



# Supernatural Healing

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# Session 1

## The Normal Christian Life

The normal Christian life is not about attending church, being good, reading your Bible every day, praying for an hour solid every day, fulfilling all religious duties and serving faithfully in church life. Those things are all great - but that's not the essence of the normal Christian life.

The normal Christian life is one where we are intimately involved in a relationship with God, modelling our lives on Jesus, having the Holy Spirit dwelling in us revealing what the Father is saying and doing, and therefore, being radically obedient in whatever he asks us to do. This is going to include the supernatural being very normal in our lives.

- 2 Questions - What is God saying to you?  
- What are you going to do about it?

Bill Johnson puts it this way:

*It is abnormal for a Christian not to have an appetite for the impossible. It has been written into our spiritual DNA to hunger for the impossibilities around to bow at the name of Jesus. (When Heaven Invades Earth, 2003, p25)*

In his next book, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*, Johnson goes on to say:

*I have come to see that the normal Christian life means miracles, spiritual intervention, and revelation. It means peace, joy, love, a sense of well-being and purpose - all these traits that elude so many Christians... Our hearts know there is much more to life than what we perceive with our senses; we are spiritually agitated by the lack of connection with the realm of the supernatural... The normal Christian life begins with the realization that we were put here to do the will of God on earth as it is in heaven... (p31)*

The normal Christian life means bringing heaven to earth. What is free to reign in heaven and exist in heaven is free to exist here on earth - peace, joy, love, hope, health, wholeness etc. What is bound in heaven and does not exist there should not be allowed to exist here on earth - sickness, disease, pain, etc.

Our primary mission is: **to destroy the works of the devil.**

*1 John 3:8  
For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that  
He might destroy the works of the devil.*

That was Jesus' assignment; it was Adam and Eve's assignment; it was the disciples' assignment. **THIS IS OUR ASSIGNMENT TOO.**

Apart from the fact that bringing the supernatural reality of heaven to earth is our mission and assignment, why else should we pray for the sick?



## 1. Jesus is our model – He is perfect theology

*John 14:12*

*'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

The works of Jesus obviously include praying for the sick.

## 2. God uses people to release the blessings of the atonement

God uses people to preach salvation

God uses people to teach sanctification

God uses people to exercise spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ

God uses people to break demonic oppression

God uses people to break poverty and hopelessness over people

...

AND he also uses people to bring healing to people

God can do all these things by His own supernatural power, but He mainly uses human beings!

## 3. Specifically, God uses people to release the blessings of healings

### In the Old Testament

- Moses prayed for Miriam's healing from leprosy - Numbers 12:13
- Elisha prayed for the raising of the widow's son - 2 Kings 4:18-37
- Elisha sent Naaman to bathe in the Jordan River for his healings - 2 Kings 5:1-19
- Isaiah ordered a poultice for Hezekiah's healing - 2 Kings 20:1-11

### In the New Testament

- The Lord sent out His disciples to preach & heal - Matt 10, Mark 6, Luke 9, Luke 10
- Philip healed many in Samaria - Acts 8:5-7
- Peter healed the lame man at the temple - Acts 3:1-8
- Peter healed Aeneas at Lydda - Acts 9:32-35
- Peter raised Dorcas from the dead at Joppa - Acts 9:32-36
- Paul raised Eutycus from the dead - Acts 20:12
- Many special miracles were done by Paul in Ephesus - Acts 19:11-12

God gave gifts of healings to men (1 Corinthians 12) to use them!!

## 4. Ministry to the sick is a demonstration of God's love – of God's heart to heal

*Luke 4:18-21*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord"... Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*

Jesus expressed his mission in terms of language that expresses His love.



## 5. Healing the sick is a demonstration of God's power

Jesus showed authority over sickness and disease and demon possession. He holds authority over the entire world.

*Colossians 1:15-18*

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

Jesus gave this authority to his disciples.

*Luke 9:1-2, 6*

*Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick... So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.*

## The Great Commission

*Matthew 28: 18 - 20*

*<sup>18</sup>Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup>Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).*

*Mark 16:15 - 20*

*<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race]. <sup>16</sup>He who believes [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is baptized will be saved [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; <sup>18</sup>They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well. <sup>19</sup>So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup>And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [it]. Amen (so be it).*

## Our foundational beliefs

- 1) God is always and only good
- 2) The devil is always and only bad



- 3) Health is good
- 4) Sickness is bad
- 5) God's will is healing and health
- 6) The devil seeks to steal, kill and destroy
- 7) God wants to heal people all the of the time



## Healing in History

### The Early Church to c.450

#### Apostles

Acts 2 records events a few years after the day of Pentecost, at Chapter 5 it's approximately 5 years after Pentecost. Acts 2:43 talks about how many wonders and signs and miraculous events were being done by the APOSTLES. The water level for the miraculous in the church was rising, but it was just the apostles that were doing the miracles. There is no record of anybody else in the body of Christ except the Apostles. Acts 6:2, people were appointed to wait tables and even these people were filled with the Spirit. The Apostles decided that it was time for them to anoint others to do the work of waiting tables and the day to day life stuff that the apostles had been caught up doing. It was after the apostles had laid hands on these seven that they began doing miracles also (Acts 6:8).

#### Justyn Martyr c165 made the following statement:

For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world and in your city, many of our Christian men exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have healed, and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists and those who used incantations and drugs.

#### Irenaeus c.130-c.200, The Bishop of Lyons

Those who are in truth his disciples, receiving grace from him, do in his name perform miracles, so as to promote the welfare of other men, according to the gift which each one has received from him. For some do certainly drive out devils, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe in Christ, and join them to the church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions and utter prophetic expressions. Others still, heal the sick by laying their hands upon them and they are made whole. Yea, moreover as I have said, the dead have been raised up, and remain among us for many years.

#### Against Heresies II Ch XXXII

And some give evidence of their having received through their faith a marvellous power by the cures which they perform, invoking no other name over those who need their help than that of the God of all things, and of Jesus, along with a mention of His history. For by these means we too have seen many persons freed from grievous calamities and from distractions of mind and madness and countless other ills, which could be cured neither by men or devils. *Contra Celsum Book III Chapter 24*

#### Moshe in c.150

That those gifts of the Spirit which are commonly termed miraculous, were liberally imparted by heaven to numbers of the Christians, not only in this, but likewise in the succeeding age, and more especially to those who devoted themselves to the propagation of the gospel among the heathen, has, on the faith of the concurrent testimony of the ancient Father, hitherto universally credited throughout the Christian world. Nor does it appear that in our belief as to this we can with the least propriety be said to have embraced anything contrary to sound reason. Only let it be considered that the writers on whose



testimony we rely were all of them men of gravity and worth, who could feel no inclination to deceive; that they were in part philosophers that in point of residence and country they were separated far from each other; that their report is not grounded as mere hearsay, but upon what they state themselves to have witnessed with their own eyes; that they call upon God in the most solemn manner to attest its truth (vid Origen contra Celsum, L.I.P 35) and lastly that they do not pretend to have themselves possessed the power of working miracles, but merely attribute it to others; and let me ask what reason there can possibly be assigned that should induce us to withhold from them our implicit confidence. *Historical Commentaries, Century 11, sect 5, Note.*

#### **Origen c.185 - c.254**

They expel evil spirits, and perform many cures, and foresee certain events... the Name of Jesus...can take away many diseases.

#### **Clement c.275**

Let them (young ministers) therefore with fasting and prayer, make their intercessions, and not with the well arranged and fitly ordered wards of learning, but as men who have received the gift of healing confidently, to the glory of God. *Epis C XII*

#### **St. John Chrysostom c. 347-407**

He that believeth on me the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works” etc. appeals to the miracles recorded in the Acts of the Apostles in proof of the truth of this promise. But if anyone asserts that these were mere smoke and fictitious wander unworthy of credit, let us view those of the present day which are calculated both to stop and to put to shame blaspheming mouth, and to check the unbridled tongue. For throughout our whole habitable world, there is not a country, nation nor a city, where these wanders are not commonly spoken of, which if figments would never have occasioned so much admiration. And you, yourselves, indeed, might testify to this. For we shall have no occasion to receive confirmation of what we assert from others, seeing that you yourselves, our opponents, supply us therewith. *Logos pros Hellenad- Ed Par. 1621, Tom 1, p728-732*

#### **St Augustine of Hippo c. 354-430**

Regarded as the greatest theologian of the first four centuries St Augustine says in his book *'The City of God'*, “Even now miracles are wrought in the Name of Christ’. Further describing a miracle of healing experienced by one Innocentius, he writes, “No words of mine can describe the joy and praise, and thanksgiving to the merciful and almighty God which was poured from the lips of all, with tears and gladness. Let the scene be imagined rather than described!” *City of God Book XXII Chapter VIII*

Significantly, St. Augustine in his early writings claimed that healing had ceased in the church and was no longer necessary. But experiences in his own life changed his mind. Notably, in his diocese nearly seventy attested miracles took place within a space of two years. In 427, just three years before he died, Augustine, in his book *“Retractions”* ‘refuted what he had published in his early writings (*De Vera Religione*) about the age of miracles being past, and described miraculous cures which he had seen and which were enough to change his mind.



### Mopsueste c.429

Many heathen among us are being healed by Christians from whatever sickness they have, so abundant are miracles in our midst. *Christlieb-Modern Doubt p.321*

### The Fourth Century Church and the Influence of the Desert Monks

By the beginning of the fourth century, many had become disillusioned with the increasing worldliness of the church and numbers of men and women went into the deserts of Egypt to try to recover genuine New Testament Christianity. One of the key points that we glean from their writings is that healings and miracles were common. Palladius writes commenting upon the lives of some of these men and women how they had pursued a solitary life, “finding complete dependence upon Christ and the Holy Spirit”. He describes their world of visions and healing and power over demons. “Some”, he continues, “became so tender-hearted that they spent all their time caring for the needs of others and had powers of healing and prophecy. Palladius describes a number of these healings in detail. Perhaps the most famous of the desert monks was St. Anthony. *Notes - The Lausiact History of Palladius - Cuthbert Butler: Healing and Christianity - Morton T. Kelsey*

Other notables of this era were St. Basil, his close friend Gregory of Nazianzus and later St. Martin of Tours. The historian Sozomen speaking of Gregory’s ministry at Constantinople tells of the healing of a pregnant woman and concludes, “the power of God was there manifested and was helpful both in waking visions and in dreams, often for the relief of many diseases, and for those afflicted by some sudden transmutation in their affairs.” *Sozomen Ecclesiastical History VII.5*

### The Celtic Church c. 300-1100

The Celtic church had a strong supernatural edge throughout its history. The stories of men and women like St. Patrick, St. Bridgit, St. Columba and St. Cuthbert - to name but a few are full of healing miracles performed in the course of their travels. The Celtic church had a profound influence on the spirituality of the British Isles until its absorption by Rome in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Notable Ministers of the Pre-Reformation Times

A number of men and women used by God in the ministry of healing who lived from the 1100’s through to the reformation period should be mentioned for further study:

- St. Anselm
- Bernard of Clairvaux
- St. Dominic
- St. Francis
- Anthony of Padua
- Thomas of Hereford
- Edmund of Canterbury
- Richard of Chichester
- St. Catherine of Siena
- St. Vincent of Paul
- St. Francis Xavier

### Healing Following the Reformation

Though many of the reformers rejected the idea that the ministry of healing was in operation in their time, choosing to carry on the tradition of ‘defying’ and ‘spiritualising’ the miracles of the early church, we do have evidence in Martin Luther’s case that towards



the end of his life that he accepted the validity of healing ministry and encouraged prayer for healing.

### **Martin Luther**

Some six years before his death Luther experienced a miracle after praying for his friend Melancthon who was dying. Five years later, in response to a request for help with a mentally ill man, Luther wrote instructions for a healing service based on the letter of James adding, *'This is what we do, and that we have been accustomed to do, for a cabinetmaker here was similarly afflicted and we cured him by prayer in Christ's name.'*

Perhaps, like Augustine, Luther became more aware of the healing power of the Spirit in his later years.

### **George Fox**

One of the great post reformation revivalists was George Fox (1624 - 1691). George Fox recorded many miracles of healing in his journal and wrote an unpublished work called the "Book of Miracles" - of which nothing remains today except the title and some brief notes about the experiences. It is noted that the early Baptists in England and America practiced anointing for healing and recorded their successes, particularly with mental illness.

### **John Wesley**

John Wesley described numerous miracles of healing through his own prayers. He even tells of a story of how he prayed for his horse that had become lame on the way to a preaching engagement. He placed his hand on the horse's leg and prayed that it might become well. A little later the horse revived and together they were able to journey to their destination.

### **Johann Christoph Blumhardt**

In 1842 amazing stories of healing miracles began to be told that were taking place in a small village at the edge of the Black Forest. The Pastor, Johan Blumhardt, saw phenomenal growth in his church as people came from around the region. There were many reports of miracles - including incurables that were healed. However in 1846 he was forbidden to make physical healing a part of his ministry. His reply was that he was unable to stop them taking place. He continued on for six years and then left the church to work full-time with the sick at Bad Ball.



## Healing Revivalists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century has seen an explosion of the healing ministry starting at the turn of the century with ministries like John Alexander Dowie and Maria Wordworth Etter, being later followed by John G Lake, Smith Wigglesworth and Aimee Semple McPherson. In the 1950's what became known as the 'Voice of Healing' movement had powerful impact around America featuring such notables as William Branham, A.A. Allen, Jack Coe, and Oral Roberts. Katherine Kuhlman - perhaps the most notable modern day healing ministry - had great impact in the 60's and 70's.

***John Alexander Dowie (1847 - 1907)***

***My tears were wiped away, my heart was strong, I saw the way of healing...I said, "God help me now to preach the Word to all the dying around, and tell them how 'tis Satan still defiles, and Jesus still delivers, for He is just the same today."***

John Alexander Dowie shook the world at the turn of the century with his passion for truth and zeal for the work of the Spirit. He brought to the forefront divine healing and repentance by shaking up a complacent Church and slaking the thirst of a parched society. He is known as the Healing Apostle of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Untold millions came to a revelation of Christ and the living power of the Holy Spirit through his deep conviction, unwavering faith and expansive vision.

He determined that his mission would reach the uncared for and perishing masses of the Chicago with the revelation that Christ was the same yesterday, today and forever. Soon there was not a person in Chicago who had not heard the Gospel message. The gifts of the Spirit began to manifest in his life and revelation abounded like never before. Because of his spiritual obedience, thousands were healed under his ministry. As a result of his healing ministry, John Alexander Dowie was arrested over 100 times in one year for practicing medicine without a license. Still he refused to shut down his Chicago healing rooms and instead continued to practice his anointing openly. Disgusted with the evil he saw in Chicago he often railed against the city's sinfulness. Following a desire for a pure Christian society, he eventually built his own city Zion just north of Chicago.

***Smith Wigglesworth (1859 - 1947)***

***I saw that God wants us so badly that He has made the condition as simple as He possibly could—"Only Believe."***

It is arguable that there is no more significant patriarch of the Pentecostal Movement than Smith Wigglesworth. While he was not the catalyst for breakthrough revivals such as the one in Wales led by Evan Roberts in 1904 or that of the Azusa Street Mission in 1906 that was led by William Seymour, it was Smith Wigglesworth's steady faith and staying power that made the Pentecostal revival the most significant Christian movement of the twentieth century.

Where other Pentecostal ministers would emerge overnight and then disappear from the public scene almost as quickly, Smith Wigglesworth traveled widely from after the death of his wife in 1913 until not long before his death in 1947. During these decades his ministry of faith and miracles changed the face of Christianity and set the stage for the Charismatic Renewal that would restore the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the modern church.



In 1922 Smith travelled to New Zealand and Australia, among other places, and in a few short months saw thousands saved and several Pentecostal churches birthed in the greatest spiritual renewals either nation had ever seen.

***Maria Woodworth-Etter (1870 - 1935)***

*I have been in great dangers; many times not knowing when I would be shot down, either in the pulpit, or going to and from meetings...But I said I would never run, nor compromise. The Lord would always put His mighty power on me, so that He took all fear away, and made me like a giant...If in any way they had tried to shoot, or kill me, He would have struck them dead, and I sometimes told them so.<sup>1</sup>*

After being supernaturally healed from a sickness that had plagued her for many years, Maria entered into the ministry. Unlike the stoic church order of the late 1800s, Maria believed in shouting, dancing, singing, and preaching. She believed that emotional displays were important, as long as they were in order. And she believed that a lack of physical manifestation was a sign of apostasy. Maria was the only leading evangelist of the Holiness Movement who embraced the Pentecostal experience of speaking in tongues. She was able to capture entire cities in her tent revivals that would last for up to 7 months. In her meetings people would experience both the convicting and refreshing presence of the Holy Spirit, receive spiritual and physical healing, and be changed forever in a moment.

She has been called the grandmother of the Pentecostal movement. None has done more than Maria Woodworth-Etter to shed light on the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, the role of women in ministry, and the power of miracle crusades to revive a nation. In addition, she brought insight on how to effectively administrate massive miracle crusades, build sustainable ministry centers and manage opposition in the public arena. Her commitment and dedication personally influenced such great heroes of the faith as Smith Wigglesworth, Aimee Semple McPherson, John Alexander Dowie, John G. Lake, E.W. Kenyon, F.F. Bosworth, and Kathryn Kuhlman.

***John G Lake (1870 - 1935)***

*No words of mine can convey to another soul the cry that was in my heart and the flame of hatred for death and sickness that the Spirit of God had stirred within me. The very wrath of God seemed to possess my soul!*

These words summarized the passion that propelled the life-long ministry of John G. Lake. He spoke these words in reference to the intensity of emotion he felt as his thirty-four year old sister lay dying. He had already witnessed eight of his fifteen siblings die from illness-- yet he had also witnessed the miraculous healing of his own childhood rheumatoid arthritis, as well as a sister's cancer and brother's blood disease under the ministry of John Alexander Dowie. It was already too late to take this sister who now lay dying to Dowie's Healing Home in Chicago, so he telegraphed Dowie with a desperate plea for prayer. Dowie telegraphed back: "Hold on to God. I am praying. She will live." That simple declaration caused John Lake to wage a furious spiritual attack on the power of death - and within the hour his sister was completely healed.

It was battles such as this—at death's very door—that brought John G. Lake face to face with his convictions. Was he going to stand by as the enemy took yet another loved one from him, or was he going to choose to stand in the enemy's way? Such an opportunity again presented itself on April 28, 1898, when his wife of five years lay dying. Jennie battled for breath in her final hours when Lake finally put his foot down. He would not tolerate the enemy stealing away the mother of his children and his spiritual partner. He determined to believe God's Word as it was revealed to him for her healing and at 9:30 a.m. he contended for her life in prayer upon which she rose up healed, praising the Lord



in a loud voice. News spread of Jennie's miraculous healing, and from that time on, John Lake was sought after for the power of his healing anointing.

Having learned from pain and loss in his own life John G Lake was a man qualified to preach and walk in divine healing. His revelation on healing drew multitudes in Africa where, eventually his wife literally worked herself to death. Lakes's final years of ministry in Spokane Washington would lead to the city's reputation as the "healthiest in the Nation". He set up Healing Rooms which are still in existence today.

***William Seymour (1870 -1922***

***When people run out of the love of God, they get to preaching dress, and meats, and doctrines of men and preaching against churches. All these denominations are our brethren... So let us seek peace and not confusion... The moment we feel we have all the truth or more than anyone else, we will drop.***

William J.Seymour is best known for ushering in the Pentecostal Movement that began with the Azusa Street mission in 1906. He was one of the first to preach and minister around the importance of being baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. As hungry believers sought this experience, as they prayed and pressed God to baptize them with fire, revival broke out in Southern California that gained momentum and sparked a Pentecostal "wave of the Spirit" that revolutionized evangelism and worship across the nation. Seymour's "Azusa Street Revival" gave rise to several charismatic denominations, as well as introducing the "nondenominational" Christianity so common today.

Sometimes the services in Azusa Street ran continuously for ten to twelve hours; sometimes they ran for several days and nights. Some said the congregation never tired because they were so energized by the Holy Spirit. Many gathered after the services in the early morning hours talking about the Lord under the streetlights. Azusa began operating day and night. The entire building had been organized for full use.

Great emphasis was placed on the blood of Jesus, inspiring the group to a higher standard of living. Divine love began to manifest, allowing no unkind words to be spoken of another. The people were careful to make sure that the Spirit of God wouldn't be grieved. Both rich and poor, unlearned and educated, sat together on the makeshift pews.

It was said that the power of God could be felt at Azusa, even outside of the building. Scores of people were seen dropping into a prostrate position in the streets before they ever reached the missions. Then many would rise, speaking in tongues without any assistance from those inside.

***Aimee Semple McPherson (1890 - 1935)***

***Show me a better way to persuade willing people to come to church and I'll be happy to try your method. But please. . . don't ask me to preach to empty seats. Let's not waste our time quarreling over methods. God has use for all of us. Remember the recipe in the old adage for rabbit stew? It began, "first catch your rabbit." 1***

Perhaps what Aimee Semple McPherson is most remembered for today is founding the Foursquare denomination that is still growing today. However, her life was marked by an unprecedented boldness in speaking and ministry from early childhood. She accomplished what no man had yet been able to do in ministry when in 1922 she built a five thousand-seat auditorium in a prestigious area of Los Angeles, which became the envy of Hollywood theater owners. On opening day, January 1, 1923, the new Angelus Temple was featured on



a float in Pasadena's Tournament of Roses parade—while the extravagant dedication service was given full coverage in the New York Times. What became the home of "The Church of the Foursquare Gospel" filled four times each Sunday and twice weekly. Aimee also ministered at highly sought after healing services during the week.

Movie stars such as Mary Pickford, Jean Harlow, Charlie Chapman, and Anthony Quinn were known to attend Sunday services at the famous Angelus Temple. As a dramatic, theatrical person herself, Aimee used drama, music, opera, and extravagant stage sets to convey the gospel. Over the course of her life, she composed 175 songs and hymns, several operas, and thirteen drama-oratorios.<sup>1</sup>

Equipped with a divine healing anointing, Aimee's focus remained always on the lost. Each week, she would fill and empty her 5,000 seat auditorium 21 times, offering priceless healing and teaching to each attendee. But the work of God did not come without cost; hers was a life of private heartache and great persecution.

***William M. Branham (1909 - 1965)***

***God didn't put His endorsement upon one particular church, but He revealed that the pure in heart would see God . . . Let the fellow believe whatever he wants to about it. These things don't amount to very much anyhow. Be brothers, have fellowship with one another.***<sup>1</sup>

William Branham was beyond doubt a man of notable signs and wonders. From birth, supernatural manifestations marked his life. He truly walked with God for a time, but in the latter years of his life, began to err in doctrine and veer from his true calling. He did indeed have a divine impartation to minister healing and deliverance. A modern day prophet of biblical proportion, he healed the multitudes and delivered the afflicted from all kinds of demonic bondages and strongholds. He walked in the Spirit, guided by visions and angels: For a period of time the supernatural seemed to permeate his life and all he set his hand to.

During the height of Branham's ministry, from 1946-1954, great men came alongside him to promote and partner with him; men such as Gordon Lindsey, F.F. Bosworth, and Jack Moore. Branham's healing team launched what became known as the Voice of Healing magazine, which gave rise to the great healing revival of the early 1950s. This movement directly impacted T.L. Osborn, Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, and others so that today the wider church has a firmer grasp on the truths regarding faith and healing.

What Branham lacked in formal education, God made up for in the Spirit. He was aided in ministry by an angel of God and the gift of the word of knowledge as he revealed the secrets of men's hearts. Used by God to heal and set the mentally tormented free, Branham would later fall into a deception that would eventually cost him his life.

***A.A.Allen (1911 - 1970)***

***Night after night, the waves of Divine Glory so sweep over the congregation that many testify of being healed while sitting in their seats.***<sup>1</sup>

Asa Alonzo Allen was perhaps one of the most important revivalists to emerge during the Voice of Healing revival.<sup>2</sup> He was certainly the most sensational of his time, and not surprisingly drew a great deal of criticism and controversy. But all told, he was faithful to pursue God's call on his life and as a result ushered a mighty move of the Spirit that swept the nation with powerful miracles, signs and wonders. In a time when the impact of other healing evangelists was diminishing, Allen was gathering momentum. Throughout the 1950's, and into the 1960's, Allen built a far-reaching worldwide ministry ultimately comprising an international radio program, magazine, Bible school and ministry training center, as well as overseas missions programs. The backbone of his ministry, however, was the massive tent revivals and healing crusades.



One of the most persecuted of God's Generals, Allen operated his healing ministry with a heart for God's people.

Here are eleven of the thirteen things Allen said the Lord told him he must understand and do to see His Miracle-Working Power:

1. He must realize he couldn't do greater quality miracles than Jesus.
2. He could walk as Jesus walked.
3. He must be blameless like God Himself.
4. He must measure himself to Jesus alone.
5. He must deny his fleshly desires with fasting.
6. After self-denial, he must follow Jesus seven days a week.
7. Without God, he could do nothing.
8. He must do away with sin in his body.
9. He must not continue in shallow, pointless discussions.
10. He must give his body wholly to God forever.
11. He must believe all of God's promises.

The remaining two guidelines were "pet sins" that God had pointed out by name, which Allen felt he could not share.<sup>4</sup>

**Jack Coe (1918 - 1957)**

*God's going to open the eyes of the blind and cause the lame to walk, and the deaf to hear. He's going to do it right here in this church tomorrow night.<sup>1</sup>*

Jack Coe was an independent and determined force for Christ. He had an unreserved faith in the Word of God that he combined with a frank audacity which made him both controversial and effective as a healing evangelist. During the height of the Voice of Healing revivals, from 1945-1956, Coe ministered throughout the nation to multitudes of lost, sick, and dying. His crusades were unprecedented as his tent revivals grew to become the largest in history. He boasted of a tent larger than even Oral Roberts or the Ringling Brothers big top, and still turned away thousands every night.

But perhaps most memorable was his compassion for orphans. He built a home for children called the Herald of Healing Children's Home, as well as a Christian day school at the Dallas Revival Center he established. Among his other notable accomplishments were the construction of a live-in faith home for the sick where healing was ministered through teaching as well as prayer; the Revival Center Church where people could attend services every night of the week; and the Herald of Healing publication that reached 300,000 subscribers by the time of his death in 1957 at only the age of 38.

Jack's humble beginnings at an orphanage where he was left by his father prepared him for God's work, including setting up his own boy's home. Empowered by his radical salvation experience, Coe threw himself into God's work often bearing criticism for his gruff nature and reckless faith. The blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk.

**Kathryn Kuhlman (1907 -1976)**

*The world called me a fool for having given my entire life to One whom I've never seen. I know exactly what I'm going to say when I stand in His presence. When I look upon that wonderful face of Jesus, I'll have just one thing to say: 'I tried.' I gave of myself the best I knew how. My redemption will have been perfected when I stand and see Him who made it all possible.*



In a time that was suspicious of both women ministers and Pentecostals, Kathryn Kuhlman shook twentieth-century Christianity back to its roots. Believers of all persuasions—Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, or whatever, it didn't matter—flocked to her meetings to be healed or filled with the Holy Spirit as they had read about in the book of Acts. Though she called herself “an ordinary person,” the effects of her ministry were anything but ordinary. Kathryn was one of a handful of ministers after World War II who prophetically reintroduced the Holy Spirit and His gifts to the body of Christ on the earth in what has proven the greatest revival of all time: the Charismatic Renewal. As Kathryn searched the Scriptures about divine healing, she made a life-changing discovery. She read that healing was provided for the believer at the same time as salvation, and it was at this time that she began to better understand the believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit. Then one night, a woman stood to give a testimony of healing. At Kathryn's service the night before, without anyone laying hands on her and without Kathryn being aware of it, this woman had been healed of a tumor. She had even gone to her doctor to confirm her healing. Then that next Sunday, a second miracle occurred. A World War I veteran who had been declared legally blind from an industrial accident had eighty-five percent of his vision restored in the permanently impaired eye and perfect eyesight restored to his other eye.

The crowds at the Tabernacle grew. Auditoriums would fill to capacity hours before she was to speak, and thousands were turned away. Countless miracles took place, most without any touch or prayer by Kathryn. She would simply walk the stage and call out healings as they took place where people sat. Sections of those in wheelchairs would walk. In one service, a five-year-old boy who had been crippled from birth walked onto the stage. In another in Philadelphia she laid hands on a man who had received a pacemaker eight months earlier, and the scar from the operation disappeared. Later x-rays confirmed that the pacemaker had as well!

Great healing services continued and her ministry expanded to the neighboring towns. In 1950, a worldwide ministry began to develop and Kathryn's messages were heard all over the United States via radio and her television broadcast, *I Believe in Miracles*. She grew so popular that she made appearances on *The Johnny Carson Show* and *The Dinah Shore Show* among several others. For the last ten years of her life, she held monthly services at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where she ministered to countless thousands.

### Oral Roberts (1918 - 2009)

Granville "Oral" Roberts was an [American Pentecostal televangelist](#) and a [Christian charismatic](#). He founded the [Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association](#) and [Oral Roberts University](#).

As one of the most well-known and controversial religious leaders of the 20th century, Roberts' ministries reached millions of followers worldwide spanning a period of over six decades. His [healing](#) ministry and bringing American [Pentecostalism](#) into the mainstream had the most impact, but he also pioneered TV [evangelism](#) and laid the foundations of the prosperity gospel and [abundant life](#) teachings.

**There are many other names that we could add to this list of God's Generals:**

- Kenneth Hagin
- Kenneth and Gloria Copeland
- Benny Hinn
- Randy Clarke
- Bill Johnson
- Cal Pierce



- Joaquin Evans
- John Mellor

I believe that God is raising up an army of God's Generals - not just one a one man show - who know Whose they are, What they carry and will take the love and the healing power of God to a world that so desperately needs an encounter with the God who loves them.

People like Randy Clark, Bill Johnson and Cal Pierce are equipping the saints for the work of the gospel.

This course will equip YOU to be a general in God's army.

Will YOU take hold of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit and release what you carry?



# Session 2

## Events in History that have affected what we believe about Healing today!

Now we find the early church doing just what Jesus had instructed them to do in the book of Acts and into the early centuries A.D.

**But factors occurred in society and the church which started to water down the Word of God and we find the traditions of men robbed the world and the church of the power of God to heal.**

**Sociological factors** - are those factors in the society of the day that in some way impact the Church's purity and power or affect the Church's focus on this world or the next eg When the church's focus is more on the second coming of Jesus, less emphasis is put on healing in this world.

- Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity and the edict of Milan in 313 A.D. this edict made Christianity a legal religion in the Roman Empire. Previously, persecution had kept Christianity pure and there were very few nominal Christians. However after legalization the church began to include many people who bore the name Christian but did not have a genuine conversion experience.
- Christianity was adopted as an official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 A.D. This caused a flood of nominal members to join the church which weakened the faith and power of the church.
- The fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. and the terrible living conditions of the Dark Ages between 400 and 1400A.D. caused people to focus on the next life rather than looking for healing in this life. Because of the terrible conditions of this life people were anxious to escape and move onto a better place - the afterlife which is a normal human response to tragic circumstances.
- The scientific rationalism of the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with its reliance on reason as the basis for religious truth resulted in denial of miracles and healings, which caused many to lose their faith in healing.
- The advancement of medical science was accompanied by a loss of belief in the human soul. Modern medicine treated the patient's symptoms with medicine rather than treating the underlying causes of sickness - the unity of the body, soul and spirit had been denied. Fortunately there is now a shift back to the biblical view of treating the person as a whole in which if one part becomes ill, it can affect the other two. We are gaining a clearer understanding that when the principles of scripture are not followed, the soul becomes sick resulting in unforgiveness, bitterness, cynicism and judgmentalism.

**Theological factors** affecting belief in healing and the gifts of the Spirit within the Roman Catholic Church



- Within the Roman Catholic Church, Augustine became a Christian in 387 A.D. and died in 430. He was one of the strongest leaders in the western church and impacted its theology. Prior to Augustine and for a few hundred years after him, the predominant understanding of life was the warfare worldview - the forces of evil were at war against Christ and His Church. This warfare caused the sicknesses and demonic bondages people experienced. Within this world view believers were to fight against sickness, disease and demonic oppression through the power of the Holy Spirit. However Augustine's writings eventually moved the Church to a blueprint view - an understanding that everything in life happens due to the predetermined will of God. This caused a major shift in the thinking of the church regarding healing which is still prevalent today in many places. Instead of believing that sickness was brought on by the devil (who ought to be resisted), people believed that God brought on sickness for a person's spiritual sanctification. Therefore to pray against an illness could be viewed as resisting God. Instead of praying for healing, believers began to pray for discernment about why God might have brought sickness or disease into someone's life.
- Jerome's mistranslation of James 5:14 15

Properly translated these verses should read "Is any among you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven." The phrase will make the sick person well comes from the Greek word for heal but Jerome translated the word as save instead. This eventually led to changing the sacrament of "Anointing of the Sick" (which was not reserved for the dying), to the Last Rights or Extreme Unction which was given to a person who was dying and not expected to recover.

- Thomas Aquinas attempted to marry together Christian theology and Aristotelian philosophy in his "Summa Theologica" which he presented to the Arab world as the Gospel. As a consequence the church would now emphasize reason more than revelation and value the material rather than the spiritual. At the end of his life Aquinas changed his views as a result of an experience he had on 6th December 1273. After that experience he wrote, "I can write no more. All I have written seems so much like straw compared with what I have seen and what has been revealed to me. 3 months later he died on a mission's trip for the Pope. Others had to finish his Summa Theologica, and we can only wonder if his experience would have changed his theology if he had lived long enough to process it into his theology.
- The Roman Church's understanding of the gifts of the Spirit moved from an emphasis on the supernatural aspects to an understanding of the gifts based on much more natural aspects. Pope Gregory the Great, whose papacy ran from 590 - 604 A.D. created a list of the gifts of the Spirit that consisted of wisdom, science, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear. The gifts of healing and the working of miracles were not mentioned in his list. Neither were words of knowledge, words of wisdom or prophecy.
- Healings, miracles and the dead being raised came to be used as evidence of true doctrine or the deity of Christ rather than the primary purpose of healings and miracles which is the demonstration of the Gospel and the goodness of God.



- The Roman Church's theology did not distinguish the context of Jesus' sufferings or later Paul's references. Mistakenly, suffering in sickness was seen as carrying our cross and glorifying Jesus in our suffering - whereas instead suffering should have been seen as persecution for the Gospel.

These factors in the Roman church also affected the Protestant church which never challenged most of them but other factors also affected the Protestant church.

- **Liberalism** (around for about 300 years) - A liberal theologian does not believe in anything supernatural in the Bible, nor would they believe that anything supernatural would happen today.
- **Cessationism** (around for 500 years) - A cessationist believes that the Bible records historical events that were certainly supernatural but that these events such as miracles, healings, signs and wonders ended either with the death of the last apostle or with the canonization of the Bible. They do believe that God could work miracles today as sovereign answers to prayer. However, such answers are not seen as the norm, but rather as quite rare. The gifts of healing and the working of miracles no longer exist in the sense of someone having these gifts. Their argument is based on their belief that healings and miracles were given to prove correct doctrine and to vindicate the apostle's ministry as writers of Scripture. If healings and miracles could still happen, then the canon of Scripture would not be closed and new doctrines could be given. This is the basis of cessationism.

The problem with this position is that miracles and healings were not primarily as evidence of correct doctrine. They are a part of the gospel, the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand that in Jesus ministry the Kingdom had been inaugurated and would continue until His second coming. Healings, miracles signs and wonders will continue until Jesus returns.

Neither system would believe in the possibility that people have the gift to heal or work miracles today. Protestant church pastors have been trained in these beliefs. Therefore they would not teach their people to have faith for healing, rather they would teach them to deny -present day miracles or healings as impossible or fraudulent.

- **Dispensationalism** has had a negative impact on the Church's faith for healing and miracles. Based on the revelation of a 15 y.o girl named Margaret MacDonald who received it in a vision in 1830, it is the source of the pre-tribulation understanding of Jesus second coming. The offices and the gifts active in the early church would end and that the church would be weak and lukewarm at the return of Jesus. It also taught that prior to the return of Jesus lying sins and wonders would occur to lead people away from the faith. This view is ultra pessimistic, leaving no place for an end time glorious church.
- **Neoorthodoxy** is a 20<sup>th</sup> century development in Protestant theology originating with Karl Barth and Emil Brunner. Barth was also a cessationist. It embraced liberalism's belief that nothing supernatural would happen today and was taught to thousands of seminarians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It did not allow or expect any healings or miracles.
- **New Liberalism** - more radical than liberalism. It totally rejects the supernatural by not considering the event really occurred. Liberalism says the event occurred and tried to explain it away using natural means. New Liberalism says that the



event was not real but a myth/story made up to teach a theological truth and not a historical event at all - it never really occurred. This thinking was developed by Rudolph Bultmann and Paul Tillich. It was not considered necessary for a story to have actually taken place in history to make its point. Real truth was to be found in the theology communicated within mythological stories in the New Testament.

- **Fundamentalism** - was a reaction to the liberalism of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - popularized by the writings of the Princeton theologian BB Warfield a Presbyterian, reformed theologian. He wrote a book "Counterfeit Miracles" published in 1918 which spoke against the continuation of miracles. He was a cessationist. The fundamentalists believed that that Bible was true historically and that supernatural events took place through the apostles until the apostles died. They tried to regain control of the teachings in institutions of the American church but failed and so they started new schools. They, like the liberals believed the gifts of healing and working of miracles would not happen in the present day. More accurately, the fundamentalists believed that these gifts were no longer in existence. They believed a healing could occur, but not due to the gifts of healing. It would be due to God sovereignly responding to intercessory prayer on behalf of the sick person. And these answers were not seen as the norm but as rare.

Both the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church made decisions that negatively impacted believer's faith for healings and miracles.

#### Roman Catholic Church Factors

- 1) The Middle Age's period of moral corruption and the Church's failure to correct it caused a decrease in healing - lukewarmness, lack of purity led to a corresponding lack of power.
- 2) The Church gradually relegated healings and miracles to the Catholic saints and accused common people who moved in these gifts of witchcraft. It was believed that exceptional holiness, including consecration to God as part of a religious order or the priesthood was necessary for a person to display gifts of healing and miracles. The laity therefore were made to feel not holy or good enough and many of them were tortured or burned at the stake for displaying these gifts.
- 3) After 1967, when the prayers of the Pope John XXIII were answered for a new Pentecost, this visitation of the Spirit was only allowed in small charismatic groups and fellowships within the local church. It did not allow this charismatic dimension into the main liturgical services of the Church.

#### Protestant Church Factors

- 1) The restriction of Johann Blumhardt's ministry in Germany. He lived from 1805 - 1880 and was one of the first people in Protestantism to pray for the sick with effectiveness. He had a powerful healing ministry - so powerful that the Lutheran denomination asked him to stop praying for the sick because it was causing jealousy and problems with people coming from outside his parish to receive prayer. Healings and revival broke out after he delivered a woman of a demon. Because of the pressure not to pray for the sick as part of his parish ministry, he resigned and began a Healing centre in 1853.
- 2) London Presbyterian minister Edward Irving was defrocked (his ordination was taken from him because he believed in the restoration of the gifts and offices of the early church to the Church of his day. He preached the gifts of the Holy Spirit



and saw them in operation in his church. His defrocking sent a message to other pastors who might be interested in the renewal of the Spirit that it could cost them their church, ordination and livelihood.

- 3) The Protestant church's violent reaction to the Pentecostal movement. Praise God this has greatly decreased and today, 80% of all Christians in the Southern Hemisphere have had a Pentecostal experience with the Holy Spirit and His gifts.
- 4) Bible Colleges and seminaries discriminated against Pentecostals and charismatics, not allowing them to attend if they spoke in tongues. This too has seen great changes.
- 5) The Protestant mission boards were firing missionaries who spoke in tongues or taught that the healing gifts were for today. The Southern mission board officially adopted this position in 2007!
- 6) Denominations began disfellowshipping individual churches that began to have charismatic experiences such as speaking in tongues, falling under the power, having prophecies come forth or healing ministries.
- 7) Similar to the Roman Catholic Church some Protestant denominations accommodated their charismatic pastors and people by allowing them to form small groups or fellowships in their local churches, but they did not allow the worship services or liturgies to become charismatic in expression. This quarantine measure kept the gifts out of the services while keeping the charismatic members in the congregation - compromise!
- 8) The moral failure of high visibility leaders in Protestant Healing ministries. This caused many people to stop believing in the message of healing that these people brought before they fell into sin.



# Session 3

## Healing Rooms Training Part 1

### The Father's Heart

Once we know God's heart towards us, we will not need to argue the theology as to whether healing and miracles are available to us today - Chris Gore Bethel Healing Rooms.

God reveals His heart towards His children throughout the Bible.

Let's look at this Old Testament passage -

**Hosea 11:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Yet I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms or taking them up in My arms, but they did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup> I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love, and I was to them as one who lifts up and eases the yoke over their cheeks, and I bent down to them and gently laid food before them.

- God is talking about Ephraim and his descendants. Ephraim is Joseph's youngest son. Joseph had 2 sons Manasseh and Ephraim.
- **I believe God is also speaking to us.** He is our Father, our heavenly Father and He is speaking to us as His children, His much loved sons and daughters.
- You might have had a great earthly Father or "a not so great" Dad. Your relationship with your Dad greatly affects the way you view your Heavenly Father.
- **I believe in this passage God is revealing Himself to us as the very best Father on the planet.**

**Listen to His heart for you, close your eyes - see with the eyes of your spirit the love of your Heavenly Father for you -**

**God is saying to you -**

- I taught you to walk, I took you by the hand as a young child and helped you to get on your feet and I am still helping you. I will be with you right throughout your life helping you to walk on the good path that I have prepared for you. **Psalm 73:23**  
<sup>23</sup>nevertheless I am continually with you; you do hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup>You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to honour and glory.
- When you stumbled and fell I picked you up in my arms and held you, cradled you, loved you. I am with you to help you when you fall.
- I drew you to me with bands of love - and continue to pour out my love upon you.
- My love and forgiveness is always reaching out to you.
- I lifted you up out of the difficult circumstances and situations of life that you found yourself in.
- I want to take the heavy burdens, the heavy yokes, the pressures and stress of life, all those things that weigh you down. I want to ease them from off your shoulders, remove them like a garment, over your cheeks and off your head and cast them far from you.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and



recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good-not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne.

- I bent down to you, so that you could see me face to face and I gently laid provision before you. I know what you need and I have provided it all for you.
- **Ephesians 1:3** Every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly realm is yours.
- **2 Peter 1:3** For His divine power has life (I have) bestowed upon (you) us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue).

This is God's heart for his children, for the world, for you and me.

**Pray** - Holy Spirit come and bring revelation knowledge to each one of us of your Father heart for us, minister Your love, Your healing power and provision to us. Come Holy Spirit confirm Your word with signs and wonders.

This beautiful passage in the New Testament reveals God's heart for His children and all He has provided for us through His Son Jesus.

### The prodigal son and His Dad

#### Luke 15:11-24

<sup>11</sup>And Jesus said, There was a certain man who had two sons;

<sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his Father, Father, give me the part of the property that falls [to me]. And he divided the estate between them.

<sup>13</sup>And not many days after that, the younger son gathered up all that he had and journeyed into a distant country, and there he wasted his fortune in reckless and loose [from restraint] living.

<sup>14</sup>And when he had spent all he had, a mighty famine came upon that country, and he began to fall behind and be in want.

<sup>15</sup>So he went and forced (glued) himself upon one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed hogs.

<sup>16</sup>And he would gladly have fed on and filled his belly with the carob pods that the hogs were eating, but [they could not satisfy his hunger and] nobody gave him anything [better].

<sup>17</sup>Then when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my Father have enough food, and [even food] to spare, but I am perishing (dying) here of hunger!

<sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my Father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight.

<sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called you son; [just] make me like one of your hired servants.

<sup>20</sup>So he got up and came to his [own] Father. But while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him and was moved with pity and tenderness [for Him]; and he ran and embraced him and kissed him [fervently].



21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son [I no longer deserve to be recognized as a son of yours]!

22 But the father said to his bond servants, bring quickly the best robe (the festive robe of honour) and put it on him; and give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet.

23 And bring out that wheat-fattened calf and kill it; and let us revel and feast and be happy and make merry,

24 Because this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to revel and feast and make merry.

- The younger son asks his Father for his share of the estate. In the light of Middle Eastern culture this would have been very offensive to the Father. It would be like saying I wish you were dead. I just want my share of your inheritance.
- So the Father distributes to the 2 sons their inheritance. The literal Greek translation is He gave them His life. Both sons received their inheritance on that day. Jesus gave His life for us so that we could have a share in His inheritance - We are joint heirs with Jesus - whatever He has, we have!
- So the younger son packs his bags and goes off and squanders all his money on extravagant and reckless living. He ends up with nothing and there's a famine in the land. He is forced to work for a pig farmer and the only thing left to eat is the slop fed to the pigs. This is not a good situation for a young Jewish lad - they don't eat pig/pork (for the Jew pigs are unclean) and they were forbidden to raise them.
- Thank God he comes to his senses and realizes that his Father's servants have it better than him. Not only does he change his mind but he also has a change of heart - he is sorry for what he has done to his Father. He decides he will return to his Father not as a son but as a servant - he humbles himself.
- And this is the verse I want to focus on, the Father's heart for his son-
- 20 So he got up and came to his [own] father. But while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him and was moved with pity and tenderness [for him]; and he ran and embraced him and kissed him [fervently].
- **Imagine this - see this scene with the eyes of your spirit -**
- The Father must have been looking out for his son from the day he left home, watching, waiting for the moment when his son would return. His son was always on his mind and in his heart.
- And this particular day as he is scanning the horizon he sees a small speck of a figure in the distance and instantly he recognizes his son. His son is coming home.
- Instead of waiting for the son to come to him, he picks up his robes and runs to meet his son. His son has come home, he hugs him and showers him with kisses - this dirty smelly son of his. He pours his love on him.
- There's no anger or condemnation thrown at the son, no punishment dished out to him, just love and forgiveness - bring the best robe, bring him a ring, bring him sandals. Let's have a party!
- The older son is another story.
- This is what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection on the cross.
- He has made the way for us to come back to our Heavenly Father.
- When we came to our senses and returned humbly back to God, our Heavenly Father, Heaven threw a party.
- The Father embraced us with His love, His mercy and forgiveness, His healing and provision.
- He welcomed us home as His beloved son and daughter.
- And we became heirs of salvation, joint heirs of all that He has with Jesus.



- He clothed us in His robe of righteousness - we are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus.
- He placed a ring, His seal of sonship on our finger. Culturally the ring was an emblem of authority, giving the son authority to transact business in the Father's name. This was a token of the seal of the Holy Spirit -
- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit. We walk this earth filled with Holy Spirit, just like Jesus walked this earth.
- We are given His authority to release His power on the earth.
- He healed us and empowered us to be healers of others.

Close your eyes - I want to bless your spirits.

- You are worthy of God's embrace, you are worthy of His forgiveness no matter what you have done, you are worthy of His love, His goodness, kindness and favour upon you, you are worthy of the robe of righteousness, the ring of authority he has given to you. You are worthy of joint seating with Jesus.
- Call people up into who He has made them and what He has provided for them.

The Father that Jesus is describing reveals to us God's heart for us. This is what I hear God revealing .....

- God's love and forgiveness are running towards us tonight.
- God's healing power is running towards us tonight.
- God's provision for all of our needs and desires is running towards us tonight.
- His enabling for the future, His empowering to step into our destiny and calling is running towards us tonight. He is not holding back from us.



## The Ministry of Jesus

When we see Jesus we see our Father in Heaven.

**John 14:7-12** Read

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

**Isaiah 7:14**...and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us)

**Matthew 1:23** Immanuel - God with us

**2 Corinthians 4:4**...the glory of Christ the Messiah who is the Image and likeness of God

**Colossians 1:15** Now He is the exact likeness of the unseen God (the visible representation of the invisible); the firstborn of all creation.

**Jesus revealed the heart of His Father**

**Jesus' mission on earth -**

**In Acts 10:38** Peter talks about: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

What He did while He was on the earth He is still doing. He is still in the healing business and He is good at His job.

**Let's have a look at a typical day in the life of Jesus**

**Matthew Chapter 8.**

In this chapter we read about many people healed by God's power flowing through Jesus.

- V2 a leper comes up to Jesus, worshipping Him he says, Lord if you are willing, You are able to cleanse me by curing me. This man must have heard about Jesus and all the miracles and healings that were happening around him. It would have taken great courage for him to approach Jesus - he was an outcast, no one wanted to hang around him, he had to live away from his village.
- What did Jesus do? V3 **He reached out His hand and touched him, I am willing;** be cleansed by being cured. And instantly his leprosy was cured and cleansed.
- Jesus goes on and a centurion (a Roman soldier) approaches Him with news that his servant boy is a home paralysed and in intense pain.
- V7 **Jesus immediate response is "I will come and restore him"**. This is heart of God to heal.
- V8 **But only speak the word** and my servant boy will be cured. Jesus marvels at his faith.
- V13 Jesus says, Go; and it shall be done for you as you have believed. And the servant boy was restored to health at that very moment.
- V14 Jesus goes on to the Peter's house and his mother-in-law is in bed with a fever. **He touches her hand and the fever leaves her.**
- V16 In the evening, they brought to him many who were under the power of demons and He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick.



## **They brought many to Him and He healed them all.**

Read following scriptures from booklet - Matthew 12:25, Matthew 14:36, Matthew 15:30, Luke 4:40, Luke 9:11, Acts 5:16 (Peter)

He healed them all - 100%

Jesus has set the bar for our Healing Ministry - **John 14:12** Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do He will do also, and greater works than these will he do, because I go to My Father.

## **Healing is in the atonement**

To atone for means to make amends as for a sin or fault.

Atonement means the reconciliation of man with God through the life, sufferings and sacrificial death of Christ.

God's plan for mankind!

John 3:16, 17 -

“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world, that He even gave up His One and only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost), but have eternal (everlasting) life.

For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him.

## **The Cross**

It is beyond my understanding to fully appreciate all that Jesus accomplished on the cross for us. He was God, one with God, He lived with God, and gave up all Heavenly rights and privileges and came to earth as one of us, a man. The creator became the created. He walked this earth as a man growing in His relationship with God, and at the age of 30 he was baptised in the river Jordan and the Holy Spirit came upon and anointed Him. From that point He walked this earth as a man in a close relationship with His Heavenly Father, anointed by the Holy Spirit, knowing His mission was to reveal the heart of Father God and save the world through sacrificing His life on the cross.

**Isaiah prophesies of this sacrificial death on the cross 700 years before the birth of Jesus.**

### **Isaiah 53:2-5**

- 1) For (the Servant of God) grew up before Him like a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground: He has no form of comeliness (royal, kingly pomp), that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.
- 2) He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him.



3) Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses and distresses), and carried our sorrows and pains (of punishment); yet we ignorantly considered Him stricken, smitten and afflicted by God (as if with leprosy).

4) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement (needful to obtain) peace and well-being for us was upon Him, And with the stripes that wounded Him we are healed and made whole.

Let's take a closer look at some of the words in these verses.

The word for **griefs** in verse 3, in Hebrew (Kholee) means sickness, affliction, wound, injury?

It says in the same verse that He has **borne** our griefs. The Hebrew word for borne (nasa) means to carry away, to pick up and move. And so we see that when Jesus hung on the cross He carried away the sicknesses, weaknesses, distresses, afflictions, wounds, injuries of mankind. He's picked them up and removed them from us.

In verse 3 it also says He carried our **sorrows** - the word for sorrows in Hebrew (Makob) means physical pain in the body, anguish, grief, and mental suffering.

He carried our physical pain and our mental pain.

The Hebrew word here for **carried** is Sabah which speaks of the action to unburden another of an unpleasant state or condition. By His sacrifice on the cross Jesus has taken on Himself all physical and mental suffering, He has taken the burden of this suffering from us. If He's got it we don't have to bear with it.

Verse 4 The punishment for our wellbeing was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed and made whole.

Jesus bore it all so that we could be well, spirit, soul and body.

And by His stripes we have been healed and made whole.

We need to grow in the revelation that we are no longer sinners - Jesus took the sin nature of mankind on Himself and we are now the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

We must also grow in the revelation that God placed on Jesus the sickness and disease of the world - physical, mental and emotional illnesses - so that we could live free from them. We are no longer the sick trying to get well. We are the healed! Sickness and disease have no place in us. They are like a thief and robber, stealing from us the health that Jesus has won for us.

### **John 10:10**

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, till it overflows.

We now partner with Him and the promises in His Word regarding healing to walk this truth out in our daily lives - we are healed and made whole.



It helps me to visualise Jesus on the cross bearing my physical conditions, the symptoms I am struggling with. He's got my sickness and now I have His healing. A divine exchange!

Let's look at this truth in the New Testament -

**Matthew 8:16-17**

When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons; and He drove out the spirits with a word, and restored to health all who were sick. And so He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He Himself took (in order to carry away) our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases".

Matthew reiterates the verse in Isaiah and clearly covers physical healing and deliverance.

**1 Peter 2:24**

He personally bore our sins in His (own) body on the tree (as on an altar and offered Himself on it), that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

Before the crucifixion Isaiah 53:5 states and by His stripes we have been healed and made whole.

After the crucifixion 1Peter 2:24 states by whose stripes you were healed.

Our healing is past tense. We thank Him for what He has already done. We are the healed!

That's why we can pray so boldly and confidently for healing. Jesus has already dealt with sickness. God wants us well. We are all on a journey of healing.

As we take communion we remember the broken body of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, we appropriate the forgiveness of sins and the healing of all diseases.

And now the call has gone forth for us to appropriate all that He has done for us and for others. To take His healing power to the world - heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead.....Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.



# Session 4

## Healing Rooms Training Part 2

### Knowing Our Power and Authority

Knowing your authority and power in Jesus will change your life - the way you pray, the way you live, the way you speak, what you accept into your life, what you refuse to accept....

Exercising your power and authority will bring the kingdom of Heaven to earth!

### Seizing the Kingdom of Heaven

And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize - a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]. (**Matthew 11:11 AMP**)

**Dakes Bible** - Greek - “blazo, to use by force, to force one’s way into a thing. The idea here is that before John, the kingdom could only be viewed in the light of prophecy, but now it was preached, men pressing into it with ardour resembling violence or desperation. They appeared as if they would seize it by force. It expresses the earnestness that men must have in getting rid of sin, all satanic powers, the world, and in standing true when relatives oppose them.”

It expresses the earnestness that we must have to see God’s kingdom established here on earth - to see healing restored back to its rightful place as part of the normal Christian life - to see Christians ministering God’s healing power to the world revealing the Father heart of God.

### We have been given the keys of the Kingdom

And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros - a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra - a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it]. (**Matthew 16:18 AMP**)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. [Isaiah 22:22] (**Matthew 16:19 AMP**)

In Heaven there is health, wholeness, love, peace, joy, abundance and we that’s what we lose here on earth.

Sickness, poverty, lack, hate, strife....is not Heaven and we bind it so that it cannot exist in our world.

### We’ve been given the power to declare and decree heaven on earth into situations



You shall also decide and decree a thing, and it shall be established for you; and the light [of God's favour] shall shine upon your ways. (**Job 22:28 AMP**)

We've been given the power to create our world through the words of our mouth. God created His world through His words - He has placed the same power of creativity in us. We speak words of life and the Holy Spirit hovers over them and creates what we speak.

IN THE beginning God (prepared, formed, fashioned, and) created the heavens and the earth. [Hebrew 11:3] The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. (**Genesis 1:1-3 AMP**)

### **A divine exchange**

When Jesus hung on the cross, He not only took the sin of the world upon His Being, He took the disease of mankind upon His Body, He took all lack upon Himself. Everything that was lost to us at the fall of mankind when the devil tempted Adam and Eve in the garden was restored back to us by the death and resurrection of Jesus. The garden of Eden was heaven on earth - Heaven on earth is now ours for the taking! He took our sin nature and gave us His righteousness, He took our sickness, weakness and disease and gave us His healing, spirit, soul and body, He took our lack and gave us Heaven's resources.

### **Jesus instructed His disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer**

Pray, therefore, like this: Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed (kept holy) be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (**Matthew 6:9-10 AMP**) Pray Heaven on earth, decree Heaven on earth, create Heaven on earth.

### **God given power authority**

Jesus gave His disciples power and authority - THEN JESUS called together the Twelve [apostles] and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure disease, And He sent them out to announce and preach the kingdom of God and to bring healing. (**Luke 9:1-2 AMP**)

### **Jesus gave the 70 power and authority**

And heal the sick in it and say to them: The kingdom of God has come close to you. (**Luke 10:9 AMP**) The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name! And He said to them, I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven. (**Luke 10:17-18 AMP**) Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you. (**Luke 10:19 AMP**)

### **Jesus gave us power and authority**

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth. (**Acts 1:8 AMP**)

### **Jesus had authority over sin and sickness**



But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins and remit the penalty, he then said to the paralyzed man, Get up! Pick up your sleeping pad and go to your own house. (**Matthew 9:6 AMP**)

AGAIN JESUS went into a synagogue, and a man was there who had one withered hand [as the result of accident or disease]. And [the Pharisees] kept watching Jesus [closely] to see whether He would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might get a charge to bring against Him [formally]. And He said to the man who had the withered hand, Get up [and stand here] in the midst. And He said to them, Is it lawful and right on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to take it? But they kept silence. And He glanced around at them with vexation and anger, grieved at the hardening of their hearts, and said to the man, Hold out your hand. He held it out, and his hand was [completely] restored. (**Mark 3:1-5 AMP**)

### **Jesus had authority over demons**

Just at that time there was in their synagogue a man [who was in the power] of an unclean spirit; and now [immediately] he raised a deep and terrible cry from the depths of his throat, saying, What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are-the Holy One of God! And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hush up (be muzzled, gagged), and come out of him! And the unclean spirit, throwing the man into convulsions and screeching with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all so amazed and almost terrified that they kept questioning and demanding one of another, saying, What is this? What new (fresh) teaching! With authority He gives order even to the unclean spirits and they obey Him! And immediately rumours concerning Him spread [everywhere] throughout all the region surrounding Galilee. (**Mark 1:23-28 AMP**)

### **Jesus had authority over nature**

And He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Hush now! Be still (muzzled)! And the wind ceased (sank to rest as if exhausted by its beating) and there was [immediately] a great calm (a perfect peacefulness). He said to them, Why are you so timid and fearful? How is it that you have no faith (no firmly relying trust)? And they were filled with great awe and feared exceedingly and said one to another, Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him? (**Mark 4:39-41 AMP**)

### **Jesus had authority over death**

When He had said this, He shouted with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out! And out walked the man who had been dead, his hands and feet wrapped in burial cloths (linen strips), and with a [burial] napkin bound around his face. Jesus said to them, "Free him of the burial wrappings and let him go". Upon seeing what Jesus had done, many of the Jews who had come with Mary believed in Him. [They trusted in Him and adhered to Him and relied on Him.] (**John 11:43-45 AMP**)

**The early church continued what Jesus had begun.**

### **Peter and John healing the crippled man at the temple gate**

NOW PETER and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon), [When] a certain man crippled from his birth was being carried along, who was laid each day at that gate of the temple [when is] called Beautiful, so that he might beg for charitable gifts from those who entered the temple. So when he



saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him a gift. And Peter directed his gaze intently at him, and so did John, and said, “Look at us!” And [the man] paid attention to them, expecting that he was going to get something from them. But Peter said, Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but what I do have, that I give to you: in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! Then he took hold of the man’s right hand with a firm grip and raised him up. And at once his feet and ankle bones became strong and steady, And leaping forth he stood and began to walk, and he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking about and praising God. (Acts 3:1-9 AMP)

### **Philip releasing miracles and wonders in Samaria**

Philip [the deacon, not the apostle] went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to them [the people]; [Acts 6:5] And great crowds of people with one accord listened to and heeded what was said by Philip, as they heard him and watched the miracles and wonders which he kept performing [from time to time]. For foul spirits came out of many who were possessed by them, screaming and shouting with a loud voice, and many who were suffering from palsy or were crippled were restored to health. And there was great rejoicing in that city. (Acts 8:5-8 AMP)

### **Paul healing the crippled man**

At Lystra a man sat who found it impossible to use his feet, for he was a cripple from birth and had never walked. He was listening to Paul as he talked, and [Paul] gazing intently at him and observing that he had faith to be healed, Shouted at him, saying, Stand erect on your feet! And he leaped up and walked. And the crowds, when they saw what Paul had done, lifted up their voices, shouting in the lycaonian language, The gods have come down to us in human form! (Acts 14:8-11 AMP)

### **The Great Commission to the church**

Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, “All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen” (so let it be). (Matthew 28:18-20 AMP)

### **Jesus positioned now in Heaven**

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, Which he exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come. And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], [Psalm 8:6] Which is His body, the fullness of



Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself]. (**Ephesians 1:16-23 AMP**)

### **Our position in Him**

Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] short comings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favour and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgement and made partakers of Christ's salvation). And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (**Ephesians 2:5-6 AMP**)

[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]. (**Colossians 2:15 AMP**) My revelation - in the chariot with Jesus! We are joint heirs with Jesus, seated right next to Him in heavenly places, sharing the victory He has won for us.

### **We are in a battle but we win!**

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armour [the armour of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despoticisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. Therefore put on God's complete armour, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace. [Isaiah 52:7]. Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one]. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. Pray at all times (one every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints. (God's consecrated people). (**Ephesians 6:10-18 AMP**)

For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One), (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 AMP**)

### **What are the weapons of our warfare?**

The Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, praise, worship, sacrifice, giving, rest, trust, surrender to God...

### **In Conclusion**



Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him who loved us. (**Romans 8:37 AMP**) But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ. (**1 Corinthians 15:57 AMP**)

Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world. (**1 John 4:4**)

Knowing who we are in Christ, what He has done for us on the cross and exercising the power and authority that He has given us will cause us to walk in victory and release that victorious life into the lives of those in our world!

## The Healing Word

I love the Word of God.

It is our strong foundation, our rock on which to build our lives.

It is our solid platform on which we stand and launch out into the realms of the Spirit.

All word we dry up, all spirit we blow up but the word and the spirit together we grow up.

This is what God thinks about His Word-

God has exalted His word above His Name Ps 138: :2 You have exalted above all else your Name and Your Word and You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name.

Psalm 119:89 Forever Oh Lord Your word is settled in Heaven (stands firm as the Heaven)

The Word is eternal - heaven and earth will pass away but his word will go on forever. Is it eternal on the page? It's eternal when we speak the work out of our mouth - it has an eternal effect.

John 1: 14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh ( human, incarnate) and tabernacled ( fixed his tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we (actually) saw His Glory ( His honour, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from His Father, full of grace ( favour, loving-kindness) and truth.

Jesus was the Word spoken by God at the beginning of creation. God spoke the word which was Jesus and the Holy Spirit who was hovering over the the waters made it happen. Let there be light and there was light!

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds ( during the successive ages) were framed ( fashioned, put on order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the Word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.

The Word of God brought things from the invisible, from within His heart and mind into the visible.



His Word has the power to create, to form and fashion something out of nothing, to change things in this physical world.

### **The Word is true**

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man that He should tell or act a lie, neither the son of man, that He should feel repentance or compunction (for a what He has promised). Has He said and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken and shall He not make good... 2Cor 1:18-20 as surely as God is trustworthy and faithful and means what He says, our speech and message to you have not been yes (that might mean) no. Read from bible.

### **God's Word contains and releases healing power**

Psalm 107:20 He sends forth His Word and heals them and rescues them from the pit and destruction.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void ( without producing any effect useless) but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

The Word has power in it to perform what it says it will do. Proverbs 4: 20 -22 My son, attend to My words; consent and submit to My sayings, Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh.

God spoke and the world was created Genesis 1: 1 -4

And He has given us the same creative power by the words that we speak.

We create our worlds by the words of our mouth for good or evil.

Proverbs 18: 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it (for death or life). Proverbs 12:18 There are these who speak rashly, like he piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Matt 8:8 the Centurion whose servant boy is ill at home says to Jesus- I am not worthy or fit to have you come under my roof, but only speak the word, and my servant boy will be cured.

We can bless or curse ourselves and others by our words.

Example of Irene - Romans 8:8 And if the Spirit of Him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal ( short lived, perishable ) bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. A lady in this course a couple of years ago - daughter with anorexia - took hold of the scripture Matt 15: 22- 28. That even the crumbs that her daughter was eating would nourish her body and restore her to health. Within days she saw amazing changes in her daughter and by the end of the week the daughter was eating normally.



### **The Word of God brings life**

John 6:63 Jesus said: The words truth that I have been speaking to you are spirit and life.

So be aware of the words that you speak - are they words of life or death.

It's killing me

I'm sick and tired of this happening

I am so tired, stressed, busy

Don't speak sickness over yourself - yeah there's a lot of flu around

I'm probably going to get it.

### **When we put the word of God in our mouth change happens**

God's Word is a mighty weapon in our mouth.

The weapons of our warfare are mighty 2 Cor 10: 3-5

Hebrews 4: 12 For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power(making it active, operative, energising, and effective); it is sharper than any two- edged sword, (penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life ( soul) and the (immortal) spirit, and of joints and marrow ( of the deepest parts of our nature),exposing and sifting and analysing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

### **The Word brings faith**

The power of our words- Mark 11:23, 24 " I have told my people that they can give what they say and they are saying what they have" - Charles Capps

Romans 10:17 So faith comes by hearing (what is told), and what is heard comes by the preaching (of the message that came from the lips) of Christ (the Messiah Himself).

As you speak the word your faith will increase

As you listen to anointed teaching your faith will increase

As testimonies of what Jesus has done are spoken your faith will increase

As you pray in your Heavenly prayer language your faith will grow

Jude 20 But you beloved, build yourselves up (founded) on your most holy faith (make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher), praying in the Holy Spirit.

The faith of Abraham Romans 4:17- 24 but for our sakes too.

### **God confirms and honours His Word**

Mark 16:20 and they went about and preached everywhere, while The Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied (it).



"The Word of God conceived in the heart, formed by the tongue, and spoken out of the mouth is creative power"

### **Take God's word as medicine daily**

If you are taking medicine mix your faith with it - As I take this medicine I believe I receive my healing in Jesus name.

God's creative power for healing - p 24, 25, 26

By His stripes I am healed and made whole.

Practical - spend some time now meditating on a scripture. Choose just one scripture - meditate on it - To meditate is just to mutter - chew the cud - over and over - ask God to give you revelation knowledge of this word - to show you more.

Romans 8:11, James 5:15,16, Isaiah 40:29-31  
1 Peter 2:24



# Session 5

## Wrap Up and God Encounters

### How are People Healed?

By God 😊

In many and varied ways -

The laying on of hands

Faith in a promise of God

Declaring God's promises

A command/a spoken word

Through a testimony

A word of knowledge

The gift of healing

The gift of the working of miracles

Through worship and soaking in His presence

Faith released through anointing with oil

Faith released when taking communion

Anointed cloths.....



## Here we discuss the anointing, authority and power and prosperity of soul

### 1) The Anointing

**Acts 10:38** How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.

We must not forget that Jesus came to earth as a man - Yes He was the son of God but He gave up His deity and became the son of Man. He gave up all His Heavenly rights and privileges and walked this earth as we walk this earth.

When He was baptised, He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was anointed - He did no miracles until after he was anointed by the Holy Spirit.

He was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit where He was tempted by the devil for 40 days and 40 nights. He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 4:18** <sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity],

<sup>19</sup>To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day <sup>[a]</sup>when salvation and the free favours of God profusely abound].

He was called for a purpose, appointed for a purpose and anointed for that purpose.

The anointing is always for a purpose - not just for personal enjoyment. What do you want me to do with this anointing? What is it for? Who is it for?

The Spirit is in us for us - the anointing comes upon us for others!

The anointing, God's presence is not just to soak in; it is to bring Heaven to earth in the lives and situations of those around us.

We too are anointed!

#### 1 John 2:20 & 27

<sup>20</sup>But you have been anointed by [you hold a sacred appointment from, you have been give an unction from] the Holy One, and you all know [the Truth] or you know all things.

<sup>27</sup>But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [<sup>[a]</sup>permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being <sup>[b]</sup>rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do]



## 2) Authority

Luke 9:1-2

Then Jesus called together the Twelve [apostles] and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure disease,

<sup>2</sup>And He sent them out to announce and preach the kingdom of God and to bring healing.

Jesus has given us His power and authority

Luke 10:19

Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength ability] over the power that enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

Matthew 28:18 All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

<sup>19</sup>Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them [<sup>a</sup>]into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you [<sup>a</sup>]all the days (<sup>b</sup>)perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. [<sup>c</sup>]Amen (so let it be).

We must rise up in the authority and power we have been given. This is what God promises; this is what we walk in.

Speak to sickness and command it to leave in Jesus Name!

Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

While we may not always feel the anointing, we need to learn how to minister out of authority.

If you minister out of the authority that you have and know, you will soon be working with the anointing too.

Smith Wigglesworth, "If I'm in a meeting where the Spirit of God isn't moving, I'll move him".

We need to hate what God hates - sin and sickness. Know what the Bible says about healing and start walking in it. Start speaking what God says. Start exercising your authority.

## 3) Prosperity of Soul

3 John 2 - Beloved I pray that you may prosper in every way and (that your body) may keep well, even as (I know) your soul keeps well and prospers.



Prosperity in every area of our lives - spiritually, physically/health, socially/relationships, emotionally, financially etc.

We are a 3-part being - spirit, soul and body.

We are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in body.

Our body with its 5 senses, sight, taste, hearing, and touch communicates with the physical world.

Our soul which is our mind, will and emotions communicates with the realm of man.

Our spirit which is conscience and intuition, our inner being is the deepest part of us and communicates with God.

God primarily talks to our heart/our spirit man and not our head.

**Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit, assuring us that we are the children of God.**

## **Our Spirit**

When we were born again our spirit was made new and the Spirit of God took up residence in this part of us - our spirit. When we walk full of the Spirit He fills each part of us - our soul and body also. The Bible commands us to be filled daily. We are to be led by our spirit. All those who are the sons of God are led by the Spirit of God. Our spirit is to lead our souls and bodies.

## **Our Body**

We need to look after the body we live in - our earth suit. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Eat well - whole foods, lots of fruit and vegetables, limit processed foods, limit sugar, drinks lots of water.

Get enough sleep.

Exercise the muscles that we have.

### **1 Timothy 4:7-8**

**Train yourself toward godliness (piety), (keeping yourself spiritually fit). For physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritually training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds the promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come.**

The message - Exercise daily in God - no spiritual flabbiness, please! Work outs in the gymnasium are useful, but a discipline life in God is far more so, making you both fit for today and forever.



## Our Soul

Our soul is our mind, will and emotions.

What is the prosperity of soul that 3 John 2 speaks about?

Prosperity of soul involves living without anxiety, stress, tension, bitterness, unforgiveness, offence etc. It encompasses living in the love, peace and joy of God.

It's Kingdom living.

Heaven on earth in us.

Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - the fruit of the Spirit welling up and flowing out of us continually - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Prosperity of soul comes from placing our faith and living our life out of the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

**Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy].**

**But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.**

Jesus completely and utterly saved us spirit, soul and body.  
Our health is powerfully affected by how we think, feel and how we choose to live our life - the choices we make.

Emotions like anxiety, regret, anger, hatred, unforgiveness, jealousy, shame, condemnation are known killers. They eat away at our immune systems and set us up for all kinds of physical calamities.

**Psalm 31:10 For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing: my strength has failed because of my iniquity, and even my bones have wasted away.**

Sin destroys the health of a person's body, mind, emotions and spirit.

Doctors and psychologists are focussing more and more on the connections between bodily sickness and internal issues like bitterness, anger, hatred and jealousy.

Even secular counsellors are aware that people need to forgive others and themselves. If they do not forgive, it eventually eats away at their health.

Bill Johnson says, "I think that for believers, unforgiveness is the greatest cause of affliction. That should not be the case. Scripture is plain on this subject: But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions" Matthew 6:15 God in His mercy created the human body such that it is unable to live well in that environment.

Setting the captives and prisoners free-



**Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified Me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He sent Me to bind up and heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the (physical and spiritual) captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound.

Jesus said he will set both prisoners and captives free.

**Prisoners** are behind bars because of what they have done.

**Captives** are imprisoned because of what has been done to them.

The key for the prisoner is to repent and be forgiven. Much release comes to those who truly, deeply repent. But the captives face a different challenge. Sometimes captives need to forgive others; sometimes they just need to use the authority given to them to get out of their captivity. Paul and Silas praised God in prison and the doors were opened. Praising God before a breakthrough comes has to be one of the greatest signs of a prosperous soul. God inhabits praise.

## Cultivating prosperity of soul

- Intimacy with God - Spending time in His presence, soaking, worshipping. Looking into the mirror of His face - Beholding Him and becoming like Him.
- Spending time in His word - biblical meditation is life and health to our souls and bodies. **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.

**Proverbs 4:20-24** My son attend to My words; consent and submit to My sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh.

Our minds need to be continually renewed by the Word of God

**Romans 12:1-2**...Don't be conformed to this world but transformed by the entire renewal of your mind...

- Live with a clear conscience before God and man.

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard for out of it flow the issues of life.

Have a regular heart check - Lord show me what is in my heart? If he shows you someone or a situation, be quick to forgive the person and repent for holding onto any unforgiveness or blame etc.

Sometimes we need to ask God to forgive us for holding onto disappointment with Him - when He has not answered our prayers the way we thought He would.

**If your heart does not condemn, neither does God.**

- Choose forgiveness

Live free from bitterness, unforgiveness and resentment - forgive - it's our choice.



Kenneth McColl - forgiveness is love given before another has either given it, earned it, accepted it or even understood it.

Forgiveness is not dependent on the other person - "I'll forgive them if they say sorry".

Holding onto unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to become ill or die.

**Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

- Choose to live free from offense. Let offense wash off you like water off a duck's back.
- Choose to love - love is our choice.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love endures long and is patient and kind.....**

**Romans 13:8 Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another.**

- Choose peace

**Hebrews 12:14 Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will (ever) see the Lord**

**Romans 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

- Choose to live free from worry, anxiety, stress and tension.

**1 Peter 5:7 Casting the whole of your care (all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all) on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully**

**Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord (releasing the weight of it) and He will sustain you; He will never allow the (consistently) righteous to be moved (made to slip, fail or fall).**

- Choose to live free from fear

Do not let fear determine the way you live or the decisions you make

**2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but (He has given us a spirit) of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control).**

Sometimes we just need to step out and do it afraid!

Choose to speak what God says.

Speak in line with God's will and His Word - Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

Speak life over yourself and those around you.



- Choose to live a surrendered life.

**1 Peter 5:6** Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourself in your own estimation) under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He will exalt you.

**Luke 9:23** And Jesus said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself (disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself) and take up his cross daily and follow Me (cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also).

**John 12:24** I assure you most solemnly I tell you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains (just one grain; it never becomes more but lives) by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces many others and yields a rich harvest.

Take up your cross, die daily and do it quickly!

- Choose to live a joy - filled life

Don't let people or circumstances steal your joy - the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Let's just laugh at that!

Stir up the deposit of joy that is in you. You'll be happy and people around you will be happy!

- Choose to praise and worship God when things are going well and when they're not!

Praise and worship in the midst of difficult circumstance causes us to break through.

**Isaiah 54** SING, O barren one, you who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who did not travail with child! For the (spiritual) children of the desolate one will be more than the children of the married wife, says the Lord

Paul and Silas praised God in prison and the doors were supernaturally opened.

- Choose to serve others

Serving and empowering others positions us for great joy and fulfilment.

Praying for someone else's healing often is the breakthrough for our own.

The anointing is released as we minister to others.

*In conclusion -*

*As our internal world prospers and lives in blessings, so our external world will be blessed.*

*That's prosperity of soul - we're blessed and everyone and everything around us encounters our realm of blessing.*

*We attract blessing, we attract prosperity because it's the realm in which we live 😊*



# Session 6

## The Ultimate Treasure Hunt

### What is the treasure we're hunting?

The ultimate treasure are those people who desperately need a real encounter with God in order to meet the overwhelming needs of their lives and the unfulfilled desires of their hearts. They are everywhere. They are God's ultimate treasure.

*Luke 15:8-10*

*The Story of the Lost Coin*

*"Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbours: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' [treasure] Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."*

The people out in our community, our day to day lives who don't know God are treasure to him. They are not a lost cause and therefore not worth seeking out. Everyone is worth finding. True, sometimes you have to wash the dirt off of the gold to see it sparkle, but **everyone** is treasure to God for He created them and made them in His image. They are his lost children. And He wants to use US as a vessel through which to demonstrate his love and compassion for them.

These encounters can look like any number of things: physical healing, emotional healing, release from pressure, prophetic insight that brings hope and restores life... the list can go on and on...

As we saw in week three, all we need do is take our cue from Jesus - The Ultimate Treasure Hunter - and what he commanded His disciples (us) to do:

*Luke 9:1-2*

*...and gave them power and authority to cast out demons and to heal all diseases. Then He sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

*Luke 10:3a and 9*

*...Now go... Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now'...*

"God has been into Treasure Hunting since the first coin was lost in the Garden of Eden. Throughout the Old Testament, beginning with the first glimpse in Genesis 3:15 in which God promised that even though Satan would strike man's heel, man would crush Satan's head, we find God's redemptive plans unfolding to recover that which had been lost. God spent a long time, over 4,000 years, looking for just the right time and place to reveal the secrets of the lost treasure. It only makes sense, then, that He and all of Heaven would be ecstatic with joy as the long lost treasure is dug up out of the dark pit of destruction and death.



Jesus' whole mission was to 'seek and to save what was lost' (Luke 19:10). He then told His disciples to 'go, and make disciples of all nations'. The word 'nations' is the Greek word *ethnos* from which we get the word "ethnic". It has the connotation of a people group with specific distinctions. In a sense, Jesus was telling His disciples to go to every social group...

...Each one of us is a treasure to God. He bought each one of us with a price: the precious blood of Jesus. And when we are finally found, there is rejoicing because collectively and individually we are His Ultimate Treasure!

Obviously then, if God's heart is to find His lost treasure, then having His heart, we would have the same passion and resolve to look in every 'nook and cranny' to find the treasures waiting to be discovered around us. To be a Treasure Hunter does not take a special gift, but it does take the Father's heart of compassion to care enough about what is lost to do something about finding it." [Excerpt from: *Dedmon, K. The Ultimate Treasure Hunt, Destiny Image Publishers: USA, 2007, pp 32-33*]

## How does a Treasure Hunt actually work?

There are a few basic steps in how we will 'conduct' a Treasure Hunt:

1. Prepare ourselves before the event!
2. Spend time seeking God for Words of Knowledge (Treasure Map Clues)
3. Group up and decide on a location (using treasure map clues as an aid)
4. Move to the decided location
5. Seek out our Treasure
6. Have encounters with the Treasure we locate
7. Record the testimonies

### 1. Preparing ourselves before the event!

It is important that we are operating from a place of intimacy with God when we go on a Treasure Hunt, not just out of our instinct etc. Intimacy is something that takes time to build, and therefore we need to be spending time with God regularly and be 'spiritually ready' for the event. This is especially important because there will be times where you uncover treasure and you haven't been planning on it. In these times, you need to have a 'bank balance that has money in it' ready to disperse.

Similar to when firstly the disciples, then Jesus encountered the demon possessed boy in Mark 9:14-29. At the end of the encounter, the disciples question Jesus as to why they couldn't cast out the evil spirit. Jesus' response is that "*This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer [b]and fasting.*" Jesus didn't pray, He commanded. And he certainly didn't take a day to fast and then come back. This indicates that prayer and fasting was a lifestyle and he had a bank that was full from which to draw from when required.

### Personal Preparation

- Try to be a clean, clear channel for God to use
- Pray (in tongues) as much as you can
- Ask the Holy Spirit if you need to forgive anyone
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any unconfessed sin in your life
- Ask God to give you love for each person you pray for
- Be aware that physical healing may take many routes. It may come quickly slowly, or not at all



- Do not worry if the sick person, (or you), does not seem to have faith for healing - our job is to pray. God is responsible for what does or does not happen
- Be flexible. There is no one right way to pray. There is nothing special about particular words. Practice listening to the Holy Spirit
- The Holy spirit may ask you to pray for something the person hasn't mentioned. Be tactful

### **Personal preparation through prayer and fasting**

Seek to develop your understanding of the Word, faith, responsiveness to the Spirit and the anointing upon your life through prayer and fasting. Oral Roberts tells the story how while a young man seeking the healing anointing, he embarked upon 21 days of prayer and fasting. Each day he would spend hours on his knees reading the Gospels over and over. At the end of that period he broke through to a new place in God and the miracles began to happen.

Pastor David Cho of the Yoido Full Gospel Church in South Korea, a church numbering over 800,000 people tells people to become desperate if they want God's blessing upon their ministry.

If you develop a compassionate heart towards those who are hurting you will find the motivation to seek God for greater manifestations of His healing power.

### **Building your faith**

There are some positive things that you can do in addition to meditating upon the Word to build your faith:

- Seek a mentoring relationship with someone experienced in healing ministry
- Watch and observe those who are successful in praying for the sick (remembering that there are different modes of operations).
- Watch videos/DVDs of healing ministries both past and present and observe what they say and do
- Pray for as many people as you can

### **Partnership with the Holy Spirit**

As ministers we are partners with the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit working through us who accomplishes the miracles that we see. As we get to know Him and rely upon Him we find ourselves being directed in ways that are beyond our natural abilities. His desire is to work through us and to accomplish the works of the Father. As He worked through Jesus when He was on earth, so He wants to work through us as the Body of Christ in this day. Jesus declares this in John 14:12: *the works that I do shall he do also; and greater Works than these shall he do.*

Pastor David Cho refers to the Holy Spirit as "my senior partner". As we develop our relationship with him we will develop our reliance upon Him. As we experience His direction we will seek to know and understand Him more so that we can be more effective in ministry.

*John 14:26*

*But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things; and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever have said unto you.*



*John 16:13*

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*

### **Do's and Don'ts of personal ministry**

#### **DO:**

- Treat the person with the utmost respect
- Do everything to make them feel at ease
- Encourage them with the promises of God
- Take time to listen to them
- Interact with them during the prayer session - e.g. Tell me what is happening
  - How is the pain?
  - Can you feel a difference?
- Encourage them to do something they could not do (act their faith) (gently with respect - do not force an action - stop if there is discomfort)
- Involve others as required
- If little or no progress is made
  - Investigate other issues
  - Encourage them to be prayed for again
  - Tell them to meditate on healing Scriptures (write down some refs)
- Bring proper closure to each session. Cause them to leave them feeling loved and encouraged

#### **DO NOT:**

- Treat them indifferently, roughly or harshly
- Do not touch them inappropriately
- Crowd them or rush them
- Patronize or belittle them
- Shout in their ear!
- Go on too long
- Leave them without explanation

### **Some Cautions**

- **Ministering without the leading of the Holy Spirit**

*Matthew 7:21-23*

*“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. 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?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

Using the gifts of the Spirit without His direction is regarded as lawlessness!

- **Taking credit for healings**

*Acts 3:12...16*

*So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ..... And His name, through faith in His*



*name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

Peter was careful to make sure that everyone knew where the healings were coming from!

- **We should not be discouraged if all are not healed**

*2 Tim 4:20*

*Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.*

You would think that Paul had prayed for Trophimus, but he was not healed

- **Ministering without love**

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul makes it clear that the use of spiritual gifts means nothing if we don't have love

## 2. Spend time seeking God for Treasure Map Clues

How do we get clues for the Treasure Map? Quite simply, we ask the Holy Spirit to give us 'words of knowledge', providing clues for divine appointments where the treasure is waiting. When a word of knowledge is utilized with a pre-believer, or in witnessing, it creates an undeniable invitation into divine encounter. For example, Jesus with the Samaritan woman in John 4, verse 17b-18 where Jesus reveals his knowledge of her having had five husbands and not currently married to the sixth man. This caught the woman's attention and brought her into a divine encounter in which the Messiah and his love and compassion for her were revealed.

Having this inside information about people is supposed to be good for everyone (see 1 Corinthians 12). There are times where people use words of knowledge to reveal people's sins or what is wrong with them. But notice how Jesus honoured the Samaritan woman by keeping her secret between the two of them. Jesus wasn't and isn't interested in exposing people, but redeeming them. Most people already know what's wrong with them. What they do not know is what is *right* about them - what they're destiny is in Christ, and the good plans and purposes he has for them.

Some thoughts and stories on how it is 'easy to hear from God' again from Dedmond's book (pp59-64)

### It Is Easy to Hear From God

For many Christians, the idea of hearing from God is very foreign. Christians have no problem petitioning God, expecting Him to hear them. What they have difficulty with, is believing that they hear from him. Unfortunately, for many Christians, hearing from God has been reduced to getting an insight from the Bible. For some, the thought of God directly speaking to us individually is scary because of all the 'kooks' who have claimed to hear from God, but had obviously heard from another source.

Hearing from God personally *is* scriptural. For example, Moses had a conversation with God at the burning bush in which God gave him specific instructions to deliver the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt (see Exodus 3). Gideon gained confidence to take on the Midianites when the Angel of the Lord called out his true identity and gave him the confirmation through a 'fleece' to accomplish his destiny (see Judges 6:11-40). Paul heard Jesus' voice on the road to Damascus, as mentioned earlier, and Peter had Jesus instruct him regarding the 'clean and unclean' animals in Acts chapter 10.



*In John 16:13, Jesus promised that:  
...When He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to communicate the plans and desires of the Father. The Holy Spirit does this through visions, dreams, prophetic words, words of wisdom and words of knowledge (see 1 Corinthians 12).

It is easy to hear from God. Take Samuel in the temple. He heard from God even though he did not know it was God. Three times he went to Eli, the High Priest, thinking it was he who had called. In 2 Samuel 3:7, we are told that “the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him”. Finally, Eli instructed Samuel how to respond to the voice of the Lord, and when God spoke to him the next time, Samuel was able to discern God’s voice.

### **“Just make one up”**

I believe God is speaking to all of us more than we are discerning. I often travel to various churches, equipping and activating people to live naturally supernaturally. I was at a particular church over a weekend. During the Sunday morning service, I called the leadership team up front to give words of knowledge for healing. We went through many words of knowledge, with several people getting healed as the word was spoken.

We finally came to one of the key leaders of the church, and I asked him to give a word of knowledge. “I don’t have one,” he responded.

“Sure you do,” I encouraged.

“No, I really don’t have one.”

“Then make one up,” I implored.

The congregation gasped, and the leader looked at me in disbelief, and asked, “You’re joking right?”

“No, I’m serious; make one up,” I pressed. The point I was trying to make was that hearing from God is a lot simpler than many of us imagine.

With a look of obvious consternation on his face, the leader grabbed the first word that came to his mind and blurted out, “Okay, someone here has lower stomach pain, and you feel very nauseated.” Immediately, five people raised their hand, and all of them were completely healed on the spot. The church erupted in praise as all five of them confirmed their healing in public testimony.

The notion that “our thoughts are not His thoughts” is an Old Testament statement about a rebellious Israel whom the prophet Isaiah was imploring to repent (Isa. 55:8). To the obedient, to the Christian, the statement reads more like, “Our thoughts are his thoughts”. The Bible is clear: it is the unbeliever who has the depraved mind (Rom 1:28), and that mind is hostile toward God (see Rom 8:7). The believer, the Christian, on the other hand, is commanded to be transformed by the renewing of his/her mind (see Rom 12:2).

Moreover, the apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we in fact “have the mind of Christ”.



### **How do you do it?**

Twice a year, we have a “Pastors/Leaders Advances”, a three-day event at which we have our second-year students, having been trained in hearing the voice of the Lord, prophesy over these leaders. Two students per team, along with a junior high school student from our Christian school, will then spend approximately ten minutes per person over a two-hour session.

On one occasion, two of our Supernatural Ministry students were paired up with a 12-year old boy. As leaders were placed in front of them, the two older students would look at each other, asking whether or not they had a “word”. Each time, they would both respond that they did not have something right away, then would defer to the junior high student who always responded with lengthy, encouraging “words”.

After the two-hour session was over, the two School of Supernatural Ministry Students were astonished at the competency level of the 12-year-old. When they asked how long he had been prophesying, thinking he was surely quite experienced, he responded that this was his first time. Shocked, the supernatural ministry students began to inquire how he got so many words - words that turned out to be very detailed and encouraging to the leaders they had been prophesying to.

His response was simple, “My teacher told me that I was going to prophesy today, so I figured since I was doing God’s work, whatever thought came into my head was from God. So, when you asked if I had anything, I just said whatever first came into my mind.” The School of Supernatural ministry students instantly received a life-changing revelation regarding the simplicity of hearing God’s voice.

Confidence in accessing and being activated in “words of knowledge” comes from 1) learning to tap into this “new” mind, the mind of Christ; 2) then like Samuel, learning to discern that what you are hearing is actually from God; and 3) taking a risk to see if what you heard helps “for the common good”.

### **He-Brews Coffee?**

In preparation for a Treasure Hunt in Santa Rosa, California, Joaquin, one of our School of Supernatural Ministry students thought he heard “He-brews Coffee”, which is the name of the coffee shop located in our church building. He immediately discarded the thought as flippant and inconsequential because it was so unlikely that the clue would have any significance some 250 miles away from Redding.

Throughout the preparation time (three minutes), I constantly reminded the group to go after “out of the box”, seemingly senseless words of knowledge. “If you have a thought,” I told them, “write it down, even if it seems impossible”. The thought “He-brews Coffee” kept coming to this students mind, but each time he dismissed it as his own, unrelated thought.

As he was going out with his Treasure Hunting team, he once again heard “He-brews Coffee” in his mind. This time, however, to appease his conscience, he decided to write it in very small letters at the very bottom of the page, well below the other clues he had heard and written down.

During their Treasure Hunt, their Map had directed them to a local park. While there, the student noticed a man sitting on a bench. With no apparent clues, the student was just building some rapport with the man in hopes of a door opening up to demonstrate the “Good News” to him in some way.



As they spoke, the conversation turned to spiritual inquiries. The man shared that he was not a Christian, but that if he were, the only church he would ever consider attending would be a church in Redding, California: Bethel Church. He explained that his reason for wanting to go to that particular church was that they had a little coffee shop inside called “He-brews” with some of the best coffee he had ever tasted!

At once, the student pulled out the Treasure Map to show the man that this was a divine appointment. The man was amazed and the clue, and afterwards, was receptive to the “Good News” the student began to share. The student left the encounter with convincing proof that “His thoughts are our thoughts”.

In conducting first-time Treasure Hunts, I always limit the time to get “words of knowledge” to three minutes. The first reason is that most of the people do not have confidence that they will hear from God even if they were to wait for three hours. I want them to have a practical experience of how easy it is to hear from God. And second, I do not want to give them too much time to change their minds as they do hear from God.

We always end the Treasure Hunt by meeting together as a large group so that all of the teams have a chance to share the testimonies of the treasure they found. I am always thrilled when hearing the testimonies of those who did not believe their Map could have led to any Treasure whatsoever, and how they had found every clue on their Map, which led to over-the-top, extreme supernatural divine appointments in which people were saved, healed and delivered.

...

Certainly there are times when we think we have heard from God, only to find that we have somehow missed it. I would be the last person to say that I hear from God with 100% accuracy. Many times, I have finished a Treasure Hunt without finding all the clues on my Map. I am still learning how to hear better. Nevertheless, I am always elated when I do hear clues that become keys to discovering hidden treasures lying in unsuspected places that I have been directed to.

## What Clues are we after to make up our Treasure Map?

### Five basic categories that help uncover buried Treasure:

- a) A location (e.g. Stop sign, bench, digital clock, coffee shop, Target, Village, restaurant)  
Sometimes the clues for the location are obvious, other times they are not. Then there is the timing in which you arrive at the location that is crucial to finding the hidden treasure. You may go to several ‘locations’ and not find the treasure, and on the fourth or fifth one you find the treasure. But if you had not gone to the other three or four, you would have potentially missed the divine appointment.
- b) A person’s name  
This may be the clue with the greatest impact on your treasure map. People are often overwhelmed at the fact that God does actually know them specifically by name (Is 43:1 *I have summoned you by name; you are Mine*).
- c) A person’s appearance (e.g. The colour of their specific articles of clothing, colour of their hair, build, colour of skin etc)
- d) A person’s ailment - something he/she might need prayer for (e.g. Knee brace, cane, kidneys, tumour, left ankle, marriage, grief etc)



Sometimes this is the only solid clue we have, something like knee brace or hurt knee. Sometimes the ailment can be unseen, like brain tumour or marriage problems etc. In which case the ailment will often come through other clues being met and then building rapport with the Treasure.

- e) The unusual (lollipop, windmill, lime-green door, dolphins etc). These are clues that don't fit into any of the above categories. May turn out to be a location or part of an appearance, but at the time, you cannot discern any connection.

Here's a cool testimony about the 'unusual' clues:

*My daughter, who was 12 at the time, was on a Treasure Hunt with me during a "Firestorm" weekend. Under the "unusual" category she had "lime green door", "lamp posts" and "thermometers". Now the "lamp posts" could have been under the category of "location" but as it turned out later, there were no street lights in the part of the city we were in, let alone "lamp posts". This turned out to be a very unusual clue indeed.*

*As we walked around the neighbourhood near the church where we were having the conference, we noticed a brightly glossed, multi-coloured house in the distance. It looked like something out of "Toon Town" at Disneyland. This house was amazing! Every part of the house was painted a different, vibrant colour - blues, reds, yellows, purples, all over a white base that caused each colour to be further pronounced.*

*As we got closer, we noticed that there was no "green" on the house, not to mention the "lime green" we were looking for. As we came to the house, we were astonished to see several "lamp posts" lining the walkway up toward the front door that was somewhere tucked around the corner from where we were standing. We looked around and realized these were the only "lamp posts" visible. What an amazing clue, given the surroundings.*

*As we stood there, I flippantly commented, "Wouldn't it be funny if the front door was lime green?" we ventured up the walkway to investigate the "lime green door" clue, when we noticed that on outer walls between the detached garage and the main house were five huge, round weather "thermometers". Why anyone would ever need five, especially in the same location, is beyond me, but each to his own. It made Alexa's "unusual" clue even that much more unusual.*

*By now, all of the blood in us was pumping in anticipation for the discovery of the colour of the front door, which was still hidden around the corner. We looked around again at parts of the house that revealed more creative colour schemes, but still, no green anywhere. "If this house has a 'lime-green door' that in itself will be a miracle," I quipped.*

*As we rounded the corner, we all were dumbfounded. The front door was, in fact, "lime green". We knocked on the door vigorously, knowing that our divine appointment was waiting inside, but apparently, nobody was home. Our hearts began to sink in disappointment, knowing that these "unusual" miraculous clues might be wasted because of wrong timing.*

*The house was multi-level and had several entrances, and thinking someone was in another part of the house where they could not hear the front doorbell, we checked every alternative without any response. It seemed that we had struck out, that there was no Treasure to be found, even though our Treasure Map had led us to this unusual house. So we prayed that God would grant supernatural encounters to those who lived there, and that He would reveal His love to them in undeniable ways.*



*Just as we were leaving, I noticed that the grounds were covered in various trees and flower gardens. Hope for a divine appointment resurged in the team and we set about looking for someone in the sprawling gardens located on the property. Just when we were about to give up the search, I noticed a man bent over down in an obscure part of one of the gardens. Yes! We had found our Treasure!*

*We climbed down to where he was gardening and explained how we had come upon his house through the clues on our Treasure Map. He was shocked as he studied the Treasure Map, but informed us that he was a local contractor who just enjoyed coming over to work in the garden for “therapeutic” purposes.*

*He kept quizzing us as to how we “really” found the house and kept asking us what we really wanted, insinuating that we were running some kind of highly sophisticated scam. We assured him that we did not want anything from him, but that we wanted to bless him in some way. We let him know we weren’t even from the state, and never could have known about this house, with the “unusual” clues we had written down, unless God had given us the information.*

*We began to share with him how God reveals His goodness in these types of encounters by letting the people we meet know that He has specifically highlighted them. He confessed that he was not a Christian, but that he was very intrigued with the clues we had and the message we were conveying.*

*The man accepted our prayers and the prophetic words we spoke to him regarding the plan that God had for his life. When we returned to give testimonies, another group shared about how they were led to the same house through completely different clues. The man in the garden was so overwhelmed by the unusual circumstances of two Treasure Hunting teams finding him that he allowed the team to lead him in a prayer to accept Christ into his heart. (Dedmon, pp80-83)*

A Treasure Hunt can be launched from a single category, but it is oftentimes more convincing to the ‘Treasure’ when there are multiple clues on your map that indicate God wants to encounter them. The more specific and extensive we can be in presenting clues, the more open people tend to be.

It is important to write these clues down, not just hold them in your head. Although telling a person that you received a clue about them as you were praying, having it in writing is far more convincing.

It is also important to keep your clues visible during the Treasure Hunt and not just put your Treasure Map in your back pocket. This is also why when Treasure Hunting in a team, you look at each other’s Maps, so that the clues have a better chance of being discovered.

### **3. Group up and decide upon a location**

This may be through clues that you have or it may be simply the best place to go for the time (i.e. Tues night, no late night shopping so where are people going to be? Restaurant strips, movies etc)

### **4. Go**

This is the most important bit!! We can have all the tools and clues in the world, but they’re pointless unless we actually go. The commission to the disciples was to **go** into all nations and make disciples. It wasn’t just know how to do it and then stay home where it’s comfortable and warm!!



It is important to keep in mind here:

- a) God is more interested in the level of my risk-taking, radical obedience and faith than He is in my success. We may miss because we are still learning to discern the voice of God, but every step of risk is rewarded equally, regardless of the results. God rewards the faith, not the performance.
- b) It's okay to make mistakes. Having a wrong word does not make a person a 'false prophet' or 'unable to hear'. The reality is that whenever I pray there will be some sort of positive response from heaven because God is a good God who wants to do good things for His children whom He loves. The outcome may not be what we had envisaged, but that doesn't negate the fact that God is good!!
- c) We need to be filled with the Spirit - that enables us to do 'crazy things' and to be radically obedient with boldness. We need to be empowered by His grace, not our intellect and understanding.

## 5. Seek out the Treasure and Have an encounter

Some tips for a successful treasure hunt (notes from Dedmon, chapter 6):

- a) Supernatural service is at the heart of the Treasure Hunt. We are not going out to argue people into the kingdom or force them into receiving prayer for healing. Our goal is to demonstrate the goodness and kindness of God by meeting their needs, whether it is by giving them an encouraging word about their true identity and destiny, healing their body or just listening as a friend. Effective Treasure Hunting is all about service.
- b) A picture is a thousand words - a smile gets them to listen. A smile is like a gift of hospitality; it invites people into your world, so they invite you into theirs.
- c) In order to be effective in Treasure Hunting, we have to have more than a smile; the smile opens the door, but our initial greeting captures their attention. Kevin Dedmon explains that he has found the most effective greeting is to say something along the lines of "Hi there. This may sound weird, but I'm on a Treasure Hunt, and I think you are on my map." He likes this statement because it often opens up the question: "What is a Treasure Hunt?" to which you then have the opportunity to explain that God has highlighted them to you in order to help them or encourage them in some way.
- d) Building Rapport: If they ask the question, you have their attention; they are engaged. That is the time to show them the Treasure Map that you have been holding in their view during your greeting. It is important to point out each clue so that it sinks in that they truly are the Treasure you have been looking for. They will usually say something like, 'This is crazy!' or 'I can't believe this!' to which you can respond, 'I know, it seems a little strange to me also, but there is no way I could have known this stuff about you without God's help.' They will usually follow with 'I know', followed by another question in search of an explanation to this unusual encounter. At that point you have connected; you are building rapport, as you are both standing there dumbfounded at the thought that God has indeed given you specific clues to find them.

At some point in the initial greeting and explanation, it is important to get on a first name basis. This can be achieved more easily if you have a name as a clue as you can ask if their name is 'xyz' as you initially greet them, which immediately grabs their attention because you've never met them before, or you can say something like 'By the way, my name is..., what's yours?'. It is also



good to extend your hand in a friendly gesture. If they accept your hand, then you have built more rapport; your interaction has become personal.

- e) **Overcoming Objections:** There are going to be those who remain sceptical or even cynical toward any thought that God has highlighted them, not to mention admitting that they may have a need for Him. We need to break through the barriers of resistance, and we do that by building rapport and overcoming objections. Kevin tells this story: *I have had people tell me that they do not believe in God after hearing an explanation of the Treasure Hunt. When that happens, my response has often been, “Well, He believes in you, and He has highlighted you today to let you know it. So what do you think about that? And then I listen attentively, trying to discern the underlying objections that are preventing them from buying the Good News. ... Selling is simply asking yourself the question: “What are they buying?” Once the need is identified, it is simply a matter of meeting that need. I want to suggest that people are willing to buy into the Good News once they see that Jesus wants to fulfil their dreams and desires. We overcome objections by demonstrating the supernatural through practical acts of service, thus revealing the goodness and kindness of God that leads them to repentance (see Rom 2:4).*
- f) **Pop the Question!** Often the only things preventing people from having an encounter is that you haven't yet popped the question, whether it is to pray for healing, blessing, encouragement, comfort or to invite Christ into their heart. Once they have seen the demonstration, once you have built rapport, there is only one thing left: Pop the Question! You really have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Moreover, you just may find the Ultimate Treasure!

## 6. Record the testimonies

Make sure that at the end of any and every Treasure Hunt, purposeful or incidental, you record the testimony. Recording the testimony does many things, but primarily, it builds both your faith and the faith of others as the testimony is shared and remembered.

**Remember this at all times:**

**When I pray, He comes,  
and when He comes, He does good things  
because He is a good God in a good mood.**



# Session 7

## Taking Healing Out



## Creating the Treasure Map

### Creating the Treasure Map (Dedmon, pp213-216)

1. Each Person writes down Words of Knowledge in the spaces allowed for each category:
  - a. Location (stop sign, bench, digital clock, coffee shop, Target, Wal-Mart, etc)
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. A Person's Name
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A Person's Appearance (the colour of their specific articles of clothing, the colour of their hair etc)
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What they might need prayer for (knee brace, cane, kidneys, tumour, left ankle, marriage, etc.).
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. The unusual (lollipop, windmill, lime-green door, dolphins etc)
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Form groups of three or four.
  - Combine the *words of knowledge* of the group to make your "Treasure Map".
   
\*\*\*\*NOTE: Each member keeps their own list - ***do not*** combine lists on a separate sheet.
3. Choose the beginning location (compare other clues on the way to your first location)
4. Start looking for the treasure
5. When you find something on the Treasure Map (taken from the individual maps in the group)...
 

Approach the person.

  - Say something like: "This may seem a little odd, but we're on a treasure hunt and we think you're on our list."
  - Show them your list (It may be one or two things from each list, or just one thing from one list.)
  - Build rapport (Make friends - ask questions about them to get to know them.)
  - Let them know that God has highlighted them, and wants to bless them.
  - Pay attention for things that you can help them with, and ask if you can pray for them.
6. If they say "No" ...
  - Build more rapport (common ground - friendship)
  - Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to highlight about the person.
  - Give them some encouraging words (*prophesy*) without being religious.



### 7. Ask again if you can pray for them

- If they say “No” - bless them and proceed to the next Treasure (person).
- If they say “Yes” (especially for healing)...
  - Ask for the presence of God to come (*Release His presence on the*)
  - Command the pain to leave, bones to be set, back to be realigned, tumour to shrink, etc.
  - Ask them to test it out: “Do something that you couldn’t do before we prayed”.
  - Repeat if necessary

### 8. When they are healed, or you have blessed them through prophetic words...

- Explain what just happened (*the kindness of God revealed - He knows you and cares about you, etc*)
- Ask them if they would like to know Jesus personally (*have a relationship with Him*).
- Help them to ask Jesus into their life.

### 9. Go to the next divine appointment on the treasure map!

#### The Use of the Treasure Map

1. Fold the map in half from top to bottom so that only your clues are facing you
2. Fold the map again from side to side so that half of your clues are on one side of the fold while the other half is on the other side. This makes the map less conspicuous, while still giving the Treasure Hunter visibility to all of the clues on the map by simply pivoting it by rotating the hand. This may sound a little silly or overboard, but I have found that being as discreet as possible is more effective than drawing a lot of attention to the Treasure Hunting group, especially in a store or business.
3. Make sure each Treasure Hunter keeps their map available and accessible to each person on the team. Many clues are found by looking on another team member’s map.
4. Do not put the map in your pocket, backpack, or purse. You know the saying, “Out of sight, out of mind”. Most people who do not find Treasure are the ones who do not use their map consistently.
5. The Treasure Map is like a puzzle, requiring concentration and creativity to put together.
6. You can approach someone who only has one clue on your Map. Often, you will find that they possess other clues once you begin to build rapport and ask penetrating questions.
7. Utilize creativity and imagination. For example, “post office” could be a mailbox, a mail delivery person, a mail store, the post office, or even a letter that someone is about to mail. A person’s name could mean a friend, relative, an acquaintance that needs prayer, reconciliation, or some other point of significance, or certainly could be the name of the person you have approached.
8. Once you find the clues, make sure you show them the map. Remember, for most people, “Seeing is believing”.
9. Approach people in twos or threes at the most. A large group can be intimidating. It is also less threatening for the person you are approaching if the genders are mixed. I usually do not like to take more than five people on a Treasure Hunt because normally five can fit into one vehicle easily. Out of the group, I will also choose two of one gender and three of the other.
10. Children are great to have on Treasure Hunts. They are less threatening, and often have much better “out of the box” creativity to find clues.



11. Do not split your group of five up for more than one encounter. Work as a team and continually touch base, checking your clues and changing the team members who are approaching potential treasures.
12. The instructions for conducting a divine encounter are on the opposite side of the initial fold you made with your map. Have each person on the team read these instructions before launching out.
13. Once you have a divine encounter with someone, write the testimony on the back of the Map. Keep them for later encouragement of what God has done through you, and what he will do.

### Remember this at all times:

When I pray, He comes, and when He comes, He does good things  
because He is a good God in a good mood.

## A Healing Ministry Model (Dedmon, pp217-219)

### Getting Started

1. Ask the person to briefly tell you: what's wrong or what do they want?
2. If appropriate, ask them if you can place your hand on the area that needs healing (optional).
3. Ask for God's presence (*His Kingdom Come*)
4. Listen for the Holy Spirit's promptings to pray in certain ways and various strategies (take risk).
5. Look for visible signs/manifestations (noticing what God is doing *in* and *on* them.)
6. Ask them if they are feeling any sensations going on in their body (heat, cold, peace, electricity etc)
7. Ask them to check it out/to do something they couldn't do before (try to cause the pain they experienced before).
8. If healed, rejoice with them and give praise to God.
9. Encourage them to get a doctor's report.

### If no breakthrough in healing...

1. Thank God for anything that is going on (*Thankfulness often releases greater breakthrough*).
2. Pray for increase and thank Him for the increase of His presence and healing.
3. Declare healing promises over them (Scriptures, testimonies etc)
4. Repeat steps 7-9.

### If pain gets worse or moves as you're praying...

1. Possible spirit of affliction/infirmity
2. Take authority over the spirit (you do not need to yell, let them vomit etc...)
3. Release more healing presence.

### If no breakthrough or pain increases...

1. Ask them if there may be someone they need to forgive.
2. If yes, ask them to forgive them out loud.
3. If no, pray again, and release more of God's presence on them.
4. Begin to prophesy hope and destiny over them (some people do not feel worthy to be healed).
5. Ask them to check it out again (do something they could not do before - something that caused pain).



**If still no breakthrough...**

1. Always encourage them that God is good and is in a good mood.
2. Always encourage them to continue to pursue breakthrough (when we pray, His Kingdom comes, and when His Kingdom comes, good things happen, because He is a good God in a good mood).
3. Encourage them to give thanks for what they do see or feel, even if they have only experienced a small measure of breakthrough.
4. Always bless them.
5. *NEVER* lay the responsibility on them, even if they are resistant to healing and have no or little faith.
6. Let the Holy Spirit do His work.

**Remember this at all times:**

When I pray, He comes, and when He comes, He does good things because He's a good God and He is always in a good mood.



### The Treasure Map

a. **Location** (stop sign, bench, digital clock, coffee shop, Target, Wal-Mart, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. **A Person's Name**

c. **A Person's Appearance** (the colour of their specific articles of clothing, the colour of their hair etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. **What they might need prayer for** (knee brace, cane, kidneys, tumour, left ankle, marriage, etc.).

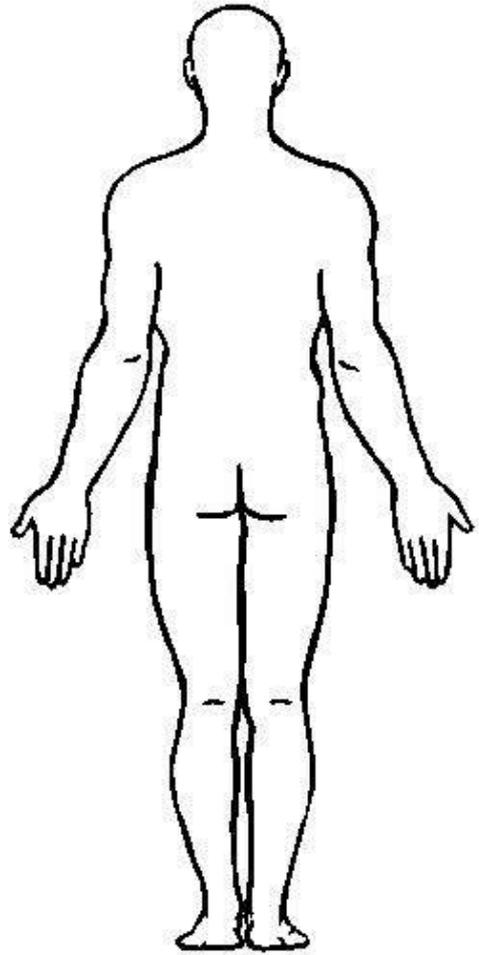
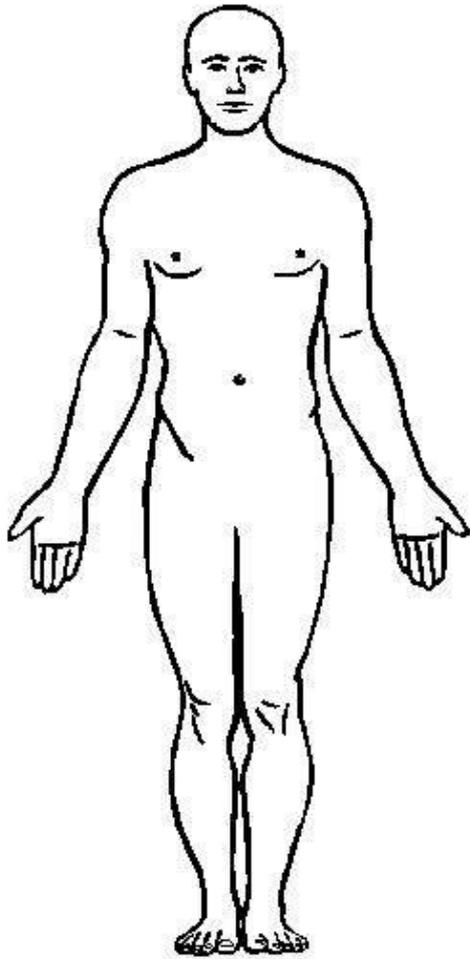
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. **The unusual** (lollipop, windmill, lime-green door, dolphins etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Session 8

## Healing Rooms Training Part 3



# Session 9

## Healing Rooms Training Part 4



# Appendix 1

## Unbelieving Believers & Believing Unbelievers

The Essential Guide to Healing by Bill Johnson & Randy Clark, Chosen Books 2011

### 4

## UNBELIEVING BELIEVERS AND BELIEVING UNBELIEVERS

*Randy*

**W**hen I was in seminary, one course I took on the book of Acts required a term paper. The professor gave us about fifty subjects to choose from, but healing was not among them. Because I was very interested in healing, I wanted to write on the subject. I thought it was consistent with the word I had received my first day of college: “The Holy Spirit will be the issue of your lifetime.” So I asked, “Could I write on healing? It’s in the book of Acts.”

The professor answered, “You may, but you cannot use anecdotal stories, you must do good research.”

I began my research in what was either the largest or second-largest theological library in the world at the time—only to be surprised by how few books it contained on healing. Using what I did find, I wrote the paper and received an A on it, along with numerous

comments from the professor. He told me he had never written so much on a student’s paper before and that it was a compliment to the paper’s quality. However, his comments included several warnings. He warned me not to be too harsh on those who did not believe in healing for today. He said I had written as if healing were central to the Gospel, which he did not believe. To him healing was a peripheral issue, not a central issue.

I told him I disagreed, and today I am even more committed than I was back then to the position that healing is central to the Gospel. I recently found that term paper, which I kept for over thirty years. Here is the final paragraph:

The miraculous element in Christianity and the fact that God can act in this world of ours is essential to the vitality of Christianity. Without this aspect, prayer becomes meaningless and one should study the social sciences rather than the Bible, and Theology should be replaced with Anthropology. Preaching that is void of the above concepts is one reason for the phenomenal growth of the Charismatic Movement. Just as Jeremiah criticized the Israelites for creating with their hands gods who were helpless, modern man has created a “god” who is helpless to act in this world. A god this writer refuses to worship.

That final paragraph hooked the professor. Initially he overreacted in his comments, then he wrote that he overreacted and that he did not find me dogmatic in class. He warned me, though, that if I believed in healing this strongly and taught on it in the future, I would have problems in Baptist churches. This proved true. But “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” as Bob Dylan sang in his song of that title. The answer to the cry in people’s hearts is “Blowin’ in the Wind,” as another of his song titles suggests. In New Testament Greek and



Hebrew, the words for *wind* and *spirit* are the same. The changes we have seen are the result of the moving of the Holy Spirit.

I experienced rejection from some Baptists in 1984 for my belief in healing and the gifts. But I have also preached in the largest Baptist church in South Africa, the largest Baptist church in Brazil and the oldest and second-largest Baptist church in Argentina. I have seen healings in all those churches, and they are all open to the gifts of the Spirit. The times are indeed changing. The Holy Spirit is like the wind and brings with Him the answer to our human needs.

### Winds of Change

I have seen the winds of change evident in many places. Let me tell you the story of one “traditional” Baptist church in Mauve, Brazil. When I first visited, it was a small church of about 300 located on the wrong side of the tracks, down a dirt road in a poor area. The pastor was hungry for God’s touch and wanted to experience His presence in the services. We were there only a few days, yet so many healings happened that it was amazing. Almost every member of his staff was healed of something. One man was healed of a terrible case of psoriasis, a genetic disease without a cure. Nine years later, he told me it had never come back. God can change our DNA!

One woman with several illnesses had twisted legs. One leg turned out almost 180 degrees from her body. She was totally healed of everything, and her leg rotated back to normal. People with illnesses of all kinds

service. During this hour we prayed only for those with visual or hearing problems, those who could not walk normally or needed an aid to walk and those who had a terminal illness. Again the blind, deaf and crippled were healed. One little boy with a clubfoot just wanted to run. After prayer, his foot rotated and he did run! Two people with aneurisms were healed; one of them had gone blind and had not been able to see in 8 months. The other had lost 90 percent of his hearing and was paralyzed on his left side. Both my team and the people of the church were ecstatic. Before the night was over, several hundred more people were healed through words of knowledge and the laying on of hands. Our ministry team totaled nearly 75 and came from several countries.

The pastor told me that other Baptist pastors were asking why his church was growing so much while theirs were not. He would reply, “You know those things you don’t like? They are the reason.”

Susan Star, one of the women who had prayed for the little boy with the clubfoot, had also seen every other person she prayed for healed. Susan is a member of a cessationist church—someone whose doctrinal associations discount healing and miracles. But in practice and experience, by all means Susan believes! Her very presence challenges her church’s doctrinal position because she was once in hospice, close to death. Preparing to die, she had even given away her winter clothes. She was in severe pain, her autonomic nervous system did not work, three feet of her colon was removed, and she would pass out after standing more than two minutes. Yet Susan was healed. She came on our trip to Brazil

could not get into the sanctuary because it was full. Many of them were healed in the hallways or outside as they stood in the yard and listened through the windows.

What was the fruit for this Baptist church? Three years later, we returned to find that it was no longer on the wrong side of the tracks. It had moved to one of the city’s main streets and had grown to three thousand. We held another powerful healing meeting there, then we did not return again for six years. We came back a third time to find a congregation of nine thousand attending the main church and five thousand more attending four satellite churches around the city. This time we had the greatest meeting of all. The atmosphere became electric with the power of God. Hundreds were healed—the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed from a stroke who could not talk or walk. Cancerous tumors disappeared. Cartilage that had been destroyed for twenty years was recreated. A polio case was healed. People in terrible pain from metal in their bodies were healed. One man had had numerous screws and rods put in his back two months before the meeting and could not stand the pain. Now he was bending over and touching his toes, bending his back backward and jumping up and down. All these testimonies resulted from just one amazing night—and we were in Brazil two whole weeks. Every night we saw hundreds of healings.

The next year we returned again. By then, the pastor had sent out groups to start 23 other churches in the city. This time, on the second night 60 people were healed in the pre-service prayer time one hour before

specifically so she would have an opportunity to pray for other people, and she did! During her two-week trip, she prayed for many serious conditions including a tumor behind one young man’s eyes. It had caused severe headaches, and he could not even walk fast without passing out. He was healed, his headaches left and he could not only walk fast—he could run! (I believe this indicated that the tumor was disappearing.) If you tried to convince Susan that healing is not for today, you probably would not get very far.

### What Are Unbelieving Believers?

Amazing stories like Susan’s cause me to ask why we have so many unbelieving believers. I want to suggest multiple reasons for this situation, but first let’s consider what the question means. By *believers* I mean people who attend church on a regular basis, who have committed themselves as followers of Jesus Christ and who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. I use the word *unbelieving* in the sense of not believing that certain gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the Church today. Those gifts, called the sign gifts by cessationists, would be healing, the working of miracles, tongues, the interpretation of tongues, and prophecy. Technically, the doctrinal system of cessationism views all of these gifts as no longer operational. However, for my purposes here, I will address mainly unbelief in healing and miracles.

What about the *believing unbelievers* I have mentioned? By *unbelievers* I mean those who have not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and have not commit-



ted their lives to following Jesus Christ. They have not become part of a local church, yet many of these unbelievers are *believing* in the sense that they are completely open to the power of God and the gifts of healing in operation today. Many experience healings outside the walls of a church.

For example, the bakery workers I talked about in chapter 1 were what I call believing unbelievers. Remember that I prayed for them at the Kroger stores during my “great experiment” of praying for people outside the Church? Most did not claim to be committed believers in any way—yet time after time, they were open to allowing me to pray. And time after time, they were healed. I related some of those instances in chapter 1, so I will not talk too much more about them here.

Contrast these believing unbelievers, however, with the unbelieving believers present in large numbers in church who are skeptical of God’s power for healing and miracles. These believers are closed to experiencing the operation of the gifts today. Why is it that so many Christians become “unbelieving believers” when it comes to the gifts? I want to note three primary contributing causes: sociological factors, theological factors and church factors. Sociological factors are those that in some way impact the Church’s purity and power or affect the Church’s focus on this world or the next. When the Church’s focus is more on the next world (by which I mean a focus on the Second Coming of Christ), less emphasis is put on healing in this world.

Society’s prevailing philosophy is also a factor. A case in point is the modernistic worldview—a closed world

peror Constantine’s conversion to Christianity and the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D. This edict made Christianity a legal religion in the Roman Empire. Previously, persecution had kept Christianity pure. Up until that time, there were few hypocrites or nominal Christians. With the legalizing of Christianity, however, persecution ended and the Church began to include many nominal members. These members bore the name *Christian*—but not always due to a genuine conversion.

The second sociological factor was the adoption of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 A.D. This caused a flood of nominal members to join the Church, which consequently was worse off than before because now many of its members were not truly converted to Christ.

Third, the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. and the terrible living conditions of the Dark Ages between 400 and 1400 A.D. caused people to focus on the next life rather than looking for healing in this life. People were anxious to escape their difficult lives on earth and move on to the next place—counting on it to be a far better place (a normal human response to terrible living conditions).

The fourth sociological factor was the scientific rationalism of the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Its reliance on reason as the basis for religious truth resulted in a denial of miracles and healings, which caused many to lose faith in healing.

Fifth, the advancement of medical science was accompanied by a loss of belief in the human soul. The traditional view of the soul was rejected, and human beings were reduced to being the by-product of chem-

in which God does not intervene in the affairs of men, nor does He violate His laws of nature. Until the last quarter century, our educational systems primarily taught modernism. Deism is a religious view based on the sociological factor of modernism. Postmodernism, on the other hand, is much more open to the supernatural and to truth coming through “experience,” whereas modernism emphasized truth coming through reason.

By theological factors I mean a theology based on the closed world system of modernism—in other words, liberalism. Another such factor would also be the theological construct of cessationism.

By church factors I refer to denominational confessions and practices that deny the continuation of the gifts and that censure those who practice the gifts or even believe in them. These factors often result in people having to resign their positions or be fired if they open themselves up to operating in the gifts of the Spirit.

Individually and together, these societal, theological and church factors contribute to the formation of “unbelieving believers” by negatively impacting people’s faith for healings and miracles. Let’s briefly consider these factors one at a time and look at how they affect the attitude of believers toward these gifts.

### Sociological Factors

Over the centuries, numerous sociological factors have contributed to the Church’s diminishing experience of healing and miracles. The first involved the Roman Em-

ical impulses in a bodily form. Humankind has been dehumanized by the humanist movement, and the unity of body, soul and spirit has been denied. As a result, modern medicine treats the patient’s symptoms with medicine rather than treating the underlying causes of sickness. This is beginning to change, however, with the field of psychosomatic medicine, which is rediscovering and affirming—though often unaware—the biblical view of a person as a whole in which if one part becomes ill, it can affect the other two. More and more, Christians are also discovering the spiritual aspects of disease and pointing to the soul as the seat of the will and emotions. It has become clearer, therefore, that when the principles of Scripture are not followed, the soul becomes sick—resulting in unforgiveness, bitterness, cynicism and judgmentalism.

### Theological Factors: Roman Catholic Church

From a theological perspective, certain factors within the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches contributed to the demise of faith in healing. In the Roman Catholic Church, the first factor involved Augustine’s move from the warfare worldview to the blueprint worldview. Augustine became a Christian in 387 A.D. and died in 430. One of the strongest leaders of the Western Church, he profoundly impacted its theology. His writings were most influential in the development of Western Christianity. Prior to Augustine and for a few hundred years after him, the predominant understanding of life was the warfare worldview—that forces of evil were at war against Christ and



His Church. This warfare caused the sicknesses and demonic bondages people experienced. Within this worldview, believers were to fight against sickness, disease and demonic oppression through the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, Augustine's writings eventually moved the Church to a blueprint worldview—an understanding that everything in life happens due to the predetermined will of God. This caused a shift in the thinking of the Church regarding healing. Now, instead of believing that sickness was brought on by the devil (who ought to be resisted), people believed that God brought on sickness for a person's spiritual sanctification. Therefore, to pray against an illness could be viewed as resisting God. Instead of praying for healing, believers began to pray for discernment about why God might have brought sickness or disease into someone's life.

A second factor in the Roman Catholic Church arose from Jerome's mistranslation of James 5:14–15. Properly translated, those verses read, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." The phrase "make the sick person well" in this translation (NIV) comes from the Greek word for *heal*. But Jerome translated the word as *save* instead. This eventually led to changing the Anointing of the Sick, which was *not* reserved for the dying, to Last Rights or Extreme Unction, a Roman Catholic set of sacraments usually given to a dying person not expected to recover.

doctrine or the deity of Christ. This evidential function should be seen as a secondary purpose of the gifts, not their primary purpose. The primary purpose of healings and miracles is the demonstration of the Gospel and the goodness of God.

Sixth was that the Roman Church's theology did not distinguish the context of Jesus' references to suffering, or later Paul's references. Mistakenly, suffering in sickness was seen as carrying our cross and glorifying Jesus in our suffering—whereas instead suffering should have been seen as persecution for the Gospel.

These factors and their resultant shifts in the thinking of the Roman Catholic Church would also affect the Protestant church, which never challenged most of them. But other factors would affect the Protestant church without having as great an effect on the Roman Church. We will look at those factors next.

### Theological Factors: Protestant Church

Theologically speaking, the American and European Protestant churches have been bastions of skeptical unbelief toward healing and miracles happening today. That skepticism was taught to their members. My own experiences in college and seminary have caused me to see such institutions as centers for skepticism rather than as centers to strengthen faith. At least, that has been my personal experience, and it is also how we have arrived at the dilemma of having "unbelieving believers" and "believing unbelievers." Let's look at some of the teachings that have resulted in such rampant skepticism.

A third theological factor was Thomas Aquinas's synthesis of Christian theology and Aristotelian philosophy in his *Summa Theologica*. This attempt to present the Gospel to the Arab world, which had changed from a society based upon Platonic philosophy to a society based upon Aristotelian philosophy, would have dramatic effects on the Church. The Church would now emphasize reason more than revelation and value the material more than the spiritual.

Notably, at the end of his life Aquinas again changed his views as the result of an experience he had on December 6, 1273. After that experience he wrote, "I can write no more. All I have written seems so much straw compared with what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." Three months later he died on a mission trip for the Pope. Others had to finish his famous *Summa Theologica*, and we do not know how his experience would have changed his theology, had he lived long enough to process it into his theology.

Fourth, the Roman Church's understanding of the gifts of the Spirit moved from an emphasis on the supernatural aspects to an understanding of the gifts based on much more natural aspects. For example, Pope Gregory the Great, whose papacy ran from 590–604, created a list of the gifts of the Spirit that consisted of wisdom, science, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear. The gifts of healing and the working of miracles were not mentioned in his list. Neither were words of knowledge, words of wisdom or prophecy.

A fifth factor was that healings, miracles and the dead being raised came to be used as evidence of true

### Liberalism and Cessationism

As I have already stated, I graduated from Oakland City College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. My college professors in religious studies at the time were quite liberal, and the ones who were not liberal were cessationist, as were my seminary professors.

Briefly, let me explain what liberal theologians and cessationists believe. A liberal theologian does not believe in anything supernatural in the Bible, nor would a liberal believe that anything supernatural would happen today. A cessationist is on the opposite end of the theological spectrum. Usually very conservative, a cessationist believes the Bible records historical events that were certainly supernatural. But cessationists believe these events—miracles, healings, signs and wonders—ended either with the death of the last apostle or with the canonization of the Bible. They do believe God *could* work miracles today as sovereign answers to prayer. However, such answers are not seen as the norm, but rather as quite rare.

For cessationists, the gifts of healing and the working of miracles no longer exist in the sense of someone having these gifts. Their argument is based on their belief that healings and miracles were given to prove correct doctrine and to vindicate the apostles' ministry as writers of Scripture. If healings and miracles could still happen, then the canon of Scripture would not be closed and new doctrines could be given. This is the basis of cessationism.

The problem with this position is that miracles were not meant primarily as evidence of correct doc-



trine. Instead they were part of the Gospel, the good news that the Kingdom of God was at hand, that in Jesus' ministry the Kingdom had been inaugurated and would continue until it was consummated in His Second Coming. The cessationist position therefore violates the biblical doctrine of the Kingdom of God and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit's continued role beyond salvation. And as we saw in chapter 3, where we looked at the scriptural foundation for healing, this position contradicts the many Scriptures that teach that the gifts are to continue until Jesus' return.

When it comes to practical pastoral ministry regarding healing, the liberal and the cessationist make strange bedfellows. They both end up *not expecting* healing to occur, and they do not equip their parishioners to pray for the sick or do deliverance. Yet these are the two primary theological systems Protestant church pastors have been trained in. Liberalism has been prominent for about three hundred years now, and cessationism for five hundred. Neither system would believe in the possibility that people have the gift to heal or work miracles today. They would not teach their people to have faith for healing. Rather, they would teach them to deny present-day miracles or healings as impossible or fraudulent. It is little wonder, then, that believers within these systems develop into "unbelieving believers."

#### **Dispensationalism**

Dispensationalism is another "ism" that has had a negative impact on the Church's faith in healing and popular among seminaries during the twentieth century, was taught to thousands of seminarians. It was a system that did not allow—let alone expect—healings and miracles.

#### **New Liberalism**

I have already dealt with liberalism above, but this newer kind of liberalism is even more radical than the older form, which tried to explain the supernatural by offering naturalistic causes. New liberalism more radically rejects the supernatural—in fact, its whole presupposition is a strong antisupernaturalism. Instead of trying to explain a "miracle" through naturalistic means, the event in question was not considered a real occurrence at all, but rather a story made up to teach a theological truth—a myth. But *myth* here does not mean the story was not teaching a truth; rather it meant the historical event simply never occurred. Hence there was no need to supply a naturalistic interpretation for it. The term developed for this by Rudolph Bultmann was *demythologizing* the Scripture.

This form of liberalism was characterized, then, by the demythologizing of Rudolph Bultmann and Paul Tillich. It maintained that there was no need to believe that the supernatural events of Scripture were historical. Christian faith was not to be based on whether or not events actually took place, but rather in the *theology* of the so-called myths or legends in Scripture. For clarity's sake, let me again state that here *myth* does not mean something false. Rather, *myth* actually means a story that carries in it the deep truths of the

miracles. Based on a "revelation" to fifteen-year-old Margaret MacDonald, who received it in 1830 in a vision, it is the source of the pre-Tribulation understanding of Jesus' Second Coming. Instead of a restoration of the offices and gifts active in the early Church, it taught that the Church at the end of time, just before Jesus returned, would be lukewarm and weak. It also taught that prior to the return of Jesus, lying signs and wonders would occur to lead people away from the faith.

This pre-Tribulation view was never heard of before 1830. John Darby, a leader in the Plymouth Brethren, was not only a cessationist, but also held the view that the end-time Church would be weak. Darby's views were later popularized in the notes of C. I. Scofield in his study Bible.

This dispensationalist view is ultrapessimistic, leaving no place for an end-time victorious Church or revival. Ironically, many Pentecostals would adopt dispensationalism's end-time understanding of the Second Coming of Jesus, though they would reject its cessationist understanding of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Neoorthodoxy**

Neoorthodoxy is a twentieth-century development in Protestant theology. Karl Barth and Emil Brunner were its primary originators. Barth was a Reformed pastor, and in the Reformed tradition, was also a cessationist. Neoorthodoxy embraced some of liberalism's antisupernatural presuppositions, but was more conservative in its conclusions. This school of theology, Christian faith. It was not considered necessary for a story to have actually taken place in history to make its point. Real truth was to be found in the theology communicated within "mythological" stories in the New Testament.

#### **Fundamentalism**

Fundamentalism was a reaction to the liberalism of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It was largely popularized by the writings of the Princeton theologian B. B. Warfield. He also wrote a book against the continuance of miracles today, *Counterfeit Miracles*, first published in 1918. A Presbyterian and a Reformed theologian, Warfield believed strongly in the cessationist view of spiritual gifts.

In the 1920s the American church experienced the modernist-fundamentalist controversy. The fundamentalists, who believed that the Bible was true historically and that supernatural events took place through the apostles until the apostles died, rose up to try to regain control of the teaching institutions of the American church. They failed, and most of the American seminaries, divinity schools and Christian colleges came under the control of the liberal viewpoint. This meant that most of the denominationally trained ministers were trained in skeptical unbelief and rejection of the supernatural—not just applicable to their present day, but also to the Bible. They would not believe the gifts of healing or working of miracles were for today.

The cessationist-fundamentalist segment responded by starting new schools. Remember, both they and the



liberals believed the gifts of healing and working of miracles would not happen in the present day. More accurately, the fundamentalists believed that these gifts were no longer in existence. As stated earlier, they believed a healing could occur, but *not* due to the gifts of healing. It would be due to God sovereignly responding to intercessory prayer on behalf of the sick person, and these answers were not seen as normative, but as rare.

### Roman Catholic Church Factors

We have looked at a number of societal and theological/hermeneutical factors that led to the creation of unbelieving believers, but there is also another group of important factors to consider: the Church factors. Both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches made decisions that negatively impacted believers' faith for healing and miracles.

Three factors within Roman Catholicism contributed to the demise of belief in healing and miracles. First, the Middle Age's period of moral corruption and its failure to correct it caused a decrease in healing. Along with the lukewarmness that settled in the Church and the consequent lack of purity, there came a corresponding lack of power.

A second factor was the gradual progression toward relegating healings and miracles to the Catholic "saints" (both before and after their deaths) and accusing common people who moved in these gifts of being involved in witchcraft. It was believed that exceptional holiness, including consecration to God as part of a religious order or the priesthood, was necessary for a

the sick because it was causing jealousy and problems because people kept coming from outside his parish to receive prayer. Healings and a revival broke out after he cast a demon out of a young woman. It took a two-year battle for her freedom, but the demon was finally overcome. It left screaming "Jesus is victor" and did not come back. This incident, told in Freidrich Zuendel's *The Awakening* (Plough Publishing, 2000), occurred in 1842. Blumhardt never took credit for deliverances or healings. Instead, he liked to say that there were many things he did not know, but the one thing he did know was that Jesus is victor. Because of denominational pressure not to pray for the sick as part of his parish ministry, he resigned and began a healing center in 1853.

The second factor was the defrocking (taking away the ordination) of the London Presbyterian pastor Edward Irving because he believed in the restoration of the gifts and offices of the early Church to the Church of his day. This sent a message to other pastors who might be interested in the renewal of the Spirit that it would probably cost them their church and their ordination. Irving was one of the very first Protestants to believe and preach that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were to be restored to the Church, and that they actually had been to his church.

A third factor was the violent rejection of the Pentecostal movement by almost the entire Protestant church, except some of the later Holiness denominations that went Pentecostal. But thanks be to God, this original violent prejudice against the Pentecostal experience and doctrine has greatly decreased. Today,

person to display gifts of healing and miracles. This caused the laity to feel they were not good enough or holy enough to be used for healing. (Besides, it was dangerous! Lay persons actually were tortured or burned for practicing such gifts without having attained the supposed level of holiness.)

A third factor occurred after 1967, when the prayers of Pope John XXIII were answered for a new Pentecost in the Roman Catholic Church. This was a positive thing, but how the Catholic Church accommodated the visitation of the Spirit would ultimately have a negative impact on a belief in the gifts, in my opinion. The Catholic Church accommodated charismatic priests and people by allowing charismatic small groups and fellowships within the local parishes, but it did not allow its liturgies to become charismatic in expression. This stance isolated the charismatic dimension of the Spirit from the main liturgical services of the Catholic Church.

### Protestant Church Factors

The Protestant church contributed its own set of factors that hindered healing and miracles. Eight factors within Protestantism led to the demise of faith for the operation of these gifts. In chronological order, the first factor was the restriction of Johann Blumhardt's ministry in Germany. Blumhardt, who lived from 1805–1880, was one of the first people within Protestantism to begin praying for the sick with effectiveness. He had a powerful healing ministry—so powerful that the Lutheran denomination asked him not to pray for

80 percent of all Christians in the Southern Hemisphere have had a Pentecostal experience with the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

A fourth factor was that Bible colleges and seminaries discriminated against Pentecostals and charismatics, not allowing them to attend if they spoke in tongues. But once again, things have been changing. Many schools that once would have refused Pentecostals or charismatics now allow them to enroll, and some have even hired professors who are charismatic or Pentecostal.

A fifth factor was that Protestant mission boards were firing missionaries who spoke in tongues or taught that the healing gifts were currently available for ministry. The Southern Baptist Mission Board officially adopted this position in 2007. (I will conclude this chapter shortly with an example of how this factor affected one missionary couple.)

A sixth factor was that denominations began disfellowshipping individual churches that began to have charismatic experiences such as speaking in tongues, falling under the power, having prophecies come forth or operating in healing ministries. Some of the largest churches in Asia and Brazil today were once Baptist, but were disfellowshipped when they began to have these experiences. One such church in Manouse, Brazil, in which I have ministered multiple times, has 60,000 members in one congregation today. Another in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, has over 120,000 members. These are just two examples out of many similar stories.

A seventh factor, similar to one of the Catholic Church's factors, was that some Protestant denomi-



nations accommodated their charismatic pastors and people by allowing small groups and fellowships to form in the local churches, but they did not allow the worship services or liturgies to become charismatic in expression. This at least allowed charismatic people to remain in their local churches without being kicked out, and they could then develop a place where they could pray for each other, move in the gifts and worship with more abandon. But at the same time, these practices were isolated from the congregation at large.

This quarantine measure kept the charismata (gifts) out of congregational meetings while keeping charismatic members in the congregation. This compromising solution did not allow the Holy Spirit to have control in congregational worship services. There was no place for prophecies outside those quarantined charismatic groups. Neither was there a place for words of knowledge or gifts of healing, except in the condoned charismatic closets. In effect, the working of God through these gifts was relegated to places outside the experience of most members of a church. Though not quite a “don’t ask—don’t tell” policy, this served to keep charismatics in the closet.

I spoke to an official denomination’s “charismatic fellowship” for a whole diocese a few years ago. Sadly, the movement of the Spirit—once so powerful and strong—had not been allowed to penetrate most of that body. As a result, almost everyone in attendance was gray headed. In the succeeding 25 years after the Spirit’s outpouring, the ones who were initially touched still met to worship and pray for healings. But their institutional church life had not been impacted nearly as

ican family present was with a missionary sending agency that specialized in reaching unreached people groups. This family had pioneered a work among an indigenous people group. The father had started the work forty years ago and was now retired and in his eighties. His son and daughter-in-law and their teenage children were continuing his work. When I first met them, they were all cessationist, trained in this viewpoint. Yet we needed translators and they volunteered to help. They did not know what we believed when they agreed to come translate.

To this family’s surprise, they found themselves translating our Gospel of the Kingdom messages that put forth the continued ministry of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the Gospel through signs and wonders, healings and miracles. They also translated for us as we prayed for the sick and cast out demons. The father and mother, Dave and Diana, and the teenagers were all experiencing the reality of the Kingdom of God as they witnessed people being healed and set free day and night.

This created a theological crisis for Dave. He had taught that the gifts of healings and working of miracles no longer existed, but now he was seeing them happen right in front of his eyes. He began to seek God and study the Bible to see if these things were so. He came to believe his cessationist viewpoint was wrong. It was obvious that his doctrine and personal experience no longer quite lined up, and as he sought the Scriptures, he had a change of mind and heart.

At the conclusion of our trip, he asked if I would come to the hotel where he and his family were stay-

much as it could have been if the gifts of the Spirit had been more welcomed in the congregational services of the local churches.

An eighth and final factor was the moral failure of high-visibility leaders in Protestant healing ministries. Many people stopped believing in the message of healing these men brought because they stopped believing in the messengers when they fell into sin. We must remember, however, that it is not the *messenger* but the *message* itself that the Holy Spirit backs up and confirms. I believe those who fell were true men of God who, for different reasons, became self-deceived. Then they fell into self-deceptive thinking and next into self-destructive, sinful behavior that destroyed their ministries. At the end of these men’s ministries, people were healed and saved even while the ministers themselves were in self-destruct mode.

### A Personal Example

Let me conclude this chapter with a story in which one of these factors greatly affected a couple’s ability to minister effectively. The fifth Protestant church factor I mentioned was that Protestant mission boards began firing their missionaries who departed from the cessationist position. A few years ago, I met one such missionary couple personally while I was ministering in Imperatriz, Brazil, and they told me their story.

We had a substantial team with us numbering about eighty on the trip. I desperately needed more good translators to help us in our preaching and teaching, as well as helping when we prayed for the sick. An Amer-

ing while they translated for us. I agreed, and when I arrived he told me that the whole family wanted me to lay hands on them and pray that there would be a transference from my life to theirs of the gifts of the Spirit. They also wanted the baptism with the Spirit. God answered my prayers by coming powerfully upon all of them. Rejoicing, we then went in different directions.

When our team returned to Imperatriz a year later, I heard the rest of their story. Dave and Diana had signed an agreement letter that if they ever left the mission agency for any reason, they would also leave the tribe and area they had been working with. Believing that exercising the gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues were tantamount to “leaving” the agency, they had to resign. So after we had left Brazil the first time, Dave duly wrote a letter of resignation and sent it to the leaders of his missions agency. This was extremely difficult for him because he and his family had all been born in Brazil and his father had pioneered their work among the indigenous people.

The day he sent the letter off, a genuine revival of classic character began. The Holy Spirit fell upon his church. Prior to this outpouring, the members had not been very excited about their faith. All ten of them would come late to the church—which met under a mango tree. They lacked passion in their worship, and around Dave and his family, they would often refer to God as “your God” rather than “our God.”

This changed when the Holy Spirit fell. The church members became passionate for God. He was *their* God now. They wept under the conviction of the Holy



Spirit due to the overwhelming presence of God's love. They would go door-to-door asking people they had wronged to forgive them. The tribe had built homes in a circular configuration, and the church members were going around the circle to make things right with other members of the tribe. Many whom they were visiting were not Christians, but were amazed by the changes in these Christians. Many therefore accepted Jesus.

Often, even before the Christians could get to all the homes, other tribal members were converted due to the powerful witness of the new converts. When the Christians heard someone was sick, they went and prayed for the person until he or she was healed. They also gave money toward going to other tribes with their message of revival. Other tribes soon heard about what was happening and came to see and experience it for themselves.

About this time, Dave's missions agency had just completed the New Testament in the language of the tribal people. This had taken almost forty years. When agency representatives arrived at Dave's church with the translations, they did not see the usual ten to fifteen Christians, but a crowd of over 200. They asked what all these people were doing at the church meet-

ing. When Dave told them this was now the church, the missions agency representatives could scarcely believe it.

This story has a happy ending. When the agency leaders came to meet with Dave and Diana again to accept their resignation, about a year after they had sent the resignation letter, the representatives also met with the leaders of the tribe. The leaders told them that if they made Dave and Diana leave, the tribe did not want anyone else from the missions agency to come. Many did not want to return to the old religion—they wanted what was happening since the revival. In addition, the older chiefs of the village, who made the final decisions, were unwilling for the tribe to sever the strong ties of friendship with Dave and Diana. The missions agency therefore pulled out, deciding that if Dave and Diana stayed on as the pastors of the church, they no longer wished to be related to the church. The agency simply did not believe in modern-day healings or the other so-called sign gifts. Dave and his family, along with the tribal church his father had founded, parted ways amicably with the missions agency, preferring instead to continue growing in their newfound relationship with the Holy Spirit.



# Appendix 2

## Gods Creative Power

By Charles Capps

### Chapter 1: God's Creative power will work for you

Christianity is called the *great confession*, but most Christians who are defeated in life are defeated because they believe and confess the wrong things. They have spoken the Words of the enemy. And those *words* hold them in bondage. Proverbs 6:1-2 Says “..Thou art snared with the Words of thy mouth.”

**Faith filled words will put you over.**

**Fear filled words will defeat you.**

**Words are the most powerful things in the universe**

Man is a spirit being, very capable of operating on the same level of faith as God. We read in Mark 9:23, “Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth,” Matthew 17:20 says, “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. “Mark 11:23 says, “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, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

#### **Spiritual Law:**

This is not a theory. It is fact. **It is Spiritual Law.** It works every time it is applied correctly. **This IS A SPIRITUAL LAW.** *God never does anything without saying it first. God is a faith God. God released his faith in words.*” And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22) A more literal translation of the above verse says, “Have the God kind of faith, or faith of God.” Ephesians 5:1 literally tells us to be imitators of God as children imitate their parents. *To Imitate God, you must talk like him and act like him. He would not ask you to do something you are not capable of doing.*

Jesus operated in the faith principles of Mark 11:23, and Matthew 17:20 while he was on earth. *He spoke to the wind and sea. He spoke to demons. He spoke to the Fig tree. He even spoke to dead men.* The wind, sea, tree, demons and even the dead were obedient to what he said. Jesus was imitating His Father and getting the same results as his Father. In John 14:12 Jesus said, “*He that believeth on me that works that I do shall he shall do also; and greater...*”. *These principles of faith are based on spiritual laws. They work for whosoever will apply these laws. You set them in motion by the Words of your mouth.* Do you really want all the negative things you have been confessing to come to pass? Are you believing for those things? If Jesus came to you personally and said, from this day forward it will come to pass, that everything you say will happen exactly as you say it; would that change your vocabulary? I believe it would.



### **Binding and loosing:**

In Matthew 16:19 Jesus said, “ I give you the keys of the kingdom, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Psalms 119:89 tells us, “For ever O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” What God said is already established. Now it is up to you.

What are you going to say about it? God will not alter what he has said. “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips”

(Psalms 89:34) **Whose words will you establish on earth?** The power of binding and loosing is on earth.

### **Spoken words:**

Spoken words program your spirit (heart) either to success or defeat. *Words are containers. They carry Faith, or fear and they produce after their kind.*

“So then Faith cometh by hearing and hearing from the Word of God”

(Romans 10:17) Faith comes more quickly when you hear yourself quoting, speaking and saying the things God said. You will more readily receive God’s word into your spirit by hearing yourself say it than if you hear someone else say it.

### **Live in the Authority of the Word.**

The spirit of God spoke to me concerning confessing the Word of God aloud: where you can hear yourself saying it. He said “it is scientific application of the wisdom of God to the psychological makeup of man.” And it works, thanks God. *The body of Christ must begin to live in the authority of the Word. For God’s word is creative power.* That Creative power is produced by the heart, formed by the tongue, and released out of the mouth in word form.

In August of 1973, the Word of the Lord came unto me saying, “If men would believe me, long prayers are not necessary. Just speaking the Word will bring what you desire. My creative power is given to man in word form. I have ceased for a time from my work and have given man the book of MY CREATIVE POWER. That power is STILL IN MY WORD.

“For it is to be effective, man must speak it in faith. Jesus spoke it when he was on earth and as it worked then so shall it work now. *But it must be spoken by the body.* Man must rise up and have dominion over the power of evil by my words. It is my greatest desire that my people create a better life by the spoken word. For my Word has not lost its power just because it has been spoken once. It is still equally as powerful today as when I said, ‘Let there be light’.

“But for my Word to be effective, **men must speak it**, and that creative power will come forth performing that which is spoken in faith

“My Word is not void of power”.

“My people are void of speech. They hear the world and speak as the world speaks. By observing circumstances they have lost sight of my Word. They even speak that which the enemy says, and they destroy their own inheritance by corrupt communication of fear and unbelief. “No Word of Mine is void of power, only powerless when it is unspoken. “ As there is creative power in my Spoken Word, so is there evil power present in the Words of the enemy to affect and oppress everyone that speaks to them. “Be not conformed, but be transformed into the Body of faith, knowing that my words are alive evermore. Believe, speak, and obtain that your joy may be full and you shall be complete in me.”

These truths changed my life. I have never been the same.

*Confess victory in the face of apparent defeat. Confess abundance in the face of apparent lack.*



In June of 1974, I was teaching a faith seminar in Hickory, North Carolina. My text was taken from Mark 11:23. The word of the Lord came unto me as I was teaching and I spoke one of the most profound statements I have ever heard. It was simple, but then Jesus never made anything hard to understand. It is so simple that it almost seems foolish, but it has changed many lives.

*It will change yours as you receive it.* Let's put it in the context of which he spoke. Mark 11:23, "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, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

As I was teaching from this text, Jesus said to me, "*I have told my people they can have WHAT THEY SAY, and they are SAYING WHAT THEY HAVE.*"

That is a very simple truth, but oh how profound and far reaching. For as long as you say what you have, you will have what you say, then you, again say what you have, and it will produce no more than what you say.

You can see what you have set spiritual law in motion that will confine you to the very position or circumstance you are in when you set the law in motion. It is an age old problem of not looking beyond what you can see with the physical eye.

**A correct application of this spiritual law will change even the most impossible situation.** But, to incorrectly apply these laws will hold you in bondage, and cause the circumstances to grow worse.

**Every faith principle, and every spiritual law that God set forth in his word was for your benefit.** *It was designed to put you over in life.*

## Learn to Release Your Faith in Words

You can have what you say if you learn to release faith from the heart in your words Jesus said, "... as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee (Matthew 8:13) *He didn't say it would only work if you believed right. Whether you believe right, or wrong, it is still the law. "... God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap*" (Galatians 6:7)

The spiritual law is based on the same basic principle of seed-time harvest. The words you speak are the seeds that produce after their kind. Just as sure as they are planted, you can be equally sure a harvest will follow.

***Faith talks. When faith talks, it talks faith, not fear and unbelief.***

### **THE TREASURES OF THE HEART CAN NOT BE HIDDEN, BUT ARE MANIFEST THROUGH WORDS**

Learn to take the Words of Jesus personally.

In Mark 11:23, Jesus tells you that you can have what you say if what you say comes from faith in your heart. What would happen if Jesus walked down the aisles of your church, laid his hands on the people, and said, "it will come to pass that after I have laid my hand on each one of you, everything you say will happen just as you say it"? Half of the congregation would jump up and say, "That just *tickles me to death!*"

The enemy has so programmed the minds of people until instead of resisting him, they have sort of buddied up with him, and began to talk him language.



## Train Yourself to Speak God's Word

*Let us train ourselves to speak Gods word.* Ephesians 5:1 tells us, to be followers of God, as dear children.....” The Word, “Followers” in the Greek means to imitate. *We are to imitate God as a child does his father.* If a child imitates his father, he will walk like him, talk like him; and pattern his every move after him.

*We should do no less after our Father. God*

When you study the life of Jesus you find several important facts that caused him to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. I will list a few.

1. He spent much time in prayer, but he never prayed the problem; he prayed the answer. **What God said is the answer.**
2. He spoke accurately, never crooked speech. His conversation always consisted of what God said.
3. He always spoke the end results, **not the problem.** Never did he confess **present** circumstances. He spoke the **desired results**
4. He used the written Word to defeat Satan.

THE WORD OF GOD CONCEIVED IN THE HEART, FORMED BY THE TOUNGE, AND SPOKEN OUT OF THE MOUTH IS CREATIVE POWER.

## Chapter 2: God's Word is Medicine

*Proverbs 4:20-22*

*“attend to my words...they are life...and health (medicine) to all their flesh.*

God's Word ministers to the total man, His word (Jesus) are our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Most people have used the Words of their mouth to hold themselves in bondage. But as you begin to speak the Word of God from the heart, it will produce liberty. It will produce health and healing the Word said it would. Most people have spoken contrary to the Word. They have spoken things that the devil has said about them. Therefore, they have established on earth the Words the enemy has said. If we will begin to **establish the things God said, and establish His Word on this earth.** Then thank God! We'll rise to a new level of faith.

We will **walk in the level in the life where we release the ability of God** by the Words of our mouth. We can release the ability of God within ourselves by the Words of our mouth and cause HIS word and his power to become available to us.

Let's learn to take God's medicine daily.

**Capps'-sules\***

**To defeat worry and fear confess these capps-sules three times a day**

I am the body of Christ and Satan hath no power over me. For I overcome evil with good/ (1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:21)

\*\*



I am the God and have overcome him (Satan) for greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

\*\*

I will fear no evil for thou art with me Lord, your word and your Spirit they comfort me (Psalms 23:4)

\*\*

I am far from oppression and fear does not come night me (Isaiah 54:14)

\*\*

No Weapon formed against me shall prosper, for my righteousness is of the Lord. But whatever I do will prosper for him like a tree that's planted by the rivers of water (Isaiah 54:17; Psalms 1:3)

\*\*

I am delivered from the evils of this present world for it is the will of God. (Galatians 1:4)

\*\*

No evil will befall me neither shall any plague come nigh my dwelling. For the Lord has given His angels charge over me and they keep me in all my ways, and in my pathway is life and there is no death. (Psalms 91:10-11; Proverbs 12:28)

\*\*

I am a doer of the Word of God and am blessed in my deeds. I am happy in those things which I do because I am a doer of the Word of God (James 1:22)

\*\*

I take the shield of faith and I quench every fiery dart that the wicked one brings against me (Ephesians 6:16)

\*\*

Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law. Therefore I forbid any sickness or disease to come upon this body. Every disease germ and every virus that touches this body dies instantly in the name of Jesus. Every organ and every tissue of this body functions in the perfection to which God created it to function, and I forbid any malfunction in this body, in the name of Jesus ( Galatians 3:13; Romans 8:11; Genesis 1:31; Matthew 16:19)

\*\*

I am an overcomer and I overcome by the blood of the lamb and the Word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11)

\*\*

I am submitted to God and the devil flees from me because I resist him in the name of Jesus (James 4:7)



\*\*

The word of God I forever settled in heaven. Therefore I establish his word upon this earth (Psalms 119:89)

Great is the peace of my children for they are taught of the Lord (Isaiah 54:13)

\*\*

**If overweight, take this Capps-sule before meals three times a day**

I don't desire to eat so much I become overweight. I present my body to God, my body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which dwelleth in me, I am not my own, I am bought with a price therefore, in the name of Jesus I refuse to over-eat. Body settle down, in the name of Jesus and conform to the Word of God, I mortify the desires of this body and command it to come into line with the Word of God. (Rom 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

\*\*

**For material needs confess these three times a day until they're Manifest**

Christ has redeemed me from the curse of law. Christ has redeemed me from poverty, Christ has redeemed me from sickness, Christ has redeemed me from spiritual death (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 28)

\*\*

For poverty he has given me wealth, for sickness he has given me health, for death he has given me eternal life (2 Corinthians 8:9; Isaiah 53:5-6; John 10:10; John 5:24)

\*\*

It is true unto me according to the Word of God (Psalms 119:25)

\*\*

I delight myself in the Lord and he gives me the desires of my heart (Psalms 37:4)

\*\*

I have given and it is given into me good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, men give unto my bossom (Luke 6:38)

\*\*

With what measure I mete, it is measured unto me. I sow bountifully, therefore I reap bountifully. I give cheerfully, and my God has made all grace abound toward me and I have all sufficiency of all things- do abound to all good works (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

\*\*

There is no lack for my God supplieth all my need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)



\*\*

The Lord is my shepherd and I DO NOT WANT because Jesus was made poor, that I through his poverty might have abundance. For he came that I might have life and have it more abundantly (Psalms 23:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9; John 10:10)

\*\*

And I, having received the gift of righteousness do reign as king in life by -Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17)

\*\*

The Lord has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant, and Abrahams blessing are mine (Psalms 35:27; Galatians 3:14)

\*\*

**For wisdom and guidance confess these three times a day until it is Manifest**

The Spirit of Truth abideth in me and teaches me all things, and He guides me into all truths. Therefore I confess I have perfect knowledge of every situation and every circumstance that I come up against. For I have the wisdom of God (John 16:14; James 1:5)

\*\*

I trust in the Lord with all my heart and I lean not on my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5)

\*\*

In all my ways I acknowledge Him and he directs my path (Proverbs 3:16)

\*\*

The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me (Psalms 138:8)

\*\*

I let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly in all wisdom (Colossians 3:16)

\*\*

I do follow the Good Shepherd and I know his voice and the voice of a stranger I will not follow (John 10:4-5)

\*\*

Jesus is made unto me wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, therefore I confess I have wisdom of God, and I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21)



\*\*

I am filled with the knowledge of the Lords will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)

\*\*

I am a new creation in Christ, I am his workmanship created in Christ Jesus. Therefore I have the mind of Christ and the wisdom of God is formed within me (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; Corinthians 2:16)

\*\*

I have put off the old man and have put on the new man, which is renewed in the knowledge after the image of him that created me (Colossians 3:10)

\*\*

I receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, the eyes of my understanding being enlightened. And I am not conformed to this world but am transformed by the renewing of my mind. My mind is renewed by the Word of God (Ephesians 1:17-18; Romans 12:2)

\*\*

**For comfort and strength confess these as often as necessary**

\*\*

I am increasing in the knowledge of God. I am strengthened with all might according to his glorious power (Colossians 1:10-11)

\*\*

I am delivered from the power of darkness and I am translated into the kingdom of his dear son (Colossians 1:13)

\*\*

I am born of God and I have world overcoming faith on the inside of me. For great is he that's in me than he that is in the world (1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 4:4)

\*\*

I will do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)

\*\*

The joy of the Lord is my strength. The Lord is the strength of my life (Nehemiah 8:10; Psalms 27:1)

\*\*



The peace of God which passeth all understanding keeps my heart and my mind through Christ Jesus. And things which are good, and pure, and perfect, and lovely, and of good report, I think on these things (Philippians 4:7-8)

\*\*

I let no corrupt communication proceed out of my mouth, but that which is good to edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearer. I grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby I'm sealed unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:29)

\*\*

I speak the truth of the Word of God in love and I grow up into the Lord Jesus Christ in all things (Ephesians 4:15)

\*\*

No man shall take me out of his hand for I have eternal life (1 John 10:29)

\*\*

I let the peace of God rule in my heart and I refuse to worry about anything (Colossians 3:15)

\*\*

I will not let the Word of God depart from before my eyes for it is life to me for I have found it and it is health and healing to all my flesh (Proverbs 4:21-22)

\*\*

God is on my side. God is in me now, who can be against me? He has given unto me all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Therefore I am a partaker of his divine nature (2 Corinthians 6:16; John 10:10; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Romans 8:31)

\*\*

I am a believer and these signs do follow me. In the name of Jesus I cast out demons, I speak with new tongues, I lay hands on the sick and they do recover (Mark 16:17-18)

\*\*

Jesus gave me the authority to use his name. And that which I bind on earth is bound in heaven. And that which I loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Therefore in the name of Lord Jesus Christ I bind the principalities, the powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world. I bind and cast down spiritual wickedness in high places and render them harmless and ineffective against me in the name of Jesus (Matthew 16:19; John 16:23-24; Ephesians 2:10)

\*\*

I am complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power. For I am His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God has before ordained that I should walk therein (Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 2:10)



\*\*

God created the universe by the methods which you have just put in motion, by the Words of your mouth. God released his faith in words. Man is created in the image of God therefore man release his faith in words. Words are the powerful things in the universe today.

Let me say it again, “The Word of God conceived in the human spirit, formed by the tongue, and spoken out of the mouth becomes creative power that will work for you”.

If the body of Christ would only grasp the truths and the principles that are taught in this book, and put them in action, they could change the world.

Jesus said, “I HAVE TOLD MY PEOPLE THEY CAN HAVE WHAT THEY SAY,” but  
“MY PEOPLE ARE SAYING WHAT THEY HAVE.”



# Appendix 3

## Words of Knowledge for Healing

By Randy Clark

### What is a word of knowledge?

A word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation of information by the Holy Spirit. Paul received many of his revelations through words of knowledge.

*Now 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. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches... 1 Corinthians 2:12-13*

### Words of knowledge for healing

The Holy Spirit often gives revelatory word of knowledge concerning the need of a person (or more than one person) for healing. This is an indication that God wishes to heal the person or those who have the condition revealed in the word of knowledge, and usually that he wishes to heal him or them at the time the word is given. When understood in this way, a word of knowledge builds faith in the person who needs the healing, and also in the person who received the word of knowledge. Accordingly, the person who received the word should normally speak it out at the time or at the next appropriate time, see if it applies to someone present, and if so offer to pray at once for that person's (or their) healing.

### Specificity in words of knowledge for healing

The more specific the word of knowledge is, the more faith it builds in the people involved. If the word is received through feeling a pain, it is helpful if the kind of pain and its exact location is stated. For example:

It is better to say, "A shooting pain on the left side of the neck just below the ear", or to point to the exact location, than to say merely, "A pain in the neck," or "Does someone's neck hurt?"

It is better to say, "Pain in the third lumbar vertebra", or to point to the exact location, than to say merely, "Back pain".

It is better to say, "Ringing in the left ear", if that is the word, than to say, "Trouble with an ear."

The person receiving the word should be careful not to change it, and not to add to it. He should not exaggerate, nor leave out a detail that seems unimportant to him. Changes or additions cause confusion. For example:

A person had a mental picture of someone being injured by tripping over a green hose. The only green hoses he had seen were garden hoses. So he said he had a picture of a person injured by tripping over a green *garden* hose. There was a man in the meeting who had been injured by tripping over a green *pressure* hose at



work. He did not respond to the word at first, because the hose he tripped on wasn't a *garden* hose. He would have responded more quickly if the person receiving the revelation had not added to it.

### **The timing of words of knowledge**

You may receive a word of knowledge anywhere and at any time. You might get a word during a prayer meeting, a cell group meeting, walking past someone in church or in the supermarket, or while washing dishes at home.

You may or may not know for whom the revelation has been given.

Most often, the word of knowledge is given for someone present. However, it may be for someone not present but whom someone present knows about. Or it can be for someone you will see in the next day or so.

### **How to speak when you believe you have received a word of knowledge for healing**

It is generally wise, at least at first, to be tentative in speaking out the word you have received. In a small meeting you might say, "Does anyone have a sharp pain in his left elbow just now?" If no one responds, don't be concerned. If someone responds, you could say, "Well, I just had a sharp pain in my left elbow, which may be a word of knowledge indicating that God would like to heal you now, since you have that condition. Would you like me (or us) to pray for you now?"

If the person is open to receiving prayer, pray for him. If he wants prayer later, pray for him later. If he doesn't want prayer due to embarrassment, lovingly encourage him to receive. But if he refuses, don't pressure him in any way to receive prayer.

If you believe you have received a word of knowledge for healing in a large meeting, you probably would not speak out unless there is an appropriate moment indicated by the leader. But you would "keep your antennae up" to see whether God puts someone across your path later on who has the condition revealed to you. If He does, you can have confidence that God wants to do some healing work in the person you discover.

### **How does God give words of knowledge for healing?**

God gives his revelations in different ways, and that is true of words of knowledge for healing as well as for other kinds of revelation. Some of the more common ways He gives words of knowledge for healing are:

#### **1. FEELING**

You may have

- a sharp pain in some part of your body
- a throbbing sensation,
- some other sensation,
- a strong emotion such as fear or panic

Be careful that your feeling is not caused by a condition in your own body. For instance, if you often have pain in your left ear, you would not give that as a word of knowledge even if you get that pain during a meeting.

#### **2. SEEING**

You may get a mental picture such as:



- a body part - perhaps a heart, a foot, an eye, a head
- a person with a certain condition such as a limp
- a person carefully holding his arm
- a crutch, eye-glasses, a person walking with a cane
- a water bottle, a barbed wire fence, an auto accident

### 3. READING

You may see in your mind

- a person with a word written across his front of back, or over his head
- a word written on a wall or on a carpet
- something like a newspaper headline or a banner

### 4. AN IMPRESSION (“Thinking” the word)

You may sense in your mind that someone has a particular condition, or that the Holy Spirit has spoken the word to you. It is a mental impression.

### 5. SPEAKING

While talking or praying or standing with someone, unpremeditated words may tumble out of your mouth relating to a physical condition you were not aware of.

### 6. A DREAM OR VISION

You may have a vivid dream or vision in which:

- you have a new health problem,
- you see someone with a health problem,
- you hear someone talking about a health problem

## **Some practical insights to help you grow in the use of words of knowledge for healing**

1. A word of knowledge may come quickly, flitting through your mind more like a bird or dancing butterfly than like a stationary billboard.
2. It may be rather vague, tempting you to screen it out, to ignore it. Practice “tuning in” to these revelations and speaking them out. If you are tentative and humble, not arrogant or presumptuous, no one will be offended if you seem to have heard amiss.
3. Resist the thought that a word you have received is not important, or that it is ‘just you’. Remember, it builds faith in the other person to know that God has revealed his condition to you. What seems like a vague impression to you may be a shout to the other person!
4. However, don’t be presumptuous. Don’t say, “God just told me you have an earache”.  
Instead say, “Does your left ear ever bother you?” or “I have an impression of a problem in a left ear. Does this mean anything to you?”  
Other examples: “Does a picture of a flower vase mean anything to you?” or “I think I see a picture of cows in a field. Does that have any significance to you?”
5. Be as specific as the word revealed to you. The more specific the word, the more it builds faith in you and in the other person or people.
6. Unpretentious honesty is the best policy! It’s perfectly okay
  - to admit you’re nervous
  - to say that you have only a vague impression
  - to say that you have never had a word for someone before
  - to say that praying for sick people is new to you



7. Don't be afraid. Don't let fear rob you and the person who might have been healed. Someone has said that "faith" is spelled "r-i-s-k". Be patient, but step out. Be humble, but step out. Be tentative, **BUT STEP OUT!** God is giving you words of knowledge because He wants you to use them! He wants you to use them wisely and prudently and humbly, but He does want you to use them.

### **Words of knowledge for healing as an aid to evangelism**

Many people are accustomed to the idea of prayer for healing in the sense that folks in the church or in a prayer group will pray for the healing of someone who is sick in the hospital or at home. There is often no expectation of prayer in the presence of the sick person, or of immediate healing for the sick person. Usually the most that is expected is that the sick person's recovery may be shortened a bit. Even if recovery is shortened somewhat, this type of experience is not especially impressive to unbelievers.

However, healing on the spot, in the name of Jesus, can have considerably more impact. It can result in people responding to Jesus who otherwise might never do so. It is a demonstration of the power of God in the name of Jesus. It is a demonstration that Jesus is concerned about people, and about their illnesses. It can be an avenue of hope for a person who has given up hope. It can be proof that the name of Jesus is more powerful than the workings of Satan.

Words of knowledge for healing can be an especially effective aid to evangelism. They clearly seem to be intended by the Lord for immediate healing. For the person who is not born again to experience immediate healing as a result of a word God gave someone for him, or who sees someone else healed in that way, the experience can be a striking evidence of the power and love of God.

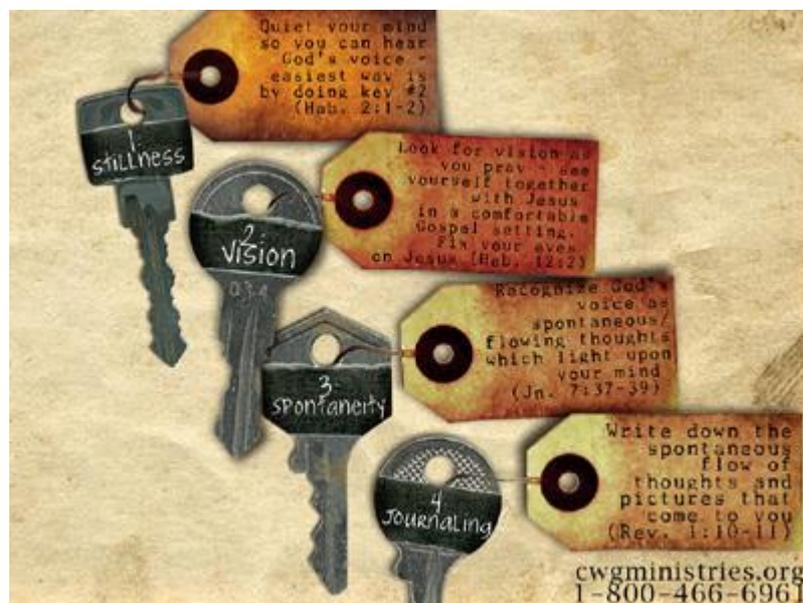
If you are present at such a time, don't overlook the possibility that someone present may be encouraged by the healing to make a first commitment to Jesus or a deeper commitment to Him.



# Appendix 4

## You can hear God's Voice

By Mark Virkler



Christianity is unique among religions, for it alone offers a personal relationship with the Creator beginning here and now, and lasting throughout eternity. Jesus declared, “This is eternal life - that they may *know God*” (Jn. 17:2). Unfortunately, many in the Church miss the great blessing of fellowship with our Lord because we have lost the ability to recognize His voice within us. Though we have the promise that “My sheep hear My voice,” too many believers are starved for that intimate relationship that alone can satisfy the desire of their hearts.

I was one of those sheep who was deaf to his Shepherd until the Lord revealed four very simple keys ([found in Habakkuk 2:1, 2](#)) that unlocked the treasure of His voice.

### Key #1 - God's voice in your heart often sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts.

Habakkuk knew the sound of God speaking to him (Hab. 2:2). Elijah described it as a still, small voice (I Kings 19:12). I had always listened for an inner audible voice, and God does speak that way at times. However, I have found that usually, **God's voice comes as spontaneous thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions.**

For example, haven't you been driving down the road and had a **thought come to you** to pray for a certain person? Didn't you believe it was God telling you to pray? What did God's voice sound like? Was it an audible voice, or was it a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind?

Experience indicates that we perceive spirit-level communication as spontaneous thoughts, impressions and visions, and Scripture confirms this in many ways. For example, one definition of *paga*, a Hebrew word for intercession, is “a chance encounter or an accidental intersecting.” When God lays people on our hearts, He does it through *paga*, a chance-encounter thought “accidentally” intersecting our minds.

Therefore, when you want to hear from God, tune to chance-encounter or spontaneous thoughts.



## Key #2 - Become still so you can sense God's flow of thoughts and emotions within.

Habakkuk said, "I will stand on my guard post..." (Hab. 2:1). Habakkuk knew that to hear God's quiet, inner, spontaneous thoughts, he had to first go to a quiet place and still his own thoughts and emotions. Psalm 46:10 encourages us to be still, and know that He is God. There is a deep inner knowing (spontaneous flow) in our spirits that each of us can experience when we quiet our flesh and our minds. If we are not still, we will sense only our own thoughts.

Loving God through a quiet worship song is one very effective way to become still. (Note II Kings 3:15 .) After I worship and become silent within, I open myself for that spontaneous flow. If thoughts come of things I have forgotten to do, I write them down and dismiss them. If thoughts of guilt or unworthiness come, I repent thoroughly, receive the washing of the blood of the Lamb, putting on His robe of righteousness, seeing myself spotless before God (Is 61:10; Col 1:22).

To receive the pure word of God, it is very important that my heart be properly focused as I become still because my focus is the source of the intuitive flow. If I fix my eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow comes from Jesus. But if I fix my gaze upon some desire of my heart, the intuitive flow comes out of that desire. To have a pure flow I must become still and carefully fix my eyes upon Jesus. Again, quietly worshipping the King, and receiving out of the stillness that follows quite easily accomplishes this.

Fix your gaze upon Jesus (Heb. 12:2), becoming quiet in His presence and sharing with Him what is on your heart. Spontaneous thoughts will begin to flow from the throne of God to you, and you will actually be conversing with the King of Kings!

## Key #3 - As you pray, fix the eyes of your heart upon Jesus, seeing in the Spirit the dreams and visions of Almighty God.

Habakkuk said, "I will keep watch to see," and God said, "Record the vision" (Hab. 2:1,2). Habakkuk was actually looking for vision as he prayed. He opened the eyes of his heart, and looked into the spirit world to see what God wanted to show him. This is an intriguing idea.

God has always spoken through dreams and visions, and He specifically said that they would come to those upon whom the Holy Spirit is poured out (Acts 2:1-4, 17).

I had never thought of opening the eyes of my heart and looking for vision. However, I have come to believe that this is exactly what God wants me to do. He gave me eyes in my heart to see in the spirit the vision and movement of Almighty God. There is an active spirit world all around us, full of angels, demons, the Holy Spirit, the omnipresent Father, and His omnipresent Son, Jesus. The only reasons for me not to see this reality are unbelief or lack of knowledge.

In order to see, we must look. Daniel saw a vision in his mind and said, "I was looking...I kept looking...I kept looking" (Dan. 7:2,9,13). As I pray, I look for Jesus, and I watch as He speaks to me, doing and saying the things that are on His heart. Many Christians will find that if they will only look, they will see, in the same way they receive spontaneous thoughts. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us (Matt. 1:23 ). It is as simple as that. You can see Christ present with you because **Christ is present with you**. In fact, the vision may come so easily that you will be tempted to reject it, thinking that it is just you. But if you persist in recording these visions, your doubt will soon be overcome by faith as you recognize that the content of them could only be birthed in Almighty God.

Jesus demonstrated the ability of living out of constant contact with God, declaring that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only what He **saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying** (Jn. 5:19,20,30). **What an incredible way to live!**

Is it possible for you to live out of divine initiative as Jesus did? Yes! Fix your eyes upon Jesus. The veil has been torn, giving access into the immediate presence of God, and He calls you to draw near (Lk. 23:45; Heb. 10: 19-22). "I pray that the eyes of your heart will be enlightened...."



**Key #4 - Journaling, the writing out of your prayers and God's answers, brings great freedom in hearing God's voice.**

God told Habakkuk to record the vision (Hab. 2:2). This was not an isolated command. The Scriptures record many examples of individual's prayers and God's replies (e.g. the Psalms, many of the prophets, Revelation).

I call the process "two-way journaling," and I have found it to be a fabulous catalyst for clearly discerning God's inner, spontaneous flow, because as I journal **I am able to write in faith for long periods of time**, simply believing it is God. I know that what I believe I have received from God must be tested. However, testing involves doubt and doubt blocks divine communication, so I do not want to test while I am trying to receive. With journaling, I can receive in faith, knowing that when the flow has ended **I can test and examine it carefully**, making sure that it lines up with Scripture.

You will be amazed when you journal. Doubt may hinder you at first, but throw it off, reminding yourself that it is a biblical concept, and that God is present, speaking to His children. Relax. When we cease **our labours** and enter His rest, God is free to flow (Heb. 4:10 ). Sit back comfortably, take out your pen and paper, smile, and turn your attention toward the Lord in praise and worship, seeking His face. After you write your question to Him, become still, fixing your gaze on Jesus You will suddenly have a very good thought. Don't doubt it; simply write it down. Later, as you read your journaling, you, too, will be blessed to discover that you are indeed dialoguing with God.

**Some final notes:** Knowing God through the Bible is a vital foundation to hearing His voice in your heart, so you must have a solid commitment to knowing and obeying the Scriptures. It is also very important for your growth and safety that you be related to solid, spiritual counsellors All major directional moves that come through journaling should be confirmed by your counsellors before you act upon them.



# Appendix 5

## How to Overcome Disappointment

(Taken from notes by Bill Johnson)

It is assumed that life will have its share of disappointments, pain and hurt. We don't (unfortunately) live wrapped in cotton wool!!

How we learn to deal with these hurts and disappointments is vital to how we see future 'opportunities' (problems and issues) and the role we believe that God will hold in these situations.

If we live with unresolved disappointment towards God, it will influence significantly how we respond to Him when we bump into similar or even dissimilar situations that require divine intervention, and even influence how we relate to God on a day to day basis.

Let's look at a key verse to do with remaining un-offended with God:

*Matthew 11:2-6 (Amplified)*

*Now when John in prison heard about the activities of Christ, he sent a message by his disciples, and asked Him, "Are you the One who was to come, or should we keep on expecting a different one?" And Jesus replied to them, "Go report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed (by healing) and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have good news (the Gospel) preached to them. **And blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) is he who takes no offense at me and finds no cause for stumbling in or through me and is not hindered from seeing the Truth.***

### **A little background:**

John the Baptist was perhaps the most important person in the forerunning of Jesus' ministry (with possible exception to Mary the mother of Jesus). John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets (even though he's in the New Testament, he was the last one prior to Jesus). Jesus even says of John the Baptist later in Matthew 11

*"Among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!"*

John the Baptist had already received revelation about who Jesus was at the point just prior to His baptism. Jesus walks up to John and immediately John knows that this is the one who is the Messiah. Matthew 3 recounts Jesus coming from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him. And even before John baptizes Him and the voice from Heaven is heard declaring that Jesus is the Son of God, John protests performing the baptism of Jesus stating that it is He who needs to be baptized by Jesus. John has thereby obviously received revelation in His spirit about who Jesus is.

Yet he still has questions... and perhaps rightly so.

At the time John sends his disciples to ask these questions of Jesus, John is in prison.



Jesus' inaugural address, so to speak, is recorded in Luke 4 where Jesus recites Isaiah 61 in reference to Himself:

*Luke 4:14-21 (NASB)*

*And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.*

*And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written:*

*“THE SPIRIT OF THE Lord IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVOURABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”*

*And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing”.*

This is who Jesus declared Himself to be, and where is John - in prison (a captive) and awaiting beheading (not exactly a favourable year of the Lord for him!)

Yet Jesus states, in a matter of words: John, don't get messed up in the grey matter between your ears because of me. Don't trouble yourself trying to figure out how I can be the one who sets ALL captives free but you're still in prison. You have the revelation that I am the Messiah - stick with it.

#### **Some things that we can learn from this:**

How do we deal with questions of: this is what God says about Himself/said about this situation/promised about this situation and it appears to be that something else is happening? i.e. “You said you're the one who sets prisoners free and I'm in prison...”

There is a point of deception or ignorance in the interpretation of the gospel around the concept of the sovereignty of God.

To many people the phrase or concept 'Sovereignty of God' means this: Well, whatever happens in life, it's just the will of God. If some tragedy happens, “I don't know why God meant for this to happen...”

That kind of belief about the sovereignty of God is so destructive to the Gospel - it is simply not true! There is no biblical basis for God planning your tragedy. The revelation of God in Jesus (who is the **exact** representation of God) is the total opposite - Jesus comes into a tragic situation and brings healing, restoration and solutions.

As Bill Johnson aptly put it:

*“It's the spirit of stupid on the brains and hearts of people to accept that whatever happens in life is the will of God. If that were true, I could go to bed and sleep the rest of my life away and attribute the outcome of my life to the will of God because 'whatever will be will be'. It's nonsense because so much of what happens on the planet is connected with your and my response to the delegated authority we've been given to carry out the work of the gospel.”*



So what do we say when there are apparent contradictions between our circumstances and the promises of God?

A: I DON'T KNOW! (or in Italian Non ho so, my favourite phrase I ever learnt!)

This is one of the most freeing things we can learn to say. We have people (especially pastors and leaders) who are forced by the pressure of man to explain things that God isn't explaining which results in making stuff up and lying! This is bad doctrine!! It is essentially twisting some verse or experience to explain what's going on instead of living in the reality that it is valuable to live in the midst of mystery without blaming God.

There are multiple times in the Bible where Jesus is asked a question by someone and He opens the bank vault of revelation from Heaven and pours out truth after truth after truth. There are other times where he is questioned and he doesn't give them any fresh information or answers. He doesn't offer an explanation. For example, the rich young ruler.

Sometimes He refuses to offer any additional information because the secret to your victory is in what you already know.

When God led Israel out of Egypt, he was taking them in a certain direction, but an enemy nation lay in that particular path. It wasn't that Israel couldn't beat this nation, but they were too weak mentally and emotionally to cope with it. Thus, God said (in essence), "I can't take them that way because they'll see the enemy, become afraid and weak and turn around and go back to Egypt". This is amazing for us because it tells us that God only leads us into places where He has already prepared us for victory. We have already been tooled for triumph.

The enemy works through accusation, intimidation, fear and anxiety so we become focused on the problem so that we forget the tools we have been equipped with. We are suddenly without equipment for victory, yet we are here because we are ready. That's heaven's conviction - I'm here because I'm ready.

Essentially, the equipment we need is generally in the last lesson - we just have to look at what we weren't paying attention to.

Here's our problem - we have this one branch of theology that says, 'Whatever will be will be' and then we have those who say 'In order to live in mystery, I will downgrade scripture to suit my circumstances, thoughts, theology etc. My lot in life is... blah blah blah'. It is to build an expectation of life that is founded on a rock of foundation of unbelief. The absolutes of scripture are demolished, lowered to make us feel better about controversial circumstances/conflict to the mind situations in life.

So, how do we stay out of the pit that says 'whatever will be will be' and stay out of the other pit that changes the absolutes of scripture to make us feel better about problems.

Here's the key - Blessed is he that is not offended in me. Blessed = happy. Word offense = stumbling block. In ancient days they would actually put a block in front of a blind person and then as they fell they would laugh - that's where the phrase stumbling block comes from.

Offense is a stumbling block that messes with somebody's actions and/or thoughts.

Jesus is saying: Happy is He who is not messed up in the head because of me.  
If you want to be happy, learn how to live in adverse situations that you cannot explain.



Do not force yourself to have an opinion when God is not talking.

How necessary is your opinion? It's the Australian right, but really how necessary is it to have an opinion when you know you're going to be wrong. It's stupid/foolish to go having an opinion about something when God is not speaking. When he speaks he opens it and we understand. Truth always bears the fruit of truth. Truth makes free. When God speaks it is true, it sets at liberty. But until He speaks, to form an opinion about how and why this might have happened is absolutely foolish, because you will always undercut what he intends to do.

The importance, the value of living with mystery is so high because that's what brings us into the faith that brings the invasion of God to fix the stuff.

Some other biblical examples of this:

Mary and Martha, Lazarus is sick, Jesus says 'I know' and waited a few more days. Blessed is He who is not offended in me.

Paul, beaten a number of times, 39 lashes, shipwrecked - what a mess of a life he had to live. What did he teach his followers? 1 Tim 2 - instruction on how to live life in such a way that you don't face persecution. He says, do these things that you would live peaceful lives. If you do these things you will see you city so transformed governmentally that the gospel will flourish in the time of blessing. Who taught it? The guy who gets beat up! The one who brings this revelation to the church is the one who doesn't experience it!

Where is the greatest revelation on joy in the New Testament? The book of Philippians. And where does Paul write the book from? Prison! A damp hole in the ground. He writes the lessons on joy from the most un-joyful experience because for a believer, we truly can learn to live in heavenly places where there is no prison.

We need to learn to live in a realm of peace that is superior to the conflict that's not just meaningless theology. This is an invitation for a divine encounter so that your experience becomes exactly what the Bible teaches. That we gain divine perspective and from that place of divine perspective issue divine authority over circumstances, so that those circumstances do not imprison us, but yield to the expression of the kingdom.

Being forced to come to explanations on issues that God is not addressing is the cause for absolutely horrid blasphemies and untruths about who He is.

The situations in scripture where this verse [Matthew 11:] applies, are so repetitious - the Cyrophenician woman who comes to request healing for her daughter, Jesus essentially calls her a dog, yet she overcomes the hurdle of offense, steps into the kingdom and gets her miracles.

Hannah...

Abraham...

John the Baptist...

Mary and Martha...

Paul...

People today are tripping up around this because they hold the notion that they have 'this legal contract with God He will not honour'. God will NOT respond to you out of legality, He responds out of intimacy. And people who insist on having a legal contract with God will end up broken. And the reason is because we become rigid on demanding from God. And that



place of arrogance with God must be broken because He is more passionate about my intimacy than He is about my comfort. He will break that part of my life.

Is He a God of promise? Absolutely, 100% of the time. He is 100% good. He responds. Then why did this horrible thing happen? Don't know. He hasn't said a word, so I'm not saying a word. I just know it wasn't Him.

All we need to know is that it wasn't Him. This much we know: God is so good He is incapable of giving someone that disease or inflicting that tragedy. How do we know that? Because He doesn't have it to give away. You can't give what you don't have. How did it [tragedy] happen? Don't know - we're in a world of conflict.

People say that we're in a world of warfare and we should be seeking answers. We can pretty much ignore the devil as much as we can and just not give him the attention. Look at him [devil] long enough to make sure the bulls-eye is on his forehead and that's about it!!

When we celebrate the goodness of God and we celebrate his goodness with praise and thankfulness, the Bible says that while we're exalting the Lord He comes forth and as a man of war destroys the power of hell, and then we get the credit for it being a great warrior.

We live in this world of continuous conflict warring for your mind because He is determined to raise up a people that know His presence, that know the intimacy, the subtleness of His voice, the subtleness of His movements. It's not just this contractual relationship, the document that binds us together and I use to force Him to do what He promised. It is not that. That may work once or twice but he will break that because it defiles the very thing He's called us into. The intimacy and relationship with God. That's the thing Jesus died for, to destroy the rigid thing that brought people to him.

In all of this it's important that we don't create the notion that says "I know it's God's will to ...fix my business... I don't know when, but I know it's His will, so I will just kind of bide time." Stop... the Bible makes it clear. Today is the day of salvation - salvation means: forgiveness of sin, healing of bodies and deliverance from torment. Today is the day of salvation.

In that reality today is the day, there is a battle that goes on. And sometimes today lasts over into tomorrow, sometimes it's longer, but the worst thing to do is: either, 'whatever happens is the will of God' or 'Today is not the day... I know that somewhere down the track it will happen, but today isn't the day'.

Those two ways of thinking are related - they contribute stupidity to one another and feed one another because they keep us out of the here and now encounter with the Lord. It puts us off into the 'someday encounter' where I have no responsibility.

Bill Johnson's son - 85-90% deaf in both ears. He has fasted and prayed for him and has a very clear word on his miracle, everyday to Bill is the day of salvation for his healing. He is 30 years old and has not been healed. In the last 6 months he had prayed for 3 deaf people, all 3 were healed. It's never been clearer - Happy is he who is not offended in

me. To ask the question - how could that happen? Why did that happen? Can only take me where I am not equipped to go.

It is vital that we can live in conflict/contrast. We only want to form opinions when God is speaking. When He is not speaking, all our opinions will have to crash, because the chances aren't real high that we're going to end up with a guess on the will of God. We have better chances in the lottery.



The word of the Lord about Bill's son's hearing - you can become offended about the unusual contrast/conflict of mind, or you can celebrate the goodness of God every day realising today is the day of salvation and reason for celebration.

Bill's son had this hernia - had 4 lots of surgery until finally it took. A short time after the successful operation he was preaching in a church and 4 people with hernias were healed.

At your point of possible, greatest disappointment is your invitation for greatest success.

Hannah was barren not so that she couldn't have children, she was barren and it was an invitation into greatness. Not only would she have children, she would have Samuel. Through contending in loss, through contending in weakness, through contending in lack of breakthrough - it's in the contending. I'm being invited by God into my greatest triumph, into my greatest victory. These are not circumstances that have the right to rule over my life. I have been ordained by God to rule over these circumstances so these things that seem to testify against his goodness, WILL testify of His goodness. I use my authority in Christ, as I pray and seek Him to use this instance that was used by hell to try and destroy me, I have captured it

The Bible teaches whatever you're thankful for is consecrated. If you can imagine the enemy coming with a sword at you and you saying 'Oh God I thank you for this opportunity', suddenly the swords out of his hand and is now in the Lord's hand, and suddenly that which was meant to destroy me is now weapon in my hand for me.

You've been set up for victory. We have been set up to win. We don't go from 'yuck to yuck' we go from glory to glory.

Stories of scripture are so bizarre - Mary receives a visitation from the angel of the Lord 'Highly favoured of the Lord' - God brings the announcement through one of the head angels in heaven, 'highly favoured of the Lord', next thing she knows, the man who's meant to marry her and love her wants to divorce her! How's that favour working for you Mary? Blessed is He who is not offended in me.

Abraham - you're going to have a son! Yeah!! In your old age! No problem. Here's your son... double YEAH!!! Now kill him... Blessed is He who is not offended in me.

This is a life of conflict where God is more interested in the tender heart to His purposes than it is for me to drawing my own conclusions that I might accuse him.

He is trying to draw me into a place where I live an offense less life. I can purpose at the start of everyday not to get offended, and trust Him unequivocally. He is absolutely good all the time.

God is interested in the miracle, but He is more interested in my heart condition. He will use the adverse circumstances of life to expose what lies deep within me, the arrogance, pride that says 'God has to work this way', give me what he promised as though I could subject Him to my understanding of His will, when in fact, there is an over-riding statement of the absolute promises of God - blessed is He who is not offended in me.

People who live without offense are free to believe. Faith is very easy for those who live without offense. Faith is a very natural expression for those who live without offense. Most of the sweat in faith is only there because deep inside we don't believe he's quite as good as he says.



Most of us have had bad stuff happen - but you know what - none of it was God. We live in a world of conflict. He loves us in spite of it all. He can use all of it for His glory and turn it around for our good. Thankfulness in the midst of it all takes all weapons out of the enemy's hands and puts them all on our side. This is a good deal. But in the process, God is looking for those clean hands, pure heart.

Blessed is he who is not offended in me. Blessed is the person who does not stumble in their thought life over what they have not seen me do yet.

What happens when we choose to live with unresolved disappointment in our lives?

When we don't resolve disappointments with God we put ourselves right in the firing line for the enemy's fiery darts. We allow bitterness, judgement, unbelief etc to grow in our hearts. Our hearts grow sick.

The Bible states that hope deferred makes the heart sick. This is a lifestyle that leads to death and unbelief.

A biblical example of this is Zacharias:

*Luke 1:12-20*

*Zacharias saw the angel of the Lord and was troubled (aka: scared spitless!). The promise from the angel about the birth of John, instead of Zacharias having joy and gladness at his birth, Zacharias doesn't believe what the angel said and is made mute.*

Zacharias and Elizabeth are both advanced in years with no children which indicates that disappointment would have been had. Because of Zacharias' response, we can tell it was unresolved disappointment. The response to an angelic visitation, the result of unbelief, mental offense reveals how Zacharias has dealt with his past. Never resolved the disappointment of being advanced in years with no children, and because of this, when the angel of the Lord showed up, Zacharias' response was not faith, but unbelief, a question that challenged.

Zacharias questioned what made this moment different to the rest when all he'd experienced before was disappointment after disappointment. Because of this, the Lord made him silent because His speech could mess up the miracle. For 9 months he could not speak because life and death is in the power of the tongue and he could not be trusted to speak and not mess up something that was so valuable to God. He could not be trusted to steward what God was giving him so he was made silent.

Unresolved pain and hurts of loss and disappointment fights for the same place the word of God fights for in our hearts. Fighting to gain understanding over peace allows the disappointment to take the resting place in our hearts that the peace of abiding in the Word is meant to have.

In John 5:38 → Jesus is talking to some Pharisees and says: "You do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe".

Jesus is talking to those who know God's word inside out, but He says "God's word isn't abiding in you", how does Jesus know? Because the Pharisees didn't respond with faith when He showed up.



What happens to the person, who lives with unresolved conflict, is that the issues of disappointment never get redemptively touched by God, and these issues fill the place that the Word of God is meant to fill.

What happens when we deal with the disappointments that enter into our lives?

The opposite lifestyle to living with deferred hope is living with desire realized. And desire realized is a tree of life. The tree of life is that which connects you to eternal purpose.

Do you know that God orchestrated, he put in his economy of emotion, of strength, of insight of wisdom, of all the things in us that help to comprise and make up the Christian life, He designed us in this way.

Desire realized, that is, fulfilled dreams are what make us happy.

The great tragedy is this: discipleship, can sometimes in the name of self-denial, undermine the very system that God has created for us to work by. Discipleship that emphasizes denial of self is vital. But not to the point of crucifying the resurrected man. When you deny yourself, something of God rises up in you, dreams, visions, aspirations, desires, giftings start to surface. Dreams, goals, and things that start coming into a person's life. But in the name of this religious form of discipleship they're constantly telling us to shove down these dreams and aspirations because they're not God and so we put the resurrected man on the cross again.

You can love things more than God, but you cannot love God without loving other things.

When that Christ nature takes root in you, things start stirring. Dreams start boiling up. They may be personal, regarding family, regarding accomplishments. These things are born there by God to draw us into our destiny.

Realizing the building blocks of what fulfills desire is what locks you into your eternal purpose.

Jesus put it this way - John 16 - up till now you've not asked anything in my name. you're going to ask the Father in my name, and He's going to give you whatever you ask for in My Name, SO THAT YOU'RE JOY MAY BE FULL.

Desire realized is a tree of life. The tree of life is all about joy. Eternal purpose is all about being linked to that which brings joy. Heaven is all about joy. Joy is what Jesus

received as the reward from the Father for His suffering on the cross. Joy is what motivated Him to endure all the stuff. As your desires begin to be fulfilled you experience Joy and are locked into fulfilling your eternal purpose.

This is a lifestyle of faith - where does it come from? It comes from the word of God abiding in a person's heart.

When what God has said abides in your heart, it prepares you to hear what God is about to say.

Essentially what does Romans actually mean when it says 'Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God'? It doesn't say 'Faith comes from hearing the word of God'. It says 'Faith comes by hearing' - how do you learn to hear? 'Hearing comes from the word of God'. When the word abides in the heart, it prepares you to hear when God speaks.



When you embrace what God has said, without the defilement of disappointment, without the defilement of unresolved conflict, you are positioned to respond to the 'AND SUDDENLY'S' that come into your world.

For example, Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Luke 1:26 - 38 → the angel of the Lord visited Mary to deliver the news that she was going to be impregnated with the son of God as a virgin. Mary was also troubled upon the arrival and announcement of the angel. Mary also questioned the angel, which on surface level doesn't appear that different to Zacharias' questioning. But Mary's final response is one of faith.

God loves working way outside what we can imagine, or comprehend. He does not expect or require us to imagine, or prepare ourselves for what He says to make sense to us. He isn't shocked when we don't know what He's talking about. He expects that - that's how we know it's God talking!! He brings us stuff that is outside and beyond our comprehension.

Zacharias faced his moment with a truckload of disappointment. He reminds us of Gideon. Instead of Gideon being awestruck by an angel talking to him, he has a chip on his shoulder with his response, 'oh yeah, then where are the miracles of my father?' He still has unresolved conflict/disappointment in his heart. Zacharias did not believe the Lord when it was first presented to him because in his heart, where the Word of God that prepares us for what God is going to say and allows us to respond should have been was unresolved disappointment and hurt.

Mary is no closer to picturing or understanding what God has presented to her, but there is one difference - she is without offence. Her question was not working to substantiate her unbelief. Some of the questions Jesus was asked during His day were to substantiate/vindicate the persons' unbelief and position. That's what Zacharias' question was designed to do, Mary's wasn't.

Mary on the other hand, completely clueless as to what God was about to pull off. Yet her response was 'Be it unto me, according to your word.' The place Mary had in her heart for what God was saying shows us that she had embraced what God had said without offense.

Obviously the better lifestyle is living with desire realized - so how do we deal with the disappointment?

This issue of hope deferred making the heart sick, the issue of dealing with past disappointments is one of the most critical of the Christian life.

When we face loss/trial/things that come up that we can't sort out; when we're despondent and really going through the ringer, invariably, we must go to the Bible and search for God. The Psalms is a really great place to go. They represent every emotion in life, every problem in life, every issue in life. There is the full gamut of emotion and conflict and stuff in the Psalms. A good practice is to go through the Psalms, not studying, but reading to find your voice: finding the cry of your heart for help. NOT an accusatory cry, but the cry for help. As soon as the cry has been found in the Psalms, we have found the place of refreshing - may stay there for a few moments, may camp there for a week or month, but this is where the healing starts to take place.

What's the process of dealing with disappointment - there isn't anybody who hasn't faced it, i.e. baffling circumstances that we haven't known what to do with.



What do we do?

### STEP 1 → REPENT

It is vitally important for us to be absolutely **gut level, raw honest with God**. No religious pretence. Get rid of the religion that formats you into trying to be presentable to God, as though he doesn't know what's going on in your heart.

A qualifier here → it is not a smart idea to accuse God; he won't run and leave if you do, but it's not a really intelligent thing to do. If there is a conflict, the problem is NEVER with God. There's a bedrock point of theology that without it you will be messed up continuously: God is Good, the devil is bad. Psalms are constantly drawing us into a place where we are giving expression and thanks to God FOR HIS GOODNESS. If that is not resolved, get it resolved. The only way you can do this is by going to Him. To get this bit resolved: take time going to the Lord, by yourself (not a church service) and be absolutely gut level honest.

Circumstances reduce us to our true level of faith, not our perceived level of faith. If I find stuff boiling up in me, unresolved conflict, hurt, disappointment. It doesn't help to just 'gloss over' the disappointment. Don't go into a depression, that's not the answer, but at the same time, don't just go to a place of 'well, those things happen'. Because when you go there, the enemy will look for a handle to grab where he can start feeding information into me, those fiery darts, until there is a case being built against God, and this will come up when another hard situation comes. Suddenly, we then find ourselves reacting out of a past disappointment. When you see that response, get with God and **repent**. Don't make any excuses - lose sleep if you have to. Resolving that issue is more important than sleep. **Repent** and seek God.

The Christian life is the life of short accounts. There is a 24 hour period which is long enough to resolve any problem. It doesn't mean all my circumstances are repaired, but the issues of my heart can be repaired in a 24 hour period. How do we know this? He says, be angry, sin not, and don't let the sun go down on your anger. Take care of it before the sun goes down. You have the tools to resolve this issue, make sure this issue gets resolved before the sun goes down. Don't sit there and meditate and fuel the fire and anger of disappointment and loss. You fuel it by what you meditate on. I can feed anything I want depending on what I meditate on.

If I have a mean dog and a lap dog, I will only still have the mean dog in a year if I fed him. If I haven't fed him, he will die and be gone.

To deal with the disappointment issue: **STOP FEEDING IT! Repent** - that's where you start. God forgive me, I didn't know it, but I've been building a case against you, I've been working for the right to have unbelief. I have laboured to justify my unbelief. I'm wrong, I've been partnering with a demon spirit. I'm wrong. Deliver me please from that attachment. I renounce the spirit of disappointment; I renounce the spirit of unbelief. I will not let you infect me anymore. I close the door that I opened to you.

### STEP 2 → GET ALONE WITH GOD

Get alone with God. Let God know that you're still hurting, but that you're not going to partner with that Spirit [of disappointment] anymore. Now you get gut level honest with God - it looked to me like you promised something to me, that you didn't uphold your promise.

You can say something along the lines of:



*God, it looked to me like you let me down because I was carrying this promise. I know in my heart of hearts that that's not you. I know it's something else, but I don't know what it is and it feels like I just got betrayed, it feels like you could have backed me up and you didn't.*

You can bring up memories and talk to the Lord about it being gut level honest.

You get gut level honest, but here is the deal: **You DO NOT have the right to dump your garbage in the throne room and then leave without stopping to hear what He has to say in response.** If you're going to engage in this encounter with the Lord, dump your stuff, then stand there and wait for the Lord to respond. It may be a word, it may be in the Psalms that you read it may be a peace that comes over your heart and you realize that it really wasn't God.

It's okay if you never understand. What you really need is God's peace.

*God it's okay if I never understand, but I sure have to have your peace. I have to know that in your eyes, I'm doing the right thing, that I'm not compromising and not embracing something in my heart of hearts that is not right.*

Here is a key thing to understand: **Where you have your greatest loss hidden in that which was intended for evil, is an invitation for your greatest victory.**

Blessed is he who is not offended in me. Did God cause the disappointment? No. All we know is He is good - we don't know what happened, but we have got to keep our hearts clean and pure - we know He is good. When we keep our hearts clean we are able to embrace that which God is saying. We create within our own makeup the capacity to hear. Why is this necessary? A moment is coming where God will bring a word, and you will need to be positioned to believe.

**RECAP:**            Step 1. Repentance  
                          Step 2. Honesty with a burning conviction of His goodness.

### **STEP 3 → CELEBRATE!!**

Celebrate physically and verbally His goodness in the very area that is being questioned by your circumstances. It's a deliberate choice. If you are broke and getting broke, what you're likely to do is find the scriptures that talk about His abundance, His provision, His name as Jehovah Jireh - who He is. Begin then to both verbally and physically begin to celebrate the goodness of God in the very area of your life that your circumstances are challenging.

When we are in agreement with Heaven, Heaven invades and comes upon us and we can't explain why we're not nervous anymore. You can't explain why you're not anxious and worried anymore. There is no explanation, but there is a glory that is resting upon you and there is no fear in glory, no anxiety but you're at peace. You would have to work at it to get nervous and fearful right there and then because the peace of God is so deep.

There is a choice we must make to take God at His word. What does He say about himself? What has He revealed about Himself? We need to take that, put it into song, and put it into praise. Physically - don't sit there with your head hanging down. If you're in the middle of a conflict, DO NOT hang your head, raise your hands half-mast and sing a praise song mournfully. Slap yourself and don't allow yourself to give that kind of response because you will live under the illusion of praise when all you're doing is affirming your own depression. The words do not make up for the condition of the heart, the cast down eyes, the posture of the body - all of it says, I'm under it and I'm not winning.



The darker the cloud over you, the more violent you need to become in your physical expression of praise and thankfulness to the Lord. Take the promises of the Lord (which you can't afford to forget because it's what God thinks and you can't afford to be thinking something which isn't in His mind). Get it into our heart and mind so that we're acting and living and thinking consistently with the provisions of the Lord. It's not just about us getting the miracle that we need. It's what is in our heart that we need to get over - poverty mentality, unbelief, etc.

There is never a time where heaven doesn't respond to our sacrifice (NB. Heaven may not necessarily respond in the way that we imagine or picture or want, but Heaven cannot help but respond, and Heaven's response will always be good).

It's not hypocrisy to be doing something that you don't feel. It's intelligent in the kingdom!! In the world we do stuff because we feel like it. In the Kingdom, we do stuff because it's right and the feeling follows. Do you want joy? Then rejoice! You don't rejoice because you have joy, you rejoice to get joy.

We should be terrified of unbelief. At least with weak faith, while none of us want it, we have something to work with!

Unbelief (which often stems from disappointment) is actually a partnership with a demon spirit. It is not to be tolerated. Whatever is tolerated eventually dominates. Without exception - unresolved disappointment is trying to take you into unbelief. It must not be tolerated.

If you have a friend to work with on this, find a friend, but find someone who will be as petrified over unbelief as you want to be. Get it out in the open and have them hold you

accountable. DON'T hold a pity party! Don't have them just feeling bad for you so you feel justified in how bad you feel about life.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick - disappointment that doesn't get resolved... we MUST go to God and get the disappointment dealt with.

No excuses - take care of it. Because if you don't, it will find a moment, an opportunity to lift up its ugly head and express itself and undermine your moment.

There is a competition in the Spirit world for what will reside in my heart. The world has a life of its own fighting to find a place of influence on my attitudes and thought life.

The whole issue behind Jesus saying: Blessed is he who is not offended in me, is that I do not embrace the mental stumbling blocks to being at peace.

Peace is not dependent upon what I understand.

Living with resolved disappointment means living in a place of peace when I don't understand.

Can you live with peace when you don't understand what's going on? If you only live with peace that comes from understanding a problem, then you are living with an inferior peace. Because the peace He brings comes from outside what you can understand. It works from outside back towards you to give you the eternal purpose. Those who have to have understanding of their stuff before they have peace in their heart are too accustomed to



having an inferior peace. The higher peace, that which passes understanding allows our minds to be at rest - I don't need to understand. I'm happy with knowing that God's in control of this situation. I've given thanks for all things, the weapons been taken out of the hand of the enemy and is now being used in my favour, that's all I need to know.

When you embrace the peace that goes beyond understanding, you immediately get put into a school where you're about to gain understanding. Immediately get put into situations, where because you've embraced that which you could not understand, you can be trusted with revelation. Because you obey with the voice and the presence, you can be trusted with revelation. This revelation won't destroy you. Because you said yes before you understood.

Finally coming to understand a matter equips you with wisdom to protect the people around you from not having to go through your same experience to end up with your same conclusion.

By inheritance people have access to levels of insight and experience that they get only because they're connected to you. An inheritance is when you receive something for free that which someone else paid a price for. If you're going to leave an inheritance for those who follow you, you'll have to pay a price to increase what you got for free.

John 5:38 → But you do not have his word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. This can be turned into the positive: You have his word abiding in you, because when I stepped in the room you believed.

Do you want faith to be a normal expression? It is the normal expression of the believer that doesn't have offense in their heart. The one who hasn't become jaded because of life's disappointments.

Our initial response in ALL things needs to be: God you are good all the time and I celebrate your goodness. This needs to be the bedrock of theology for us and from there we celebrate that goodness and watch how God takes that which was formed to harm me into something good.

**A Side Note:** I would highly recommend listening to Bill Johnson's series on Enduring Faith (available from [www.ibethel.org](http://www.ibethel.org)). It is given over two weeks, the first discussing having faith in the midst of mystery. In the week between the two messages, Bill's father passes away from cancer. The second message is Bill talking about what that has been like and how they as a family are working towards continuing to pursue a cancer free zone in their church and city despite the loss of one battle. It is not only moving, but gives some great wisdom and insight on how to deal with loss.



# Appendix 6

## Faith for Healing

by Praying Medic

Go out and heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons and preach the kingdom. But do it for only one reason. Your motive should be an overwhelming love and compassion for those in need. There is no other legitimate motive for healing.

DIVINE HEALING MADE SIMPLE  
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CHAPTER SEVEN

### Faith for Healing

HEALING IS SOMETHING WE DO by faith. In contrast to traditional medicine, which is a function of what you know and how skilled you are, divine healing is a result of who you know and what you believe. Simply put, if you know Jesus and you believe He is still healing people today, He will heal the sick through you. Once your relationship with Him is established through the operation of the Holy Spirit, growing your faith in God's ability and desire to heal is the next step.

How do we develop the kind of faith that heals? Let's look at some of the reasons why people are not healed when we pray. The disciples of Jesus were not able to heal the boy with epilepsy and when they failed, they asked Jesus why:

*And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son,*

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*for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."*

*Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.*

*Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"*

*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."*

MT. 17:14-20

We will discuss the connection between sickness and demons in the chapter on deliverance. In this chapter we will focus only on faith.

Jesus said the disciples could not heal the boy because they lacked faith. It appears as though they had adequate faith for healing some diseases, but not the faith required to accomplish this particular task.

Jesus said if they had faith as a mustard seed, they could move mountains. Some have taught that Jesus spoke of *size* when comparing faith to a mustard seed. They teach that just a small amount of faith can move mountains – if it is pure. I believe this teaching misses the point. Jesus didn't use *size* in this comparison. He didn't say they needed faith as *small* as a mustard seed, but rather they needed faith that *acts* as a mustard seed acts. It was the action, not the size, Jesus referred to. Small faith was never commended by Jesus. He often rebuked people for having little or small faith. He commended the Roman Centurion who had great or "large" faith (see Mt. 8:9-10).

In one of the kingdom parables Jesus likened the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, explaining that it grew into a large tree; so large that the birds of the air came to nest in it (see Mt. 13:31-32). Here is the key

to how mustard seed faith acts – it grows. A seed bears no fruit until it germinates and grows into a plant; the larger the plant – the more fruit it bears. Faith that heals the sick may start out small, but it must grow before it produces fruit.

When I began praying for the sick, almost no one was healed. I became discouraged and I wanted to quit. I had almost no faith. All I had was a promise from God; "You pray and I'll heal." I had a seed of promise from God and nothing else. But as we've seen, the kingdom of God is about growth.

So I planted the seed and watered it. I watched videos featuring Todd White, Pete Cabrera and Tom Fischer as they prayed with people on the streets and I saw miracles happen. And the seed sprouted. I watered it with Scripture, reading every account of healing I could find in the Bible. And it grew roots. God gave me dreams where I saw myself praying for the sick and they were being healed. Leaves grew from a small stalk that emerged from the ground. I attended healing conferences and watched miracles happen before my eyes. I continued laying hands on anyone who would let me and eventually, I saw some of them healed. Fruit began to appear.

In the beginning, I failed to understand what it took to see people healed. I saw others operating consistently in healing and I wanted to know how they did it. Like many people, I misunderstood what faith for healing is and how it operates.

Most of you would call yourselves Christians, disciples of Jesus, or simply, "believers." You believe certain things about Jesus; the most important is that He is your Savior. This "kind" of faith is the kind that saves us from the consequences of sin, but it's not the kind of faith that heals the sick. Every Christian believes that Jesus is their savior; and yet that faith does not heal the sick. There must be another kind of faith that heals.

The kind of faith that heals isn't a belief that God wants to heal the sick. Many Christians believe that God wants to heal the sick and yet the sick are not healed when they pray for them. Faith that heals is different from this.



Faith that heals consistently and predictably is the belief (confidence) that when you are presented with an opportunity to heal someone who is willing to be healed, that God will in fact heal that person of the condition they have through you. Faith that heals consistently is not general. It is specific to the person who is sick, the problem at hand and the one who is praying. Allow me to illustrate:

When the woman was healed by taking hold of the hem of Jesus' garment, Jairus was in the crowd looking on. His daughter was sick and he came to Jesus for help. After the woman was healed, Jesus had her testify to the crowd. After she testified, a friend of Jairus appeared and informed him that his daughter had died. Jesus looked at Jairus and said, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well" (see Lk. 8:40-50).

The woman's testimony was needed because Jesus wanted Jairus to hear it and have faith for something specific. Although believing that He is the Messiah is important, it wasn't the thing He was after. He didn't want Jairus to believe that God heals some people or that He raises some people from the dead. He wanted Jairus to believe without a doubt that *his* daughter would be raised from the dead. Notice that Jesus said the girl would be made well, *if* he believed. The faith Jairus needed to see his daughter resurrected was specific to his daughter and her condition. And this is the kind of faith we need for healing the sick.

When I began praying with people for healing, I seldom expected any of them to be healed. I believed that God wanted to heal some people and some conditions but I didn't believe He wanted to heal all of them and I thought the person I was praying with wouldn't be healed. I had a lot of doubts. Those doubts involved either the person I was praying with or the condition I was praying for.

I doubted that God wanted to heal everyone and in fact, I believed He would heal just about anyone except the person I was praying with. Because I didn't know that God wanted to heal everyone, my faith was generalized to *some* people, but not *specific* to the one I was praying with. So when I prayed with specific people, my doubts surfaced and I imagined them not being healed. My specific doubts destroyed my generalized faith and no one was healed.

After six months of fruitless attempts at healing, I realized I had to change some things. I noticed that Todd White commanded healing instead of asking God to heal and it worked well. Here's an issue we need to consider. Has it ever occurred to you that when we beg God for healing, we believe that we are more compassionate than He is?

I changed my approach and started to command healing and as soon as I did, I saw people healed – often they were healed instantly. I saw lots of success with torn rotator cuffs, as well as carpal tunnel syndrome. Seeing one person after another miraculously healed, it became easier to approach these two conditions with more confidence. After only a few more months I'd seen dozens of people healed with a success rate of around 90 percent. Because of that success, I began to believe (I had confidence) that God would actually heal everyone I prayed with who had one of these two conditions. My faith, which was generalized until then, became very specific. There were certain people with certain conditions that I knew in my heart, without any doubt God was going to heal. It was at this point that before praying with people, I told them they would be healed. Something had changed in my mind that led to greater confidence and better results. I'd like to explain how those changes occurred.

I began with a *generalized* faith about healing. My general belief was that God wanted to heal *some* people of *some* conditions. This faith was weakened by *specific* doubts. I doubted that God wanted to heal a *specific* person of a *specific* condition through *my* prayers.

Eventually, a few people were healed. As I saw more people healed, my generalized faith became specific. I had confidence (faith) that *some* of the people I prayed with would be healed, though not all. I had also more faith for some conditions than others. My doubt about specific conditions was also being removed. And my faith for just about every type of condition was greater than it had been.

As I began praying for people with neurological disorders like Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and ALS (Lou Gehrig's) I found that I had little faith. Over time, my confidence began to grow and I began to see changes in some of those people as well. The same is true for cancer. Like many of us, my confidence for seeing cancer healed was small.



I saw cancer as a stronger adversary, for some reason. But as I prayed with more cancer patients and saw some of them healed, my confidence for healing of cancer began to grow quickly. I don't yet have the same confidence for cancer or ALS that I do for joint injuries, but the more I lay hands on people with those conditions the more my faith grows.

My faith, like the faith of Jairus, was strengthened by watching the power of God at work. Faith can and must grow. Seeing people healed is one of the keys to growth. I don't think there is a substitute for witnessing the power of God at work.

The strategy for growing your faith is to start with a generalized belief that God heals. From there, you simply lay hands on whomever you can and eventually, you'll see some of them healed. As you do, your weak, generalized faith will become more specific and stronger. As you continue in healing, you'll see different types of diseases and injuries healed. You'll develop more faith for specific conditions. If you continue laying hands on people, the strong faith you have for a few things will broaden into a strong faith for many things.

There is a popular teaching that says some people have an "anointing" for healing certain conditions such as back pain or migraines. In reality, there is no specialized anointing. They've simply recognized the fact that they have greater confidence (or a lack of doubt) for some conditions than for others. If they continue to pray with faith for other conditions, they usually develop confidence for them as well.

### Healing Amputees

It has often been noted (primarily by skeptics) that no one has produced a medically documented case of an amputee who has had a limb restored through prayer. They use this as an argument against healing. In light of all the other valid testimonies of healing it seems like a weak argument. But the question deserves to be answered, "Why aren't amputees healed in any significant numbers?"

I believe the lack of healing we've seen regarding amputees is due to nothing more than our corporate lack of faith *specific* to amputees.

We look at the amputee as an impossible assignment. Torn rotator cuff? No problem. Multiple sclerosis? Yes, we can do that. HIV? Sure, we've seen a lot of people healed of that. But when we face the man or woman with a missing limb, and we're asked to heal them, we don't have the faith (confidence) for it. When YOU believe (when you have a confident expectation) that God will heal a certain amputee through YOU, it will happen.

### Great Faith

Jesus commented about the faith of the Roman centurion, calling his faith "great." I never considered myself to be a person of great faith. I thought that if I had great faith, every person I laid hands on who had missing limbs would have them grow out. I'd be able to walk on water and do many other signs and wonders if I had great faith. And since these things weren't happening, I concluded that my faith wasn't very great.

I had a dream one night about faith that changed my understanding of what it is and how it works. The dream was about a man who had great faith. His faith was so great that it could heal the entire city that he worked in. I didn't realize it at first, but understood later, that the man God showed me in the dream was me. What struck me most was the idea that it wasn't the man or even God that held the potential to heal all those people – it was the *faith* he had which held the capacity to heal an entire city.

In the dream, God revealed something I didn't know. He explained that my choice to continue praying with people, in spite of dismal results, was really the process of watering and nurturing the seed of faith that He gave me, which grew into faith that today has almost unlimited potential. I don't expect to heal an entire city, although that would be a great testimony to God. Such a feat would require me to stay awake for weeks or months on end and it would require that everyone in the city would *want* to be healed. God wasn't speaking about actual healing, but the *potential* to heal. He was saying that my faith had grown to the point where I had the potential to heal thousands, if I chose to operate in a way that tapped into the faith I now had.



We know that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (see Heb. 11:1). Faith has substance. It's tangible and it does things, like heal the sick. I see faith as something like the currency of heaven. When we begin our journey in the kingdom, most of us have small faith. Our bank account of faith upon which we can draw out the resources of heaven is small. But as we walk with God and get to know His ways, we begin to trust Him more. As our faith in Him grows, so does the balance in our account. The more we step out and exercise our faith, the more we get to watch God at work. The more He works the more reason we have to trust Him. And trusting Him brings more faith into our account.

Unlike the balance in our bank account, which decreases the more we use it, the balance in our faith account increases the more we use it. Those who have great faith are those who exercise it often. Many of us underestimate what is possible with the faith we now possess. It's good to know that whatever level of faith we have today, it will increase if we exercise it.

### The Gift of Faith

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the gift of faith (see 1 Cor. 12:9). The gift of faith is like a deposit into our faith account. When God wants to accomplish something through us that we don't have enough faith for, He makes a deposit of faith into our account and with the sudden increase in faith, His will can now be accomplished.

Jesus healed people who had different levels of faith. Let's look at some healing encounters and discuss how faith works.

The Roman centurion had great faith, which Jesus commended. But the centurion wasn't the one being healed; he came on behalf of his servant. The servant was healed, though he may have been unaware that the centurion had asked for his healing (see Mt. 8:13).

In Mark chapter 9, the Lord delivered a boy with a mute spirit whom the disciples couldn't heal. Two things are worth noting here; Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith (verse 19) and the father

admitted he also had little faith (verse 24). In spite of this, Jesus cast the spirit out. It's apparent that no one except Jesus had the faith required to remove the spirit or heal the boy.

In a third account, a woman with chronic bleeding pursued Jesus in a crowd. She grabbed onto the hem of His garment and power flowed out of Him, which healed her. He recognized that power had left Him and said that it was her faith that healed her (see Mt. 9:20).

In Matthew chapter 20, we read that Jesus found two blind men who cried out for Him when they knew He was approaching. He asked what they wanted. When they asked to have their sight restored, He healed them (see Mt. 20:30-33).

In the fourth chapter of Luke, Jesus cast a spirit out of a man without making any comments except that He commanded the spirit to be silent (verse 35). At the bedside of Peter's mother, Jesus rebuked her fever and it left. He then healed a multitude of people by laying hands on them (verses 39-40).

In looking at this sample of healings, we see some principles emerge. In some cases, the faith of the healer was the key, and in others, the faith of the sick person was the key element to healing. The healing of the woman with chronic bleeding required faith on her part. She knew that Jesus had the power to heal. Convinced that she would be healed if she just touched His garment, she pursued Him. The faith of the healer is not involved in this type of healing. It's a matter of God honoring the faith of the person in need. We may run into situations like this, but it's likely we won't be aware of them until after the healing happens, because we're merely acting as a conduit of God's power.

In contrast, other examples show that as healers we are expected to have faith for healing. The faith of the one who needs healing isn't important in these cases. What matters is *our* faith. When faith goes into action, the power of God is released and healing occurs. As our faith for healing grows, we can expect to see more consistent healing and more miracles. Once we have sufficient faith, Atheists, Muslims, Buddhists, and people of any religion or world-view can be healed with equal success.



# Appendix 7

## The Gifts of the Spirit

### The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12: 8-10)

The gifts of the Spirit associated with healing ministry are set in two classes as follows:

#### The Communication Gifts

- i) Word of Wisdom: A Word of Wisdom is a communication inspired by the Spirit of God and spoken by an individual. It reveals a part of the total wisdom of God. It is "seeing" what God sees in a situation and "saying" it. It is applying God's wisdom to a specific situation.
- ii) A Word of knowledge  
A Word of Knowledge is a communication inspired by the Spirit of God and spoken by an individual. It shares the truth of facts, which the Spirit wishes declared concerning a person's life, a past or present circumstance or a specific occasion with a practical application of an outpouring of God's love
- iii) Discerning of Spirits  
Discerning of Spirits is the supernatural capacity to judge from a spiritual insight whether the spirit operating has a source that is human, demonic, or divine. It is Supernatural perception into the spiritual realm for the purpose of determining the source of the spiritual activity. The gift of discerning of spirits may also operate to cause the minister to uncover the operation of a spirit of infirmity in the life of the seeker.

#### How the Communication Gifts come

- i) Inspiration - a sudden rush of thoughts describing situations (William Branham described the operation in his life like peering over a wall to see what was beyond).
- ii) Vision or dream - pictures in the mind
- iii) Impression - a deep knowing in your spirit
- iv) A verse from Scripture that has a particular application to the moment or problem
- v) A word or beginning of a sentence that can act like a key to unlock a door

#### Power Gifts

- (i) The Gift of Faith - Faith is the surge of confidence which sometimes arises within a person faced with a specific situation or need. It gives that person a certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word or action. It is both the irresistible knowledge of God's intervention at a certain point and the authority to affect this intervention through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (ii) The Gifts of Healing (note the plural) - The Gifts of Healing are supernatural enablement or manifestations of healing power distributed by the Spirit. These gifts bring healing and relief (in various ways) to those who are seeking. As there are many kinds of illnesses, there are many different healing gifts.



- (iii) **The Gift of Miracles** - Miracles are events in which people and things are visibly and beneficially affected in an extraordinary way by the power of God working through an individual.

#### How the power gifts come

- The anointing - a sudden rush of the anointing within you or upon you
- Sovereign event - A supernatural event takes place through you or as you minister.
- Power pronouncement - words come out of your mouth that you did not plan to say
- Vision or dream - a picture of the miracle happening (this is via a word of knowledge)
- Impression - a knowing in your spirit

#### Faith, Obedience and Yielding

When Peter stepped out of the boat at Jesus' command, he took a risk. It was a calculated risk, because His faith was firmly founded upon the Word of Jesus. However, everything around him cried out not to do it, because it was contrary to reason. When we step out to move in the gifts, many times we have to take a risk. We feel the prompting of the Spirit and recognize His leading, yet we feel uncomfortable because we are dealing with something that is beyond the natural operation of life. This may be more of a difficulty in earlier experiences of moving in the gifts, yet it will also be a part of our ongoing experience as we move to greater and greater tasks. Jesus told us to trust the Father like a little child, believing that as we ask Him to use us that He will. (Luke 11: 9-13)

Evan Roberts, the young leader of the Welsh revival that began in 1904, would continually stress the importance in his messages of instant and implicit obedience to the Spirit of God. Learning to be instant in our obedience to the Spirit will be to our greatest advantage as we continue in ministry. When we delay our response, we invite our natural mind to discuss all of the possible outcomes of such an action. This often results in not only in a delay, but more often than not in us refusing to step out. As we learn to be obedient we will experience the leading of the Spirit in greater and greater ways. The more that we are obedient to the Spirit, the greater the testimony that we will have to share.

Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (*John 15:5*) as we yield ourselves to the Spirit's control we place ourselves into a position where He can use us. The more you desire to be used, the more yielded you must become.

#### The doorway to the gifts

We see that the usual experience of New Testament believers was to receive the gift of a new language at the time of receiving the gift of the Spirit's infilling. There is much to be learned and understood about the operation of the gifts from our experience of receiving the gift of tongues.

- We must surrender ourselves to the Spirit
- We must desire His moving in our life
- We. must co-operate with Him (it is Him manifesting His power THROUGH us)
- We must perform some action (i.e. speak out)
- We must overcome the objection of our natural minds which may have some difficulty with what is taking place

*1 Corinthians 2:14*



*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (KJV)*

We need to be aware of how ordinary the operation of the gift may be. Many Christians often miss the moving and promptings of the Spirit because they are looking for something other than what they are experiencing.

## The key to experiencing the Gifts

*1 Corinthians 14:1  
Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts but especially that you may prophesy (NAS)*

I believe that the key to experiencing the Gifts is cultivating a desire for them. Paul tells us to "earnestly desire" the gifts - especially the gift of prophecy. Without an intense desire for the gifts you will pass over opportunities and allow fear and insecurity to rob you of wonderful experiences and testimonies. It is my belief that the Holy Spirit wants to use us more than we desire to be used and that He is continually giving us opportunities to be involved in the Father's business. Being used in the gifts ought to be a way of life for the Christian.

## The Vocal Gifts

### The Gift of Tongues (Literally - "kinds of tongues")

The Gift of tongues is a supernatural message given by the Holy Spirit using languages never learned by the speaker. It is a gift unique to this dispensation, not having appeared under the Old Covenant. Isaiah prophesied about this coming gift:

*Isaiah 28:11-12  
"For with stammering lips and ANOTHER TONGUE will he speak to this people. To whom he said THIS IS THE REST wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and THIS IS THE REFRESHING.*

Paul declares that one who speaks in tongues speaks TO God, in the spirit speaking mysteries.

*1 Corinthians 14:2  
For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (KJV)*

Moffatt's translations says "*he is talking of Divine secrets*"

In Acts 10:45-46 we see Cornelius' Household "*Speaking with tongues and Glorifying God*"

In Ephesians 5:19-21 Paul is speaking about being filled with the Spirit - with the following result:

*"speaking to yourselves in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"*



### Interpretation of tongues

It is important to note that the term here used by Paul is INTERPRETATION not TRANSLATION. From this we understand that the message and interpretation may be of a different nature or length. The use of this gift is to make the gift of tongues understandable to those who are hearing. When a message in tongues is interpreted it is equal IN EFFECT to prophesy (note: not the same as). This means that people are edified (built up) by its use.

In many Churches, tongues are translated as prophecy - God talking to the Church. This understanding is based upon the prophetic word in Isaiah, which declares that God will speak to men "*through stammering lips and another tongue*". **Isaiah 28:11-12**. While we accept this kind of interpretation, we should also consider that messages in tongues might be GODWARD messages. Paul, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says that when a person speaks in tongues he is speaking TO God. It is possible, therefore that the interpretation may also be Godward, resulting in a Psalm like message (as when David expressed secrets of God's majesty and power etc.)

As a result of confusion regarding the use and value of this gift, it has generally fallen into disuse in public meetings. I believe that this has taken place because many people do not see the need for a message in tongues followed by an interpretation when a prophecy will do just as well. The interpretation of the message may be given by the same person or through another.

### Prophecy

The Hebrew word translated as prophecy means to "flow forth". It also implies the idea of bubbling up like a spring, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth and to spring forth. The Greek word means, 'to speak for another'. So we can conclude that the Gift of prophecy is God speaking to His people by His Spirit through a human vessel, the word bubbling up from within.

Paul defines the manner of God's speaking very clearly in 1 Corinthians 14:3 "*But he that prophesieth, speaketh unto men to EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION and COMFORT.*"

It is important to note that in the use of the simple gift that there is no declaration of hidden or future knowledge. Under the Old Covenant prophecy contained a large percentage of declaring what would happen in the future and was confined to those who held the office of PROPHET. Under the New Covenant we see that the Gift of prophecy is made available to all and is particularly for DECLARING the heart of God to His people, causing them to be built up and strengthened. The office of Prophet continues in the New Testament (albeit with some different emphases) and does carry with it the ability to declare those things that are to come.

### Prophecy Defined

- Edification - To build up (as in architecture), to strengthen, charge, to inspire confidence
- Exhortation - To call near to God, an invitation
- Comfort-to come alongside, to strengthen, inspire

### Paul urges us to pursue the gift of prophecy

In 1 Corinthians 14:1 Paul tells us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts - especially the gift of Prophecy. Paul so highly regarded this gift of the Spirit and its effects that he instructs us ALL to desire its operation in our lives. The repeat of this encouragement in 1 Corinthians 14:39 adds further force to his words. This clearly shows us that the Holy Spirit wants all to



prophecy. This is not something for a select few. In fact in verse 31 Paul says that *"ALL may prophesy - one by one"*.

We should all be seeking to "bring a word from God" to those that we come into contact with, both individually and in a small group setting. If we steer away from the idea of foretelling, we can see the great effect the use of this gift could have on the Body if everyone desired its operation in their lives.

### **The Gift of Prophecy and the Office of the Prophet**

Not everyone who prophesies is a Prophet, but Prophets will prophesy, The Office of Prophet is one of the ascension gifts detailed in Ephesians 4. A man or woman may be called to this office and exercise the role of Prophet in association with other ascension gift ministries. The Prophet does not exist alone and others called to ascension gift ministry should test his declarations. A Prophet will have two or three of the revelatory gifts (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits) operating regularly through his ministry.

### **Personal Prophecy**

Personal prophecy is a valid ministry that may be enacted by any member of the body. However, given the extremely potent nature of personal prophecy, some safeguards are required. Personal prophecy should be tested for accuracy, remembering that we all "prophesy in part". Personal prophecy alone should not be a determining factor in decision-making. More often than not, it is confirmatory in nature.

### **Misuse of the Gift**

Misuse of the gift occurs when individuals try to control individuals or situations through prophetic declarations. This is operating out of natural preference or knowledge (though there may be a supernatural, demonic element involved) Prophetic declaration may also be made to try and influence others or gain a place of notoriety. There are many examples of this in the Old Testament where the "Prophets" prophesied that which Kings and leaders wanted to hear rather than what God was saying, (The book of Jeremiah contains some interesting examples of this). Prophecy should always be open for evaluation. Individuals who are un-teachable or who reject such evaluation should be avoided.

## **The Knowledge Gifts**

### **The Word of Wisdom**

The word of wisdom is a supernatural gift of a fragment of the understanding of God regarding future plans or events. The word of wisdom is NOT simple wisdom in the affairs of life. God told Joshua to meditate on the Law day and night in order to gain wisdom in the affairs of life (Josh 1:8). James tells us that if we lack wisdom to ask God for it (James 1:5). It is not the wisdom given to Solomon, which was an administrative ability concerning the affairs of life and government.

Rather it is a WORD of WISDOM concerning a particular life, matter or situation and is revelatory in nature (concerns the future). It reveals God's heart, mind, will, plan or purpose for things yet to be. The difference between the Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom is that the Word of Knowledge has to do with things past or present - revealing hidden knowledge. The Word of Wisdom concerns the plans and purposes of God as they affect individuals and corporate situations and has to do with events yet to take place. Sometimes the Word of Wisdom can be conditional upon the person's responses.

The Gift of a Word of Wisdom (or a Word of Knowledge) may be delivered through a vision, a dream, by an angel, or most commonly through inspiration (a sudden rush of thoughts),



an impression, word or phrase invading the mind or from Scripture. William Branham described the operation of these gifts in his life like peering over a wall to see hidden things which were beyond.

#### Examples:

- Jesus manifested a Word of Wisdom when he spoke of Peter's coming denial of Him (Luke 22:31-39, 54-62)
- Ananias and Saul/Paul - Acts 9: 10-16. In this passage God reveals both a Word of Knowledge (where to go and details of the situation) and a Word of Wisdom - details concerning the plans of God for Paul's life. God says to Ananias "For He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my Name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and **the Children of Israel**: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my Name's sake." (Acts 9:15 -16)
- Noah - Noah received a Word of Wisdom concerning the coming judgment on earth (Gen 6:13-18)
- The Apostle John - When John was imprisoned on Patmos, Jesus appeared to him and spoke to him concerning the seven churches. There was both knowledge of past and current situations and wisdom concerning the future, which included warnings. (Rev 2 and 3)
- Joseph - Joseph received Words of Wisdom in visions and dreams concerning God's plans for His life in the future (Gen 37)
- Agabus - Agabus received a Word of Wisdom concerning Paul's fate in Jerusalem (Acts 11: 28)
- Hezekiah - God gave Hezekiah a Word of Wisdom concerning his future (2 Kings 20:1) and then following his repentance God spoke to him again, giving him a life extension of 15 years (2 Kings 20: 5-6)

*It is interesting to note that the Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom and Prophecy can operate together. In fact many times in the Old Testament the Word of Wisdom was delivered using the vehicle of Prophecy.*

#### The Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is a supernatural gift of a fragment of the understanding of God regarding past or present events or situations. This "revealed knowledge" is given to reveal God's intimate knowledge of situations and individual lives. To reveal hidden things. To reveal the plans of the enemy. To reveal the workings of the enemy. To encourage. To uncover unrepentant sin (in order to bring repentance and a change of heart)

#### Examples

- Jesus and the woman at the well - John 4:7 -19 Jesus revealed to the woman her past and present marital situations through the operation of the Word of Knowledge.
- Elisha and the King of Syria. - 2 Kings 6: 8-12 Elisha knew through a Word of Knowledge the very things that the King of Syria was planning against Israel
- Elisha and Gehazi - 2 Kings 5:21-24. Through a Word of Knowledge, Elisha knew of Gehazi's actions in chasing after Naaman following his healing.
- Samuel and Saul's lost donkeys - 1 Sam 9: 20 Samuel reveals to Saul, through a Word of Knowledge that the lost animals were now found.
- Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-4, Through a Word of Knowledge, Peter knew of the couple's decision to keep back a portion of the money that they had gained through the sale of their property.



### Be specific

The more specific the word of knowledge is, the more faith it builds in the people involved.

- It is better to say “A shooting pain on the left side of the neck just below the ear or to point to the exact location than to merely say “a pain in the neck”, or “does someone’s neck hurt?”
- It is better to say “ringing in the left ear”, if that is the word, than to say, “trouble with an ear”

It is important not to go further than what you have in the desire to give specific words. Being wrongly specific will cause people not to respond because they think it isn’t for them

### Speaking out a word of knowledge for healing

It is generally wise at first to be tentative when speaking out the word you received. If no one responds, don’t be concerned. If someone responds, you could say “I have just had a sharp pain in my elbow, which may be a word of knowledge indicating that God would like to heal you now, since you have that condition. Would you like for me to pray for you now?”

Only pray for people if they want you to - do it later if they are embarrassed

How does God give words of knowledge for healing?

#### 1. Feeling

You may have

- A sharp pain in some part of your body
- A throbbing sensation
- Some other sensation
- A strong emotion such as fear or panic

Be careful that your feeling is not caused by a condition in your own body

#### 2. Seeing

You may get a mental picture, such as

- A body part - perhaps a heart, a foot, an eye, a head
- A person with a condition such as a limp
- A person carefully holding their arm
- A crutch, eye-glasses, a person walking with a cane
- A car or other accident
- An object e.g. a water bottle that links into the problem

#### 3. Reading

You may see in your mind

- A person with a word written across his front or back, or over his head
- A word written on a wall or carpet
- Something like a newspaper headline or banner



#### 4. An impression

You may sense in your mind that someone has a particular condition, or that the Holy Spirit has spoken the word to you

#### 5. Speaking

While talking or praying or standing with someone, unpremeditated words come out of your mouth relating to a physical condition you were not aware of

#### 6. A dream or vision

You may have a vivid dream or vision in which:

- You have a new health problem
- You see someone with a health problem
- You hear someone talking about a health problem

#### Practical insights to grow in the use of words of knowledge for healing

1. A word of knowledge for healing may come quickly and flit through your mind
2. It may be vague, tempting you to screen it out. Practice “tuning” in. If you are tentative and humble, not arrogant and presumptuous, no one will be offended if you have seemed to heard amiss
3. Resist the thought that what you have heard is not important, or that it is “just you”. Remember that it builds faith in the other person that God has revealed his condition to you
4. Don’t be presumptuous. Don’t say “God has just told me you have an earache”. Instead say “Does your left ear ever bother you?” or “I have an impression of a problem in the left ear. Does this mean anything to you?”
5. Be specific as the word revealed to you. The more specific the word, the more it build faith
6. Unpretentious honesty is the best policy. It’s perfectly OK
  - To admit that you are nervous
  - To say that you only have a vague impression
  - To say that you have never had a word for someone before
  - To say that praying for sick people is new to you
7. Don’t be afraid. Don’t let fear rob you and the person who might have been healed.
  - Be patient, but step out.
  - Be humble but step out,
  - Be tentative but step out

**Note:** For more on Words of Knowledge, see appendices.

#### The Discerning of Spirits

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits is the ability to see into the realm of the Spirit. The gift of discerning of Spirits is not a gift of DISCERNMENT. The Bible never speaks of “a gift of discernment”. Often people confuse the operation of the Word of Knowledge with the Gift of Discerning of Spirits. “Knowing things” by the Spirit of God is the operation of the Word of Knowledge. When the gift of Discerning of Spirits is in operation, there is a seeing rather than just a knowing.

Many people will express judgment of others under the guise of “Discerning of Spirits” speculating regarding their true motives. This is not the operation of Discerning of Spirits, it is veiled judgment and is expressly forbidden by Scripture, (“Judge not that you not be judged” Matt 7:1)



The gift of discerning of Spirits is not the ability to "discern" the workings of the enemy. It is not the "Discerning of Evil Spirits". It is an ability to "see" into the Spirit realm in a given situation to register the operation of Spirit beings, both good and evil. The ability to "discern" the operations of angels and demonic powers may be given by the Spirit in order for us to understand God's (or the enemy's) activity in a situation and perhaps to know how to pray more specifically. The operation of the Gift of Discerning of Spirits will reveal both God's and the enemy's works.

#### Examples

- Isaiah's vision of the Lord - Isaiah 6. Superimposed upon the natural world was a revealing of God and His activity in the realm of the Spirit. The reality of the nation's condition was revealed as the holiness of the Lord was revealed. After cleansing, Isaiah was able to hear what the Lord was saying and what His desires were.
- Elisha's Servant - 2 Kings 6:15-17 - Elisha asked the Lord to "open his servant's eyes" that he might discern the reality of the situation before him. His eyes were opened to see into the Spirit realm and he saw a completely different situation than he had seen before.
- Paul and the fortune teller - Acts 16:16-18 - The origin of the proclamation being made by the girl was revealed to Paul through the gift of discerning of Spirits. He addressed the spirit and cast it out.

## The Power Gifts

### The gift of Faith

The gift of faith is a special endowment that enables us to believe God to provide something for us in a given circumstance. This may include, provision, deliverance, safety, power, etc. In receiving the Gift of Faith we are being prepared to receive an answer supernaturally from God.

The Gift of faith will often operate as we step out in faith. God supernaturally adds to us the ability to believe beyond our capacity to bring about a change in the situation. The Gift of Faith is often intimately connected to the Gift of Working of Miracles and Gifts of Healings.

Jesus said "All things are possible to him who believes" Mark 9:23. This is a powerful statement, IF we can believe, ALL things are possible. On some occasions, the Holy Spirit imparts to us the ability to believe - that is the Gift of Faith in operation. The Gift of Faith will often be evidenced through speaking. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will manifest a Gift of Faith as we battle the enemy. Either in deliverance, some form of spiritual warfare or intercession, He imparts to us a Gift of Faith to deal with the enemy and overcome him.

#### Examples

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Dan 3:16-18 - *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set (KJV)* - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego determined that they would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's idol. They were brought before the King and charged to obey, with the threat of being thrown into a fiery furnace if they refused. They obviously received a gift of faith to refuse the King and spoke boldly that even if they were thrown into the fire, God



would deliver them. This was bold faith beyond their normal capacity. They were thrown into the fire - and they were supernaturally delivered.

- Elijah and the Prophets of Baal - 1 Kings 18:19-39 - In confronting the Prophets of Baal, Elijah was operating in a Gift of Faith. He had boldness to deal with a strong and superior enemy and even mocked them in their actions. He believed God for supernatural intervention and even went to the point of having water poured on the offering to underline his faith in the coming display of God's power. The fire fell and consumed the offering.
- Peter raising Dorcas from the dead - Acts 9:38-41 - Peter prayed over the dead body of Dorcas. He then commanded her to rise and she returned to life. This was a manifestation of the Gift of Faith, connected with the working of miracles. Faith to raise the woman from the dead, and a release of miracle power to restore her physical body following a period of decay.

## The Gift of the Working of Miracles

The Gift of the Working of Miracles is the ability to perform some act that defies or supersedes the natural order of things. This may involve, suspending natural laws, creative acts, acts of restoration etc. It may be defined as God intervening in nature to cause something naturally "impossible" to take place. While the Working of Miracles may be common in the restoration of physical abilities or functions, or in creating new parts, it is not confined to that. The Gift of Working of Miracles, may involve the operation of the Gift of Faith, but differs from it in that it DOES rather than RECEIVES something. It performs some act. It is active rather than passive.

### Examples

- Jesus feeding the five thousand, Mark 6:41-44. When Jesus took the bread and the fish and broke it, He performed a miracle as He continued to divide it so that 5,000 men and their families could eat and have such a substantial amount that they could not eat it all.
- Jesus and Peter walking on the water Matt 14:25-31. Jesus superseded natural law by walking on the water, He invited Peter to join Him on the water and Peter got out of the boat and walked with Jesus on the sea.
- The disciples raising Paul from the dead - Acts 14:19-20. Paul was stoned to death in Lystra following an uprising against him led by Jews from Antioch. The disciples gathered around him and raised him from the dead, causing his physical body to be repaired supernaturally.
- Elisha causing an iron axe-head to float - 2 Kings 6:5-7 - One of Elisha's disciples dropped a borrowed axe head into some water. Elisha performed a miracle by causing the axe-head to float.
- Moses performing miracles with his rod - Throughout the ministry of Moses we seem him performing miracles with his rod - Exodus 7 - 14
  - In Pharaoh's court, turning the rod into a serpent,
  - calling forth plagues
  - Dividing the Red Sea etc.

## The Gifts of Healings

It is interesting to note that Paul uses the plural form twice here, Gifts and healings. It is not the Gift (singular) of healing (singular) but Gifts (plural) of Healings (plural). The Gifts of Healings are manifested to cause the supernatural healing of sicknesses and diseases.



The Scripture does not explain why the plural form denotes this manifestation. We can only surmise that the Holy Spirit works differently in different situations with different sicknesses and diseases to cause healing to take place.

Sometimes it may be observed that one person has a particular manifestation of the Gifts of Healings operating in their lives, causing them to be successful in praying for certain afflictions. They may have less success with other afflictions. This is the Holy Spirit manifesting the Gifts in people as He wills. People may be healed through the operation of their own faith, or by receiving ministry from one through whom the ministry of the Gifts of Healings is operating. Both are valid.

Examples:

#### The Ministry of Jesus

Notice how differently Jesus dealt with different sicknesses and diseases. Often with similar conditions he performed different actions. He was manifesting the Gifts of Healings in different forms in a wide variety of situations. Sometimes He performed an action, and at other times He spoke, and sometimes He simply laid His hands upon the afflicted. Jesus healed ALL types of sicknesses and diseases and now continues to do the same through His Body - the Church.

## Healing in the Book of Acts

There was a continuation of the ministry of Jesus throughout the years of the early churches formation. Healings were not just performed by the Apostles. Many others were involved. Paul and the man on the Island of Melita (Acts 28:8). Paul laid his hands upon the man with a fever and a discharge of blood and he was healed. Paul healing the sick through cloths. Acts 19:11-12. We see here a transference of the anointing into cloth, with healing or deliverance taking place when the cloth was placed upon the sick person's body

## Application, Practice and Development

Partnering with the Holy Spirit is a developmental process. It is usual for us to feel unsure and awkward in the early days as we ask Him to develop within in us the capacity to be used in the Gifts of the Spirit. God has placed us in a family, where we can learn to experience and explore the Gifts of the Spirit in a safe environment. As we grow in our understanding an awareness of how the Holy Spirit moves we will develop confidence and boldness. Reliance upon leadership and others will help us to develop properly. We have not been placed in a vacuum! As we increase our desire to be used, the Holy Spirit will manifest His Gifts through us in ever increasing ways. Giving us wonderful testimonies to share.

Following these guidelines may help you in your development:

- Pray daily for the Holy Spirit to use you. Be specific.
- Cultivate a strong desire to be used in the Gifts.
- Vocally submit yourself to your leaders, asking for their help and direction
- Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you. Invite Him to give you the ability to interpret your own tongues. Ask him to develop prophecy in you during your quiet times. (Keep within the guideline, be prepared share your experiences with your leaders and others).
- Examine what is happening. Take your time; invite others to help you as you step out. Talk to others about their experiences. ENCOURAGE OTHERS as they step out.
- Open yourself to correction - invite it! A wise man invites correction because he wants to learn. This is a LEARNING process. Understand that there are some things



to learn - timing, interpretation, presentation etc. Have Post Mortems. How did you recognize the appearance of the Gift? What happened? How did it happen? How effective was your delivery? How could you have presented the Gift better? How can you be better prepared next time?

- Don't be afraid to make a mistake.
- Fast and pray for a greater sensitivity to the Spirit and for a greater release of the anointing. Come to meetings expecting God to use you. Pray and prepare beforehand to gain insight.



# Appendix 8

## The Treasure Map

### The Treasure Map

- a. **Location** (stop sign, bench, digital clock, coffee shop, Target, Wal-Mart, etc)

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- b. **A Person's Name**

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- c. **A Person's Appearance** (the colour of their specific articles of clothing, the colour of their hair etc)

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- d. **What they might need prayer for** (knee brace, cane, kidneys, tumour, left ankle, marriage, etc.).

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- e. **The unusual** (lollipop, windmill, lime-green door, dolphins etc)

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1. **Form groups of three or four.**
  - Combine the *words of knowledge* of the group to make your "Treasure Map".  
\*\*\*\*NOTE: Each member keeps their own list - *do not* combine lists on a separate sheet.
2. **Choose the beginning location (compare other clues on the way to your first location)**
3. **Start looking for the treasure**
4. **When you find something on the Treasure Map (taken from the individual maps in the group)...**  
Approach the person.
  - Say something like: "This may seem a little odd, but we're on a treasure hunt and we think you're on our list."
  - Show them your list (It may be one or two things from each list, or just one thing from one list.)
  - Build rapport (Make friends - ask questions about them to get to know them.)
  - Let them know that God has highlighted them, and wants to bless them.
  - Pay attention for things that you can help them with, and ask if you can pray for them.
5. **If they say "No" ...**
  - Build more rapport (common ground - friendship)
  - Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to highlight about the person.
  - Give them some encouraging words (*prophesy*) without being religious.
6. **Ask again if you can pray for them**
  - If they say "No" - bless them and proceed to the next Treasure (person).
  - If they say "Yes" (especially for healing)...
    - Ask for the presence of God to come (*Release His presence on the*)
    - Command the pain to leave, bones to be set, back to be realigned, tumour to shrink, etc.
    - Ask them to test it out: "Do something that you couldn't do before we prayed".
    - Repeat if necessary
7. **When they are healed, or you have blessed them through prophetic words...**
  - Explain what just happened (*the kindness of God revealed - He knows you and cares about you, etc*)
  - Ask them if they would like to know Jesus personally (*have a relationship with Him*).
  - Help them to ask Jesus into their life.
8. **Go to the next divine appointment on the treasure map!**

#### The Use of the Treasure Map

1. Fold the map in half from top to bottom so that only your clues are facing you
2. Fold the map again from side to side so that half of your clues are on one side of the fold while the other half is on the other side. This makes the map less conspicuous, while still giving the Treasure Hunter visibility to all of the clues on the map by simply pivoting it by rotating the hand. This may sound a little silly or overboard, but I have found that being as discreet as possible is more effective than drawing a lot of attention to the Treasure Hunting group, especially in a store or business.
3. Make sure each Treasure Hunter keeps their map available and accessible to each person on the team. Many clues are found by looking on another team member's map.
4. Do not put the map in your pocket, backpack, or purse. You know the saying, "Out of sight, out of mind". Most people who do not find Treasure are the ones who do not use their map consistently.
5. The Treasure Map is like a puzzle, requiring concentration and creativity to put together.
6. You can approach someone who only has one clue on your Map. Often, you will find that they possess other clues once you begin to build rapport and ask penetrating questions.
7. Utilize creativity and imagination. For example, "post office" could be a mailbox, a mail delivery person, a mail store, the post office, or even a letter that someone is about to mail. A person's name could mean a friend, relative, an acquaintance who needs prayer, reconciliation, or some other point of significance, or certainly could be the name of the person you have approached.
8. Once you find the clues, make sure you show them the map. Remember, for most people, "Seeing is believing".
9. Approach people in twos or threes at the most. A large group can be intimidating. It is also less threatening for the person you are approaching if the genders are mixed. I usually do not like to take more than five people on a Treasure Hunt because normally five can fit into one vehicle easily. Out of the group, I will also choose two on one gender and three of the other.
10. Children are great to have on Treasure Hunts. They are less threatening, and often have much better "out of the box" creativity to find clues.
11. Do not split your group of five up for more than one encounter. Work as a team and continually touch base, checking your clues and changing the team members who are approaching potential treasures.
12. The instructions for conducting a divine encounter are on the opposite side of the initial fold you made with your map. Have each person on the team read these instructions before launching out.
13. Once you have a divine encounter with someone, write the testimony on the back of the Map. Keep them for later encouragement of what God has done through you, and what he will do



# Appendix 9

## Body Map

