

Walking in Healing

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Introduction

I started to title this book *How To Be Healed*. Often we look at healing as being a single instant act of God. When we do, we may miss out on seeing the miracles that God does in us everyday. Sometimes when we don't see an instant healing, we doubt God and we doubt ourselves. This blocks our healing when God may have been healing us all along. Sometimes healing is gradual, a process. If we want to get from this point to another point, walking is our natural means to get there. Sometimes healing is a journey from one point (sickness) to another (health). It is a walk. It may happen in one instant healing, or healing may come in daily touches. Any way, the result is the same. We are healed.

In this book I remind you that healing is our bread according to the Word of God. It is our right and it is definitely His Word and His will that you be healed. I give scores of testimonies of those who have been healed, and some stories about those who haven't, and why they weren't. I give many scriptures to encourage and build your faith. I give encouragement and even rebukes, if you need it.

I have had many people that were dear to my heart who fought sickness and were never able to be healed because they lacked the knowledge of how to claim healing. This has given me the determination to write this book and to put it in the hands of every child of God who is claiming healing. I have been healed many times, and I have seen many healed. I have been a part of a New Life Ministries for over 20 years. Through this ministry I have seen the deaf hear, the crippled run, and even the dead raised. If you want to talk to someone about healing, be sure to talk to someone who has been healed, or knows someone who has. Don't ask someone who doesn't believe and hasn't been healed. Ask someone who knows.

I have prayed while writing this book that God gives me the words to say, and that He anoint it. I believe that it will touch your life and guide you in *Walking in Healing*.

Step 1. *Accept Salvation for Real*

What a strange way to put this, “accept salvation for real”. You might ask what I mean by that. I have heard so many people say, “I’ve been born again. I’ve been saved.” But I didn’t see a real change in their life. I knew that they were professing something that they didn’t really possess. I knew that they really hadn’t received salvation for real. How do we do that?

“Salvation is a free gift.” I see this slogan on bumper stickers and T-shirts. That is true in one respect. But in another way, it is not true. Salvation has a dear cost—both Jesus’ cost and ours. When Adam and Eve sinned they passed the nature to sin down to us all. We are their descendants. We inherited sin. Even if we think we are not bad people, we sin just because we are human. The best of us don’t even realize the ways we sin. We may not see it, but in the eyes of a holy perfect God we sin every day. (Isaiah 64:6, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags: and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away.”) The wages of this sin is death. (Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”) This death is even worse than just a physical dying. It means eternal separation from God. Someone who was perfect, that had no sin of His own, had to die to take the punishment for our sin, to earn our wages that we had coming to us. (Romans 5:12-17, “Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.... Verse 15, “But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.... Verse 17, “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one,

Jesus Christ.”) One man, Adam, condemned us all to sin and to have to pay the wages of that sin, eternal separation from God. One Son of God, Jesus, paid that price so that we could receive grace and His righteousness. Jesus came from heaven to be born as a baby. He lived on earth without sin and died on the cross. He went to hell and came back with the keys to death, hell, and the grave. (Revelations 1:18, “I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”) He reigns victorious over all. How do we receive life that He died to give us victorious and eternal? Through Jesus. He died and rose again to give us salvation. So we can see that salvation in that sense is not free. The price He paid so that you could receive salvation was very dear.

How do we accept that salvation that He offers? We repent of our sin and receive it. (Romans 10:9-10, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”) That is just the beginning. From there we continue to grow in knowledge about what that means. We continue to grow in knowledge of what it means to be God’s children. I hear so many people who have accepted salvation, but doubt in their hearts whether or not they are really saved. If you accept salvation, and continue to walk in a relationship with God, you are saved. You don’t need to shake in fear when that old devil comes around with His seeds of doubt. Quote him scriptures like Romans 10:9-10. Remind him of God’s Word. He’ll soon leave you alone.

I read a tract that was titled, “How To Miss Heaven By Sixteen Inches”. That is how far it is from your head and your mouth to your heart. If we just confess with our mouth, but we don’t believe in our heart, or we don’t accept the heart changes that come with our salvation, we will have just said some words. We will be professing something that we don’t actually possess. There will be no change in our lives.

If we accept salvation in our heart, 100%, there will be a genuine change in us. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, and rule as Lord of our lives, there will be a definite change.

Now you are probably asking, what does this have to do with healing? Just hang in there and you'll see. When we are saved, we ask Jesus to come into our heart and be Lord of our lives. Through the power of the Holy Ghost and God's Word, He does. When Jesus comes in our heart and life for real, there will be a big change in our lives. Then why do we see people that confess to be saved, but there is no evidence of a change? When Jesus comes into our hearts, we then have two things going on—Jesus and us, our flesh. If we don't allow Jesus in us to control our flesh, then we won't see Jesus in us, just our old self. (Romans 8:8-10, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you, Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.") We have two parts in us, but we have to learn how to let the Spirit of Christ in us rule over our bodies and minds. The part of salvation that a lot of people miss is committing and submitting ourselves to Jesus in us so that He reigns in our lives. We know the cost that Jesus paid for salvation, and we know the price that we have to pay. That price is committing and submitting all we are to Him. That makes salvation, in one sense, neither free nor cheap. Yes, it is a gift available to all. But it has a price.

When we commit and submit to Jesus, He will bring change in us. I remember one man who drank most of his life. His face showed the damage of his sin. He wasn't that old, but looked twice his age. I saw him not long after he was saved. I didn't even recognize who he was. His salvation showed on his face. He looked years younger. When our heart changes, it will show. In former communist countries, they don't consider a person saved until they see a committed, submitted life change. There weren't many, if any, hypocrites who said they served God, but they really didn't do so.

In the days of communism, saying you were saved without really letting Jesus change your heart wasn't done. Often that admission brought persecution for you and your family, and even death. There were few who confessed salvation with the mouth and head who didn't possess it in their hearts. In America, all too often, we say it and claim it, but it is only skin deep. It is only words that we say without a commitment and heart change to make it real. We need to take a lesson from those saints in persecuted countries.

Another key to accepting salvation is realizing that it is the beginning of a relationship with Jesus. We have to get to know Him in a walking, talking way that is real. That doesn't just mean on Sunday, but everyday, every waking hour. He is number one and He is real to you. Just like you work on a relationship with anyone, you have to work on your relationship with Jesus. Get real with Him and He will get real with you. Talk to Him and listen to Him. Many people lose their salvation because they don't have a relationship with Jesus that holds them through the battles, through their temptations and trials. Jesus will help you if you will get close enough to Him to know that. If you want to trust someone with something as valuable as your eternal soul, for heaven's sake, get to know that Someone.

Another key to accepting salvation is repentance. People get that subject all confused. They think it just means telling God regularly that you are sorry for all that you do wrong. I have been a teacher for a lot of years of my life. The best way to make peace between two kids who are at war with one another is by getting a heart-felt confession and repentance from the one at fault who caused the problem. That wasn't always easy. When they were cornered, sure they said I'm sorry, but that wasn't always genuine. They didn't mean it in their heart. They just said it because I made them. They would go out and do the same thing over again. Their confession and repentance wasn't real. We sometimes are guilty of doing God the same way. We know we are supposed to and we do it, but sometimes we really don't mean it.

If we really repent, we will change and not do that again. A real change comes about when we listen when God convicts us. We are so junky as human beings that we don't even know when we have done wrong unless He convicts us. I've had God convict me so that I felt like I was dying inside. Boy, when I confessed and repented and got His forgiveness, it was all the way. When you feel really bad for what you do, and you get His forgiveness, you won't go out and do that again the next day or the next year. You will walk around that one. We need to cherish God's convicting power and not take it lightly. If we didn't feel His conviction, there would be nothing to turn us around. We would bust hell wide open. Some people ignore and excuse away God's conviction because they want to keep doing what they are doing. They don't understand how close they walk to hell every time they do that. God uses His Word, His Spirit, and His servants who speak His Word to convict us. When He does, don't turn away from it.

We don't see much of the Holy Ghost convicting power in today's churches and that scares me. I guess that is because so many Christians don't want to be made uncomfortable, and conviction is not comfortable. They forget that hell isn't either. When I was younger, I remember services where the church would fall under conviction. Saints and sinners alike would fall at the altar repenting. Now most churches don't even have altar calls. Some don't even have altars. I guess their pride gets in the way. I believe the conviction power is gone because we took it lightly. We ignored it. We shoved it off because of our pride, and because we didn't want to feel uncomfortable. We got too busy doing our own thing in the flesh and pushed away God's Holy Ghost. We need to come back to the place where we welcome God's convicting power in our lives to have it come back to our churches. Maybe then we won't have to be afraid of our own children who have grown up watching us shove it away.

When we repent and we accept God's wonderful salvation and forgiveness, there will be changes in us that will last.

There will be changes that will constantly bring us closer to Him. What does all this have to do with healing? Everything. When we are truly born again we become children of God. As the children of God we inherit certain things. One of these is the right to healing. Healing is the bread of God's children. I have seen God heal sinners. Through that healing they came to receive His salvation. He knew they would become His child before He healed them. So He really healed one of His children, they just didn't know it yet. The chance of God healing you if you aren't one of His children is one in a million. If you are asking for healing, the first step in that walk is being sure of your salvation.

What about these psychic healers and people in holistic medicine who are healers? The devil can do all kinds of stuff. There are all kinds of cheap imitations to everything. To be healed for real from the God Who specializes in healing the body that He created, we have to accept His salvation, which means committing and submitting to Him. I am glad to know that I have the real thing, not some cheap imitation the devil has come up with to side track me from finding the real thing. When I am seeking a healing, I want to know I have the real thing to depend on when my life is hanging in the balance, don't you?

Time for Reflection— *The church world-over is settling for a bad bill of goods regarding salvation. There are more people who profess salvation than there are who possess it. Sad to say, many of these are pastors, and teachers. This thing is real. As a time for reflection, do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is real? Are you in an obedient relationship with God where you listen to His voice and obey Him? Do you have sin in your life that you think you have hidden? Remember, God's Word promises that your sin will be shouted from the rooftops. If you are having outside of marriage affairs, if you have a habit that is controlling you, if you have things in your life that the Lord is convicting you of, yet you continue to do them disregarding His conviction, then you need to give*

these things to God, and get out of this way of life. How can you lead others to repentance and deliverance, if you are bound yourselves? How can you lead others to salvation, if you lack a real, obedient relationship with the Lord yourself? Get real with yourself, and with Him. Repent. Yield. Let Him complete this work in your life. If you don't, you will one day find yourself in hell along with those in your congregation you deceived. It is time to get right and get real. All the excuses in the world won't get you your deliverance. The time for winking at sin is over. Jesus is coming soon. Whether you believe it in your heart, think it is so, or not, you will one day know that He has come, either because you are sitting in heaven with Him, or because you have been left behind. That time is definitely sooner than it was yesterday. You can see the signs of the times every day. Don't be one of those who refuse to accept deliverance to find yourself left behind.

I am in contact weekly with people around the world. The church world as a whole is in a terrible mess. If it is to be fixed, that has to start in the pulpits. That has to start behind the teacher podiums. We are held accountable for what we teach and preach. The congregations are filled with sick people because we have sick pastors and teachers who fail to walk in victory and in healing, who fail to allow the Spirit of God to move in the midst. The congregations are filled with people who, instead of turning to God for their healing, turn to doctors who have them on so many medications they don't even know that they are in the world. Why? Because their pastor isn't walking in victory and in the anointing of God enough to minister healing to them. He may be a walking medicine chest himself. Because their teachers aren't walking in the anointing of the Lord and in His victory, so how can they teach them about healing. Our congregations are filled with those who have depression, anxiety, and these illnesses that are surely signs of the end times. Instead, of the sounds of the shouts of victory, and the joyful sounds of the anointing of God, we hear the moans of the defeated, and bound.

No wonder there is so much sickness. It is time to lead them to healing. But if we don't have victory in our own lives, how can we do so? I pray that for this first session that you have a time when the Lord convicts and pours out His anointing. That won't happen without paying a price. If you get real, He will get real. If you seek His face, He promises in His Word that He will send His Spirit. Let Him work in your midst.

Step 2. ***Commit and Submit***

Two key words to receiving both a victorious salvation and healing are: commit and submit. The commit part has to be our part and it has to be all the way, especially if we are seeking a healing. Life is hard enough without having to handle sickness, pain, the physical and mental problems they bring, and the fear of death that comes with it all. We need all the help we can get. If we want God to heal us we have to be fully committed to Him so that there can be no double mindedness. (James 1:6-8, “But let him ask in faith nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”) Sometimes when we are sick it is a battle to be fully persuaded, but with God’s help, if we desire to do so with all our heart, He will help us. We just have to realize that being fully persuaded is the only way to receive from God, and we have to want to be that way enough to hold onto it. If we waver in our salvation and play games, compromise on God, ignore His conviction, then how can we be healed? We have to make up our mind whose side we are on and stand there. God will help us even to the point of being the strength in our weakness, but we have to make up our mind.

When we are well or sick, the devil will bombard us with self-doubt and doubting God. We’ll talk later about how to fight him. We just have to make sure that we keep our faith and don’t waver. (More about this later, too.) We have to keep committed and submitted for this to happen in our lives.

We’ve talked about commitment, what about submission? Submission is humanly impossible. Our nature is the opposite of submission. We don’t want to be told what to do. We don’t want to be corrected by anyone, let alone by God. We want to do it our way. True submission can only come when we yield, and we allow God to break our self-will.

Sickness can bring us to the place where we submit to God, or through sickness we can rebel against God. We need to allow God to break us and bring us into submission.

Why is it important to submit? We can either live the way God wants us to live or live in a way *we think* He wants us to live. We can either obey Him or do what *we think* He wants us to do. We can submit to His Spirit in us and let Him operate through us, or we can be filled with ourselves doing our own little stupid thing, and that never works in the long run. We have to submit to do it God's way instead of our own. We have to be broken to be able to let Jesus in us be in control. We have to be broken to even let Him love us and to love Him. To be able to love and receive love we can't be full of ourselves. We definitely have to be submitted to God to deal with overcoming sickness and to accept healing.

Healing is a supernatural process beyond our doing and understanding. We cannot even understand how to claim healing, or walk in it in the natural, in our own understanding. We have to be broken and allow Jesus to rise up in us and then we can understand with His thinking, His mind, to be able to walk in the supernatural. In other words we have to put on the mind of Christ to be healed. (I Corinthians 2:14-16, "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. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.") Through Jesus inside us we can understand with His mind only if we submit our own thoughts to Him. We can't walk in a natural understanding to receive healing. We can't walk in the Spirit until we allow God to break the natural. Our spiritual side will talk faith, overcoming, and victory in Jesus. Our natural flesh side will constantly remind us how bad things are, talk doubt, look at things only as they are, not as how God is going to make them to be. Our natural side will concentrate on the pain and the physical symptoms. The mind of Christ will dwell on God.

It will dwell on His praise. Our natural mind will dwell on the day-to-day battle. The mind of Christ will dwell on the day-to-day victories. The natural mind will dwell on the weakness of our body. The mind of Christ will remind us that His grace is sufficient. Our natural mind will dwell on what we see in the natural. Our spiritual side will have us to look at things that aren't as though they were, which is faith. (Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.") Our spiritual side will remind us that we need to hold on; victory is just around the corner. We have to allow the spiritual side of us (which is Jesus in us though the power of the Holy Ghost) to rise up in us and overcome the natural. To do that we have to allow God to break our flesh side and submit. We have to especially do this if we are seeking healing. This all can only come about if we are 100% committed to a real genuine relationship with God.

Step 3. *Having Peace With God*

Have you ever gone through a shutter-rattling storm in a relationship with someone you loved? No matter who was at fault, do you remember how great it felt when you finally made peace with them? Then you knew where you stood in your relationship with them. When you are overcoming sickness and seeking and claiming healing, you have to know where you stand in your relationship with God. You have to know you have peace with Him.

The way to have peace with God is to know you are forgiven. When we really repent (remember, we talked about what that means in the first chapter), and we confess our sins before God and ask His forgiveness, we are forgiven. Our sin is no longer remembered. God doesn't hold it against us or remember it any longer. (Psalm 103:3, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases.") When we are forgiven we are totally set free from our sin. We may need to make some things right. God may require us to go back and fix some things. Sometimes we may not be able to. If we can't, God won't require us to. We may need to confess our sin to the person we wronged and make it right. Whatever God puts in our heart to do, we need to do it.

One of the keys to accepting forgiveness is realizing that forgiveness is a process. We need to accept God's forgiveness. Then we need to accept the forgiveness of those that we have wronged. Also, just as importantly, we need to forgive ourselves. I had such a hard time with this as a young Christian. I would beat myself all up every time I did something wrong. The devil didn't need to accuse me. I did enough for him and me both. I would do so long after God forgave me. I was the last one to forgive myself, and sometimes I didn't. I kept myself totally stripped of victory because I wouldn't forgive myself. Now it is true that forgiveness is not something to be taken lightly. I heard someone say once, "I can do whatever I want to because God loves me.

He will forgive me.” What if we had that attitude with our own parents? Any decent parent wouldn’t put up with that attitude. Parents, how do you react when your children come up with that attitude? If we love God and respect the price He paid for our salvation, we won’t act like that with Him either. We can’t take His forgiveness lightly, but at the same time, when we are forgiven, for heaven’s sake, we need to forgive ourselves. I remember the time as a young Christian I was brutally beating myself up spiritually. I was caught in self-condemnation. Jesus deals with me in a simple way. He teaches me by showing me pictures in my mind. That way in my simple understanding I know what He is saying. God doesn’t make things complicated. He keeps it simple for the simplest. He showed me His hands and the nail scars there. He told me that He did that so that I could be forgiven. It became real and personal that day what He had done for me to be forgiven. I understood for real what He did so that I could be forgiven. It became real when I saw in my spirit those nail scarred hands reaching out in love for me. He doesn’t expect me to be perfect, He knows better than anybody else that I can’t. He does expect me to be whole hearted in my love and service to Him. Now I trust His wonderful convicting power. I know that He convicts me because I am His Son. (Hebrews 12:6-7, “For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what sons is he whom the Father chasteneth not?”) I trust His wonderful conviction power. When He convicts me, I submit and let Him work in my heart to change the thing that is wrong. I repent and accept His forgiveness. I have peace with Him.

The devil is a master at condemning us. When we learn to stop doing it ourselves, he will start it up. He is truly the accuser of the brethren day and night. (Revelations 12:10, “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”)

In that verse we not only see what the devil does to us, but praise God, we see his end! He is especially on the job when we are sick. He will try to block us from receiving our healing. He will whisper in our ear that it is God's will for us to be sick. He will tell us that we deserve this for some hidden reason. He will tell us that we have sinned so many times that we have blasphemed the Holy Ghost and there is no more forgiveness for us and that is why we are sick. He will tell us that we can't be healed because we aren't spiritual enough or we don't deserve it. I knew someone who recently died of cancer. She knew about healing and the power of God's Holy Ghost to heal. She told us that she did not want to die. However, she wasn't able to receive her healing because she did not think that she was worthy enough to be healed. She had not accepted God's forgiveness and trusted in His love for her. This actually blocked her healing. Healing was God's gift to her, but she couldn't receive it. We need to learn that when the devil tries to accuse us we need to remind him of God's Word. We need to tell him that we are God's children and it is written in His Word that it is His will for us to be healed and we don't have to be perfect to be healed. We'll talk more later about how to fight him. We have the power to overcome.

Accepting God's forgiveness and finding peace with Him is a key to being able to be healed. To claim and pursue our healing we have to have a right and real relationship with the Healer. We have to accept His love and find peace with Him. We have to walk and talk with Him. Remember **you** can have peace with God.

Time for Reflection and Discussion: Do you have peace with God? As a whole, this is one thing that is lacking in the church world. People are literally dying of stress related ailments, and psychological problems because of the way the world is today. They need to have their faith built up so that they have peace. They need to come to the place in their relationship with the Lord where they trust Him. We can get so caught up in seeing the storm, that we forget who is in our

boat with us. Just like the disciples, we become afraid, when all we have to do is draw near to the One who says peace be still, and the storm stops. Over 80% of medication taken in the world is taken by Americans. Most of this medication is because of stress related illnesses. We have turned to everything but God, and it is killing us. As ministers and teachers, we need to find peace with God so that we can lead others into this victory. Without peace with God, we cannot walk in healing. Do you have peace with God?

Step 4. *Come Under the Blood*

The blood of Jesus is powerful. Through the blood of Jesus we find salvation. Because He shed His blood for us on the cross, we can be saved. We find forgiveness when we repent of our sins because of the blood of Jesus. We find security from the battles of satan through the blood of Jesus. We also find a key to our healing. For the blood of Jesus to operate in our lives we have to have every sin repented of, confessed, and forgiven. We can't have sin that we have not repented of. That means sin that we hide away because we really don't want to quit doing it. That means sin that we hide because, when Jesus starts to convict us, we shut our eyes and don't want to talk about it. That means sin that our pride won't let be revealed. That means those sins we excuse away. That means those attitudes that we chunk down inside of us because we don't want to deal with them. That means those things we justify or excuse away. All of our sin has to be convicted, repented of, confessed, and forgiven. That doesn't just mean things that we do, it also means the attitudes of our hearts and how we think as well. All of it from the very depths of who we are.

It doesn't work for us to just say a general prayer, "God forgive me of all my sin". That isn't a response to conviction of a particular thing, and it isn't a genuine repentance. You have to really know what you've done wrong to repent. With a casual attitude like that, what's to keep you from doing it again and again? What respect do we have for the price that Jesus paid for our forgiveness when we do that? We need to let God convict us. He'll bring us up out of our very being those things that are wrong. He will use His Word to cut us asunder and dig out what is wrong in our hearts and lives. (Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is the discernor of the thoughts and

intents of the heart.”) The conviction that God’s Word and His Spirit will bring is guaranteed to make you uncomfortable. If it didn’t, why would you pay attention to it? Some people shrug conviction away because they just don’t like to be made uncomfortable. We have to remember, hell is a lot more uncomfortable. We don’t have to accept how we are with all our faults, our weaknesses, and failures. God has a plan. He is bringing us into the likeness of His Son. (I John 3:1-3, “Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.... Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”) This is an ongoing process. He will constantly be working in us if we submit to Him. I am so glad that He doesn’t just save us and leave us the way we are. We would never make it. We are constantly under construction if we allow God to do His work. Never draw a line on God and stop Him or settle for a comfort zone away from His conviction. Never let sin keep you out from under the blood of Jesus.

The way to keep your sin under the blood is to allow God to convict you and repent. Make sure when you are sick and seeking God for healing that you know that you know that you know that you have all your sin convicted of, confessed and repented of, and forgiven. The devil is a master at bringing condemnation against God’s people. He will try to tell you that you are sick because you deserve that punishment because of your sin. He will try to tell you that you are sick because you are not good enough for God to heal. When you know that your sin is under the blood, you can stand up in his face and tell him, “Devil, you are the liar. I know I am forgiven. I am God’s child. You are the loser. In the name of Jesus go away. I plead the blood of Jesus against you, devil. The blood of Jesus covers me.” He has to eventually go away and leave you alone. That leaves the door to receiving your healing wide open.

Time for Reflection:

Are your sins under the blood of Jesus? Are you making excuses for your sin, or self-justifying yourself? That won't get it fixed. Allow God to convict you. Repent. Make it right. Then you can be healed. Then you can lead your congregation to do the same.

Step 5. *Forgiveness*

We know that being forgiven is important in our everyday walk with the Lord and in receiving our healing. There is an important key to receiving forgiveness. Matthew 6:14 tells us, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” The Bible tells us in several places that in order to receive God’s forgiveness, we have to forgive others that have done us wrong. So if we know that we have to be forgiven in order to be healed, then we can go from that to say that we have to forgive others for our healing to be released. Doctors today can link many illnesses to a lack of forgiveness and bitterness. These even include hardening of the arteries, heart problems, and cancer.

I am reminded again of the kids at school. Remember the ones I talked about in an earlier chapter. The ones that I would make apologize to keep the peace. Now the one that started it had to ask for forgiveness but to really make it work the other one had to forgive him. Never mind if sometimes that was hard to do. If they had just clobbered them over the shins with a baseball bat, never mind if it was an accident, it still hurt. We still have to forgive even if the pain is there. Even if the pain is greater than a baseball bat across the shins, we have to forgive. What about those times when it is a pain in the heart that goes so deep there is no getting over it? One of the greatest stories of forgiveness that I have ever heard was the one about a woman who fought bitterness against the man who had murdered her son. This is a true story. That bitterness caused her to shut up against her family and her life. Bitterness will kill you and your relationships with those who love you. All she could think about was what had been done. Hebrews 12:15 tells us, “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” Ephesians 4:31 says, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”)

God began to use His Word and others around her to convict her about her bitterness. She allowed Him to do this and repented, asked for forgiveness, and asked Him to help her overcome. She began to allow Jesus in her to forgive this man. She could not do it herself, but the one who forgave those who hung Him on the cross lived in her heart. Through Him, she began to forgive. God spoke to her heart to go to the prison and visit this man. I wonder what he thought when he heard that she was there to see him. I am sure that what he expected wasn't what he found. He found the love of God that was so rich and real in her that he decided this is what he wanted for himself. This love changed his life. This woman is still making a difference in the life of the man who murdered her son, and he is making a difference in the lives of those in the prison where he is. He found forgiveness, not only from this woman, but from the One Who helped her to be able to forgive. And now he is leading others to find that same new life.

How do we come to this place where we can forgive no matter how great the pain? First we have to realize that we **have** to forgive. We have to realize that there is no way out of it according to God's Word. We have to realize that if we don't, we aren't hurting the ones that hurt us, we are hurting ourselves, and often those around us who love us as well. To receive forgiveness and victory in Him we have to forgive. We have to realize that not forgiving gives the person that wronged us the victory, power, and control over our lives. This gives satan control over this part of our lives. I have heard people actually say, "I don't care if I have to go to hell, I will never forgive that person." Bitterness had taken them over to the place that they couldn't think right. Would you really like to burn in hell for eternity? Is that pain that person caused you greater than the pain of eternal flames?

I have read medical studies that report that bitterness can cause many illnesses. Could it be that your sickness is caused from bitterness? Ask God to show you if this is so, and ask Him to give you the grace you need to overcome it.

Remember, He is inside you, and He can forgive. I knew a lady who was a powerful Christian. Some people in the church hurt her. She allowed a spirit of bitterness to control her. She became sick. She knew about forgiveness but would not submit to God. She knew about the power of healing, but wouldn't receive deliverance. She died at a young age. Don't allow bitterness to control your life.

The first step in being able to forgive is to identify that you are not forgiving. Sometimes we don't face what is in our hearts. We can talk ourselves into believing that we have forgiven, when down in our hearts there is a root of bitterness. If God starts dealing with your heart, listen. Even if you think that you don't need this. Then you have to realize that you can't forgive on your own. You have to rely on Jesus in your heart and let His love help you to overcome. He can on the inside, working on the outside, bring this change in your life. Mercy and longsuffering are two of the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 tells us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith..." My favorite part of that verse is that little word "of". These are not our fruits. Matter of fact, if we are honest, these are all things that most of the time we are not capable of. This verse tells us these are not our fruits, but fruits "of" the Spirit. These are His fruits. But because He is in us, if we allow them to, they will become a part of us. When we allow His Spirit to break us and control us, then these things will rise up in us instead of all that other junk that tends to rise up in us when we are controlled by our flesh instead of His Spirit. That's how we can forgive. And when we forgive—we are forgiven. That opens the door to healing and puts us one step closer in this walk.

Time for Reflection: Do you have bitterness in your heart? You can forgive if you will allow God to help you. If you don't, then you won't be well, and your congregation won't be well because you can't administer healing to them with bitterness in your own heart. Ask God to show you if you have bitterness.

Step 6. *Understanding Why There Is Sickness*

I hear a lot of people say, if God is a God of love, then why do we have sickness? If God is powerful enough and loves us enough, then why do we have to have sickness? Especially when we are sick ourselves, these questions need to be answered in our hearts. A lot of people automatically accept sickness as God's will. They think that God may be punishing them for something that they have done. Or they assume that the reason they are sick is because God is trying to work something in their live. God does use sickness, but it is not God's will that we be sick. God can use all things to bring good in our lives. (Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.") God didn't create sickness, or even the things that cause it. God created a perfect world. (Genesis 1:31, "And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.") In that perfect world, there was no sickness. When Adam and Eve sinned, that bought a curse on the world and on their bodies. The things that cause sickness began to exist and our bodies down through time began to deteriorate from the perfect bodies that God created us to have. Sin entered the world, and sin is a big cause for sickness, not necessarily meaning our own personal sin, but sin as a whole.

That's why we have such a problem with Aides and other such diseases not only in our nation, but also in the world. A decline in the morals of people have led to these diseases spreading because man has turned so to sin. We live in an imperfect world, not because God created it to be imperfect, but because of the sin of man. We can't blame God when we become sick. He shelters and shield us, but the Bible tells us that the rain falls on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45, "...and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.") This means that there will be bad things in the world.

Bad things that are caused by man's sin, as well as caused by those people who don't know God, affect God's children.

Sometimes our sickness can be caused by our own sin, or by our failure to allow God's Word and His will work in our lives. We have already talked about how bitterness can cause us to have physical problems. Sin causes sickness and death. For example, the sin of alcoholism causes physical disease. Sometimes even after the person is saved, the problems created in their bodies can still cause them to die young, before that appointed time that God has for them to die unless they believe God for a healing. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...") The Bible tells us that rebellion can shorten our days. (Proverbs 10:27, "The fear of the Lord longeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.") When we are rebellious against God's will and His ways, we can go places we shouldn't go and do things that we shouldn't do, which can cause us to die young. I knew a young person that was in a vehicle with some other friends. They were goofing around. He jerked the wheel and caused an accident. That young person was killed. I don't think that was God's will. I think that young man caused his own death to come early. God has an appointed time for us all to die. What we do can prolong it or hasten it. I knew another young person who was saved, but was compromising on God. He was at a party where he shouldn't have been. He got in a vehicle with someone who was drinking. They wrecked. The one driving was killed. This young person was paralyzed from his neck down. I don't believe it was God's will for him to suffer, but his own disobedience cause it. Sometimes though sicknesses come against us through no fault of our own. They may come against us because we are living in an imperfect world. Or it may be that the wrong choices of others who are not obeying God bring us harm.

I knew a family that was hit head on by a drunk driver. They were on the way to church. Many were killed. One of the children was left disabled. This was horrible.

I don't believe that was God's will, but because we live in an imperfect world, and because of the sin of others, we have things that come against us. These things cannot be blamed on God. Sometimes we may have sicknesses come against us because of this imperfect world we live in which is full of sickness. I guess if we want to get mad at somebody, we could get mad at Adam and Eve, but what good would that really do. I think that it is just best to forgive them, too, and go on.

We also have to remember that we have an enemy. The devil will try to destroy us and our ability to work for God by bringing sickness against us. Many times when we are drawing close to being in the center of God's will the enemy will come against us like a roaring lion to keep us from finding that which God has for us to do. When we are close to finding God's plan for our lives, the devil will be there to stop us from doing so in every way he can, including putting sickness against us. We have power over the devil. We have him under our feet and dominion over him. We will talk more about this in the chapter ahead titled, *The Struggle*. We need to remember that he cannot put more on us than we can stand.

I do know that God can use our sickness to work for good in our lives. One example is the one I will tell about in a chapter to come. I'll share with you how God used sickness to change the direction of my whole life. But I don't believe that it is His will for us to be sick, or that He takes pleasure in our pain. Sometimes when we are sick and face the battles and struggles sickness may bring, the devil tells us this lie, that it is God's will for us to suffer. When that happens, we need to run to God's Word and find out the truth. We need to know His Word and stand on those scriptures that tell us that it is His will for us to be healed. We need to believe in and stand on those scriptures that tell us that He does not mean for His children to dwell in sickness. It is His will that we be in health and prosper even as our soul prospers. (III John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth." For after all, He Himself is the

health of our countenance. (Psalm 42:11, “Why art thou cast down O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him Who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”)

Step 7. ***Find God's Will For You***

The Bible tells us plainly that it is good for us to be in health and prosper.

(III John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”) Here are other verses that tell our rights as children of God to walk in healing:

Isaiah 53:5 tells us, “But He (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

Luke 4:18 tells us, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me (Jesus), because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance of the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Proverbs 4:22 tells us, “For They (God’s Words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Jeremiah 30:17 tells us, “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord....”

Jeremiah 17:14 tells us, “Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.”

Exodus 15:26 tells us, “...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His

commandment, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

Psalms 91:16 tells us, “With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Isaiah 65:22 tells us, “They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”

Here are accounts of some of the healings that Jesus did while He was on earth: (Read them. I have chosen the ones recorded in Matthew to make them easier to look up. There are many more. If you have a concordance, or cross reference Bible, look these up. There is strength in God’s Word. It is the only book that you can read that can build your faith in the powerful way that it can.)

Matthew 8:14-15, Matthew 8:2-4, Matthew 9:2-8, Matthew 12:9-13, Matthew 12:15, Matthew 12:22, Matthew 8:28-34, Matthew 9:23-26, Matthew 9:27-34, Matthew 9:27-32, Matthew 15:22-28, Matthew 20:29-34

It is important to know that you are a child of God, and that part of your inheritance is the right to be healed. Stand on this knowledge and know who you are in God. When we are well, or sick, the devil specializes in condemning us. The best way to fight this condemnation is to ask God to reveal any sins that we haven’t confessed and repented. Then when we have repented, then we put God’s Word in the devil’s face. If you have accepted salvation, and your sins are under the blood, you are a child of God. Don’t let the devil make you doubt.

Instead of concentrating on trying to defend yourself on who you are in the natural, stand on who you are according to God's Word. God's Word declares some things about you. You need to start seeing yourself in the light of God's Word. Declare who you are and stand on it. As children of God we have the right to these things:

Galatians 3:29 tells us, "And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

John 1:12 tells us, "But as many as received Him to them, gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Romans 8:14 tells us, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Galatians 4:7 tells us, "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Ephesians 1:18 tells us, "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Some people believe that healing is not for today. That it was only for people in Bible times. It might be easier to accept that if I had never seen anybody healed, and I hadn't been healed myself. God's Word can build your faith, and so can the testimonies of those who have been healed. One of the greatest healings I have gotten was one that I didn't even ask for, because I didn't at the time know I needed it. It was an instantaneous healing. I had been in a major car wreck. I was pinned in with my car upside down. The emergency people at the scene said, "Wait, we can't pull her out, she is bleeding."

She is bleeding too bad.” When they got me out I had blood down my arms and legs, even on my car seat, and on things lying there. To my amazement and theirs, by the time I was gotten out of the car, God had healed me completely. There was not a scratch on me. It wasn’t an internal injury because I had no problems later, and there was no blood around my face or mouth so I knew that there were no internal injuries. I don’t even know what was hurt, but I do know that He fixed whatever was wrong.

God has healed me many times. One of the first times I remember Him healing me was when I had broken my foot. It swelled up about twice its size and turned black and blue. I had one problem. I was to drive someone to a town 8 hours drive away from home. I was their only transportation. I couldn’t even put my weight on it, and to make the problem worse I had a straight drive car. We all prayed that night. The next day, I made the trip without a problem. My foot was healed.

I heard a friend tell about how at a revival meeting they saw a little boy without an eye in his eye socket. His socket was empty. They prayed for him to be able to see. God did one better than that. The little boy can see now out of a beautiful little blue eye that God made especially for him. In another service a lady who had been in a wheel chair all her life rolled up to our pastor’s wife and asked her if she wanted to take a walk with her. Our pastor’s wife didn’t know that the lady hadn’t been able to walk for many years. She agreed. The lady got out of her chair and walked with her. By the end of the service she was running around the tent.

I remember a lady who was in the hospital waiting for a life saving surgery. She couldn’t have the surgery because of another complication. She started to get better. The doctor did more tests. Much to the doctors amazement they found a new valve had been put in her heart. The Master Surgeon had been at work. Another lady was dying because cancer had eaten away parts of her stomach and intestines. She was in the hospital and she was basically left there to die there.

Brother Goad laid hands on her and prayed for her. Much to the doctor's amazement she began to get better. Tests revealed that she had a new stomach and intestines that had been reconstructed without human hands.

Another friend was in the hospital. A car had struck him and the bone in his arm had been shattered. X-rays started showing a new bone that grew in the place of the one that was shattered. The purpose of my telling how God has healed me, and others that I know is not to make you feel bad or bitter as to why God hasn't healed you. It is not to lift myself up or to lift up those who prayed for them. The purpose is to encourage your faith. God's Word teaches that God is no respecter of persons. What He does for one He will do for others. He will do for you.

God is still in the healing business. I have written a song that is called *Jesus is a Healer*. He is still a healer. I'll share the words with you. When Jesus died on the cross, His stripes were for your healing. Can you tell me now that it is God's will for you stay sick? Can you honestly tell me that it is God's will for you not to be healed?

Jesus is a Healer

Verse 1

As He stood in the courtyard, a Roman soldier was called in,
To give Him a punishment, the soldier couldn't understand.

As he tore the back of Jesus with the whip in his hand,
He could not see down through time down to where you stand.

Chorus

Jesus is a healer. He is a healer.
No matter what your problems are,
He'll make you whole again.
He is a healer, Jesus is a healer.
And He will make you whole again.

Verse 2 from Jesus is a Healer

So your body's tired and weary from the sickness upon you.
Your mind is so far from faith in Satan's battleground.
Just think on that courtyard, that price He paid for you.
As He looked through time, with eyes of love on you.

Yes, Jesus is a healer. He bore those stripes on His back for you. In those days the Roman soldiers used strips of leather, sometimes 10 in a bunch, with pieces of metal or glass tied on the ends. Just a few stripes tore the flesh off. The number of stripes that Jesus bore would have torn off the flesh and muscle and expose the bone. We know that He was also beaten so badly that you couldn't tell what His features looked like. Through these stripes we are healed. (I Peter 2:24, "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.") He took that pain and bore that suffering so that we don't have to. I know it is His will for us to be healed. So do you. Not only that, I also know that His Word tells us that we **are** healed.

Time for Reflection:

Do you believe in healing? If you don't, then you can't minister it.

Step 8.
I Know Who I Am

It is important to know who you are in God and who you believe in. We all know who we are in the flesh. We know what we look like. We know if we are comely, or not so comely, as the Bible says. We know if we are maybe a little bit heavier than what we should be. We know if we are tall or short. We know our weaknesses. Most of us don't know our strengths. It's easier to find our weaknesses than our strengths. We know our gifts and talents, or lack of them. Most of us are not very confident in who and what we are, especially if we are fighting the battle of sickness. To be able to walk in healing we have to be able to see ourselves as we are in God. The Bible tells us these things about who we are as sons and daughters of God:

1. I am a living Son of a living Savior. (I John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God....")
2. I am His inheritance destined to be One with Him as He is One with the Father. (John 17:21, "That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.")
3. My inheritance is to be able to do all the things He did on earth and more. We can not only receive our healing, but we can seek God that we be given the gift of healing which comes through His Spirit that dwells in us. (I Corinthians 12:4-11, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of

operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all. But the manifestations of the Spirit given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom: to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.”)

4. I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder brother. (Matthew 16:19, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”)
5. I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. (I Corinthians 15:57, “But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”)
6. I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. (III John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prosper.”)
7. We have victory over death. (I Corinthians 15:54, “...Death is swallowed up in victory.”)
8. I will **eternally** inherit the blessings of God. (John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that

heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”)

We have to learn to see ourselves according to God’s Word. If we are committed, submitted, and obedient children of God, then these things are true. Read these things over again in a personal way putting your name in the verses. **I** (your name) am a Son of God. Read them all this way and believe them, because they are the Word of God and the Word of God cannot lie. Read them everyday. Read them when the devil brings doubt, confusion, and self doubt. Read them to him. God’s Word has a way of doing away with the devil’s lies.

We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, our failures, our past, our sicknesses, our problems, and our flesh. It would be much better if we spend our time with our mind submitted in the Word of God remembering the verses that declare our victory and our rights as the children of God. We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, or we can remember to submit these to Him so that He becomes our strength. (II Corinthians 12:9-10 “And He (Jesus) said unto me, “My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.... for when I am weak, then am I strong.”) If we concentrate on our flesh and our weaknesses, we deny the power of the Word of God to work in us. We deny the Holy Ghost Who is inside us. We deny Jesus Christ, Who is our only hope of glory. (Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”) We need to stop seeing our flesh, and start seeing Jesus in us. We need to stop concentrating on our sickness and begin to see the promises of God’s Word. We need to know who we are in Him and stand up and claim our right to healing as a child of God.

Time for Reflection:

How do you see yourself, through eyes of flesh, or eyes of God's Spirit? Have you been going through a time when the devil is beating you up over your weaknesses? Give them to the Lord and walk on in HIS strength.

Step 9. ***Know Your Word***

In this chapter I am including more verses about the power of healing. The best way to encourage your faith is through the Word of God. (Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”) These verses will not do you any good if you skim over them and don’t take them to heart. Sometimes when you believe God for a healing, it will help to put up these verses all over your house. When you go to the refrigerator, read the verse that is there. When you look in the mirror, read the verse that is there. Wherever you find yourself repeatedly through the day, leave scripture there. Read them with your heart. Allow the Holy Ghost to write this Word in your heart so that it becomes a part of you. Picture the Word that you read becoming a part of the organ that is affected by your sickness. Picture this Word bringing healing to this part of you. The Word of God will work. Psalm 119:89 tells us, “For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” Isaiah 40:8 tells us, “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.” Matthew 5:18 tells us, “For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till it all be fulfilled.” Isaiah 55:11, “So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”)

Proverbs 4:20-22, “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Mark 5:34, “And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.”

Isaiah 53:5-6, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

I Peter 2:24, “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

Psalm 107:19-20, “...they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saveth them out of their distresses. He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

Isaiah 57:19, “I create the fruit of the lips, Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near saith the Lord; and I will heal him.

John 10:10, “...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Psalm 118:17, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”

I know, I know. Some of these verses I already covered in the other chapter. Read them again. Read them over and over and over again. Speak God’s Word to your sickness and to the symptoms. Speak that in the Name of Jesus, sickness has no power over your mind or your body. Declare God’s Word. God’s Word has power. Refuse to think anything contrary to God’s Word. Speak and think faith. Faith is positive. Read these scriptures and declare them daily, not as a ritual but as a praise to the Lord for His wondrous Word and His promises for you. A praise for what He is working in you!

Step 10. *Understand Faith*

Many people don't understand faith. When something doesn't happen right away that they think is theirs by God's Word, they begin to feel condemned. They think that it must be because they don't have the faith. God's Word says we are all given a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3, "...as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.") The Bible also says that we can increase our faith. One way is by reading God's Word. (Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.") We can build our faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. (Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.") This means praying in tongues in the Holy Ghost by allowing the Spirit of God to pray in and through you. (By the way, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a key for healing. Through the Baptism of the Holy Ghost we are filled to the brim with God's Spirit. This gives us the extra power that we need to overcome. Acts is filled with scripture about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and other books of the Bible as well. Acts 1:4-5 tells how Jesus told the disciples to, "Wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days from now." The second chapter of Acts tells what happened when the Holy Ghost came. Acts is filled with examples of the Baptism of the Spirit. This is a gift from God guaranteed to give you power to overcome. If you are fighting sickness, you need this gift. Ask God for understanding. Search the scriptures. Ask Him for this wonderful gift. It is for you just as much as it was for the early saints. We need it even more in these last days. For more about this gift that strengthens us, makes us bold, empowers us, read my book titled *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*.

If we exercise our faith it will grow. If we break a bone and it has to stay in a cast without our using it, it's weak. As time goes on being in a cast, it will grow weaker. Our faith

is the same way. If we don't use it, our faith won't grow. Exercise it and it will. All of us are given a measure of faith. It depends on us how strong that faith grows. If we fail to do the things to make it grow, it will weaken.

We also have to remember that our faith is not in ourselves. Sometimes it's easy to get this confused. Our faith should be focused in God. We think if we ask God for something and we don't get it right away, that there is something wrong with us, or our faith. We look at ourselves instead of having our eyes on Jesus. When we focus on God and His Word, it is much easier to have faith and believe in our healing.

There came a time in David's life when he lost his faith in God. They had returned from a battle only to find an enemy had attacked their homes, their city was burned with fire, and their wives, sons and daughters were taken captive. I Samuel 30:4 says that, "Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep." The people were so distressed that they talked of stoning David, and that didn't help his situation at all. But verse 6 tells us, "... David encouraged himself in the Lord His God." He enquired of the Lord what to do. He pursued his enemy, overtook them, and recovered all. David had lost it all. He definitely was having a struggle to believe in God. The Bible says he encouraged himself in the Lord. Sometimes we need to do the same. We need to begin to think about His wonderful blessings and the things that He has done for us. We need to get into His Word and read His promises. We need to remember the times that He did a miracle for us. Then we will be encouraged in Him. When David encouraged himself in the Lord, he was able then to go out and conquer his enemy, and recover the things that he lost. Satan is our enemy. He has stolen from us. We need to encourage ourselves in the Lord, and overtake this enemy and take back our health that he has stolen from us. We need to recover what is ours by our right as a child of God.

Time for Reflection:

Has your faith gotten weak? How can you build your faith? What do you do daily to strengthen your faith? As ministers and

teachers, sometimes we get so wrapped up in our daily activities that we neglect prayer, we neglect reading our Bible's. We hear so much negative as we minister, that we sometimes let our faith get bogged down, and we don't do anything to build our faith up. We wonder why we get weak, and why we have physical problems. It is important to spend time with the Lord. This can be as you go about your daily routine. Stay in touch with Him. He is only a prayer away.

Step 11. *Learning To Look Beyond*

Elisha and his servant were about to be in a pickle. Elisha had stood up and preached what God had anointed him to preach. That had gotten the attention of the king. Elisha had said some things about the king and his wife that weren't exactly flattering. That happens when God is using you. You won't always say things that tickle people's ears. The truth hurts a lot of the time. Well this king and his wife got mad and sent a whole army after Elisha. That was a bit of a problem, because Elisha didn't exactly have an army (at least he didn't at the beginning.) He only had one servant. But he stood bold. When his servant looked out and saw the army on its way to kill them, he was shaking. Elisha wasn't even worried. Why? Read the story in II Kings chapter 6. Elisha had learned to look beyond. He had learned to look beyond the circumstances and the things that his eyes saw to what God was doing in the supernatural. What did he see when he looked beyond? II Kings 6:16-17 tells us, "And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." All the army that had come against him was smitten with blindness and Elisha told them, "I will lead you to the one that you seek." Of course Elisha led them into the middle of their enemy's camp. They were destroyed. Elisha saw beyond.

Especially when we are sick, it is hard for us to look beyond the flesh and the natural. We need to see past our pain and our symptoms into the Word of God and His love and His promises for us. We need to look past what we can't do to what we are going to do. We need to look past our symptoms to see and declare our healing according to God's Word. That is what it takes to have faith. Faith means looking past what we see and then standing on what we don't see. (Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.") We have to refuse to accept sickness because we know it

is God's Word for us to be healed. Refuse to let thoughts of doubt and your pain control your mind. Fill it with God's promises of healing from His Word. You can't think of two things at one time. Think on those things which are positive and full of faith even when you don't feel like it. (Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.")

If someone asks you how are you, tell them, "Healed in the name of Jesus, thank you." When the devil comes knocking to tell you everything that is hurting and how bad it is, tell him, "Oh but look at what is working good today." Keep thinking and talking positive and before long even he will be convinced you are healed.

Sometimes you have to declare a healing in the face of a doctor's diagnosis. Just refuse to accept it. I remember Bishop Goad telling about how his daughter, Suzanne, had been in a bad bicycle wreck when she was small. She'd had her front teeth knocked out leaving their nerves dangling exposed. She was in so much pain. On top of that the doctor told him that her arm was badly broken. She was in so much pain already. Bishop Goad refused to accept a broken arm with all the complications that it promised to have, too. He looked beyond the doctor's report and caught the eye of Jesus. He told the doctor that he refused to accept that report. When the doctor brought back a second X-ray he still looked beyond and refused to accept it. The third time the doctor brought back the X-ray to try to convince him her arm was broken he was shocked to see there was no sign of a broken bone. God had healed. Sometimes we have to look beyond what our natural understanding tells us and we have to then have faith that God is doing something supernaturally that we might not see. I wrote a song for someone who was seeking a healing. They had just gotten a bad report from a doctor. The Lord impressed me to write this song, "X-ray from Heaven" and give it to them. Here are the words to that song. I pray that it blesses you as well.

X-ray From Heaven

Verse 1

I went to the doctor, he said things just don't look good.
The situations bad, he shook his head with gloom.
Fear began to fill me till I shook myself inside.
I went for a second opinion, an X-ray from God's eyes.

Chorus

I want an X-Ray from heaven, a look through God's eyes.
To tell me the problem with a look from paradise.
I want a second opinion through Dr. Jesus' light.
An X-Ray from heaven with healing in sight.

Verse 2

The situation is bad, can't find any good.
The circumstances worsen can't make it if I could
Things look so terrible they shake their heads with gloom.
Till a light from heaven fills the darkness of the room.

I want an X-Ray from heaven, a look through God's eyes.

We know we need to look beyond the natural to see what is happening in the supernatural. Elisha's servant had to have God touch his eyes so that he could see beyond the natural. Sometimes we have to have God touch our eyes so that we can see things in a better way. When we are sick it is easy to become negative in our thinking. When we do, everything looks bad. It looks like there is no good in anything, in any situation, and even in God. In our struggle with our sickness, our physical bodies get down, our mind gets weak, and our emotions get down. When this happens, you may as well know that the devil will come in to make this even worse. When this happens, we need to ask God to help us to change the film in our camera.

We live in a negative world. Think about it. Have you ever heard someone say go to the second go light and turn right? Have you ever heard a weatherman say we have a 70% chance of sunshine? How many times does the news report good things that

have happened? It is easy in this negative world to get caught up in thinking negatively, especially when you are sick. When we become negative, we can easily lose hope. Our faith gets weaker. God's Word loses power. We stop trusting Him. How can we get deliverance from a negative attitude? First we have to identify it. The devil will disguise this so that we don't realize it is happening. God can bring it to our attention. We have to be close enough in our relationship with Him to hear Him when He does. We have to be able to allow Him to change how we are thinking. One way to overcome negative thinking is to bury yourself in God's Word. This will lift up your faith. God is not a negative God, and His Word is definitely not negative, but full of faith. It is one of the most positive life changing forces on the face of the earth. Another thing to do is to watch your conversation. Also, refuse to let negative thoughts dwell in your mind. Satan can put thoughts in your head. Like a friend of mine once said, he can fly over your head, but don't let him build a nest in your hair.

Also, remember that the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10, "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.") When the devil steals your joy he can take your strength. When you are sick, your sickness itself takes your strength. When the devil steals your joy, you will grow weaker even faster. Find joy in every circumstance that you can. Sometimes when I get so busy that I don't look around me, I overlook the things that bring me joy. I forget to think about the wonder of God's love, and the miracles that He does for me every day. Instead of burying yourself in self-pity, look at the positive things that He has done. We have to admit. No matter how sick you are, He has still done more good things for you than the bad things that you are enduring at this time. We need to concentrate on His great love. We need to concentrate on His love for us, on the miracle of salvation, on the promise of eternity with Him, on His goodness every day, on the joy of His friendship, on the blessedness of His peace, the power of His Word, the comfort of His Holy Ghost, how everyday He touches and blesses us. Concentrate on these things and the bad won't seem so bad.

One of my favorite verses is not about how strong we are

in God, but it is about how weak we are. It must be a very important scripture, because it is one of the few passages that you will find red-letter words between the Acts and Revelations, red-letter words meaning the words that Jesus Himself said. In this scripture Paul is quoting what Jesus Himself spoke to him. “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” Paul had learned the secret to finding strength. When we are the weakest, then is when we put ourselves in neutral and allow God to be our strength. When we do, we have supernatural strength. His grace is sufficient. We may never find that out until we come to the end of our own. When we do, our strength will be renewed as an eagle's. (Isaiah 40:31, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”)

Time for Reflection:

You may be going through physical problems at this time. Remember that you have to look beyond what you see, your physical problems, and beyond what the doctors are telling you. Doctors often are led by their greed. They will tell you the diagnosis that will line their pockets with money. Look to God, and let Him lead you. You may need to go to a doctor for some things, but go to God first, then go to the doctor He leads you to, and let him do the things that He leads you to let him do.

Step 12. *Understand the Struggle*

We do have an enemy. There is someone that hates us more than anyone else in the world simply because we are the children of God. He wants to destroy us. He wants to keep us from finding the truth about who we are in God. He wants to keep us from serving God in the fullness of what God wants us to do, and we all have a plan for our lives. He wants to keep us in doubt so that we cannot trust God. He wants to prevent us from finding out the power of God's Word and His truth, and what that can mean in our own personal lives. He wants to keep us defeated so that we can't tell others about the victory that God can bring them. He wants to stop you in any way he can. One of the ways he does so is by bringing sickness against our body. Through sickness he can also attack our spirits by making us so weak that we can't fight against him. Sickness also attacks our minds so that we don't know which way we are going. Through this we become double minded. He attacks our faith through sickness so that we doubt our relationship with God, and God's Word. Through sickness He attacks our drive to go on, causing us to be so weak that we are not able to continue victoriously with what we are to do for God. Then he brings discouragement against us by making us feel that there is no use to try because he has made our sickness seem like a prison to us with no way out. The sickness he brings causes us to feel like a drowning man. We get our head up above the water just enough to see the sky, before we are pushed back down again. Sickness is one of the devil's number one tools.

We have authority over satan given to us by the power of the Holy Ghost inside of us, the Word of God, and the blood of Jesus. We have a right to put our heel on satan's head and command him to leave us alone. Ephesians 6:10-18 gives us some powerful devil stomping Word. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of

this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness: and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” What about this armor? How do we put it on? First we have to walk in the truth. The Bible says that we have to know the truth and the truth will set us free. (John 8:32, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”) It tells us that the truth is Jesus. John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto Him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me.”) And we know that God’s Word is truth. So if we have a relationship with Jesus that is real and we are burying ourselves in God’s Word, your loins, which are your most vulnerable part, is covered. Then get busy doing something to spread the Gospel, which protects your feet, your very foundation. When we are going about the preparation of the Gospel, spreading it around, we are thinking about others instead of being hung up on ourselves. That gets rid of one of the devil’s strongholds in itself. Faith is our shield. God’s Word builds up our faith. So does praying in the Holy Ghost. The helmet of salvation protects our minds. We know we are saved and we know that we are God’s children, so doubt and condemnation that the devil tries to bring against our minds can’t do their work. The sword of the Spirit is God’s Word. It is the only weapon given us. The other things were things to protect us. We can go after the devil and destroy His kingdom when we know who we are. When we know who we are in God’s Word, and our rights in Him,, we can declare in the name of Jesus, devil, you are the one who is the loser.

We are given power over satan. We lose our power and authority by not being committed, submitted, and obedient to God. We also have to have a relationship with God to be able to

withstand the devil. When we are known of God, we will also have the devil's attention, and he will know who we are. Read this story about the Seven Sons of Sceva in Acts 19:13-20. These seven sons thought that they had power over satan so they tried to cast demons out of this poor man. The evil spirit in the man spoke out and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye?" Then the man leaped on them and ran them out of the house naked. When we have a relationship with Jesus, He will know us and so will the devil. If we want to have power over satan, we have to know where we stand in our relationship with God. We have to have all our sin under the blood. We can't play games with God and have authority over satan.

Every day we need to take authority over our sickness. Satan brings sickness against us through the weakness of our flesh. We need to take authority over the physical symptoms and over the pain that he brings against us. This gives us something to fight against. We need to declare our victory over him according to God's Word. We have the right to say, "Satan in the name of Jesus, through the blood of Jesus, the power of God's Spirit in me, through the Word of God, and the blood of Jesus, you are bound from bringing this sickness against me." Also, rebuke the sickness and its symptoms. When you rebuke him, mean it. Shout it out boldly. Get mad. He has no right to harass you. We take more from satan than we do from people who come against us in the natural. How calmly would you take someone breaking into your house, stealing your goods, doing you bodily harm, bringing your family to harm? Why should you take what the devil does? Get angry. Take authority. For more on taking authority against satan, read, *Your Authority as a Child of God*.

Sometimes satan is like a little kid. He won't always listen the first time you tell him. He will continue to bug you until you get right with him and tell him with a boldness and firmness that shakes his foundation. You have to keep on telling him. He'll finally get the message, go away and leave you in peace. Until the next time he comes up with something new. All this can strengthen us, strengthen our faith, and make us bolder in God. We have authority over satan as a child of God.

Time for Reflection:

Are you taking authority over the enemy who tries to destroy your health? Over the one who tries to destroy your family? Who tries to destroy your family's health? Who tries to destroy your church family?

Step 13. ***Understand That Healing Is a Walk***

Sometimes healing is instantaneous. Sometimes it is a process. Sometimes it doesn't happen immediately, but over a course of time. I have had times when God immediately healed me, but there have been times when for a season I had to walk in faith. Of the two, I can say that I gained more when I had to walk in faith. Sometimes we want things to happen instantly, and those instant miracles are true and they are great. But often healing is a walk. It is a process. To get from this point to another point, there is a distance that has to be covered. Sometimes healing is that way. When we aren't healed in a day, a week, a month, or even a year, we still need to walk the walk of healing. We need to trust God, accept His Word, and not doubt. Some of the greatest miracles that we receive are not those that are quick and instant. Just like Mom's homemade bread, some things take longer, but boy are they worth it. That's hard to take when we are in pain and suffering. We can do this if we trust in God and allow Him every day to be our strength, and the faith and hope that we need. Trusting and depending on Him during sickness will bring about a change and a victory in our lives like nothing else can do. Just like taking a walk from one place to another, if we sit down and quit, we will never reach our destination. If we give up on God, and lose faith, we will never reach our healing. I have watched people give up on a miracle just before it happened. Don't give up. Keep holding on. Your miracle may be just around the corner.

One of my favorite stories is that of Lazarus. Most people agree that their favorite part of the story is where he raises from the dead. I think the part where I receive my greatest strength is found in John 11:21-22, "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." Read the whole story found in John 11:1-45. Why is this part of the story my favorite part? According to everyone there, Jesus was too late to help. Martha saw things a little different. She knew that Jesus was never too late. Jesus knows all things.

He knows our past, present, and future all at the same time. Time has no boundary for God. I guess a way to explain this is by saying that God is so big that eternity sits inside of Him. When He spoke to John on the Isles of Patmos, He explained to him the end of all things. He knows it all. So when Jesus stated in verse 6 that He could not go right then, He knew Lazarus was going to die if He didn't go. It used to bother me when I'd read this story that Jesus just let Lazarus die. I guess the people that were there that day understood this better than you or I. Can you imagine how their lives were changed that day when they saw Lazarus walk out of that grave? Martha didn't know either when she made the statement "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died". All that she knew was that the Lord that she depended on, that she believed in had failed her. But she also had faith to believe that this wasn't the end of the story. Often our timetable is not God's timetable. According to Martha, Jesus was not on time. A little while after she made that statement, she found out that He had come just in time.

When we walk through sickness, we want to be healed right away. We don't want to suffer. We don't want to deal with the problems caused by our sickness. We don't want to have to go through any more than is necessary. We know in our own finite minds that it has to be God's will to heal us right now, today. Some things have to happen on God's timetable and not ours. We may think that the problems with our sickness are so terrible that we can't endure. We have to remember, "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning". (Psalm 30:5) We have to know that God will not put on us more than we can endure. We have to remember that we can overcome if we keep our trust and eyes on Him. Another good overcomer's verse is I John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

If we walk hand in hand with Him, we will soon begin to forget our sickness and our problems, and we will begin to rejoice in His presence. In His presence there is life, and there is healing. In His presence, a thousand years is but a day. I know He won't ask you to endure this sickness a thousand years, but until He heals you, you can endure.

Step 14. ***Choose Your Counsel Wisely***

The Bible says that there is wisdom in having counsel, or others to discuss your decisions with. (Proverbs 11:14, “Where no counsel is the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”) It is important though to have gathered those that have sound counsel. We can ask people who have all kinds of opinions on what we need to do. One person who we could ask about the counsel of friends might be Job. While his friends were trying to help him they actually brought him toward defeat. He had to over ride their counsel. His wife told him to curse God and die. That wasn’t good advise. We need to choose those people to be around us that lift us up, that encourage our faith, that lift us up in the spirit. We need to be careful not to surround ourselves with people who are negative. When we are sick it is natural to want to have around us people who understand our sickness. That would be people who are, or people who have been sick. Sometimes that is not the best. Their sickness may cause them to be negative. That would only get you both down. Surround yourself with people who encourage your faith, renew your joy, and build your strength. Surround yourself with sound counselors, those that operate in the Word of God and those that walk in the Spirit.

People can give all kinds of advice. Take your advice from those who have the mind of Christ, those who are filled with His Word, and walk in the Spirit. Choose counselors who guide you according to what God’s Spirit leads them to say. If you are battling things in your life such as bitterness, or negative thoughts, beware of surrounding yourself with people who are battling the same things. That can only make your battle harder. Sometimes we may have people who make our battle harder that we can’t get away from. They may be members of our family, or people that we have to work with. We need to trust God and ask Him to put a hedge around us that their wrong thinking and attitudes won’t affect us. He can strengthen us so that they won’t get us down. We can bury our heads in God’s Word. Fill up on God’s Word and that will change your thinking.

As I mentioned, one of the examples of someone who was sick who had counsel that wasn't sound was Job. When we read his story, we know about his three friends. Today we call negative people who get us down when we are trying to hold onto our faith, "Job's comforters". These men wound up getting a sound rebuke from God. If Job had listened to their advice or to the advice of his wife (who told him to curse God and die), then his story would have ended a lot differently than it did. All of us have had Job's comforters. Choose wise and positive, faith filled counsel. Choose counsel that walks in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Flesh means well, but we all know that it is enmity against God's Word. It will not encourage or lift us up, and it will never be wise counsel.

Time for Reflection:

Are you going through a time when if you listen to counsel that isn't wise, you may fail? This applies to many areas as well as healing. Negative counsel is a killer. If God is leading you to do something, and there is negative counsel, beware that it doesn't stop you from obeying God. Also, beware that you don't get head strong and fail to listen to good sound counsel, even if it seems negative.

Step 15.

Watch How You Talk

God's Word tells us that what we confess is very important. Salvation itself comes about partly because of our confession. (Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus....") We are over comers through our confession. (Revelations 12:11, "And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...") What we say is often what we get. If we talk negative, we will get negative things in our life. If we confess the positive, we will see the positive work in our lives. Watch this in the lives of others. Sometimes it is easier to see things in the lives of others, than in our own life. Think about the people around you who always talk negative and never say anything positive. What kind of circumstances do they have in their lives? Are they surrounded by negative or positive? What we confess is what we get.

One of the most powerful teachers that I have heard about the power of confession was a lady speaker. She had a way of making real the truth of our confession. She told us the story of how God taught her that this was real. One day she was watching a construction crew build their new church. She said, "Watch that bulldozer. It is bound to go into the church." Well guess what. What she confessed she got. It knocked a hole in the wall. No wonder she was a dramatic teacher on the power of confessions, because she had learned the hard way. It is easy to talk about all your problems, all your fears, your symptoms, and your sicknesses. It is easy to get caught up in this. This only bring us further down by causing us to concentrate on them. When we concentrate on them, we only get worse. We have to begin confessing our healing, confessing that God is doing a work inside of us, confessing that we are full of faith. Sometimes we can talk ourselves right out of a blessing. Sometimes we can talk ourselves right out of a miracle. If we aren't careful, we can also let others talk us out of a lot of things. Be careful what you confess. Make sure that what comes out of your mouth is positive and full of the Word of God and Its promises for you.

Time for Reflection:

Are you a negative person, or are you filled up with the hope that God gives you, faith, and all the other fruits of the Spirit?

Step 16.

Learn How To Deal With Pain

It is true that you cannot think of two things at one time. That is one way to deal with pain. We can let pain consume us and control our lives. Or we can simply become wrapped up in thinking about something else. We can let our pain cause us to be negative, or we can begin to think on positive things. We can let our pain cripple us and control our personality and every thing we are, or we can refuse to let it control us. I know someone who is battling terminal cancer. They have a very real battle with pain. This pain has consumed their life. They can't see how to overcome it. When you try to tell them that there is a way to get victory over pain, they won't listen. This pain is taking away the quality of their life, and is causing them to be defeated as a child of God. If they would only allow God to use them, but all they can see is their pain. They have a wonderful testimony of how God saved them, and changed them. They could touch a lot of lives. But the devil has defeated them by their pain. Now instead of how God has blessed them, they constantly gripe about their pain. They have allowed this pain to become the lord of their life, even more than Jesus Himself. Because of the severity of their pain, they have even considered taking their own life. They cannot see that they themselves are making this problem so much worse.

I know another person who has several critical and crippling illnesses. He has muscle spasms so severe that his internal organs will bruise and bones will break. He is constantly on his feet serving God. You will never see him that he isn't praising God. When he has a spasm of pain, he praises the Lord. He is a powerful, life changing light to everyone who knows him. He has learned the power of praise and how to overcome pain by thinking of another thing. He has allowed his pain to become a driving force that drives him forward. He has found a purpose that is greater than his pain. His mind, instead of being filled with pain, is filled with thoughts of what to do for God next.

So what are you doing with your pain? Sure you have pain, but what are you doing with it? Is it totally controlling you?

Is it consuming you, or are you consumed with doing something for God. When you are sick, and you still become a fire for God, that testimony burns even brighter than someone who does the same who is well. People will look at you and know that there is a God in heaven because He has enabled you to rise up in victory over sickness, overcome it, and still make a difference in the lives of those around you.

I was talking with my aunt and I shared with her how the first person that I mentioned in this chapter had given up and was letting their pain control them. She really took on a burden to pray for this person. She has spent much time in prayer. Why is that so remarkable? If God does not heal her, she does not have long to live herself. Her lymph cancer has gotten into her bone marrow, and she has developed leukemia. But she is not consumed by her own disease and problems. Everywhere she goes she finds people with needs, and reaches out to meet those needs, and spends hours in prayer for them. I praise God for the love for others that He has put in her heart that causes her to constantly reach out. She is not consumed by her pain, but by the love of God. In the middle of her own struggle she is reaching out. What a light she is.

Who has won the victory in your life? You or your pain. Let Jesus help you to be a light.

Time for Discussion:
Discuss this chapter.

Notes:

Step 17.
Don't Whine and
Don't Be Double Minded

In all my years of teaching, the hardest kids that I had to deal with were what I called “the whiners”. Some of them would get on my nerves so bad that I had to be careful how I reacted to them. They were usually little spoiled fellows that were used to constantly getting their way. If things didn’t go the way they thought it should, they would make everybody’s life miserable. They were constantly griping and complaining. They had no back bone, or character. Mostly they were filled with self-pity. They were the hardest students to teach. They were so absorbed by themselves that they couldn’t even listen. They sure couldn’t learn from their mistakes, because they couldn’t admit that they had any. Then as I began to work and counsel with adults, I realized that there were a lot of adult whiners as well. I, myself, have been guilty of being a whiner when I was sick. Sickness itself can cause us to be caught in an attitude of self-pity and whining. We need to be careful not to become a whiner. How must we seem to God when we do? I know that I as a teacher didn’t have the patience God has, but these whiners would often outrun mine. I think we can even outrun God’s patience, too, if we aren’t careful.

Self-pity can be called a “not so silent killer”. I know someone who is having a battle with sickness. She refuses to accept God’s deliverance and healing. She doesn’t realize that this is what she is doing. Sometimes we are the last ones to see what we do until God convicts us. I think that she even shuts up his conviction when He tries to deal with her. You see, she likes to be the center of attention. She likes to have everyone’s pity. She delights in self-pity. That may sound like a strange thing to say, but human nature is strange sometimes. We can get caught up in this kind of thing, and not even realize it. When we do, we shut ourselves away from God’s healing. The only thing left for us then is death. This person’s condition has worsened until it is life threatening, but this person still doesn’t see that she needs to fix this thing.

Self-pity causes us to be whiners. That's why I call it the "not so silent killer". These people are always complaining. They will inflict their disease on everyone around them. Be careful that you don't ask them how they are. When you do, they will spend an hour telling you everything that hurts from the tips of their hair to their toenails. They will want you to sympathize with them. When I am sick, the last thing I want is pity and sympathy. I want people that will gather around me to lift me up in strength. I want people around who will build up God's Word in me, and encourage my faith. I want people around me who bring me joy to increase my strength. When I am fighting a sickness that is threatening to take my life, the last thing I need around me is doubt, and that will be the only fruit that pity will bring. If you know someone who is caught up in self-pity, don't make it worse by feeding that attitude. If you pity them, or give them extra attention because they are being pitiful, this can cause them not to overcome. Get straight with them. Tell them the truth about the damage this can do to them. Tell them they need to think of someone beside themselves, maybe their family whose lives are being destroyed by their self-pity. Tell them they need to get a hold of God's Word and His promises for their life and stop being so negative. Give them a copy of this book and they can read it for themselves.

Another thing that you need to guard against when you are seeking a healing from God, is not to become double minded. We mentioned this earlier but it is important enough to mention again. A double minded man can receive nothing from God. (James 1:8, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Verse 7, "For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.") When we are sick, our mind can get so cloudy that our thoughts are jumbled. It is easy for the devil to cause us to be double minded. He can even bring us to the place that we doubt whether or not we want to live. He brings a fear against us that worse things are coming, and we don't know if we want to live because we fear them. All these things can block our healing. We have to make up our mind what we want. We have to set our forehead like a flint rock and our backbone like a crow bar. We have to ask God to give us the strength of mind and spirit to

stand. We have to be sure that we don't waver. We have to know what we want from God, and stand firm in our belief that He is able to bring this to pass in our lives. We may come to the point where we begin to long for heaven. We may come to the place that we long for a release from our physical body, and begin to long for death as a means of deliverance. This can also cause us to be double minded in our desire for healing. I believe that God gives to each one of us the right to say whether or not we want to continue with our life if we are caught in a situation such as a terminal illness. I believe that if we suffer more than we are willing or able to take, and we choose the deliverance of death over healing, then God will allow us to die. I have seen this many times. If people who are sick start longing for heaven, it won't be long before God releases them from this world. We have to decide whether or not we want to stay and serve God or be released for home. Paul said in Philippians 1:21-26, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith, that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." For whatever reason, Paul started longing for home. It may have been because of the constant punishments and torture that he had to endure. But he thought about it and decided to stay so that he could reach out to those around him, so that their joy may be full in Jesus.

I can remember a time when I had gone through a sickness that had brought me close to death. I was just too tired to fight any longer. God came to me and asked me if I wanted to stay or go. I answered Him from the very inside of my heart, almost without consciously knowing what I was saying, that I wanted to stay. There were too many things that were left undone in my life, too many people that I wanted to reach out to. I knew that if I chose death, and I went on home and faced God, it would mean that these undone things would stand in between us. I wanted to meet Him at a time when I could hear Him say, well done.

Well done thou good and faithful servant. I wanted to know that all the things He had appointed me to do, were done. I asked Him to let me stay, and He did. Needless to say, I have been different since then. I have been more focused on obeying God, and careful to do each detail.

Sometimes we are not very real about going to meet God. I have heard people that wanted deliverance from pain, ask God to take them. They wanted to go ahead and die, but they were living in a compromised state. Their relationship with God was not sound. They were not obedient. I didn't think they even knew what meeting God in their condition would mean. I don't want to take a chance with my eternal soul. I want to know that when I meet God, I have confessed, repented, and gotten forgiveness of everything. I want to know that I can meet Him with victory. I want to know that when I see Him, I have had a strong relationship with Him, and I know that He knows me. I don't want to hear Him say, depart from me, I never knew you. Don't long for death until you make sure that you are living right.

We have to make sure what we really want. If we want healing, we have to know deep in our heart that we want it, so that we can stand on that no matter what happens. Then we can declare that healing is the bread of the children of God.

Time for Reflection:

Are you prone to have self pity, and to become double minded when the going gets rough? How can you overcome this?

Step 18. *Don't Be Afraid*

Fear is our greatest enemy. Whoever said that *the only thing we have to fear is fear itself* was right. Fear can paralyze the greatest faith. Fear can cause us to turn from God. Fear is a sin. The Bible tells us the fearful, if they don't repent, will have a place in hell. (Revelations 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.") When we are fearful, we can't trust God. We become double-minded and His Word won't work for us. We doubt God and we gain His disapproval. Think of it this way. How would a loving parent feel if his son doubted that he wanted to take care of him, and doubted that he could? How do you think your heavenly Father feels when you doubt Him and give in to fear? Fear is the opposite of trust.

Fear can even cause physical problems (today we've gotten fancy and we call fear stress.) It can cause heart problems. Doctors know this. Luke knew it a long time before it became common knowledge in the medical profession. He wrote about the last days in Luke 21:26 and said, "Men's hearts failing them for fear..." Doesn't that sound like today. Young people are dying with heart disease. People are so bound by fear that they have phobias of everything. I have even known people who could not leave their homes because they were so bound by fear. We don't have to be afraid. Here are more verses about trusting God: Psalm 31:19, "Oh how great is thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!" Psalm 37:5, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Isaiah 50:10, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. Proverbs 29:25, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth

his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in thee.”

Fear is one of the main things that can bind us from being able to accept healing. It can stop us from trusting God. It can cause us to run to other things that may bring harm to us. I know people who live in constant fear. Every time they get a twinge or a snuffle, because they are so bound in fear, they run to doctors. I wish that I could say that all doctors were good and trust worthy, but that isn't so. You'll find many who are out for money. This kind of doctor can spot the fearful a mile off. To them, they represent dollar signs. I have known people who got hooked on medication that actually did them more harm than their illness. I have known people who have wound up taking one medication that caused them to have a certain side affect. Then the doctor would give them another medication to correct that side affect. Then they had to take another. I heard of someone just the other day who was taking about 20 different kinds of medicine. Boy, don't you know their doctor loved them. The problem with this was that the medication was killing him slowly. Sad to say older people fall prey to this more than younger ones. Don't let fear cause you to run into this kind of trap.

Fear can even bring sickness to come on us. I knew a lady who was so negative in her thinking. She feared everything. She constantly talked about how she knew that she would get cancer. We weren't surprised when she came and told us that she had cancer. She gave into that fear and fear caused her sickness. Psychosomatic illnesses that are caused by fear are common. I noticed in the days after the terrorist attacks on the US that everybody got sick. Young and old had terrible illnesses. It wasn't the terrorist's bacteriological warfare that caused this. It was the fear that came from it all. They knew the power of fear and used it against us.

Fear is not of God. We have to realize fear is from the devil. (II Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and a sound mind.”) Fear can even cause us not to have a sound mind. We need to identify that fear is from satan and stand against it. We need to remember we

have power over him. We need to rebuke him in the name of Jesus, tell him we are covered with the blood of Jesus, and remind him of the power of God's Word, and the Holy Ghost inside you. How can he stand against all that? If you let fear take over, it is your fault because you don't stand against it. If you are weak, no matter. Stand in the strength of the Lord. Recognize that the devil can put thoughts in your mind. Worry is the same as fear. Worry means that you think about the bad. It is easy to get into the tailspin of thinking about what might be, and concentrating on all the bad. The number one fear that the devil will cause to come against you when you are sick is the fear of death. When I faced death and the devil came in with his fear, I stopped and thought about this thing. I decided that, like Paul said, to live is Christ but to die is gain. Then I thought, why should I fear death. That took that weapon out of the devil's hands. Also, he brings the fear of what if I get worse and get to the place that I can't do anything for myself, and there is no one to take care of me. Trust the One that said He cares even for the sparrow. (Luke 12:6-7, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.") Let's not be so afraid of dying that we neglect to live. Jesus died to give us life and life more abundantly. (John 10:10-11, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.")

Trust is an important part of faith. Faith means we know God can do anything. Trust means we know He will do it for us. Trust can only come from an obedient and loving relationship with the One Who died to give you this life more abundantly. Get to know Jesus. Fall in love with Him. That love will drive away your fear. (I John 4:18-19, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us.")

Time for Reflection:

Are there areas in your life where you are letting the devil control you using fear? How can you overcome this?

Step 19.
Put On the Mind of Christ

I went through a time in my last sickness that pain and the symptoms clouded my mind so that I couldn't think clearly. That is a problem when you are believing God for a healing. This makes it even easier for the devil to scatter your thoughts, cause doubt, and make you double minded. Even God's Word will get muddled in your mind. The devil is clear when he attacks, and you almost don't have the strength in your mind to push him away. I knew I needed help, but wasn't clear in my mind enough to know what to do about it. I started to hear these words echo in my mind and spirit. They didn't come from what little mind that I had left. They came from Holy Spirit that dwells in me. They came from the mind of Christ. Over and over these words repeated, "***I know who I am and I know who I have believed***". These weren't many words, but they were exactly the ones I needed. They reminded me of who I was in Christ and Who He was in me. Think about that. Isn't that powerful enough even to raise the dead?

God's Spirit can speak to us clearly from inside our heart even through the foggy haze of sickness and pain that can come across our mind. He'll be there when we need Him. We need not be afraid that we can't hear Him. He knows how to speak loud and clear to bring victory when our own thoughts are gone. If you are reading this book to build your faith to hold on for someone else who is sick, and that person is in a coma, don't give up. I really feel led to write this. I have had too many people tell me that when they were in a coma, they couldn't respond to anything, but they could hear everything. Read God's Word to them. Talk encouragement, and not doubt. Don't let anyone discuss how serious their condition is around them. Only let people talk faith and hope around them. Love them. Touch them; there is power in the touch of love. Remember, the Spirit of God and His Word are still alive in them. When God says it's over (and you will know when He does) it's over. Until then, keep hoping and believing.

We have the mind of Christ Who lives in us if we submit.

If we submit ourselves and listen. That's the hard part. We can be so full of ourselves that we can't listen. My aunt was very sick with cancer. She was put in the hospital and given a treatment that nearly killed her. I called her and knew something was wrong, but didn't know what. All I could do was pray. Later she told me that she was so sick that she didn't know where she was. All the sudden the Lord quickened His Spirit in her and spoke to her. He literally raised her up from what would have been her deathbed. She had enough strength to stand against the doctors and refuse the treatment. Without the mind of Christ, she would have died. Another example of having the mind of Christ is my grandfather. He had alzimers. There was only one time that everything was not muddled for him. That was when he prayed. When he prayed, and was in contact with the Lord who had kept him through his life, his mind was clear. That relationship never failed. He had the mind of Christ. God can keep our mind sound even through sickness and pain

Step 20. ***Know the Power of Praise***

We can react in two ways to anything that happens in our life no matter how bad. We can react in a negative way or react in a positive way. Praise is definitely a positive way. When we allow our sickness to cause us to praise the Lord, our sickness loses its hold over us. We will start to gradually have more good days than bad days. Praise changes our frame of mind. Even doctors agree that this is a way to overcome illness. Listening to gospel music is a way to keep our mind centered on praising God. When the ministry opened its first radio station, there was one gentleman who called daily to request songs. He had a terminal illness. He told us that he listened to the station from the time it opened until the time it was off the air. When he couldn't sleep at night because of pain, he listened to the station. It took his mind off of his sickness. Gradually he began to get better. Praise definitely changes things. The secret to praise is that we have to do it whether or not we feel like it. Our sickness, how we feel, or what we are going through doesn't change the fact that the Lord is worthy of our praise. He is a mighty and wonderful God, and He is worthy to be praised. (Revelations 4:11, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they were created.") When we praise God through our pain we make the sacrifice of praise. This touches His heart. When we are seeking a healing, it is important to touch the heart of God.

When we praise God through our pain, we have no idea what a light we can become to those around us, especially to those who aren't saved, or those who have a weak relationship with God. Sinners see that there is something to serving God, because they see how you overcome. Our brothers and sisters in the Lord are encouraged in their battles and they can overcome. We become a light. Praise God and shine.

Sure we won't feel like praising Him. That is why the Bible refers to it as being a sacrifice of praise. Look up that phrase. We may even feel rejected by God. Sickness causes that and the devil makes it worse. Self-pity creeps in. All kinds of

stuff comes in to stop us from praising Him. If we start, then we know God will finish. Begin to think of how good He is. Think about how He saved you, and about how your life was before He came in. Remember all the good things He has done for you. Think about His love and His rightness. Think about His Word and how it comforts and strengthens you. Think about His mercy and grace. Think about how He died for you. Begin to rejoice in Him. Praise your pain away.

Step 21. ***Get a Vision***

Have you ever known someone who retired and got sick not long after they retired? Their life had been full of work, and when their work was gone, they had no reason to live. Or have you known someone who lost a life-time spouse, and after that gave up on life themselves? Have you known someone who didn't fight a sickness because they didn't feel like they had a reason to live or a purpose for their life? Most of these people were not able to fight sickness and believe for a healing because in their heart they didn't want to be healed. Because they lacked a vision for their life, they perished. (Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision the people perish...") Here a vision means something ahead of them that God has shown them, something ahead of them that keeps them pressing on. Something to fight for. A vision helps us through those dark days when we feel we can't get up and go. We need something to get up for, a reason to fight the pain and endure another day. It needs to be something dear enough to our hearts to keep us going. For many it will be a family member: spouse, children, or grandchildren. For others it will be the knowledge that they need to do something for the Lord and they are needed for His work. For others it may be the knowledge that if we quit, we may leave things in our life undone, and we don't want to face Jesus that way. For some it may be the solid gut deep knowledge that just around the corner things are going to get better. It may be a church congregation who loves us and gathers around us, or other brothers and sisters in the Lord who take a burden for us. It may be a number of things, but it has to be a strong enough thing to hold us through the hard times. If you don't have a vision to press on for, ask God to give you one. He will give you one of your own.

If you are feeling sick and old and worthless, get up and get over it. God can use you. One of the greatest examples of this is my own grandmother. When she was in her 80's fighting being bound by a wheel chair, she and my aunt (who was in her 60's at that time) started a ministry for the elderly and shut-ins in their community. They started a Bible study sheet they distributed.

They passed it out to over 100 people each month. They would mail many of these, but most they hand delivered every month. When they visited, they would pray with these people taking a burden for them and their needs. These people's children began to get saved. They would bring their children to visit. They counseled many, young and old. When my grandmother got in her mid 90's she could no longer go out of the house. Everyday she prayed for 200 names that she had on her prayer list. Many of them were preachers that she and my grandfather had encouraged in their ministry through the years. People would call and come by. Some would visit to reach out to my grandmother, but she always wound up encouraging their faith. They would wind up "having church" and would go home blessed. Even though my grandmother couldn't leave her chair, she had a dynamic ministry. We can choose what to make of sickness or even what we make of old age. Neither gives us an excuse to quit. We need to keep a vision.

God has a purpose for you. He has something for every one of His children to do. If you have a willing heart, God will use you. You have to stop looking at your limitations and look at His strength and what He can do through you. What are the qualifications that we need to serve God. See if you fit into one of these categories of people. If you do, He can use you. I Corinthians 1:26-29 tells us these categories: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty: and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; that no flesh should glory in His presence." God can use you in spite of your sickness and any other limitation you have. If you forget about yourself and concentrate on His strength instead of your weakness, you can do great and wonderful things through Him. So what do you want to do? Do you want to sit in your weakness and sickness and sink into defeat? Or do you want to trust God and overcome? Ask Him for a vision that can stop you from perishing.

Time for Reflection:

Are you obeying God in the vision that the Lord has given you?

Step 22. *Understanding a Doctor's Place*

A few years ago I got sick. I mean really sick. I had a tumor that was the size of a hubcap (as my husband explained). It had totally blocked off my bowels for over 3 weeks. I was bleeding internally and had filled up with blood. I knew that I was weak enough to be close to death. I put off several weeks doing anything about it because I was claiming God's healing. God dealt with me to go to the doctor. The doctor immediately scheduled me for surgery. God let me know I needed to go on and have surgery and that without it I would die.

Now a book about healing may seem like a strange place to put that last paragraph. But this is a very important place to include this. You see God needed to change the direction of my life. I was doing something for Him, but needed to refocus on what I was doing. He was getting ready to change the whole direction of my life. On my own, I couldn't have done this. So He redirected me in the only way that I would release it, by having me to be bedfast for a couple of months. Believe me when the direction change came, I was ready. If I would have refused to obey God and go to the doctor, or if I had refused surgery, I would have died. God definitely uses doctors in our lives. He uses lots of things. The key is to have a close enough relationship with God, and listen to His voice first. Then obey Him as He directs you. He may tell you to rely on Him. He may tell you to go to a doctor, but be careful to go the one that he leads you to. There are so many doctors out there that are after everything but sincerely getting you well. Then listen to God as He leads you how to interpret what the doctor is saying. Never let the doctor be your God. Always keep a listening, obedient relationship with God so that in these times, you are used to listening to Him and knowing what He is telling you to do. I heard someone say the other day something that was really sad. They had cancer. They were facing the decision of whether to take radiation treatments. They wanted to know what God wanted them to do. They had professed to be a Christian most of their life, but they did not have a walking, talking relationship.

They didn't have a real relationship with Him. They didn't know how to hear His voice. They were crying when they told me, "I just don't how to hear God. I guess the best thing to do will be to do whatever He puts in my mind to do." I knew that 9 times out of 10 the devil would hear that comment and put in their mind what he wanted them to hear. It is so important to have a real everyday relationship with God so that when something happens like this we can hear His voice.

I got sick again several years later. This time I knew that surgery would only complicate what was wrong with me. I knew this because God showed me what was wrong, and let me know that He would heal me. I didn't guess at what was wrong with me. I didn't go to a dozen doctors with a dozen different opinions. I didn't talk to all the church people, or my neighbors and friends. I went to the One I always take my problems to. He definitely knows when our body is messed up. It's His temple too. It is in His best interest to take care of it, besides He loves us and doesn't want us to suffer. I stood firm in what God showed me. At that time the best that doctors could do would only make my condition worse. I stood through a lot of pain and sickness. I knew that if I got any worse, I could die. I kept going and walked in healing. I struggled through a lot of weakness and claimed God's strength, and went on in His strength when I didn't have enough to get out of bed. I kept doing what I had been doing, working sometimes a 10-12 hour day serving Him. I kept on and on and often wondered if God had told me that He would heal me, why hadn't He. One day when I was struggling with this after months of sickness, I asked Him. He reminded me about the book that I had in my spirit to write about healing. He told me, "Now go write it." This book was written in the fire of sickness. Through it I believe hundreds will be able to find their healing. Was it worth it? You bet! Through this experience, He taught me, He enabled me to touch others, then He healed me.

There is another caution to consider concerning doctors. I wish to think that every person who is in the medical profession is a God-fearing person with your best interest at heart. Sad to say this is not true. When we are weak and we need their help, we are desperate often to think that their word is the best for us. This is

not reality. There are many doctors that are wonderful. They are God-called doctors. There are, however, many, many, many that are not. Praise God for the ones that are. But many use their profession to line their pockets with money at the expense of the sick. For example, there are two procedures that are notorious for making money for doctors. These are hysterectomies, and carpal tunnel syndrome surgery. Findings have been made public that prove that a high percentage of these surgeries that were done were not needed. Also, many doctors are not Godly. I remember a doctor that I went to whose attitude toward me changed dramatically when I mentioned that my occupation was being a Director in a Christian School. The word Christian caused him to grit his teeth against me. I saw the devil literally rise up in him. I knew that I definitely needed to find a new doctor. Because we live in a world where the broad road is the road going to destruction, you may as well expect that most of the doctor's are led by the one who they follow. That one is not God. So whatever you do, don't put your trust in doctors. Put your trust in God, and obey Him when it comes to doctors.

I have heard Bishop Goad say this about doctors. After over 30 years in the ministry, ministering to the sick and dying, he has noticed that when people with cancer or other terminal illnesses begin to depend on doctors more than on their relationship with God, he buries them every time. When people begin to depend on God instead, they rise up. When we depend on the doctor, we may get the very best they have to give us, which may not be enough. If we become dependent on what they say or on the medication that they give, we will receive all that is capable of giving us. If we put our complete and total trust in God and depend totally on Him, we can be like David in Psalms 118:17 and declare, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." When I say depend on God, I mean that we have total faith in Him and we keep our eyes on Him. Just like Peter when he walked on the water, if we take our eyes off Jesus we will sink. Often doctors who are not Christians can be led by the devil and not even know it. When we put our eyes on them, we may even be looking at what the devil wants us to see, and putting our life in his hands. Find out what is going on in your body from the one

who made it. What better diagnosis can you get than that one? If God says go by what the doctor says, do it. If He says find another doctor, do it. If He says ignore them all, do it. Whatever you do, don't play a guessing game. Get a relationship with God that is real so that you know for sure. Don't gamble with your life.

Another caution to remember is this. I have heard the United States referred to as being the drug capital of the world. I think that this is true. Sad to say, I am not speaking about illegal drugs. We live in a society where pill popping is common. I talked to a doctor who tried not to prescribe unnecessary medications. The pharmacists in his area were really angry with him. The other doctors were as well. He was almost an outcast. Because of his stand, he had shown what was wrong with the medical practice. He went through a really hard time because of this. Now, I am not telling you not to take medications. I am cautioning you that if a doctor is prescribing medicine after medicine, you might need a second opinion.

I went through a time when I didn't have insurance that paid for my prescriptions. It was hard to pay for the medicine that I had, when I needed it. I learned to pray before I went to the doctor. I learned to rely on the Lord for my healing, because I had to. My faith grew in the Lord's healing me. I exercised my faith and my faith was rooted and grounded in the Lord. Then my husband's insurance changed and they added paying for medication as part of the benefits. It became a lot easier to focus on doctors and a quick fix of medicine instead of on the Lord. My focus changed. Little by little, without even realizing it, I almost stopped praying for healing. I just popped a pill. God began to show me what I was doing. Then I became sick with something that my doctor couldn't diagnose. I had to seek Him for healing. That, more than anything, made me realize that my focus had changed. This redirected my focus toward Him and His miracle healing power. What a change in my life. Be sure that your focus is in the Lord, and not on the medication that may or may not be helping you.

Time for Reflection:

When you have physical problems, do you trust God for healing, or are you trusting in doctors who may be destroying your health?

Step 23.
Don't Let Your Home Become a Tomb

I went through a time in a sickness that physically I couldn't get out of the house for a time. That was one of the hardest times for me. I had been so active, always running around. During that time the battle of my mind was the hardest battle that I had to fight. I wasn't able to do anything to take my mind off my sickness. I had gone through a surgery and I had reacted to the anesthesia. I couldn't even follow my own train of thought, let alone concentrate on anything anyone, even God said. I couldn't read or watch TV. I was stuck for a couple of weeks sitting with my thoughts and the devil recognized a golden opportunity to fill my head with his stinking thoughts of defeat, condemnation, and doubt. When I began to get well enough to get out, it became a battle. It was hard to leave the house. I just didn't feel like it and the devil made sure I didn't. I started sitting around feeling sorry for myself. My symptoms not only started to seem worse, they actually got worse, and I was sick enough to start with. My house literally was becoming my tomb.

Then one day God just literally knocked me out of this bondage. I started to see what was happening to me. Sometimes when the devil is binding us, we can't see what is happening until God reveals it to us. The Holy Ghost shook me right good and got me up. I walked out of that tomb. Sure it hurt, but the more I went, the easier it got and the better I got. I really believe that if I would have stayed shut up in my house, I would have died.

If you are getting to the place that you think you can't get out, the place where pain has you trapped at home let God get you up and out. It will take an effort, but it may even save your life. At the same time be careful that you don't do too much too soon. That can be harmful as well. Let God guide you.

One of the best reasons to get out and go is to reach out to someone else who is in need. Thinking about others stops us from thinking about ourselves. There is always someone worse than we are. Helping them helps us to overcome ourselves.

I know many people who sit around with nothing to do. The television is their faithful, and constant companion. They do

no physical activity and they become the center of their own little world. They have too much time on their hands. Their days are filled with sitting around and feeling sorry for themselves. If they aren't sick, they often develop illnesses. If this sounds familiar, get out. Not only do you need to get of your house, you need to get out of yourself and your little confined world. This may sound harsh, but sometimes we need to hear harsh things so that we can identify what is going on with us. If not, the price we pay may be our health, and eventually our life. Don't let the devil turn your house into a tomb.

Step 24. *Know the Power of Your Prayers*

I hear so many people who are terminally ill who travel around seeking the prayers of big name preachers. One man I knew actually got a huge camper and stayed constantly on the road to get prayer for his wife who had terminal cancer. Now I do believe in the laying on of hands as the Bible tells us. (Acts 28:8, "...Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.") I believe that there is a gift of healing. (I Corinthians 12:9, "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit") I have been healed in services when someone laid hands on me and prayed for me, and God honored their prayer of faith and my faith. But I also believe that when you have a real relationship with God and you have come to the place you trust Him, that your prayer is as powerful as these big name preachers. They may have exercised their faith more, but you can have the same faith.

One of the most supernatural healings I experienced was one that no one prayed for me, not even myself. Jesus Himself interceding before the throne of God for His children had my prayer of faith. He may be doing the same for you. Until you depend on Him instead of the prayers of others you will never know. It is important to know that we have the prayers of others. Many times I have felt that supernatural touch and I knew that someone was praying. Prayer is the most important thing that we can do for anyone. I am definitely not saying that prayers of others are not important. The prayers of others are vital. I am simply saying that we need to know that our prayers are important as well. It is our prayers that strengthen our relationship with God. It is our prayers that will keep our mind stayed upon Him. It is our prayers that will be the main key to opening our heart to receive healing. If we place our prayers so beneath the prayers of others, and our faith beneath their faith, this can even hinder us from being healed.

Step 25. *Keep Climbing*

Perseverance is a key to receiving anything from God. That means keeping on knocking, keeping on ringing the prayer bells of heaven, keeping on asking, until you receive. Jesus told about someone who needed food and was asking a neighbor for help in Luke 11: 5-13. Because they kept on asking, they got what they wanted. Read this section of scripture. This was a parable that He told to show us how we need to pray. Sometimes when we face a mountain, and that mountain doesn't move right away, we stop climbing. We never get over it. Sometimes we have to just keep on climbing. We have to make our mind up that we are not quitting and the devil, sickness, even death itself can't stop us. We have to admit our weaknesses, confess them before God, and get His strength to overcome them. Then we have to keep on pressing on. The Bible promises in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

I can remember praying for my Dad to be saved when I was small enough to climb up on his lab and beg him to go to church. I was in my late 30's when he accepted the Lord as his Savior. I never gave up through all those years. I kept praying. Many other friends and family prayed. Many times the devil would discourage me by saying, why keep this up, nothing will happen. I am glad that we persevered. I am glad that we persisted until it came about. Healing is a lot the same. Keep praying, keep believing, and keep climbing. Don't give up. That is real faith and trust in action. Sometimes you just have to keep climbing.

Walking is not a passive pastime. To walk to get somewhere you have to be actively involved in the process. I think that many times people miss out on getting their healing because they are passive. They don't try. They don't put forth any effort. They let whatever happens happen. They may even blame it on God and His Word as to why they are not healed. Understand,

what you put into the things of God is what you will get out of it. A half way effort will not bring healing. If you want to get there, keep walking. The Bible tells us over and over that we need to persevere. We need to keep on keeping on and not give up. If we give up, we may give up just around the corner from our miracle. If you give up, you will never know.

Chapter 26.

Healing in Body, Soul, and Spirit

Whenever I consider healing, I think of the many places where we need to be healed. We need to be healed in all the places where we can be broken or sick. Sometimes this may be more than just our bodies. Matter of fact, many times physical sickness can be an outward sign of a broken heart, or spirit. When we go through something that is so heartbreaking that it tears us into, we can become physically sick, even to the place that we lose the will to live. I have seen this several times when someone who has been married for many years loses a lifetime companion. I remember a couple who had been married for over 70 years. When he passed away, she was not completely well, but had no life threatening illnesses at the time. She died a month from the date of his death. Sometimes our heart can be broken and this can cause physical sickness. Sometimes we may go through pain that is inflicted on us from others. This may be either physical, or emotional abuse, or other things that can leave scars in our mind and in our heart. We need to remember that Jesus not only heals our body, but He can heal our mind and our heart as well.

When I first came to the Lord, I had been bound by a life of alcohol and drugs, and many other things. Sin had caused me to have a lot of scars. These scars kept me from being able to come to a trusting relationship with the Lord. Jesus touched and healed me and these things were no longer a bondage to me. Sometimes we have to be healed to be able to have a relationship with Jesus, and with those around us that love us. Hurt in our heart can cause us to build up a brick wall that no one can reach through. If we don't allow God to heal this hurt, we will stay isolated. We will not be able to let anyone into our world, and we will be like a man alone on an island with no one there to care. Hurt can cause us to become bitter and angry. Bitterness can bring about physical sickness as well.

The first thing we have to do is identify that we are hurting and we need healing. Be careful how you do this. Modern psychiatry is filled with the philosophy a lot of junk.

It is often filled with the thinking that you have to face what is hurting you. This means that someone dredges it up out of the depths of your consciousness. Then you have to come to terms with it and learn how to handle it, even it takes 20 years. This means you have to muddle around in your sorrow. Most of the times, when people help you dredge up your past and your sorrow, they may dredge up 15 things, and none will be the thing that is binding you. The things that are dredged up will become 10 times bigger than what they are, and you will go away 150 times worse than you were before you started. When Jesus is your healer, He can bring up the one thing that you need deliverance from, and He can touch you with His Spirit and heal and deliver you, setting you free. Jesus is a healer of hearts. Nobody understands your broken heart more than He. After all, He is living in your heart. Let Him be your healer.

Closing

I pray that this course has been a blessing to all of you, whether you took it in an extension college, as one of New Life's students, or whether you have taken it as a textbook in another college. I pray that it encourages in your faith if you are believing in a healing either for yourself, or for someone you love. I pray that it encourages you to step out in a healing ministry. Healing was bought and paid for when Jesus suffered during His crucifixion. His stripes were for you. You can walk in healing.

