

# Divine Healing

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1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NKJV)

*4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

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*This book is a compilation of six sets of study notes written for a connect group that was run in the second half of 2023. These notes have been updated as more study has been done, and also as the result of feedback from group members who pointed out sections that were not clear. Our hope and prayer is that these notes will help you as you pursue divine health and healing and make it a normal part of your life.*

*You CAN help others!*

*Hugh and Jeanette Perry*

## What Does the Bible Say?

Supernatural Healing is a topic that can divide opinions. Unfortunately, many people form doctrine based on popular opinions, social commentaries, online blogs or personal experiences which can lead to inaccurate thinking or ideas about the topic. Everything we do and believe in regard to divine healing must be based entirely on the Word of God.

The Word of God, Jesus and the Bible.

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*John 1:1 (NKJV)*

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.,*

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*John 1:14 (NKJV)*

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

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Can we agree that the Bible is the Word of God in text and that Jesus was the Word of God in the flesh?

If Jesus were with you in person, would you not listen attentively to the words He said? Would you not believe everything He spoke? Therefore, when we come to understand that the Bible is the written Word of God it should carry with it that same credibility and respect.

Faith is a requirement of our Christian walk (and plays a vital role in the formation of our beliefs around Supernatural Healing.)

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*Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)*

*6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

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Before anyone can have faith for supernatural healing, they must first believe beyond any doubt that God CAN heal, God WANTS to heal, and God WILL heal. We know this from what we read in the Bible. These are promises found all throughout The Word and they are valid to each of us. (Matthew 8:17, Matthew 8:3, 1 Peter 2:24, Exodus 23:25-26, Psalm 107:20, Matthew 12:15, Luke 6:17-19)

Luke 8:11 tells us that the Word of God is a seed. We need to read the Word (plant it in us) and then let it grow to produce fruit (faith). This process can take time – just as a seed planted in the ground takes time to grow. But grow it will! We don't have to worry about how it will grow – we just know that something planted WILL produce.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. For this reason, it is so important that we study and learn all we can from the Word of God. We need to let His Word become a part of who we are as a New Creation. 1 Corinthians 2:16 says "It's not no longer us who live, but Christ who lives in us, the life we now live, we live in the flesh by faith and the son of God who loved us and gave himself for us." His life is our life, we are united with Jesus, which means we have His mind. In other words, when we allow the Word of God to become a part of who we are, regardless of the situation or circumstance, our thinking will naturally align with the thinking of Christ.

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*Romans 10:17 (NKJV)*

*17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

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It is worth noting that it says faith comes by hearing. Don't just read the Word of God but speak it out – so you hear it. For many people, hearing something really does greatly improve our memory of it when compared to just reading.

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*2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)*

*15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

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We are told to study the Word (see also Proverbs 4:20-21), but how does one study the Bible?

A suggested way might be:

- 1) Read a passage of scripture several times – not just a verse but a passage so you get the context (more doctrinal errors have happened by people taking just a verse – or even part of a verse – than in any other way).
- 2) Look up the key words in the passage in a concordance (eg. Strongs) to see what they really mean. Have they been used elsewhere in the Bible? What do those other passages say?
- 3) Meditate on what you have learned. Ask yourself “How can I apply this passage to my life”?

Does God heal today?

- God healed in the Old Covenant. (I have used the term “covenant” quite deliberately. Our Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament but we need to realise that the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – whilst in the New Testament, are actually part of the Old Covenant. The New Covenant did not start until the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit was poured out).

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*Exodus 15:26 (NKJV)*

*26 and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”*

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*Genesis 20:17 (NKJV)*

*17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children;*

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*2 Chronicles 30:20 (NKJV)*

*20 And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.*

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*Psalms 107:20 (NKJV)*

*20 He sent His word and healed them,*

*And delivered them from their destructions.*

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- God (Jesus) healed in the Gospels.

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*Matthew 8:13 (NKJV)*

*13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.*

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*Matthew 8:3 (NKJV)*

*3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."  
Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

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*Mark 6:12–13 (NKJV)*

*12 So they went out and preached that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many  
demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.*

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- God healed in the New Covenant.

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*Acts 3:6–7 (NKJV)*

*6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In  
the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the  
right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received  
strength.*

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*Acts 14:9 (NKJV)*

*9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he  
had faith to be healed,*

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*Acts 19:11–12 (NKJV)*

*Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.*

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- God never changes.

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*Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)*

*6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change;*

*Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

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*Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)*

*8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

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When we see God supernaturally healing people all throughout the Bible and we understand that God never changes, that He is the same yesterday, today and forever, it is a safe assumption and a reliable truth that He still heals today.

Hebrews 8:7-12 talks about The New Covenant having superseded the Old Covenant. So, if healing is part of the Old Covenant and The New Covenant was formed to create greater access to God, His love, His grace, and His mercies, it is logical to believe that we still have the same, if not greater, access to His supernatural healings within the New Covenant under which we live today.

- Healing is part of the atonement.

As Christians, we have no trouble believing that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus dying on the cross. However, we can often fail to grasp that supernatural healing is also available to us as a result of Jesus dying on the cross.

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*1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)*

*24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

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It's important to note in this verse that forgiveness from sin *and* healing are both a result of Jesus dying on the cross. Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross broke the curse brought upon us by the fall of man and sickness was part of the curse (read Deuteronomy 28). So, if Jesus' death and resurrection broke the curse, we are freed from both sin and sickness.

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*Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)*

*13 Christ has 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"),*

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*2 Timothy 1:10 (NKJV)*

*10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,*

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Jesus abolished death! He destroyed it! So, if we consider sickness as incipient death it has also been destroyed along with the power of death.

Healing is part of the atonement and considering this atonement is still made available to us today then the fruit of this atonement, including supernatural healing is also still available to us. It seems that no Christian has any trouble inviting an unsaved person to find salvation in

Christ because of His death on the cross. They would never consider that God would refuse this salvation to anyone. Divine healing needs to be seen through the same lens – we don't need to plead with God for healing – we can expect it.

God hates sin. In the same way, God hates sickness and he has provided the solution for both in Jesus death on the cross.

Supernatural healing did not end with the Ascension of Jesus. If it had, there would be no record of such occurrences in the latter books of the New Testament... And there are many! The fact that these healings have occurred since the Apostolic Days, demonstrates that God still heals. There are also many records of divine healing occurring throughout the time period after the apostolic days.

Some examples are

Iranaeus (200 AD): "Those who are in truth His disciples, receiving grace from Him, do in His name perform miracles; and they do truly cast out devils. Others still heal the sick by laying hands on them, and they are made whole. Yea, moreover, as I have said, the dead have been raised up, and remained among us for many years."

Theodore of Mopsueste (429 AD): "Many heathen amongst us are being healed by the Christians from whatever sickness they have, so abundant are miracles in our midst."

Zinzendorf (1730): "To believe against hope is the root of the gift of miracles; and I owe this testimony to our beloved church, that Apostolic powers are there manifested. We have undeniable proofs thereof in the unequivocal discovery of things, persons, and circumstances, which could not humanly have been discovered, in the healing of maladies in themselves incurable, such as cancers, consumption, when the patient was in the agonies of death, all by means of prayer, or of a single word."

And many more examples could be added.

Does God want to heal?

Absolutely, yes! We can see in these scriptures that people did not have to plead with Jesus to be healed – sick people came to Him and received health.

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*Mark 1:40–42 (NKJV)*

### ***A Leper is Cleansed***

*Matt. 8:1–4; Luke 5:12–16*

<sup>40</sup> *Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”*

<sup>41</sup> *Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “**I am willing; be cleansed.**”* <sup>42</sup> *As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*

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*Matthew 8:16–17 (NKJV)*

### ***Demoniacs are Delivered***

<sup>16</sup> *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 sick,*  
<sup>17</sup> *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:*

*“He Himself took our infirmities*

*And bore our sicknesses.”*

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In fact, the only person who had to plead with Jesus to receive healing was a Canaanite woman seeking help for her daughter in Matthew 15:22-28 (in Mark 7:25-30 she is described as a Greek Syro-Phoenician) – but even though she was not a Jew, Jesus still healed the daughter in response to her faith.

Christians who are well are a testimony of His goodness. The gospel (the good news) is all about the goodness of God and if the gospel we preach does not show the reality of this goodness, then what gospel are we preaching?

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*1 Corinthians 2:3–5 (NKJV)*

*<sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

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This “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” includes miraculous and supernatural acts of healing. If we look in the gospels, we see that within Jesus’ ministry, healing played a very important part. People followed Him, came to Him, touched Him, pleaded with Him, all in the belief that they could receive healing for themselves or for someone they loved. There is no indication that Jesus did not heal all who came to Him.

We do see, however, that Jesus always took the opportunity to teach about the Kingdom of God – either before or after healing the sick – and so should we!

Who does He heal?

There was no formula or prerequisite that Jesus considered before healing those in the multitudes. There was no exam beforehand to see if they were “worthy” of His healing touch. (Luke 4:30, Matt 15:30). Whether they were men, women, rich, poor, Jew or gentile. He healed them all. (Mark 7:24-30). We understand that God is no respecter of persons.

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*Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)*

*9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*

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*Romans 2:11 (NKJV)*

*11 For there is no partiality with God.*

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Even more amazing is the account of the woman with the issue of blood. We see that she was healed by Jesus without Jesus even knowing she was there. Healing was “automatic” when she touched his garment (Matthew 9:20-22).

Based on the Word of God we see that God can, wants to and will heal ALL. Right now YOU can start believing God for your own healing and also stepping out in faith and praying for others.

## Faith and Believing

Smith Wigglesworth is well known for his saying “Only Believe”. But what is belief?

How does belief relate to faith?

**Faith** (Strong's G4102) - persuasion that is credence; moral conviction (of religious truth or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher) especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance belief believe faith fidelity.

**Believe** (Strong's G4100) - to have faith (in upon or with respect to a person or thing) that is credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual wellbeing to Christ): - believe commit (to trust) put in trust with.

When you hear the words faith and belief, and look at these two definitions, they can almost seem interchangeable. Some might even think of them as identical twins. However, as you begin to dig a little deeper, you will discover that faith and belief are more like cousins than identical twins. While they are related, they are not the same.

Faith is a noun – something we have (as a possession).

Believe is a verb – a doing word (we believe!).

## Faith

What is faith?

*We read that without faith we can't please God. If that is the case, then we need to find out what faith is and how we get it.*

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*Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)*

*6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

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There is a very similar thought in Hebrews 10:38

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*Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)*

*38 Now the just shall live by faith;*

*But if anyone draws back,*

*My soul has no pleasure in him."*

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We see that God wants and expects His children to have faith. So, what IS faith? In Hebrews 11 we have the very familiar passage

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*Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

*11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

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Faith is taking what is already done in the Spirit and bringing it into the physical.

How do we get faith?

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Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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One thing becomes very clear – we need to HEAR the Word of God. It is not enough to read the Bible and mentally agree with what we are seeing. We need to HEAR – and that means we need to speak it out - or put on some audio version of the Bible. The advantage of speaking out is that we can just quote the verses that are meaningful to us at the time. For example, if we are sick and believing for healing, we could focus on quoting several healing scriptures.

To explain this a bit further, I think back to the time I was studying at university. I would have a textbook and be told to read a chapter before the next lecture. I often would not remember it well until I HEARD the lecturer go through it – and it would be much more ingrained in my memory. So it is with the Word of God - except our lecturer is God.

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Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

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Smith Wigglesworth would say, “Faith is an act!”

The Bible says faith must be accompanied by works (action, believing)

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James 2:17 (NKJV)

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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After people are prayed for, why are they asked to do something they couldn't do before? It is NOT to make the person who is praying feel good. Quite often, after they are prayed for, they still have symptoms. It is as they act out (showing belief) their faith that the healing is manifested in their body.

What if they can't DO something physical – maybe because of the nature of their illness? They can praise God in anticipation!

The problem is that we look at these scriptures with our intellect rather than our spirit. In our minds we “work out” what they mean rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to show us by spiritual revelation what they mean.

Paul even goes so far as to say that our faith can be sidetracked by listening to the wisdom of men. Our faith needs to be firmly rooted in the power of God – the power that dwells in us if we are full of the Holy Spirit.

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*1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NKJV)*

*4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

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Our faith also needs to be totally based on the Word of God.

Do you realise you needed faith to get saved? Yes! You had to believe that God “is” and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). God knows what is required and does not in any way leave us lacking. He knows that we needed faith to get saved, and He gave it.

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*Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)*

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

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This verse makes it very clear that saving faith is not something we earn, conjure up, study to get more of, or psyche ourselves into – it is simply a gift from a loving heavenly father who wants to give good gifts to his children (Matthew 7:11).

Similarly, this verse from Romans makes it clear that God gives faith to his children.

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*Romans 12:3 (NKJV)*

*3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

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Faith is part of our spiritual armour.

God has provided faith as a tool for us to use – it is part of the armour that God has provided for us.

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*Ephesians 6:14–17 (NKJV)*

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

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We see here as we look at the armour of God that faith is a mighty *defensive* weapon to “quench the fiery darts of the wicked one”. What are these fiery darts? Anything that causes us to be fearful, to be doubting, to be angry, to be thinking things contrary to the Word of God.

A shield is not about fixing a wound that has occurred but rather stopping the dart before it touches us.

Bringing healing

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*Acts 14:8–10 (NKJV)*

*8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked.*

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What did Paul “see”?

There are a couple of ways to look at this, Firstly, we need to start seeing the spiritual before!! we see the physical – faith is a spiritual “thing” given as a gift by God.

On a more physical level Paul could have noticed facial expressions, or posture, that was telling him the person was actively receiving what he was saying (a person sitting glaring at you with arms folded suggests they are not agreeing with you).

Building faith

We are given faith – but we can also build it.

Let’s not be surprised when we look at this scripture in Jude and find that building our faith is not an academic exercise but a spiritual one.

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*Jude 20 (NKJV)*

*20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*

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Praying in tongues takes the responsibility of understanding away from us and this increases our effectiveness in prayer. We are now our spirit to God’s Spirit and as we communicate with Him our faith is built up.

What stops faith?

Fear and doubt are the two big hindrances to faith.

The Bible says God didn’t give us a spirit of fear but power, and perfect love casts out fear. God is love!

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*2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)*

*7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

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*1 John 4:18 (NKJV)*

*18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

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How do we move to a place of not living in fear? By reading and quoting scripture such as these and meditating on them so that they become “part of who we are”. I’m not saying this happens instantly, but as you continue diligently with this practice it will happen. God’s Word cannot lie.

Doubt is different from unbelief in a similar way that temptation is different to sin. Doubts come and go, but unbelief is a conclusion someone reaches—a deliberate decision to live life as if there is no God.

Unbelief involves spiritual blindness and a determined resistance to God. Of persecuting believers, Paul said, “I acted in ignorance and unbelief.” I could not understand the truth, (ignorance), and I was deeply resistant to the truth (unbelief) (1 Timothy 1:13).

That was his condition, and the only cure for it was what happened on the Damascus Road when he was wonderfully converted. He discovered that Jesus is Lord, was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and moved from a position of unbelief to a position of faith.

Doubt, on the other hand, is a fleeting negative thought, a moment of concern, a time of confusion as you seek and search for answers. As with fear, the answer to doubt is the Word. Study and meditation of the Word will carry you to a place of victory.

## Believe

Whereas faith involves reliance and trust, and it endures in the face of doubts, belief is simply something we take to be true and therefore act on it.

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*James 2:19 (NKJV)*

*19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*

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From our definition of believe, we see what the difference between faith and believing is that faith is knowing something is true whereas believing involves action.

This helps us understand what the biggest difference is between the two – faith does not automatically translate into action. While it has the potential to transform or shape your behaviour, there is no guarantee it will. Faith in its most elementary form is about what we accept to be true, not what we do with it.

Can I have faith that something is true and still have unbelief? Yes! People do it every single day.

People have faith that you can jump out of an airplane with a parachute, pull the rip cord, and the parachute will open allowing you to safely land to the ground. You can ask just about anyone, and they will accept that statement is true. However, it is another thing to take the step of putting the parachute on, jumping out of the plane, pulling the rip cord, and safely landing on the ground. This does not require faith, this requires belief.

Can I have belief and not faith? Yes! People do it every day.

The demons believe that God exists, and they may even know more about God than people do, but they do not have faith in Him. Our definition of faith includes the phrase “especially reliance upon Christ for salvation” and some people have a believing, like the demons have, but that it is not sufficient for them to put their trust in God.

The Bible requires that we have both! We must have faith that leads to believing and believing that leads to action.

The Bible uses the words faith and belief at different times but the fact is there is one that is a gift from God that comes with salvation, and one that we have control over that we can take steps to build and develop.

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*Matthew 17:20 (NKJV)*

*20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

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So our problem is really with unbelief, not a lack of faith.

The good news is that we can change our unbelief into belief. It's really a fairly simple, straight forward process. We just need to become more fully persuaded of the truth instead of the misconceptions and lies that we are currently holding on to.

The more we expose our minds to the truth, the more we become persuaded and convinced of that truth.

And the best way to expose our minds to the truth is to study the Bible. The more time we spend exploring the truth of the Bible, the more our minds become convinced of that truth.

The more firmly convinced of the truth we become, the more confident we'll grow.

Then it won't be long before we find ourselves doing things differently, acting with more belief.

Do you want more believing? Then invest more time reading, studying, and thinking about the Bible. As you step out and act on what you believe, your belief and faith will grow.

*We need to declare!! (verbally) what we believe.*

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Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

And those who love it will eat its fruit.

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*What are we declaring? Are we declaring the Word of God over our lives or something that brings destruction?*

*If you need healing, read out loud healing scriptures and make it personal. For example you could say "1 Peter 2:24 ... who Himself bore **my** sins in His own body on the tree, that I, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes **I was** healed."*

***Faith = ( Belief × Action × Confidence )***

God requires us to have faith – but He gives us what we need.

This is a great encouragement for us because it means that God can bless us and help us *before* we get our act together as well as *after*.

In the world we live in we are bombarded constantly with the world's viewpoint on every conceivable topic - but the world's thinking is usually contrary to God's thinking.

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*2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)*

*7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

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The world will tell us that all that matters is the physical realm. As Christians, however, we understand the spirit realm is more real than the physical world.

As we take hold of this truth, we can really start to put this scripture into practice.

Smith Wigglesworth said

“I’m not moved by what I see. I’m not moved by what I feel. I’m moved only by what I believe”.

This is FAITH.

# The Authority of the Believer

## What is Authority?

Authority is delegated power.

A policeman has authority because of his position. He can pull you over (if eg. you are speeding). Physically he can't make you stop but because of his authority you do. If you fail to stop, because of his authority, he can call in reinforcements and these reinforcements can physically stop and arrest you if necessary.

Anyone who has authority MUST be under authority. The policeman has authority because it has been given to him BY A SUPERIOR.

As soon as he resigns from the police force, he is no longer UNDER authority and so has no authority any more.

Authority is the power delegated by senior executives to assign duties to all employees for better functioning. With authority comes responsibility which is the commitment to fulfill the tasks we have authority to do. Accountability makes a person answerable for his or her work.

If we take this idea into our Christian life we see that we have authority "in the name of Jesus" to fulfill all that He has told us to do. More than that, we have a responsibility to do all that he has told us to do. We can no longer sit back and do nothing. What did Jesus tell us to do?

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*Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)*

*<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

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And ,,,,

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*Matthew 10:7–8 (NKJV)*

*<sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

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Remember the parable of the talents – we will be accountable for what we do with what we have been given.

Our authority is absolute – it is not delegated authority (given to us by someone as in the case of the policeman), it is INHERITED authority. We are authorised **because** we are **children of God**. Consider a worldly example. A general manager can authorise an employee to do certain tasks but the son of the general manager (who will inherit the company) can do anything that is consistent with his father's ways. It is the same with us – we can do anything, with authority, that is consistent with our heavenly Father's ways (is it in the Word of God?).

In the Bible we see the story of the centurion who understood authority.

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*Matthew 8:9–11 (NKJV)*

*9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

*10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

---

Jesus is the one giving us authority and our authority is then valid as long as we stay submitted to Him.

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*Luke 10:19 (NKJV)*

*19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

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## A History of Authority

Let's have a quick look at the history of biblical authority.

We see that at the time of creation God gave man authority.

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*Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)*

*28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

---

Notice that this authority was unconditional! He didn't say "If you are good then I give you authority". Rather, He just gave all authority to man.

The same humans turned that authority over to Satan when they succumbed to his temptation and obeyed the devil instead of God in Genesis Chapter 3.

The devil knew that if he could deceive (trick) Adam and Eve into obeying him then he could become their master.

Since then, humanity has been in a spiritual battle. Perhaps we don't see the battle going on around us, but just because we don't see it doesn't mean it is not real.

God is a Spirit and doesn't have a physical body, but He had given authority over the earth to physical human beings and that was now lost.

The devil can only operate in the physical realm – that's the area of authority he gained from the fall of Adam and Eve. This means that he needs a physical body to work through – and

that is where the human race comes in – if he can deceive and lie to people to get them to do what he wants then he can have tremendous effect on the earth.

Throughout the history of the Old Testament there was a struggle between the devil and his ways, and the men anointed by God. But even the anointed men were still living under the law which was impossible to keep in its entirety. God needed a perfect man but could not find one.

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*Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)*

*30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.*

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Enter Jesus!

Jesus, the Son of God, was totally without sin.

The devil's authority (that he had taken from Adam) was in the physical realm. Because of that the solution from God had to be in the physical realm. This is why Jesus had to come "in the flesh" – to get back (redeem) this lost authority.

In Matthew 21, Jesus was asked where He got His authority and very cleverly avoids giving a direct answer.

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*Matthew 21:23–28 (NKJV)*

*23 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"*

*24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?"*

*And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know."*

*And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

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However, if we look at other scriptures we find an answer - God (His father) gave authority to Him.

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*Matthew 11:27 (NKJV)*

*27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

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Now Jesus gives this authority to us.

After Jesus had sent 70 people out to declare the gospel, they returned rejoicing, and Jesus said:

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*Luke 10:19 (NKJV)*

*19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

---

The term "serpents and scorpions" in the passage relates not so much to the physical but rather demonic powers. He is giving them authority over the demonic realm.

Also in the “great commission”, Jesus says

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*Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)*

*18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

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The source of our authority is found in the resurrection of Jesus. You can never understand authority with your intellect. You must get it by revelation and believe it by faith.

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*Ephesians 2:1–7 (NKJV)*

*2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

*4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

---

We are raised together and sit in heavenly places with Christ. The authority that Christ has in conferred on the body. The head (Christ) and the body (us) are one.

What is the purpose of our authority?

Resist the devil!

Our movies and other ungodly things that we watch and listen to portray the devil as a huge, ferocious, all-powerful being. In truth he is small and weak and can only use the power we give him.

If we don't allow him access to our lives, he is powerless.

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*James 4:7 (NKJV)*

*7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

---

Notice clearly though the order in this scripture. First, we submit to God. Second, the devil will flee when we resist him.

How do we resist him? With the Word!

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*Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)*

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

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Whose might? Jesus' might!

This means you can step out in front of the devil, hold your hand up, and tell him not to come any closer. We use our authority – we declare the Word.

Smith Wigglesworth was standing on a street corner waiting for a bus. A woman came out of an apartment house, and a little dog ran out behind her. She said, “Honey, you’re going to have to go back.”

The little dog didn’t pay any attention to her but wagged its tail and affectionately rubbed up against her.

She said, “Now dear, you can’t go”. The little dog wagged its tail and affectionately rubbed up against her again.

Just then, the bus arrived. The woman stomped her foot and yelled “Get!!”.

The little dog tucked its tail between its legs and ran home.

Wigglesworth said he yelled out loud without even thinking “That’s the way you’ve got to deal with the devil”.

Authority means we can be absolutely demanding. We have the right!

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*Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)*

*15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

---

Christians must learn that we are seated with Christ. We are exalted to the place where God wants us.

Our contact with the devil and demons should be with the knowledge that Christ disarmed them (made them powerless) and totally triumphed over them.

Preach the gospel

But as is the case – even in normal business – if we have authority, we have it for a purpose. The purpose of our lives is to preach the gospel. A far greater prize than even physical healing is the saving of a person’s soul.

Written by Hugh and Jeanette Perry

When Jesus sent out His 12 disciples notice He told them what to do which included saying “the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.

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*Matthew 10:5-8*

*5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

---

Similarly, with us we are told to go and preach to every creature.

Demonstrate the power of God

As we preach, we should demonstrate the power of God (which includes healing the sick)

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*Mark 16:15-18 (NKJV)*

*15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

---

We now have a job to do and it is all possible because of the authority Jesus has given to us. Look at what is expected to happen in our lives (based on this verse from Mark 16)....

Cast out demons

Speak with new tongues

Take up serpents without harm

Written by Hugh and Jeanette Perry

Drink anything deadly without harm

Lay hands on the sick and they *will recover* (emphasis mine)

Now I'm not suggesting for a minute that we deliberately do stupid things to test the scripture, but what I am saying is that, because of the authority that has been given to us, we have huge power within us that we can use to great effect.

Jesus authority changed His world.

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*Acts 10:38 (NKJV)*

*38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

---

The power of the gospel in believers who know their authority will change the world.

Examples of using our authority

Jesus used the Word to resist the devil when he was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus cast out spirits with a word – it was not a discussion, or a long drawn-out argument – just a word!

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*Matthew 8:16–17 (NKJV)*

*16 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 sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:*

*“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore our sicknesses.”*

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As an example of the disciples exercising authority

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*Acts 3:1–7 (NKJV)*

*Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

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We notice in this passage that *Peter* did not pray for the man, did not ask God to heal him, but simply commanded that he rise up and walk – and he did!

Compare this to the way Jesus worked. Do you see the similarities?

After Saul encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus he is blind, Ananias is sent to him by God to restore his sight – one sentence is all that is needed.

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*Acts 9:17–18 (NKJV)*

*17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*

---

How do we exercise authority?

We can pray in the same simple way we saw Jesus and the disciples pray.

How do we resist the devil (James 4:7)? The same way Jesus did - with the Word! We declare the Word (verbally – so we hear it!)

"Doubt - I resist you" (2 Tim 1:7).

The greatest fight we have in life is to fight fear. When we have certain symptoms in our body they can be very scary – but we resist the fear with the Word of God.

"Fear - I resist you" (1 John 4:18).

“I don’t have a spirit of fear but power and love and a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7)

“Symptoms - I resist you - you are a lie” (1 Peter 2:24)

### Summary

Our authority is not about being puffed up with pride about the power we have within us (Luke 10:17-20).

Rather, as we are totally submitted to the authority above us (Jesus) and as we operate within our jurisdiction, we are safe, powerful, and able to speak to the devil and demons and expect them to submit to us.

## The power of the tongue – our confession

Many people today speak without realising the power in what they are saying – even idle chatter can be very detrimental.

The Bible strongly encourages us in the area of our language to keep it wholesome and uplifting – not putting anyone down – ever! And always acknowledging Jesus and His presence and power in our lives.

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*Matthew 12:36–37 (NKJV)*

*36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

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*Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)*

*29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

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*Ephesians 5:4 (NKJV)*

*4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

---

What things can people say without realising the damage it can do?

“Oh, it’s flu season again – and I always get the flu this time every year....”

“I never have enough money ....”

Written by Hugh and Jeanette Perry

“I’m useless – I’ll never be good enough”.

When people speak these things, they are giving an entrance to the devil to come and take them up on what they have confessed.

Our tongue (what we say) and our thinking are all one big circle and if it gets out of control it is a downwards spiral.

Consider this:

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*Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)*

*7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

*“Eat and drink!” he says to you,*

*But his heart is not with you.*

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*Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)*

*34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

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*Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)*

*21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,*

*And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

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*Matthew 15:11 (NKJV)*

*11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

---

Do you see?

We think something.

We speak from what we are thinking.

Our words bring life or death.

Our experiences frame the next round of thinking.

And the cycle continues.

If we have unforgiveness in our hearts, this affects how we speak - we speak bitterness, which brings NOT healing, which gives us negative experiences to think about.

We need to come to a place where we can break the cycle, if necessary, change our thinking and our words, and speak life...

James talks a lot about the tongue in Chapter 3.

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*James 3:8–12 (NKJV)*

*8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

*9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been*

*made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*

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How difficult it is to speak in a wholesome manner all the time. In fact James says that if a man can control his tongues he is perfect – and none of us are there yet.

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*James 3:2 (NKJV)*

*2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*

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Look at this Psalm pf David

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*Psalm 19:14 (NKJV)*

*14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*

*Be acceptable in Your sight,*

*O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

---

Here David is looking at both his words and his thinking. It seems he understood the link between the two.

If there is a problem in the words/thinking cycle, how do we change it. Certainly we can become aware of what we are saying and try and control it but this is a physical solution. A better solution is to tackle the problem spiritually.

A Christian person took up a new position as a supervisor in a factory – the language was terrible, and there were pictures on the walls that were ungodly, to say the least. He prayed about what he should do, and God told him to just live as a Christian. Within 2 weeks the pictures were gone, and the language was much better – and he hadn't said a word.

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*Romans 12:2 (NKJV)*

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

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We need to change our thinking – our mind - and as we do that our speech will follow.

How do we renew our mind?

Ask God for help.

Read and meditate on His word.

Consider what we are watching/reading/listening to and change it if required.

Look at the people we associate with and consider if they're building you up spiritually or pulling you down.

Praise and worship God (see next section).

Your words are more powerful than you think. Retrain yourself in how you speak. Get rid of doubt, fear and all negative and unproductive speech. Instead, begin to speak biblical truths over yourself and situations in life, and you will be amazed at the change that will take place.

In so doing, you will be in complete agreement with the Lord and His Holy Word. The change will be gradual, but rest assured, it will take place.

You can use the "Never Again List" below to start you on the journey of positive confession.

## The Never Again List

(taken from savedhealed.com)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on "I can't," because the Word says: "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on fear, because the Word says: "God has not given me a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on doubt and a lack of faith, because the Word says: "God has dealt to each one [every person] a measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on weakness, because the Word says: "The Lord is the strength of My life" (Psalm 27:1) and "The people that know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." (Daniel 11:32)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on the supremacy of satan over my life, because the Word says: "Greater is He that is within me than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on defeat, because the Word says: "God always causes me to triumph in Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on a lack of wisdom, because the Word says: "Christ Jesus has become for me wisdom from God." (1 Corinthians 1:30) and "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on sickness, because the Word says: "With His stripes I am healed." (Isaiah 53:5) and Jesus "Himself took my infirmities and bore my sickness." (Matthew 8:17)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on bondage, because the Word says: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Corinthians 3:17) and "My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 6:19)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on worries and frustration, because the Word says: I am "Casting all my cares upon Him who cares for me." (1 Peter 5:7)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on condemnation, because the Word says: "There is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1) I am in Christ, so therefore I am free from condemnation!

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on loneliness, because the Word says: Jesus said, "I am with you always, even till the end of the age [forever]." (Matthew 28:20) and "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on curses or bad luck, because the Word says: "Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for me: that the blessings

of Abraham might come upon the gentiles [that's me] through Jesus Christ: That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on discontent, because the Word says: "I have learned in whatever state (circumstances) I am, to be content." (Philippians 4:11)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on unworthiness, because the Word says: "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on confusion, because the Word says: "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace." (1 Corinthians 14:33) and "We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." (1 Corinthians 2:12)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on persecution, because the Word says: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on the domination of sin over my life, because the Word says: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on insecurity, because the Word says: "When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught." (Proverbs 3:24-26)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on failure, because the Word says: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on frustration, because the Word says: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on fear of the future, because the Word says: "As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit." (1 Cor 2:9-10)

NEVER AGAIN will I confess or focus on troubles, because the Word says: Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

## Praise and Worship

As we look at the power of the tongue, we should not forget praise and worship.

Let me comment now that praise and worship get easier/better with practise – they don't always "just happen". So, if you are not used to this, now is a good time to start.

Praise – thanking Him for what He has done.

Worship – thanking Him for who He is.

When we praise Him, we can think of all the times He has answered our prayers, met some need we had, or been with us in a difficult situation. We can thank Him for our salvation. We can thank Him for some revelation he has given us from His Word. It can be very personal as we reflect on the events of our own life, or it can be very broad as we look at Church or community needs being met.

As we worship we are saying that God – you are great, mighty, a creator etc. The redemptive names of God (See back page) are Bible verses where God is given a title eg, Jehovah Rapha – the God who heals. This title tells us about Him and what His character is like. All of the scriptures are Old Testament but because they all relate to God's redemptive personality, they can also be applied to Jesus and the last column gives examples of this.

For example, worship Him because He is Jehovah Rohi – your shepherd – who leads you where you need to go, who looks after you. Thank Jesus that He is a good shepherd and that He laid down His life for you ....

Lots of the Psalms show David praising God for what He has done and then worshipping Him for who He is.

Worship of God fights the battles for us – we are saying God is in control and he has won the battle for us – we are looking to Him rather than the problem.

## The Praise Cure

I love the story Dr. Lillian B. Yeomens tells in her book, "Healing From Heaven." She tells the story of a missionary to China who had ministered fearlessly to a sister missionary with smallpox.

Then a very bad case of confluent smallpox (that was what it looked like to the doctors) came out on her. Not knowing what to do, this missionary went before the Lord, He told her to sing and praise Him for His faithfulness to His Word.

And that's exactly what she did. Though she was isolated to prevent the smallpox from spreading and told by her doctor to lie quietly, this woman sang and sang and praised and praised. She said that if she didn't praise God, the very stones would cry out.

The doctor said he feared for her life, that the case was serious and awful complication threatened. But this woman missionary just sang and sang and praised and praised!

The Doctor said she was evidently delirious, but that he had so little help he couldn't restrain her. So she just sang and sang and praised and praised. She was told that if by any chance she recovered, she would be disfigured for life. She sang and praised louder than she ever had before!

### **God Showed Me I Must Praise Him**

Finally, they asked this missionary, "Why do you praise so much?" She answered, "Because I have so many pox on me. God shows me I must praise Him for each one separately," And she kept right at it.

The Lord had shown her a vision of two baskets, one containing her praise, which was half full, and the other containing her testing, which was full. God told her that the praise basket must be filled so that it would out balance the other. And so she kept it.

Her songs and shouts were so Spirit-filled they were contagious. The Christian nurses couldn't resist joining in and they kept the place ringing! At last, the Lord showed her that the praise basket was full and overflowing. She saw it sink and the testing basket rise in the air: In only a moment it seemed, the smallpox and all its symptoms vanished, leaving not even the trace of a single scar! Praise the Lord.

Doesn't this show so clearly the power of our words!

## The Seven Redemptive Names of God

The next page has a table showing the seven redemptive names of God.

What are the Seven Redemptive names of Jehovah?

We see that Jehovah (God), has seven compound names found on scripture which show Him meeting every need of man from when we are lost to our ultimate redemption.

Each name is found to relate to God Himself, but they must also point to Calvary where we were redeemed. The blessing shown by each name is revealed by the Atonement and the table shows this.

The names describe our Lord. They speak about his character which does not (cannot!) change. So, for example, as we think about the name Jehovah Rapha – God our Healer, where realise that He is God our Healer now and forever.

We have been talking about worship – thanking God for who he is – for His character – and these seven names are an excellent starting point to be spoken out.

Staying with our example, Jehovah Rapha, you could start by speaking out “I thank You that you are Jehovah Rapha – God my healer. I thank you that this will never change, and I can come to you at any time to claim my healing – it is part of the Atonement. Jesus secured this when we see in 1 Peter 2:24 that by His stripes I was healed.”

## Redemptive Names of God

Name of God	Scripture	Jesus
<b>JEHOVAH ROHI:</b> THE LORD MY SHEPHERD	<b>Psalms 23:1</b> - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.	<b>John 10:11</b> - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
<b>JEHOVAH JIREH:</b> THE LORD MY PROVIDER	<b>Genesis 22:14</b> - And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."	<b>John 3:16</b> - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
<b>JEHOVAH RAPHA:</b> THE LORD MY HEALER	<b>Exodus 15:26</b> - and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."	<b>1 Peter 2:24</b> - who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.
<b>JEHOVAH SHALOM:</b> THE LORD MY PEACE	<b>Judges 6:24</b> - So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.	<b>Philippians 4:7</b> - and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
<b>JEHOVAH NISSI:</b> THE LORD MY BANNER	<b>Exodus 17:15</b> - And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner;	<b>1 Corinthians 15:57</b> - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
<b>JEHOVAH TSIDKENU:</b> THE LORD MY RIGHTEOUSNESS	<b>Jeremiah 23:6</b> - In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS	<b>Romans 5:17</b> - For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)
<b>JEHOVAH SHAMMAH:</b> THE LORD IS THERE FOR ME	<b>Ezekiel 48:35</b> - All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.	<b>Ephesians 2:13</b> - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

## How does God heal?

As we read scripture, we see there are many ways that healing takes place.

The spoken word (Ps 107:20, Matthew 8:8, John 5:8)

Anointed prayer cloths (Paul) (Acts 19:11-12)

Sitting in Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15-16)

Touching garments (Mark 5:25-34)

Casting out demons (Mark 9:25)

Raising the dead (John 11:43)

Cleansing a leper (Matthew 8:3)

Laying on of hands (Mark 16:18)

Prayer for one another (James 5:13-15)

Prayer of Faith (James 5:13-15)

Anointing with oil (James 5:13-15)

Asking and receiving (Psalm 107:19-21, Psalm 30:2, Mark 10:51-53)

Spit on man's tongue (Mark 7:33)

Spit in eyes (Mark 8:22-26)

Fingers in ears (Mark 7:33)

Dipping 7 times in the Jordan (2 Kings 5:1-17)

Looking at brazen serpent (Numbers 21:8-9)

Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-30)

This list serves to demonstrate that there is NO "right way/the only way" to get healing – it can happen pretty much in any way so long as you believe God heals and faith is present.

What does this mean for us today?

We should always use the Word of God as our example BUT there is such a wide variety of examples in the Bible we should not be theologically concerned if someone gets healed in some other way.

We should also not get locked into one method. Maybe you will develop a preference for using one particular way, but it should not preclude the use of other methods when led by the Spirit of God.

What is our part in receiving divine healing?

Yes – we have a role to play in divine healing.

Our job is to believe and receive. But what does this mean in practical terms?

Believing

We have covered believing in a previous session but in summary believing (a verb – suggesting action!) is to do something. It is not just head knowledge but rather what we do with that head knowledge.

Doubts come in – “I still have symptoms” – what do I do? Go to Doctor? You might, but more important is going to God’s Word – so that you know what it says about health and healing.

The time to go to God’s Word is now! Whether you are sick or not – we start reading and learning His Word now. If we can do this NOW then when sickness comes you will already be prepared.

We must know that we know that we know .... (spiritual revelation).

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*Ephesians 1:16–17 (NKJV)*

*16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:  
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the  
spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

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Receiving

Receive: to take or get something that is given, paid, or sent.

We see in this definition that the receiver is simply “getting” what has already been sent.

Receiving healing is not about trying to get God to do something - He has already done all that is required. In our spirit, we are already healed, so trying to get it through works won't help. To get healing from your spirit to your body we need to renew our mind, will, and emotions (our soul).

Romans 12:2 tells us that we will be transformed by the renewing of our mind - by seeking first the Kingdom of God, by immersing ourselves in His Word and receiving Holy Spirit revelation.

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*Romans 12:2 (NKJV)*

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

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F. F. Bosworth, in his book “Christ the Healer” says:

It is important that the mind of those seeking to be healed be “renewed” so as to be brought into harmony with the mind of Christ as revealed in the Bible. Faith for the appropriation of God's promised blessings is the result of knowing and acting on God's Word (Rom 10:17), The right mental attitude, or the “renewed mind” (Rom 12:2), makes steadfast faith possible to all.

Remember that faith is released by words and actions.

Don't give up if you don't see change immediately – the truth never changes. In Luke 8:15 we are told to bring forth the fruit of the Word with patience.

As a farmer plants a seed, he expects a harvest at some time in the future. Jesus said, “the Word is the seed” (Luke 8:11-18). Until the person seeking healing is sure from God’s Word that it is God’s will to heal him, he is trying to reap a harvest where no seed has been planted.

We should ask and keep asking – be persistent.

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*Luke 11:5–9 (NKJV)*

*5 And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*

*9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

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The Holy Spirit is faithful to show you what steps to take. Remember to seek the Healer and not the healing. Ask God for a deeper revelation of His love. When you get so serious that you’ll do whatever it takes to act on what you believe, the power of God will begin to flow.

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*Proverbs 4:20–22 (NKJV)*

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

*21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;*

*22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.*

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We have here a complete set of instructions on how to receive healing. We are to

- a) attend to my words
- b) incline your ear to my sayings
- c) don't let them depart from your eyes
- d) keep them in the midst of your heart

The Word of God cannot be health to either body or soul until it is heard, received, and attended to.

We have another example given in the book of Numbers chapter 21. The Israelites were dying because the Lord sent fiery serpents among them after they complained against Moses.

After Moses prayed for the people the Lord told him to make a serpent and set it on a pole. Everyone that looked at the serpent lived.

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*Numbers 21:8–9 (NKJV)*

*8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.*

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Jesus likens Himself to that serpent and we see that as we look to Him we can find atonement (eternal life and healing).

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*John 3:14–15 (NKJV)*

*14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

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Looking is not a glance at something – it is a continuous stare. It means to be occupied and influenced with what we are looking at.

## How do we pray for the sick?

We have presented several ideas in this document and as we talk about praying for the sick all these ideas come together to form the foundation for what we are doing.

For example, when we pray for the sick we must do it from a position of total belief in the Word of God. We must pray in faith, believing, and we must do it from a position of absolute inherited authority based on our relationship with Jesus.

We do not need to ask God to do what has already been done.

We command the sickness and symptom to go. Jesus has already done His part and we are now going to use our authority.

It must be “in the Name of Jesus”.

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*John 14:13 (NKJV)*

*13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

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God is not put in a box.

We should not be focussed on man’s methods but on God.

The temptation is to look at people on TV (perhaps) and try and follow their “method” No – it’s about God!

People are NOT healed by our prayers – they are healed by what Jesus did!

Use (quote!) scripture. Jesus defeated the devil by saying “it is written” (see Matthew 4:1-11) – and we should do the same.

Written by Hugh and Jeanette Perry

For example:

“It is written that by His stripes I am healed”.

“It is written that He is Jehovah Rapha – the Lord that heals me”.

“It is written that they shall lay hands on the sick and they SHALL recover”.

Encourage (don't force!) a response from the person being prayed for.

If they are being prayed for because they have a sore foot, ask them if the pain is gone. If it is, then you and the person being prayed for can praise God.

If they could not walk, ask them if they could try and take a couple of steps. If they can, then you and the person being prayed for can praise God.

If there is no obvious manifestation of healing or if it is not possible for them to determine if they are healed, then let the response be a time of praising God.

Make satan listen to you praises!

### An example of praying for the sick

(Note! This is an example only – not a formula!)

*In the name of Jesus I command [name of sickness, or simply “spirit of infirmity”] to go – to leave [name of person] and never come back. [name of problem] you have no right to remain. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:24 that “ .... by His stripes we were healed”. I speak freedom, health and healing to [name of person]’s body in the Name of Jesus. Amen.*

(Comments in brackets are mine)

- Destroy “sacred cows” concerning sickness and power. (Study the Word of God for yourself and find out what it REALLY says about healing – not what you have been told or have believed up to now).
- Recognise sickness and disease as an enemy. (God hates sin and also hates sickness – so should we!).
- Get fed up (with sickness – if you are fed up with it you will attack it to get rid of it).
- Treat all sickness the same (it makes no difference to Jesus).
- Command not beg (sickness to go).
- Speak to the problem – not to others about the problem.
- See people as oppressed prisoners of war (that you have to opportunity to get released).
- Get clean – stay clean.
- Stay out of pride – anyone could do what you are doing.
- Be aggressive – develop your aggressiveness.
- Be led by God’s character and nature.
- Accept responsibility for your fellow man (we are not only able, but have the responsibility to pray for others).
- Decide to obey the Bible – not some arbitrary feeling.
- Know that God is with you, in you, and for you.

## Our relationship with God

As we step into the area of divine healing we are totally dependant on Jesus, and our relationship with Him must be the most important thing in our lives.

Just because we are seeing healings, miracles and wonders, we cannot use that as proof that all is well between us and Jesus.

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*Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)*

*21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

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In the same way we cannot seek God for a "sign" that He loves us and when we see healings we are happy. These two things really are totally independent of each other.

Jesus' words may sound harsh to us, but they also contain great truth. Great works will not earn a person entrance into the kingdom, even astounding good works like those listed (Matthew 7:21–22). Jesus has said that on "that day," when He comes to establish His kingdom, some will point to their good works of prophesying, casting out demons, and doing other powerful works in His name. Those people will claim that their performance has earned, or at least proven, a place in Christ's kingdom.

To those people, Christ will simply say He never knew them, dismiss their supposedly great deeds as works of lawlessness, and command them to depart.

If performing such mighty works does not provide a way into His kingdom, what will? This is an example of how Scripture often presents statements requiring careful understanding. Jesus has said (Matthew 7:21) that only those who do the will of His Father will enter. We have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20) – the shed blood of Jesus, and we are no longer our own to do as we please. The will of God is for every person is to believe in Jesus, to receive the gift of the forgiveness of sin made possible by His death on the cross and to be declared righteous before God in that way (John 6:28–29). Those who refuse to believe in this way commit the sin of unbelief (John 16:9; Hebrews 3:12), eliminating the only way to be known by Christ and welcomed into His kingdom (John 3:36; Ephesians 2:8–9).

## Christian TV

Over the time of the course, a couple of questions have been raised based on the words that have been used in “Christian” TV shows. Examination of the words used showed they do NOT always align with the Bible narrative.

This simply highlights the importance of knowing the Word of God and then being aware of anything that we are listening to or watching and making sure that it lines up with the Word.

## The Word of God

We have had much discussion on making sure everything we do is based solely on the Word.

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*Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)*

*89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled (stands firm) in heaven. (brackets mine)*

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If God’s Word is forever settled in heaven, then it is also forever settled on earth. If I read the Bible in another 20 years, not one word will have changed.

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*Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)*

*10 Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

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This verse also shows that our only prayer is for the things on earth to be done as they are ordained in heaven – and this includes the infallibility of the Word.

The Word is set as a boundary beyond which no Christian should go. Boundaries are not a restriction – they are a protection.

God will not change his mind (His Word) to agree with you.

You have to change your mind to agree with him (Rom 12:2).

God hates sin – and in the same way he hates sickness. The solution to BOTH problems is in the atonement.

## What next?

A number of years ago when I was learning to fly, I had to do my final flying test. I passed 😊! But the words of the examiner as we taxied back to the hanger have remained with me – he said, “Now you can learn to fly”.

What did he mean by this?

Although I could now technically fly a plane, I was very inexperienced and flying is a constant learning, practicing, and improving process. And you have to do it regularly! Even as a certified pilot you have to do regular flying evaluations and they are at such a high level that if you haven't been flying constantly and practising the different skills required you will not be able to do them automatically and you will fail the test.

This document is like a basic flying course – you have some knowledge and perhaps have a little experience. Now you have to continue to learn and use what you have learnt.

Read and study the Word!

and then .....

Read and study the Word!

and then ....

Pray privately (in English and tongues)

and then ...

Pray for the sick!! Pray the end result – what do you want to happen?

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*1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NKJV)*

*4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

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## Extra reading

Christ the Healer by F. F. Bosworth

Bodily Healing and the Atonement by Dr. T. J. McCrossan

The Ministry of Healing by A. J. Gordon

Spirit, Soul and Body by Andrew Wommack

The Believers Authority by Andrew Wommack

How to Heal the Sick by Charles and Francis Hunter

Also look at writings by Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake, Curry Blake, Dan Mohler, Andrew Wommack, Kenneth Hagin and T. L. Osborne. All of these present a view of divine healing – they are all a little different to each other in how they operated (Curry Blake, Dan Mohler and Andrew Wommack are still very active today) but they all had/have outstanding results and so are worth investigating.