



*Be
Healed!*

Compiled by Dr. Harold Bollinger, D.A.

Heal Me Oh Lord, and I Will Be Healed

Compiled by Dr. Harold Bollinger

Table of Contents:

Forward:		3
Chapter 1	Our God is a merciful God	5
Chapter 2	with God nothing is impossible	8
Chapter 3	Jesus Christ wants to heal you	13
Chapter 4	God will anoint you with power to heal	18
Chapter 5	The power of prayer	22
Chapter 6	Faith to believe that God will heal you	26
Chapter 7	Factors involved in healing.	29
Chapter 8	Hindrances to receiving a healing	32

FORWARD

The first thing each Christian must really take hold of is to try and press in for a divine healing to God the father who does have a very loving and heart for those in need.

When I was a much younger preacher, I became discouraged when pastoring an unconcerned church. I asked the Lord to be move me into a situation where I could read the Bible through every month. I felt a great need to know the Bible better and to be filled with the word of God.

Soon, my wife and I were offered jobs in a remote village in Alaska.

After teaching school all day, I felt weary, but I knew that I had to fulfill my promise to the Lord if at all possible.

One night as I was reading around 2:00 AM, I kept falling asleep and I asked the Lord to reveal to me a Vision to motivate me to read the Bible.

Suddenly before my eyes, I saw myself standing on the stage of a large auditorium. The speaker asked me to minister to all the people on the right side of the auditorium.

I begin to ask the Lord what to say in order to see these people healed.

As the Lord opened my eyes, I saw that everyone was sick in some way. Many needed physical healing many needed financial healing many needed psychological healing from hurts and things that had happened in their lives.

I asked the Lord to tell me what I should say. The reply came back asking me if I thought I could heal them. I said, "No Lord, I cannot heal them".

The Spirit of the Lord said: “You are full of the word of God.
The word of God will heal them”.

The Holy Spirit anoints God’s word.

I spoke out: “Be healed in Jesus name”. In the vision, I immediately saw
the people being healed.

Following this vision, I was motivated to be filled with the word of God.

Even though now, I am older, I constantly listen, read and study God’s word.

Study these Scriptures, and become familiar with His Word.

It is the word of God that heals. You cannot see people healed without
being filled with the word of God.

May the Holy Spirit anoint the word of God that is within you and may your
prayers and faith establish God’s love through healing to all people
everywhere to whom he has called you.

Harold Bollinger

Chapter 1

Our God is a Merciful God



Neh. 9:17

And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsook them not.

Seeing how God continued to be with his people shows that his patience is amazing! In spite of our repeated failings, pride, and stubbornness, he is always ready to pardon (Neh. 9:17), and his Spirit is always ready to instruct (Neh. 9:20). Realizing the extent of God's forgiveness helps us forgive those who fail us, even "seventy-seven times" if necessary (Matthew 18:21-22).

Psalm 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. God's law was given first to Moses and the people of Israel. God's law presents a clear picture of God's nature and will.

It was God's training manual to prepare his people to serve him and to follow his ways. Review the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the history of how they were given, asking God to show you his will and his ways through them.

Psalm 86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

It is right to pray for a sign of God's goodness. As David found, it may be just what we need. But let us not overlook the signs he has already given: the support of family and friends, the fellowship of other Christians, the light of each new day. And we can be confident that he knows our situation no matter how desperate it becomes, and he cares.

Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

David was losing hope, caught in paralyzing fear and deep depression. At times, we feel caught in deepening depression, and we are unable to pull ourselves out. At those times, we can come to the Lord and, like David, express our true feelings.

Then he will help us as we remember his works (Psalm 143:5), reach out to him in prayer (Psalm 143:6), trust him (Psalm 143:8), and decide to do his will (Psalm 143:10).

Psalm 100:5

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

God is our Creator; we did not create ourselves. Many people live as though they are the creator and center of their own little world.

This mind-set leads to a greedy possessiveness and, if everything should be taken away.

But when we realize that God created us and gives us all we have, we will want to give to others as God gave to us (2 Cor. 9:8). Then, if all is lost, we still have God.

God alone is worthy of being worshiped. What is your attitude toward worship? Do you willingly and joyfully come into God's presence, or are you just going through the motions, reluctantly going to church? This psalm tells us to remember God's goodness and dependability, and then to worship with thanksgiving and praise!

Psalm 103:11

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Psalm 103:17

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Chapter 2

With God, Nothing is Impossible



Luke 1:37

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

When Mary said that, she didn't know about the tremendous opportunity she would have. She only knew that God was asking her to serve him, and she willingly obeyed. Don't wait to see the bottom line before offering your life to God. Offer yourself willingly, even when the outcome seems disastrous.

God's announcement of a child to be born was met with various responses throughout Scripture. Sarah, Abraham's wife, laughed (Genesis 18:9-15).

Zechariah doubted (Luke 1:18). By contrast, Mary submitted. She believed the angel's words and agreed to bear the child, even under humanly impossible circumstances. God is able to do the impossible.

Our response to his demands should not be laughter, or doubt, but willing acceptance.

Luke 18:27

And he said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God".

Because money represents power, authority, and success, often it is difficult for wealthy people to realize their need and their powerlessness to save themselves. The rich in talent or intelligence suffer the same difficulty.

Unless God reaches down into their lives, they will not come to him. Jesus surprised some of his hearers by offering salvation to the poor; he may surprise some people today by offering it to the rich.

It is difficult for a self-sufficient person to realize his or her need and come to Jesus, but “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Peter and the other disciples had paid a high price—leaving their homes and jobs—to follow Jesus. But Jesus reminded Peter that following him has its benefits as well as its sacrifices.

Any believer who has had to give up something to follow Christ will be paid back in this life as well as in the next. For example, if you must give up a secure job, you will find that God offers a secure relationship with himself now and forever.

If you must give up your family’s approval, you will gain the love of the family of God. The disciples had begun to pay the price of following Jesus, and Jesus said they would be rewarded.

Don’t dwell on what you have given up; think about what you have gained and give thanks for it. You can never out give God.

Ephes. 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Ephesians. In the first section, Paul described the timeless role of the church. In Part Two (Ephes. 4-6), he will explain how church members should live in order to bring about the unity God wants. As in most of his books, Paul first lays a doctrinal foundation and then makes practical applications of the truths he has presented.

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

The disciples were astonished. They thought that if anyone could be saved, it would be the rich, whom their culture considered especially blessed by God.

Genesis 18:14

Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

The obvious answer is, “Of course not!”

This question reveals much about God. Make it a habit to insert your specific needs into the question.

“Is this day in my life too hard for the Lord?” “Is this habit I’m trying to break too hard for him?”

“Is the communication problem I’m having too hard for him?” Asking the question this way reminds you that God is personally involved in your life and nudges you to ask for his power to help you.

1 Samuel 14:6

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.

Jonathan and his armor-bearer weren’t much of a force to attack the huge Philistine army. But while everyone else was afraid, they trusted God, knowing that the size of the enemy army would not restrict God’s ability to help them.

God honored the faith and brave action of these two men with a tremendous victory.

Have you ever felt surrounded by the “enemy” or faced overwhelming odds?

God is never intimidated by the size of the enemy or the complexity of a problem. With him, there are always enough resources to resist the pressures and win the battle. If God has called you to action, then bravely commit what resources you have to God, and rely upon him to lead you to victory.

Job 42:2

I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be kept from you.

Job was quoting the Lord’s earlier questions to him (Job 38:2-3). He openly and honestly faced God and admitted that he was the one who had been foolish. Are you using what you can’t understand as an excuse for your lack of trust? Admit to God that you don’t even have enough faith to trust him. True faith begins in such humility.

Jeremiah 32:27

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?

Matthew 10:27

What I tell you in darkness, speak you in light: and what you hear in the ear, that preach you upon the housetops.

Jesus said that God is aware of everything that happens even to sparrows, and you are far more valuable to him than they are. You are so valuable that God sent his only Son to die for you (John 3:16). Because God places such value on you, you need never fear personal threats or difficult trials. These can’t shake God’s love or dislodge his Spirit from within you.

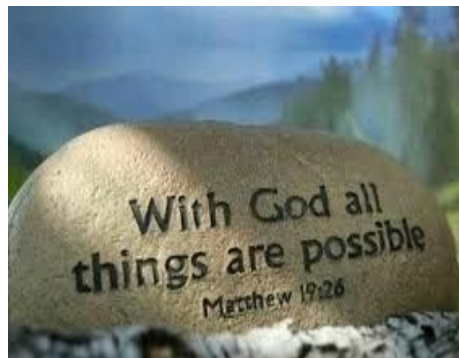
Luke 18:27

And he said, the things that are impossible with men are possible with God.

Any believer who has had to give up something to follow Christ will be paid back in this life as well as in the next. For example, if you must give up a secure job, you will find that God offers a secure relationship with himself now and forever.

If you must give up your family's approval, you will gain the love of the family of God.

The disciples had begun to pay the price of following Jesus, and Jesus said they would be rewarded. Don't dwell on what you have given up; think about what you have gained and give thanks for it. You can never out give God.



Chapter 3

Jesus Christ Heals You



Hebrews 13:8

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

Though human leaders have much to offer, we must keep our eyes on Christ, our ultimate leader. Unlike any human leaders, he will never change. Christ has been and will be the same forever. In a changing world we can trust our unchanging Lord.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Peter's brief and powerful sermon contains a concise statement of the gospel: Jesus' perfect life of servanthood; his death on the cross; his resurrection, personally witnessed and experienced by Peter; Jesus' fulfillment of the Scriptures; and the necessity of personal faith in him. A sermon or witness for Christ does not need to be long to be effective. It should be Spirit-led and should center on Christ, the way and the truth and the life.

Matthew 12:15

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

Up to this point, Jesus had been aggressively confronting the Pharisees' hypocrisy. Here he decided to withdraw from the synagogue before a major confrontation developed because it was not time for him to die. Jesus had many lessons still to teach his disciples and the people.

Matthew 14:14

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Jesus performed some miracles as signs of his identity. He used other miracles to teach important truths.

But here we read that he healed people because he “had compassion on them.” Jesus was, and is, a loving, caring, and feeling person. When you are suffering, remember that Jesus hurts with you. He has compassion on you.

Luke 5:17

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

The religious leaders spent much time defining and discussing the huge body of religious tradition that had been accumulating for more than 400 years since the Jews' return from exile.

They were so concerned with these man-made traditions, in fact, that they often lost sight of Scripture. Here these leaders felt threatened because Jesus challenged their sincerity and because the people were flocking to him.

Matthew 14:35

And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;

The people recognized Jesus as a great healer, but how many understood who he truly was?

They came to Jesus for physical healing, but did they come for spiritual healing? They came to prolong their lives on earth, but did they come to secure their eternal lives? People may seek Jesus to learn valuable lessons from his life or in hopes of finding relief from pain.

But we miss Jesus' whole message if we seek him only to heal our bodies but not our souls, if we look to him for help only in this life, rather than for his eternal plan for us.

Only when we understand the real Jesus Christ can we appreciate how he can truly change our lives.

Jewish men wore tassels on the lower edges of their robes according to God's command (Deut. 22:12).

By Jesus' day, these tassels were seen as signs of holiness (Matthew 23:5). It was natural that people seeking healing should reach out and touch these.

But as one sick woman learned, healing came from faith and not from Jesus' cloak (Matthew 9:19-22).

Luke 6:17

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

Once word of Jesus' healing power spread, crowds gathered just to touch him. For many, he had become a symbol of good fortune, a lucky charm, or a magician. Instead of desiring God's pardon and love, they only wanted physical healing or a chance to see spectacular events.

Some people still see God as a cosmic magician and consider prayer as a way to get God to do his tricks. But God is not a magician—he is the Master. Prayer is not a way for us to control God; it is a way for us to put ourselves under his control.

Luke 9:11

And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

Jesus had tried to slip quietly away from the crowds, but they found out where he was going and followed him. Instead of showing impatience at this interruption, Jesus welcomed the people and ministered to their needs. How do you see people who interrupt your schedule—as nuisances, or as the reason for your life and ministry?

The kingdom of God was a focal point of Jesus' teaching. He explained that it was not just a future kingdom; it was among them, embodied in him, the Messiah. Even though the kingdom will not be complete until Jesus comes again in glory, we do not have to wait to taste it. The kingdom of God begins in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus (Luke 17:21). It is as present with us today as it was with the Judeans almost 2,000 years ago.

Matthew 8:16

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

Matthew continues to show Jesus' kingly nature. Through a single touch, Jesus healed (Matthew 8:3, 15); when he spoke a single word, evil spirits fled his presence (Matthew 8:16). Jesus has authority over all evil powers and all earthly disease. He also has power and authority to conquer sin. Sickness and evil are consequences of living in a fallen world. But in the future, when God removes all sin, there will be no more sickness and death. Jesus' healing miracles were a taste of what the whole world will one day experience in God's kingdom.

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Jesus was teaching, preaching, and healing. These were the three main aspects of his ministry. *Teaching* shows Jesus' concern for understanding; *preaching* shows his concern for commitment; and *healing* shows his concern for wholeness. His miracles of healing authenticated his teaching and preaching, proving that he truly was from God.

Jesus soon developed a powerful preaching ministry and often spoke in the synagogues. Most towns that had ten or more Jewish families had a synagogue. The building served as a religious gathering place on the Sabbath and as a school during the week. The leader of the synagogue was not a preacher as much as an administrator. His job was to find and invite rabbis to teach and preach. It was customary to invite visiting rabbis like Jesus to speak.

Jesus preached the gospel—the Good News—to everyone who wanted to hear it. The gospel is that the kingdom of heaven has come, that God is with us, and that he cares for us. Christ can heal us, not just of physical sickness, but of spiritual sickness as well. There's no sin or problem too great or too small for him to handle. Jesus' words were good news because they offered freedom, hope, peace of heart, and eternal life with God.



Chapter 4

God will anoint you with power to heal



Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, “Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”.

Jesus told his disciples to go into the entire world, telling everyone that he had paid the penalty for sin and that those who believe in him can be forgiven and live eternally with God.

Christian disciples today in all parts of the world are preaching this gospel to people who haven't heard about Christ. The driving power that carries missionaries around the world and sets Christ's church in motion is the faith that comes from the resurrection.

Do you ever feel as though you don't have the skill or determination to be a witness for Christ? You must personally realize that Jesus rose from the dead and lives for you today.

As you grow in your relationship with Christ, he will give you both the opportunities and the inner strength to tell his message.

Luke 9:1

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Note Jesus' methods of leadership. He empowered his disciples (Luke 9:1), gave them specific instructions so they knew what to do (Luke 9:3-4), told them how to deal with tough times (Luke 9:5), and held them accountable (Luke 9:10).

As you lead others, study the Master Leader's pattern. Which of these elements do you need to incorporate into your leadership?

Jesus announced his kingdom by both preaching and healing. If he had limited himself to preaching, people might have seen his kingdom as spiritual only.

On the other hand, if he had healed without preaching, people might not have realized the spiritual importance of his mission. Most of his listeners expected a Messiah who would bring wealth and power to their nation; they preferred material benefits to spiritual discernment.

The truth about Jesus is that he is both God and man, both spiritual and physical; and the salvation that he offers is both for the soul and the body.

Mark 6:7

And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

The disciples were sent out in pairs. Individually they could have reached more areas of the country, but this was not Christ's plan. One advantage in going out by twos was that they could strengthen and encourage each other, especially when they faced rejection. Our strength comes from God, but he meets many of our needs through our teamwork with others. As you serve Christ, don't try to go it alone.

Mark 6:13

And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

The healing manifested by Jesus is not temporary, but clearly demonstrate the love and the power of God.

Matthew 10:1

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Jesus called his 12 disciples. He didn't draft them, force them, or ask them to volunteer; he chose them to serve him in a special way. Christ calls us today. He doesn't twist our arms and make us do something we don't want to do. We can choose to join him or remain behind. When Christ calls you to follow him, how do you respond?

Acts 19:11

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

Those who tried to cast out demons discovered, however, that no one can control or duplicate God's power. These men were calling on the name of Jesus without knowing the person. The power to change people comes from Christ. It cannot be tapped by reciting his name like a magic charm. God works his power only through those he chooses.

Acts 28:8

And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

Paul continued to minister to others, even as a shipwrecked prisoner. On this trip alone, his centurion, the chief official of Malta, and many others were affected. It is no wonder that the gospel spread rapidly.

Acts 14:3

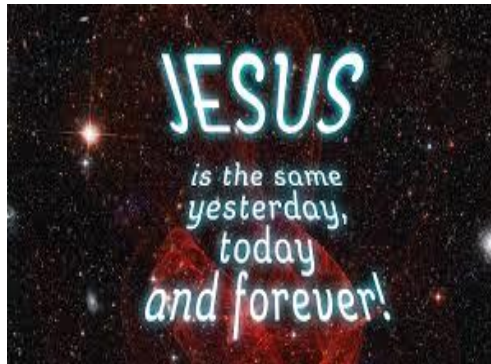
Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

We may wish we could perform a miraculous act that would convince everyone once and for all that Jesus is the Lord. But we see here that even if we could perform a miracle, it wouldn't convince everyone. God gave these men power to do great wonders as confirmation of the message of grace, but people were still divided. Don't spend your time and energy wishing for miracles. Sow your seeds of Good News on the best ground you can find in the best way you can, and leave the convincing to the Holy Spirit.

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.

The religious leaders thought they held the keys of the kingdom, and they tried to shut some people out. We cannot decide to open or close the kingdom of heaven for others, but God uses us to help others find the way inside. To all who believe in Christ and obey his words, the kingdom doors are swung wide open.



Chapter 5

The power of prayer



God the father has full divine power to fully heal you of any disease or sickness that may attack your body. How do we get God to release his healing power directly to you to heal you or when praying for another?

There are times when we need to keep praying to God until we get the healing to be fully manifested into the affected part of the body that will need healing. This is called prevailing type of prayer.

James 5:13

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

James 5:14

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

James is referring to someone who is incapacitated physically. In Scripture, oil was both a medicine (see the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37) and a symbol of the Spirit of God (as used in anointing kings, see 1 Samuel 16:1-13).

Thus oil can represent both the medical and the spiritual spheres of life. Christians should not separate the physical and the spiritual—Jesus Christ is Lord over both the body and the spirit.

People in the church are not alone. Members of Christ's body should be able to count on others for support and prayer, especially when they are sick or suffering.

The elders should be on call to respond to the illness of any member, and the church should stay alert to pray for the needs of all its members.

“The prayer offered in faith” does not refer to the faith of the sick person, but to the faith of the people praying. God heals, faith doesn't, and all prayers are subject to God's will.

But our prayers are part of God's healing process. That is why God often waits for our prayers of faith before intervening to heal a person.

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Christ has made it possible for us to go directly to God for forgiveness.

Confessing our sins to each other still has an important place in the life of the church.

- (1) If we have sinned against an individual, we must ask him or her to forgive us.
- (2) If our sin has affected the church, we must confess it publicly.
- (3) If we need loving support as we struggle with a sin, we should confess that sin to those who are able to provide that support.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer is our approach to God, and we are to come “with confidence.” Some Christians approach God meekly with heads hung low, afraid to ask him to meet their needs. Others pray flippantly, giving little thought to what they say. Come with reverence because he is your King. But also come with bold assurance because he is your Friend and Counselor.

James 4:2

You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war. You have not, because you ask not.

The Israelites of Moses’ day illustrate a problem facing many who fill our churches today. They know a great deal about Christ, but they do not know him personally—they don’t combine their knowledge with faith. Let the Good News about Christ benefit your life. Believe in him and then act on what you know. Trust in Christ and do what he says.

Isaiah 64:7

And there is none that calls upon thy name, that stirs up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

On behalf of the faithful remnant, Isaiah asks God for two favors: to show tenderness and compassion to them and to punish their enemies.

Before making these requests, Isaiah recited the Lord’s past favors, reminding him of his compassion in former days (Isaiah 63:7-14).

God’s appearance is so intense that it is like a consuming fire that burns everything in its path.

If we are so impure, how can we be saved? Only by God’s mercy. The Israelites had experienced God’s appearance at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16-19).

When God met with Moses there was a thunderstorm, smoke, and an earthquake. If God were to meet us today, his glory would overwhelm us, especially when we look at our “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

Ezekiel 22:30

And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

The wall spoken of here is not made of stones, but of faithful people united in their efforts to resist evil. This wall was in disrepair because there was no one who could lead the people back to God.

The feeble attempts to repair the gap—through religious rituals or messages based on opinion rather than God’s will—were as worthless as whitewash, only covering over the real problems.

What the people really needed was total spiritual reconstruction! When we give the appearance of loving God without living his way, we are covering up sins that could eventually damage us beyond repair.

Don’t use religion as a whitewash; repair your life by applying the principles of God’s Word. Then you can join with others to stand “in the gap” and make a difference for God in the world.

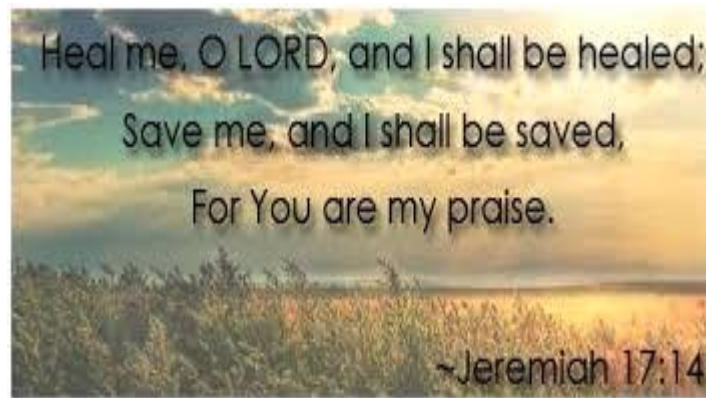
Isaiah 59:16

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

God would, in fact, act to rescue the nation from enemy armies (Assyria and Babylon) and to punish wicked Israelites as well. He would also rescue his people from sin. Because this is an impossible task for any human, God himself, as the Messiah, would personally step in to help (Romans 11:26-27). Whether we sin once or many times, out of rebellion or out of ignorance, our sin separates us from God and will continue to separate us until God forgives us and removes it.

Chapter 6

Faith to believe that God will heal you



Hebrews 11:1

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

Do you remember how you felt when you were very young and your birthday approached? You were excited and anxious. You knew you would certainly receive gifts and other special treats.

But some things would be a surprise. Birthdays combine assurance and anticipation, and so does faith!

Faith is the conviction based on past experience that God's new and fresh surprises will surely be ours.

Two words describe faith: *sure* and *certain*. These two qualities need a secure beginning and ending point. The beginning point of faith is believing in God's character—he *is* who he says.

The end point is believing in God's promises—he will *do* what he says. When we believe that God will fulfill his promises even though we don't see those promises materializing yet, we demonstrate true faith (see John 20:24-31).

Romans 10:17

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

Read and listen to God's word and you will receive faith.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he rewards those who diligently seek him.

Do you think it's easier for God to love you when you're good?
Do you secretly suspect that God chose you because you deserved it?
Do you think some people's behavior is so bad that God couldn't possibly save them?

If you ever think this way, you don't entirely understand that salvation is by grace, a free gift. It cannot be earned, in whole or in part; it can only be accepted with thankfulness and praise.

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

Jesus never promised that obeying him would be easy. But the hard work and self-discipline of serving Christ is no burden to those who love him. And if our load starts to feel heavy, we can always trust Christ to help us bear it (see Matthew 11:28-30).

1 Tim. 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Paul uses active and forceful verbs to describe the Christian life: flee, pursue, fight, take hold. Some think Christianity is a passive religion that advocates waiting for God to act. But we must have an *active* faith, obeying God with courage and doing what we know is right. Is it time for action on your part? Don't wait—get going!

Matthew 9:28

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus **saith** unto them,

Believe you that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yes, Lord.

Jesus didn't respond immediately to the blind men's pleas. He waited to see if they had faith. Not everyone who says he wants help really believes God can help him.

Jesus may have waited and questioned these men to emphasize and increase their faith.

When you think that God is too slow in answering your prayers, consider that he might be testing you as he did the blind men. Do you believe that God can help you? Do you *really* want his help?

These blind men were persistent. They went right into the house where Jesus was staying.

They knew Jesus could heal them, and they would let nothing stop them from finding him. That's real faith in action. If you believe Jesus is the answer to your every need, don't let anything or anyone stop you from reaching him.

Matthew 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Many Jews would lose God's blessing and salvation because they rejected Jesus, and many Gentiles would find salvation because they recognized and accepted him.

Chapter 7

Factors involved in healing



Matthew 9:21

For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

God changed a situation that had been a problem for years. Like the leper and the demon-possessed men, this diseased woman was considered unclean. For 12 years, she too had been one of the “untouchables” and had not been able to lead a normal life. But Jesus changed that and restored her.

Sometimes we are tempted to give up on people or situations that have not changed for many years. God can change what seems unchangeable, giving new purpose and hope.

Matthew 8:13

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Peter’s mother-in-law gives us a beautiful example to follow. Her response to Jesus’ touch was to wait on Jesus and his disciples—immediately. Has God ever helped you through a dangerous or difficult situation? If so, you should ask, “How can I express my gratitude to him?”

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, what things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.

Fig trees, a popular source of inexpensive food in Israel, require three years from the time they are planted until they can bear fruit. Each tree yields a great amount of fruit twice a year, in late spring and in early autumn.

This incident occurred early in the spring fig season when the leaves were beginning to bud. The figs normally grow as the leaves fill out, but this tree, though full of leaves, had none.

The tree looked promising but offered no fruit. Jesus' harsh words to the fig tree could be applied to the nation of Israel. Fruitful in appearance only, Israel was spiritually barren.

Hebrews 11:32

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

The Old Testament records the lives of the various people who experienced these great victories. Joshua and Deborah conquered kingdoms (the book of Joshua; Judges 4-5).

Nehemiah administered justice (the book of Nehemiah).

Daniel was saved from the mouths of lions (Daniel 6).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were kept from harm in the furious flames of a fiery furnace (Daniel 3).

Elijah escaped the edge of the swords of evil Queen Jezebel's henchmen (1 Kings 19:2ff).

Hezekiah regained strength after sickness (2 Kings 20).

Gideon was powerful in battle (Judges 7).

A widow's son was brought back to life by the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 4:8-37).

We, too, can experience victory through faith in Christ. Our victories over oppressors may be like those of the Old Testament saints, but more likely, our victories will be directly related to the role God wants us to play.

Even though our bodies deteriorate and die, we will live forever because of Christ.

In the promised resurrection, even death will be defeated and Christ's victory will be made complete.

These verses summarize the lives of other great men and women of faith.

Some experienced outstanding victories, even over the threat of death. But others were severely mistreated, tortured, and even killed.

Having a steadfast faith in God does not guarantee a happy, carefree life.

On the contrary, our faith almost guarantees us some form of abuse from the world. While we are on earth, we may never see the purpose of our suffering. But we know that God will keep his promises to us.



Chapter 8

Hindrances to receiving a healing



Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anger or a grudge against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

A sound Heart is required.

Love the Lord with all you mind, your heart and all your being.

God supplies us with more so that we can give more. In addition, giving helps us to gain a right perspective on our possessions. We realize they were never really ours to begin with, but they were given to us by God to be used to help others. What then do we gain by giving? Freedom from enslavement to our possessions, the joy of helping others, and God's approval.

Proverbs 14:30

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

The "way that seems right" may offer many options and require few sacrifices. Easy choices, however, should make us take a second look. Is this

solution attractive because it allows me to be lazy? Because it doesn't ask me to change my life-style? Because it requires no moral restraints? The right choice often requires hard work and self-sacrifice. Don't be enticed by apparent shortcuts that seem right but end in death.

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart- sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

God created us, knows us, and loves us. It only makes sense, then, to listen to his instructions and do what he says.

The Bible is his unfailing word to us. It is like an owner's manual for a car. If you obey God's instructions, you will "run right" and find his kind of power to live.

If you ignore them, you will have breakdowns, accidents, and failures.

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

To be cheerful is to be ready to greet others with a welcome, a word of encouragement, an enthusiasm for the task at hand, and a positive outlook on the future. Such people are as welcome as pain-relieving medicine.

Proverbs 12:18

There is that speaks like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. Heaviness in the heart of man makes it stoop: but a good word makes it glad.

Truth is always timely; it applies today and in the future. Because it is connected with God's changeless character, it is also changeless. Think for a moment about the centuries that have passed since these proverbs were written. Consider the countless hours that have been spent carefully studying

every sentence of Scripture. The Bible has withstood the test of time. Because God is truth, you can trust his Word to guide you.

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

For centuries people sought a fountain of youth, a spring that promised to give eternal life and vitality.

It was never found. But God's wisdom is a fountain of life that can make a person happy, healthy, and alive forever.

How? When we live by God's Word, he washes away the deadly effects of sin (see Titus 3:4-8), and the hope of eternal life with him gives us a joyful perspective on our present life.

The fountain of youth was only a dream, but the fountain of life is reality.

The choice is yours. You can be enlightened by God's wisdom, or you can be dragged down by the weight of your own uncertainty.



My Altar

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from:

***Life Application Study Bible.* Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print**