position to exercise real faith, or before he can receive the faith that God gives. God's Word defines "abiding in Christ" in 1 John 2:6: "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk,

even as He walked.” This makes it plain that if we profess to abide in Christ, we should be walking as He walked. Until you do so, you can never be on real faith ground. It is God’s command.

“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should FOLLOW HIS STEPS: Who did NO sin.” 1 Peter 2:21b,22a. Christ did not live in sin. He did not make excuses for sin. He resisted the devil and temptation. He is our example. He will help us to walk as He walked.

4. Read and Study the Bible. An outstanding reason for lack of faith is lack of Bible study. No wonder faith is so low in the hearts of many. The price of faith has not been established. It is: Love God, read His Word, obey His commands, and believe His promises.

Those who have a real desire to please God, those who read their Bibles and pray, are attaining holiness. These are the people who are shouting the victory over sickness and disease and Satan’s power. God has given them faith.

5. Stand Upon the Word. Faith must be built upon the Word of God, and ONLY upon the Word of God. Experiences and testimonies of others merely bring hope, not faith. Faith cannot be built merely upon the experiences of others, nor upon your feelings, nor upon what you have seen. Those things will cause you to hope, but hope is not faith. It helps faith, but cannot take its place. “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Rom. 10:17.

Base your faith upon the Bible, exclusively. Do not talk in terms of what you feel. Real faith is simply TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD. God has said He will heal you. BELIEVE IT!

HINDRANCES TO FAITH.

There are many hindrances to our faith, which every person desiring faith should understand. It is well to look into your own heart and life to see whether one or more of them might constitute the reason your faith has been ineffectual and you have not received from God the healing nor other petitions you have desired of Him.

Some of the most outstanding hindrances to faith are:

1. Failure to Abide in Him. This may well be placed first on any list of hindrances to faith, for it nullifies God’s guarantee. Abiding in Christ is living in the Word of God, by the Word of God, and in joyful fellowship with God.

2. Condemnation. This is certainly one of the greatest hindrances to faith. Those who abide in Christ are not condemned. “If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things which, are pleasing in his sight.” 1 John 3:21, 22. This is God’s formula for faith.

Causes of Condemnation

(a) Unscriptural Relationships in the Home. Peter exhorts husbands and wives: “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” 1 Peter 3:1, 7.

The faith of many is hindered because of unscriptural relationships in the home. But unscriptural attitudes toward our fellow men outside the home can also be a great hindrance to faith.

Many wives have mistakenly assumed that they can become more spiritual by disregarding the wishes of their husbands, neglecting their natural care of their home and care for their husbands to follow more lauded pursuits. They may, indeed, win the praise of some by doing so, but God’s command is not thus.

This is equally true of the husband. Cruel, harsh, overbearing, unkind treatment of his wife and children will certainly stand between him and the answer to his prayers and cripple his faith to receive the thing for which he asks.

Faith that moves mountains springs from the depths of a soul that is at peace: at peace with God, with itself, with the members of the household, and with those that are without.

Compassion and love are also necessary in a home if that home is to be in order as God wishes it to be. Compassion is defined as “sympathy, pity, mercy, tenderness, sorrow for the distress of another.”

(b) Unscriptural Attitudes Toward our Fellow Men.

It is our duty to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to deal

fairly with others in all business transactions, whether with Christian or sinner; to do good; to be kind, gentle and courteous (1 Peter 3:8). The heart of true courtesy is kindness, thoughtfulness to others, and to live in such a manner as to win them to Christ.

If you find in yourself the opposite to these qualities, then your attitudes are unscriptural and constitute a hindrance to faith.

(c) Failure to Tithe, and to Give to God: The wrong financial attitude can be a great hindrance to faith and brings many under constant condemnation because they refuse to give God the tithe, which is His. “The tithe . . . is the Lord’s:” Lev. 27:30.

Remember that God’s promises are still true. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith.” Mal. 3:10a.

In addition to the law of tithing, the Word of God has much to say about giving, and about God’s promises to those who do give generously. Even a selfish person who reads and truly believes those promises would not withhold from God!

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure, that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6:38.

If you have condemnation in your heart about these things, do not expect to be able to have faith until you change your attitude about finances and bring your life into conformity with the Word of God.

(d) Failure to Right Wrongs. It is useless to expect to have real working faith and be able to get anything from God until we have made everything right with our fellow men, as far as lies within our power.

“Therefore if you bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Matt. 5:23,24.

Notice the above Scripture says “If . . . thy brother hath ought against

thee:”. It does not say just to be reconciled to those you have something against. That comes under forgiveness, and is necessary, of course, but this is to make the wrongs right which you have committed against someone else. Failure to do this will bring condemnation to your heart, and may well be a real hindrance to your faith.

(e) Failure to Confess Faults. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, they ye may be healed. James 5:16a.

One that hears such confessions must of course keep it in strict confidence.

Unwillingness to confess faults usually shows unwillingness to forsake them, or a lack of confidence in God’s power to deliver from them. This is a great hindrance to faith and a source of condemnation.

(f) Wrong Motives. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” James 4:3.

There are those who desire healing to be better able to continue a life that does not glorify God, or they have some other selfish motive. This causes condemnation and hinders faith.

3. Lack of Separation Unto God. There are many that deny that there is any supernatural power in operation in the world today. They advise good resolutions, church membership, or baptism instead of conversion by means of a new birth. Those things cannot change the heart. They deny the power that Jesus promised to leave with the godly -- to heal the sick, cast out devils, to speak with new tongues, and possess the signs that follow the believer. The Lord warns us to turn away from such people. 2 Tim. 3:5.

Many have failed to receive healing because they have not heeded this warning.

4. No Works. “Faith without works is dead.” James 2:20b. I like to paraphrase the statement above by saying “Faith that doesn’t work is dead.” A life of faith is demonstrated to the world by Christian works. A lack of works is a definite hindrance to faith.

5. Disobedience. When ten lepers came to Jesus for healing and Jesus instructed them to go and show themselves to the priest (correct procedure under the law) they were cleansed as they went. (Luke 17:13, 14). If they had not obeyed, they

would have not received their healing. Other instances of healing in the Word bear out the fact that disobedience keeps one from receiving from God.

6. Erroneous Teachings -- Traditions of Men. These teachings are the same as covered in this lesson under the title “Misconceptions in Regard to Healing.” Please refer back to that section and review them. These misconceptions are indeed great hindrances to faith.

WHEN THE HINDRANCES TO FAITH IN YOUR OWN LIFE HAVE BEEN MET AND CONQUERED, YOU WILL REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE ENTERED INTO A REVITALIZED PRAYER LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. YOU CAN RECEIVE YOUR HEALING AND WHATEVER ELSE YOU DESIRE FROM GOD ACCORDING TO HIS WORD!

WHY MANY DO NOT RECEIVE HEALING:

Oftentimes questions are asked why so many Christian people are sick or why some are healed and others are not. These questions cannot be ignored. God's promises of healing apply to every Christian.

If you desire to be healed and are not a Christian, you must first find healing for your soul. Repent of your sins and seek God with your whole heart. When you have repented of your sins, and have believed in your heart the Lord Jesus (not just some things about Him, but believed HIM) and have confessed with your mouth, then you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9, 10.)

Jesus declared “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3b.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17.

“We know that we have passed from death unto life,” 1 John 3:14a.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that YE MAY KNOW that ye HAVE eternal life.” 1 John 5:13a.

This does not say that you may hope that you will have eternal life, when you have come to the other end of life's journey! You have eternal life NOW, and know that you have it, or else you have no eternal life! Eternal life begins within you when

you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are born again.

“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3b.

The life of the unrepentant sinner is one life, while the life of the repentant, born again Christian is an entirely different life.

Only Christ can set you free. He whom the Son of God sets free is free indeed. (John 8:36). You cannot save yourself by your own efforts. A penalty has been placed upon sin by a just and holy God. That penalty is death! “The soul that sinneth, it shall DIE.” Ezekiel 18:4b.

Now, here is your part:

1. You must realize that you are a sinner, and that your sins are worthy of death. (Death, in this sense, means eternal banishment from God, in hell.)

2. You must come to hate your sin, which is destroying you. You must repent of your sins and, in prayer, confess them to Jesus.

3. Then you must believe in your heart that He has been true to His Word, and has washed your sins away.

4. There is one thing more: After you have believed, you must acknowledge Jesus as your Saviour.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:” 2 Cor. 5:17a. The change is so complete that God in His Word has called it a REBIRTH! (John 3:3).

IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN AND STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED HEALING, examine your life and attitudes in the light of God’s Word. God has not shown respect of persons in your case, for that is contrary to His divine nature. If you are still sick, there is a reason. God’s Word will reveal it to you, if you will diligently seek His face. When you find the trouble, correct it, and God’s healing touch is yours. This is God’s guarantee, and God cannot lie.

The reason may be one of the following:

1. Lack of Faith. Faith is believing what you have not seen simply because God said it is so. (Heb. 11:1). If you had faith, you would already have been healed. Jesus once said to a man whose faith was weak, “If thou canst believe, all things are

possible to him that believeth.” Mark 9:23. He replied, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” Mark 9:24b.

2. Erroneous Teaching: Many fail to receive healing because, due to erroneous teaching (misconception) they have been made to believe that sickness and physical suffering is God’s way of bringing out the best in them, or of developing the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. They believe they must be patient in affliction, and wait until it is God’s time to heal them, or perhaps they believe God is chastening them for some unknown sin. Or some of the other erroneous teachings and misconceptions mentioned earlier in this lesson are causing them not to receive healing.

Both sin and sickness are the works of the devil. God certainly has not ordained that the fruits of the Spirit should be developed by the works of the devil. Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. Health is God’s will for His people, conditioned upon the wellbeing of the soul.

All of God’s promises are conditional. Salvation is conditioned upon repentance. Healing is conditioned upon faith and spiritual health. But when God’s conditions are known and met, GOD GUARANTEES THE ANSWER.

“For ALL the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” 2 Cor. 1:20.

“(For he is faithful that promised;)” Heb. 10:23b.

3. Indefinite Prayers: Many fail to receive healing because they do not ask definitely for the thing they desire from God. “Ye have not, because ye ask not.” James 4:2.

When you come to God for healing, state your need DEFINITELY. God’s promise is: “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:13.

4. Lack of Understanding of God’s Dealings in Regard to Healing: A lack of understanding of the way God deals in regard to healing is the cause of many remaining sick. The person who has set a pattern in his mind and feels it is the only way that God can or will work is in danger of losing confidence. When the answer doesn’t come according to his mental pattern, he may also have the feeling that his prayer has not been heard or will not be answered.

Since healing can come only by faith, it is important to understand that God heals both instantaneously and gradually. Oftentimes the root of the disease is cursed and then the disease withers away, in the same way as the fig tree Jesus cursed withered and died. (Mark 11). God's plan for healing is COMPLETE whether it be instantaneous or convalescent type deliverance.

5. Rejection of God's Statutes: There are those who have deliberately turned aside from following God's will for them and have despised their inheritance. Now they are seeking a blessing from the Lord that they have no right to receive. They have completely rejected God's statutes, and God will not bless them.

6. Stubbornness and Rebellion: "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa . . . died in the one and fortieth year of his reign." 2 Chron. 16:12, 13.

God let Asa die because of stubbornness and rebellion in turning to man for help instead of God. To turn from God and to look only to man for help is definitely displeasing to God.

7. Disobedience: God's power to heal was well-known and recognized by His people in the days of the Old Testament. God made a covenant with His people at Sinai that if they would keep his statutes and commandments, He would keep them in health. "I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: FOR I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE." Ex. 15:26b.

When they disobeyed God and murmured against God and against Moses, God permitted "fiery serpents" to come into the camp, and many were bitten and died. The people knew the cause of this and came to Moses crying, "We have sinned. . . pray unto the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us." Num. 21:7.

8. Speaking Against the Lord's Anointed: (Num. 12:1-13)

God smote Miriam with leprosy for speaking against Moses who was God's anointed. Through Moses' prayer she was healed, and God said "Were ye not afraid (o speak against my servant Moses? "Num. 12:8b. Some are unable to receive healing because they are guilty of speaking against the Lord's anointed!

A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE FOREGOING REASONS SHOULD HELP YOU TO FIND THE REASON YOU DON'T RECEIVE YOUR HEALING. Build your faith upon the Word of God. Search the Word to find the

reason you have not been healed. Lay aside your own ideas as to how God will perform the work. God, who CANNOT LIE, has said: "Believe that ye receive them and ye SHALL HAVE THEM." Mark 11:24b.

DISEASES AND YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION ARE CLOSELY RELATED.

At least ten major diseases are caused, not by germs, but by a mental condition. Doctors claim that eight out of ten who think they have heart disease have only something wrong with their minds, not with their heart.

If you are bound in spirit and soul, you will soon be bound in body. Then even your digestive organs are affected. This is the cause of ulcers and many other diseases. If you will get peace in soul and mind, you will not have so much trouble with your body.

HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR HEALING

1. Be Persistent -- DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED.

When a person makes up his mind to reach the Lord in order to receive a miracle, he is sure to discover some kind of hindrance from Satan. In Luke 18:35-43, we read of blind Bartimaeus who cried to Jesus for healing that he might receive his sight. "They which went before," Luke 18:39a, tried to hinder him; they rebuked him "But he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. Luke 18:39b.

In your case, "those who went before" may be a friend or member of your family, or someone of your church. They are those who would hinder your receiving your healing. If Bartimaeus had listened to the people, he would never have received his sight.

God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6). One must not be discouraged. It is very important to have a real determination to persist until victory comes.

2. As the Next Step, Remember Calvary!

Seven hundred years before Calvary, Isaiah looked forward to the cross. Upon that cross he saw a man dying for the sins of the world. Not only dying -- shedding His blood -- for the sins of the world, but dying with His back bruised and bleeding

from the stripes which He bore that we might be set free from sickness as well as from sin.

Speaking as he was moved by the Holy Ghost, Isaiah cried out in prophetic utterance: "He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes WE ARE HEALED." Isa. 53:3-5.

The work was finished. All God asks us to do is to believe it, then receive it. Only as you, dear sick suffering friend, believe in the stripes that Jesus bore, can you receive your healing.

Salvation for the Soul -- in the Atonement

Only as a sinner believes in Calvary for the atonement of his soul can he receive salvation from sin. Jesus Christ shed His blood to atone for ALL sins. The sufferings of His body were not for that.

David said "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:2. That is, "REMEMBER all His benefits." To be reminded of all God's benefits, we must go back to Calvary. The benefits mentioned by David include forgiveness for ALL sins, and healing for ALL diseases: not part of our sins, or part of our diseases, but every sin and every disease. This is the benefit of Calvary.

Healing for the Body -- in the Atonement

Christ did not suffer in His body for our sins. He shed his blood for that. The stripes were for our healing! David says so. Isaiah says so. Peter says so. Christ Himself says so. That should be sufficient!

Jesus' last words on the cross before He died, were "IT IS FINISHED:" John 19:30. What did He mean? He meant just this: He had borne the sins of the world, and carried its sorrows. "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matt. 8:17b.

Since Christ bore your sicknesses, you no longer have to be sick. You can be released from sin and sickness by remembering that Christ finished your redemption from both ONCE FOR ALL at Calvary. Thanks be to God for Calvary!

3. The Next Step -- BELIEVE!

Believe! Just BELIEVE! Believing is faith. Faith is not KNOWING THAT GOD IS ABLE -- IT IS BELIEVING THAT HE DOES! It is believing it simply because God said He would do it, and you know that God CANNOT LIE!

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1. Faith is reaching out into the unseen, getting hold of that which is not, and holding on until it becomes that which is. Faith is believing we possess that which we cannot see, that which we cannot feel. Though it is unseen and unfelt as yet, we believe it is already done.

You absolutely BELIEVE that by His stripes you were healed. Since you absolutely believe it, you begin to ACT on God’s Word. Joy comes into your heart, as the realization of what God has done for you sweeps over your soul. Faith always brings rejoicing. Then as you rejoice in your victory, stand upon your feet! Rise up in Jesus’ name and walk!

Do not look for feeling -- LOOK FOR HEALING! Step out on the promise of God. Leave your wheel chair! Throw away your crutches! Walk and run and leap for joy! Speak! Hear! See out of obscurity and out of darkness! Do it in Jesus’ name! Because you believe, you are healed! You can and will do the things you could not do!

Tell people what a wonderful work the Lord Jesus has done in making you whole and in driving away the power of Satan. Let your testimony glorify God. Quote God’s Word. His Word is truth. Real faith must be based upon the Word of God exclusively. You are not to believe you are healed because the pain is gone nor to refuse to believe you are healed because you still feel the pain. That pain has nothing to do with your faith. Feeling is not faith, and faith is not feeling. FAITH IS BELIEVING THAT YOU ARE HEALED BECAUSE GOD SAYS THAT YOU ARE HEALED.

Faith is never afraid to take a stand with the Word of God. “Let God be true, but every man a liar;” Rom. 3:4. If my own feelings do not agree with what God says, then my feelings lie. A person who walks by faith ignores the testimony of his senses unless it agrees with the Word of God. Make this your testimony: “God says it is done! I believe it . . . it is done! It is finished! I AM HEALED BECAUSE GOD, WHO CANNOT LIE, DECLARES THAT I AM HEALED.”

THIS IS THE WAY TO RECEIVE HEALING. Not by Feeling, but by faith. If you do this, GOD GUARANTEES TO HEAL YOU!

Special Miracles by Handkerchiefs and Aprons

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.” Acts 19:11. 12.

Countless thousands are being healed today by the ministry of blessed cloths. God has made this provision for the sake of those who cannot get to us for help, that although we cannot reach them personally, we can send them a cloth that our hands have touched. This is God’s scriptural method of contacting them who are sick and bound and afflicted, who cannot get into direct contact with those whose faith is strong and whom the Lord is using in this ministry.

A prayer cloth may be substituted for the laying on of hands of the evangelist if used according to instructions given for believing God for healing.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEALING

1. Remember that All Sickness is of the Devil. First, let us remember that, while not all sickness can be attributed to demon possession or even to demon oppression, God is not the author of sickness. Satan is responsible in one way or another for all sickness. Satan is an active, crafty, intelligent enemy. He gives no ground except what is actively taken from him by faith. And having given up ground, he is constantly on the watch for an opportunity to take it back.

2. Be Filled with the Spirit. Jesus not only gave us promises and commands but warnings as well. One of these is found in Matthew 12:43-45.

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”

When you have been released from the power of Satan, whether it be from sin, sickness, demon possession, or demon oppression, it is important that the house in which you live, your body, be not only clean, but occupied. When Satan moves out, if you are to keep him out, the Spirit of God must move in. Never let the demon find your house empty.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

This is a separate experience from that of conversion. It was promised by Jesus to His people: “Behold, I send the promise of my father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2).

To receive the infilling of the Holy Ghost: Ask in faith. If it is hard to believe for this experience, search your heart for hindrances to faith. (Lessons #4 and #5). When you have eliminated the hindrances to your faith, it will be easy to receive the Holy Spirit. Just come boldly into Jesus’ presence with praise. Be obedient. Yield yourself and let Him possess you completely and speak out through your lips. Then He will live in your body and possess your “temple” and there will be no room for Satan.

3. Live a Holy Life. Sin and careless living on the part of one who has been healed is an open invitation for the unclean spirit to move back into the house from which he was driven. Jesus warned one whom He had healed instantly and miraculously, in these words: “Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” John 5:14b.

4. Resist the Devil. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7b. The Christian need not be in subjection to sin. “Sin shall not have dominion over you:” Rom. 6:14a. By faith, the Christian has power to refuse the temptations of Satan, and his suggestions to sin. There is something more commendable than daily repentance from sin, and that is daily victory over sin. It is also possible, by faith, to refuse sickness a place. There is something better than being healed “many times,” especially of the same afflictions: that is to get healed and stay healed.

5. Keep Believing God and His Promises. If the promises of God are bright and clear in your mind and you still believe that God meant just what He said, you will answer Satan, as did our Lord when He was tempted. “It is written,” Matt. 4:4,7,10. “By whose stripes ye were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24b.

As you review by faith the mighty promises of God, your heart will rejoice, even as it did when you claimed His promise and received healing, and there will be praise in your heart to God for His mighty deliverance. Stand upon a promise in God’s Word, and praise God in the devil’s face. This is resisting the devil. He never has been able to stay in the presence of this kind of faith, and he will never be able to do so.

6. Seek an Atmosphere of Faith. After your healing takes place, it is a mistake to go back into a church where the pastors and teachers do not believe in the miracle working power of God. Identify yourself with a group where you can find food for your faith and where you can freely give your testimony for the encouragement of others that may also need deliverance.

7. Testify to Your Healing at Every Opportunity. Your testimony will increase as you declare the truth and reality of God's promises, and Satan will be driven farther back, and his chance of again overcoming you will be lessened.

WHO HAS POWER TO HEAL?

During His earthly ministry, Jesus healed "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Matt. 4:23. The glorious ministry of deliverance begun by Jesus was to continue through His disciples, His followers, and His believers.

The early church was a powerful church because its members believed God. They believed in holy living because God said, "Be ye holy." 1 Peter 1:16. They feared sin because they had seen sin revealed through the gift of discernment, and had seen liars stricken dead for their sin. (Acts 5). They believed that they could do miracles in the name of Jesus because He had said, "The works that I do shall ye do also;" John 14:12. And because they believed God, God worked with them, confirming the word with signs and wonders. God has not changed. Any church today can have the same power if they will meet the same conditions.

Has God changed? No! The church Jesus purchased with His blood is still performing miracles and healing the sick. Those who dare to believe God's promises and stand on His Word can still, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, heal the sick.

God has given those who believe, AUTHORITY over all devils and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1). They have the right to use the name of Jesus in making requests to God and in giving commands to demons and to disease. (See John 14:10-14).

THE ENDUEMENT OF POWER. "And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:48, 49. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." Acts 1:8a.

Then we receive the POWER TO WITNESS. This power for service takes

many forms. This was a great miracle on the day of Pentecost.

The great miracle of Pentecost was not the tongues but the transformed lives of believers, although they did speak in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. They were clothed with supernatural power. Gifts of the Spirit were given to them but those supernatural gifts did not indicate that the possessor necessarily had spiritual maturity of character or holiness of life to the extent that they had no faults.

Today the church is vastly ignorant of these gifts of the Spirit and the way the Lord works. They are for us today. The great wonders and miracles in the Old and New Testament were performed by the same Spirit through the same operations as the gifts mentioned in 1 Cor. 12. In the Old Testament they experienced divine power as the Spirit of God came upon them; in the new dispensation of grace they receive power; the Holy Ghost comes into the believer.

This miracle working power is given by the Lord to those who seek Him. God is performing His works today through those who will pay the price to receive this power. JESUS IS JUST THE SAME TODAY!

IF YOU WILL ACCEPT THE TEACHINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE WORD OF GOD AND ACT UPON THEM, HEALTH, HEALING, AND HOLINESS WILL BE YOURS. AND REMEMBER GOD GUARANTEES TO HEAL YOU!