

# HELPS TO HEALING

*“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...”*

*—Ephesians 3:20*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **PART ONE: *HELPS TO HEALING***

#### **I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN THE ATONEMENT**

#### **II. GOD'S WILL IS HEALING**

#### **III. JESUS WAS MOVED BY COMPASSION**

THE LORD'S COMPASSION

SCRIPTURES DEMONSTRATING GOD'S COMPASSION

#### **IV. HOW FAITH IS APPROPRIATED**

ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE OF FAITH

#### **V. HOW TO RECEIVE HEALING FROM CHRIST**

THE FAITH THAT TAKES

OUR CONFESSION

THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S LIFE

GOD'S TIME IS NOW

SUMMARY

### **PART TWO: *SCRIPTURES ON HEALING***

#### **I. IS IT GOD'S WILL TO HEAL?**

A. JESUS IS THE MANIFESTATION OF THE WILL OF GOD

B. WHAT DID JESUS DO TO MANIFEST HIS FATHERS WILL?

C. JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS CHURCH TO CONTINUE HIS MINISTRY

D. HEALING DEMONSTRATED BY THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

E. THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

F. MAN RESTORED THROUGH THE ATONEMENT

**II. HEALING THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE**  
**III. CONDITIONS FOR HEALING**  
**IV. HINDERANCES TO HEALING**

**I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN THE ATONEMENT.**

*Proverbs 29:18* Where there is no vision, the people perish...

God's plan for man has never changed. His eternal purpose is to be glorified by displaying Himself universally in man through His Son. This glorious truth is expressed in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians and comprehensively captured in Ephesians 3:21, "*Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.*" Man was created to be God's vehicle of expression to manifest Christ in the earth. And through this living organism called the church, God would have a place of worship and glory unrivaled in the universe. God's purpose was a straight line through the ages. Man was not created for redemption, but for an intimate relationship of dependence upon God maintained through the obedience of faith. In the fall, Adam forfeited this privilege and disqualified himself as God's vessel. In order for man to once again be the means for God's glorious end, a complete renovation of his being was necessary. God's purpose in Christ was to bring about a new order of man over which Satan would have no dominion or authority. Through His atonement, Jesus provided for a salvation to the uttermost which would restore man back to fellowship with His Creator and make him once again fit for service in the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

God's desire is a *BODY* and a *BRIDE*. He desires a body in the earth through which He can live and an eternal companion to enjoy His presence forever. This body and bride are one and the same: *the church of the living God*. We have not been saved to merely go to heaven at the end of our life, but we have been saved to serve God upon this earth. And in order for the church to be fit to serve God in fullest degree possible it must be *holy* and it must be *healthy*. Through His sacrifice, Christ has secured this vessel of honor, prepared for the Master's use, by providing deliverance from all of the effects of the fall which include deliverance from the twin foes of sin and sickness.

*Luke 1:72-75* To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, *that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*

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

The plan of the devil in afflicting anyone with sickness is to discourage and weaken them, sabotage their fellowship with God, and wear them down until they can be sifted. This attack must be recognized and violently opposed.

*Matthew 11:12* And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

The will of God is that we would be free from every hindrance of sin and sickness and "*thoroughly furnished unto every good work*" that we may be a blessing in the earth. On the "*Day Of Atonement*" it was declared, "*Ye shall return every man to his possession.*"

This was a type of Calvary's provision for the redemption of man through the restoration of all that he forfeited in the fall. Through the atonement, Christ has provided healing for the soul and the body; the inner and outer man is made whole and ready for service.

The Old Testament contains shadows and types of realities manifested in the New Testament.

***Romans 15:4*** *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

When the children of Israel were in need of healing they were told to look to the "*Brazen Serpent*," which was a type of Christ. If healing was provided in a type of the atonement, then surely it is provided in the actual atonement of Christ. The cry of the New Covenant is, "*How much more...*"

***Hebrews 8:6*** *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

***Psalms 103:1-22*** *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.*

## **II. GOD'S WILL IS HEALING.**

Through the Life of Christ and the testimony of Scripture we can clearly see that it is the will of God to heal ALL of His children! Before anyone can exercise faith, the will of God must be known. You must be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is God's will to heal you in order to have ground for faith. Faith begins where God's will is known. And appropriating faith is not believing God *can* but that

God has. Jesus is "the same yesterday, today, and forever," and what He did in the gospels through the body that Mary gave Him, He is still doing today through the body of His church everywhere that there is faith to believe.

**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.*

We can look to the life and teaching of Jesus in the gospels to see the manifestation of God's heart toward man. Jesus said..."I came down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of Him that sent me." Jesus was the exact representation of the heart and will of the Father towards man. What did Jesus Do?

**Matthew 9:35** *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

He then said...

**John 14:12** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

The church is the body of Christ, and all that Jesus was the church is to be. Jesus has commissioned the church to continue His ministry in the earth.

**John 17:18** *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

**Mark 16:18** *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

**Acts 1:1** *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach...*

If a Millionaire were to say to a hundred people.. "I am able to give each of you \$1,000.00," there would be no ground for faith. If he said..."I will give 50 of you \$1,000.00" there would still be no ground for faith for all to believe they would receive money. But if he said..."It is my will to give ALL of you \$1,000.00," then All could have sufficient ground for faith. We can have sufficient ground for faith only if we know it is God's will to heal ALL. Not merely that He is able, but that He desires to heal us. In the Gospels, Jesus never turned anyone away who came to Him for healing. He healed them ALL.

## **JESUS HEALED ALL THAT CAME TO HIM...**

**Luke 4:40** *Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.*

**Matthew 4:23-24** *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. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with*

*divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*

**Matthew 9:35** *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

**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.*

**Matthew 12:15** *But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all...*

**Matthew 14:14** *And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

**Matthew 14:35-36** *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; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.*

**Luke 6:17-19** *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; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.*

We have the record of a man who came to the disciples asking them to deliver his son; however, they were unable...

**Mark 9:14-29** *And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. And he asked the scribes, **What question ye with them?** And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, **O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.** And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, **How long is it ago since this came unto him?** And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.** And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately,*

*Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.***

Jesus willingly delivered the boy from his affliction and attributed the problem to the disciples' lack of faith. This example declares that if there is a breakdown we can rest assured that it is not with God's ability or willingness, but with our faith.

### **III. JESUS WAS MOVED BY COMPASSION.**

***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 did not do heal to make Himself known.

***Matthew 12:15-16** But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; And charged them that they should not make him known...*

Jesus did not heal to prove His deity. Jesus would not have had to heal ALL to demonstrate His power and deity. If His reason for healing was to prove Himself, then He needed only to heal some of the people. HIS PRIMARY MOTIVE IN HEALING WAS COMPASSION FOR MANKIND.

"All that Jesus began both to do and teach" in His earthly ministry was to be continued by the church. After healing ALL He said, "it is expedient (better) for you that I go away." How could this be true if His ministry through His church was inferior to His own? In fact He said...

***John 14:12-13** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

Jesus was "moved with compassion and healed all that had need of healing." The Bible says that His "mercy is from everlasting to everlasting" and "His compassion is to all generations." The compassion of God manifested in Jesus healing ALL that came to Him is still extended today through our faithful and merciful High Priest.

If God wanted some people to remain sick "for His Glory" then Jesus Himself robbed God the Father of glory upon the earth by healing All.

***Matthew 15:30-31** And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.*

**FROM THIS VERSE WE SEE THAT IT IS HEALING AND NOT SICKNESS THAT CAUSES GOD TO BE GLORIFIED!**

James says ..."is ANY sick among you..." And Jesus willingly and gladly healed ALL that came to Him. The Will of God in no uncertain terms is to heal all of His children out of compassion and love. He desires that we would be healthy and strong that we might be a blessing in the Kingdom of God. The Word of God says that the body is for the Lord and we are to glorify God in our bodies. He desires to make us "perfect in every good work to do His will," and that we would be "prepared unto every good work." Salvation means *deliverance, healing and soundness.* The word *healed* in Acts 14:9 is 'sozo,' which is the same word in the Bible for being "SAVED."

**Acts 14:9** *The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed*

The Bible declares that Jesus is the Savior of the body...

**Ephes. 5:23** *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

Most will admit that God is able to heal. But we see clearly through the Life of Christ and the testimony of the scriptures that God is not only able to heal but that it is God's will to heal All who come to Him. God is more willing than He is able! If a man's son were trapped in a house which was on fire, this Father's love for his son would produce intense desire which would be greater than his physical ability to rescue his Son. Since willingness is proportionate to love and ability is a fixed element, willingness can be greater than ability.

To have prevailing faith we must go beyond knowing that God is able and willing to heal us and believe also that God desires to heal us. This understanding comes through a clear revelation of God's heart which is perpetually disposed to bless all who fulfill the conditions. To see the love and compassion of God is essential to prevailing faith.

## **THE LORD'S COMPASSION**

**Psalm 145:8-9** *The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.*

During His earthly ministry Jesus was moved with compassion and healed all that had need of healing. And this is the same Jesus who said it would be expedient if He left earth and went to the Father. He is now a "*faithful and merciful high priest*" who has been exalted to have mercy upon His people.

**Isaiah 30:18** *And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you:... blessed are all they that wait for him.*

**Hebrews 2:17** *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,*

**Hebrews 5:2** *Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.*

Compassion is synonymous with mercy. It means to "love tenderly, pity, to be full of eager yearning." God's Compassion inspires faith. Knowing that He eagerly yearns to heal is solid ground for faith to stand on.

Compassion: {Webster} *A suffering with another; Compounded of love and sorrow; Having a disposition that is tender, and easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others.*

We know that God is all-powerful, and the Bible says that His power is "to usward." The Bible tells us that "The Lord is gracious" which means that He is disposed to show favors.

"With the goodness of God to will our highest interest, the wisdom of God to perfectly plan it, and the power of God to bring it to pass, what do we lack? Surely we are the most blessed of all creatures." A.W. Tozer

**2 Chron. 16:9** *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*

**Micah 7:18** *...He delighteth in mercy.*

God seeks for opportunities to gratify His benevolent heart. He is infinitely good and He exists forever in a perpetual state of entire consecration to pour forth blessings upon His creatures whenever they make it possible. Our duty is to place ourself where God can bless us without having to violate the principles of His government.

## **SCRIPTURES DEMONSTRATING GOD'S COMPASSION**

**Mark 1:40-44** *And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, **I will; be thou clean.** And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; And saith unto him, **See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.***

**Matthew 14:13-14** *When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

**Matthew 20:29-34** *And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, **What will ye that I shall do unto you?** They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.*



Compassion is Divine Love in action. The devil does not mind if you know that God is able to heal you. But he does not want you to know that God *eagerly desires* to heal you. A right conception of God's character will inspire faith. We must think rightly about God and understand that any thought that would cause us to doubt God's love and mercy toward us is demonic and must be cast down. The devil undermined Eve's faith by accusing the character of God and telling her that God was withholding from her. But the Bible says that God will "*withhold no good thing from those who walk uprightly!*"

#### **IV. HOW FAITH IS APPROPRIATED.**

We must always remember that the Word of God is the foundation of the universe and the only gauge of reality. Our natural senses can not perceive the things of God and will hinder faith if we trust in them above what "*is written.*" Our minds must be renewed by the Word of God which will bring us into union with God's will and enable us to see the invisible realm of God's Kingdom. The Word of God is the seed of Divine Life which is to be planted in our heart and nurtured by steadfast faith until it is manifest in our life.

Many people fail to receive from God because they do not truly understand faith. There is a difference between *faith* and *hope*. Faith receives from God NOW, where hope believes God can or will move in the future.

*Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Once we believe that we have received from God, we must hold fast to the confidence that God has heard and is faithful to perform all He promised. Faith receives and believes that it has what it has asked for before it sees the manifestation in the natural. Faith does not deny reality, but rather is our only link with reality. Faith sees that which *IS*, but is not yet seen or felt. Faith allows me to receive and possess that which is real but not yet manifest in the natural realm. Through faith I stand on the sure testimony of Scripture in the face of natural contradictions. Seeing or feeling the manifestation before believing is not faith. Once the promise materializes, faith becomes sight and has done its duty. However, we must patiently endure the time between receiving the promise by faith and the manifestation of the promise. And this is done by casting down every contrary imagination that attacks God's character and faithfulness to fulfill His Word. We must never be distracted from "*LOOKING DILIGENTLY UNTO JESUS.*"

*Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

*1 Thes. 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

*Hebrews 10:35-39 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

**Hebrews 6:11-15** *And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

**Hebrews 12:12-15** *Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 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...*

Once we have received the promise by faith, we are to demonstrate our faith and minister unto God by praising Him for the answer to our petition and maintaining a disposition of trust in His faithfulness.

**Hebrews 13:15** *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

#### Abraham's example of faith

**Romans 4:16-25** *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,)*

God's promise to Abraham was in the past tense. Through the atonement God has provided all that we need for "life and godliness." Jesus said, "It is finished." He has secured and offered all that is needed to glorify Him. Since He offers everything to us, the only problem is our lack of faith to receive and appropriate the blessings of God. Peter says that we "were healed" by the stripes of Jesus.

**1 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.*

The Bible goes on to say of Abraham...

*...before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

Notice that it is God who calls things that are not as though they were, and not Abraham.

*Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; According to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb...*

Humanly speaking, it was impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have a child. But God had promised, and to Abraham there was only one impossibility- that God could lie. Abraham was strong in faith by not considering his circumstances and the natural condition of his body. But rather...

*He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.*

Abraham did not consider or observe his natural circumstance, but rather he considered God's promise and character. And this truly "*gives glory to God.*" . Faith gives God His proper place as the One who is completely trustworthy. On the other hand, unbelief dishonors God and charges Him with lying. It limits the holy one of Israel. We must believe God in the face of demonic accusations and the scoffing of the world. "*Anyone who walks by faith will be considered a dreamer and a fanatic by carnal men. But what is more reasonable than a creature who trusts his Creator? Is it insane to believe in One who can not lie or fail? To trust God is the most sensible, sane and rational thing anyone could do. It is no leap in the dark. Faith demands the surest evidence, and finds it in God's unfailing Word. We must remember that the faith that enables one 'to walk with God' enables him also to attach the proper values to the thoughts of men.*"

*"Doubt sees the obstacles-  
Faith sees the way!  
Doubt sees the darkest night-  
Faith sees the day!  
Doubt dreads to take a step-  
Faith soars on high!  
Doubt questions "who believes?"  
Faith answers, "I!"*

Walking by faith is not merely for the sake of being a witness before men, but also to minister to the heart of God by offering up a sweet savour of trust in Him. We were "*created for His pleasure*" and "*without faith it is impossible to please Him.*" Abraham was fully persuaded that God was faithful and this was demonstrated by his actions.

The walk of faith is a moment by moment reliance on God alone. It is the glorious perpetual crisis of dependence on the Lord. The flesh shrinks from a position of complete dependence on an unseen God. It seeks visible evidence and feelings of security through tangible support and assurance. But faith steps forward in absolute obedience to the Word of God, rises above the circumstances of the natural realm, and trusts God for all its needs.

*"Faith, mighty faith the promise sees  
And looks to God alone;  
Laughs at impossibilities  
And cries, "It shall be done!"*

We must always remember that Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends. George Mueller said that

"The province of faith begins where probabilities cease and where sight and sense fail." Faith says, "If impossible is the only objection, it can be done."

*"Faith brings God into the scene, and therefore it knows absolutely nothing of difficulties- yea it laughs at impossibilities. In the judgment of faith, God is the grand answer to every question- the grand solution to every difficulty. It refers all to Him; and hence it matters not in the least to faith whether it be a sore throat or cancer; it knows that God is all sufficient. It finds all its resources in Him. Unbelief says, 'How can this be?' It is full of 'Hows': but faith has one great answer to ten thousand 'hows,' and that answer is,- God."*  
C.H. Mackintosh

Anyone who purposes to walk by faith can be sure that his faith will be tested. Sooner or later he will be brought to the end of his human resources. In his extremity, he will be tempted to look away from Jesus and lean to the arm of the flesh. However, we must resist every attack and look to our God.

The way we "look unto Jesus" and "consider Him" is a two-fold endeavor. First, we cast down every contrary imagination, refusing to be moved by sight, feeling, or carnal reasoning. This is coupled with looking to the unfailing Word of God as the only true standard of reality. When we are tempted to doubt, we refuse to be influenced by the temptation to look away from Jesus. Instead, we continue to look diligently unto Him by meditating in His Word.

**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.*

We must receive His Word and then attend to it by keeping it in the midst of our heart. The Word of God is like seed which must be planted in our hearts and then nurtured by allowing it to stay planted through refusing to look away from God. There must be an attentive ear and a steadfast look. We keep the Word in our hearts by not letting it depart from our eyes through the steadfast look of meditation. Meditation has a digestion power and turns truth into spiritual nourishment. The Word of God is God's seed which contains His Life. When this Word is known, received and kept in good ground it always does its work. We must look to the Promise and the Promisor and not the problem. This keeps the seed in good ground allowing it to "work effectually" and bring forth fruit.

Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God, we must saturate ourselves with God's Word. We must read, study, memorize and meditate upon it day and night. If we make it our meat and drink, it will become our lamp and comfort and will also increase our faith.

**1 Thes. 2:13** *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

When the children of Israel were bitten by the serpents, the promise was..."*Everyone that looketh shall live."* The word 'look' is to *stare at continuously*. There must first be the diligent attending to God's Word by searching the scriptures for promises pertaining to the particular need.

**Romans 10:17** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

*"Now true faith is always based upon some promise of God, some portion of His Word. This is important. The believer first reads or hears some promise of the Lord. The Holy Spirit takes that promise and applies it to the heart and conscience in a very personal way. The Christian becomes aware that God has spoken to him directly. With utter confidence in the utter trustworthiness of the One who has promised, he reckons the promise as sure as if it were already fulfilled, even though, humanly speaking, it is impossible."*

*William MacDonald*

This Word must then be received by believing that God has given you what you have asked for. And then we are to keep the Word in our hearts that it may effectually work. This is by standing on its testimony of reality knowing that what God says is true no matter how I feel or what I see. God says, *"He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded."* The word *'confounded'* means *to be ashamed, disgraced, or to cause to blush*. No one has ever believed God in vain and no one ever will.

Are you Convinced and Persuaded that it is God's will to heal you? The power of God can be claimed only where the will of God is known. And remember that appropriating faith is believing God has healed you (In Christ) and not that God can heal you. The Word of God and His Faithfulness to His Word is the ground for faith to stand on. ***If you will stand on God's unfailing Word and look to Him that Word will work in you and bring forth the very Life of God in your mortal flesh.***

You must also be in right standing with God. We can not benefit from His mercy while rejecting His will. And our first consideration in seeking healing must be the glory of God...Strength for Service. When one is anointed with oil this signifies separation unto God, and this must be our heart when we are anointed for prayer. Faith brings the union of our hearts and will with God's will and purpose. And only through perfect submission to God can I successfully resist the devil.

***Psalm 84:11*** *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

***Psalm 91:14*** *Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

***Proverbs 14:30*** *A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*

We must Expect what God promises when we pray which will cause us to act in faith before we see the healing. Noah moved by faith after being warned of things not seen as yet. He was moved by God's Word to act and not by what he saw. Faith shuts out doubt and fear of failure and shows unshakable confidence in God. Faith comes by hearing and not waiting to see. For with faith, God's Word is as good as His act. The Word imparts perfect certainty into the soul and becomes a more solid ground to stand upon than the natural senses.

If a Father promised His son that he had purchased for him a new fishing pole and said that he would give it to him on Saturday, the boy would rejoice at the news and consider himself the owner of a new fishing pole. He would tell all his friends and rejoice at the gift of his father before he ever laid eyes upon that fishing pole and held it in his hands. This is because the boy trusts his father and therefore receives his word as truth. The rejoicing of the son without seeing the physical manifestation of the

fishing pole is also a blessing to the father. Through his childlike faith the son ministers to his father by rejoicing from that moment he receives the promise of a new fishing pole until he fills it with line and ties on a fresh "Pig-n jig" down at the fishing hole Saturday morning.

The son demonstrated faith by receiving the promise of his father as truth, and then cheerfully expecting the fishing pole until he saw it. And this is how we are to respond to the promises of God. We must be fully persuaded by the Word of God alone and refuses to see anything else. Faith is to be expectant of what I hope for and convinced of what I don't see. Faith is acting upon God's Word before seeing or feeling in the face of natural contradictions. When God speaks we receive confidence, but this confidence must be held fast as we walk through the valley testing.

***Hebrews 3:6*** *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

The period of time between the promise and the manifestation is the "trial of our faith."

***1 Peter 1:6-9*** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

During the trial we must exercise *patience*, which is the *cheerful and expectant endurance of affliction*. The key to holding fast our confidence is what we consider during the trial. We must never look away from God and His Word, but set our heart and mind diligently upon Him and His faithfulness knowing that "He that shall come will come" "according to the time of life." This is where many become discouraged, receive the report of the devil and come short of God's blessing. See to it that you do not "fall out in the way!"

Always remember that anything that makes you doubt the fact that "God is plenteous in mercy to all what call upon Him" is a "lying vanity," and as the prophet Jonah said, they that "observe them forsake their own mercies."

The symptoms may linger, but God's Word is still the only gauge of reality and truth.

***John 4:50-52*** *Jesus saith unto him, **Go thy way; thy son liveth.** And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.*

The servants said that the son "began to amend" which showed a gradual healing. King Hezekiah was healed, but it took three days before he was strong enough to go up to the house of the Lord.

Having "*full assurance of faith*" is not in a feeling but a standing on the naked Word of God. God's Word alone must be the reason for our believing and not seeing or feeling. If we rely on any natural evidence then what we have is not faith. For it requires no faith to believe when we can see and feel.

Jonah sacrificed with the "*voice of thanksgiving*" while he was still in the whale. He did not allow his circumstances to cast a shadow over the mercy and faithfulness of God. He chose to praise God in the midst of his trial, and God delivered him.

My happiness must not be contingent on anything that may befall me in the natural, but only in being in the will of God. I don't care what He says, just let me hear His voice. I don't care where He leads me, as long as it is Him who is leading. God is glorified by such selfless faith and He is ministered to through our trust in Him.

*Hebrews 13:15* By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

*Psalms 50:14-15* Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Faith offers thanksgiving to God prior to the manifestation of the promise. The Bible says, "*Let the needy praise thy name.*" It also says, "*thou shalt call thy walls salvation and thy gates praise.*" Praise is the gate to God. He inhabits the praises of His people. "*Be glad and rejoice for the Lord will do great things.*" "*Let not your heart be troubled.*" "*In nothing be anxious (distracted) but with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*" "*Casting all your care upon him...*":

Blessed are the ears who hear God's voice and give no heed to the whisperings of the world.

Let us put our sickness away by faith, as we would put away sin. The consecrated Christian will not consciously tolerate sin for a moment and yet how tolerant some are of sickness. They will even pet and indulge their aches and pains instead of resisting them as the works of the devil.

Faith does not wait for the walls to fall down; faith shouts them down.

*John 6:29* Jesus answered and said unto them, *This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

Abraham, under utterly hopeless circumstances, by looking unto the promise of God waxed strong in faith being fully persuaded that God would fulfill His promise. I must be so occupied with God and His promise that I am no longer moved by feelings, circumstances and symptoms. I must not allow anything contrary to the Word of God to move or influence me. I must look to His remedy and His promise and continue to look until He manifests His Word.

Jonah, instead of calling God a liar, gave the name "*lying vanities*" to the symptoms and circumstances which seemed to stand in the way of God's mercy. Realizing that it was symptoms that were lying to him and not God, he said that those who "*observe them forsake their own mercy.*"

God never refuses mercy, but many forsake it by considering their symptoms, which are real, but which are lying vanities when they say to us that God is not "plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Him."

Faith has only to do with God's Word and if anything else ascends to be our ground of confidence, it is no longer faith. This way one can hold fast the beginning of their confidence without needing to see or feel to believe. Instead one can believe based on the Word of God alone and know that the feelings will come.

God makes promises in the past tense. "*I have delivered Jericho into thy hands*"..."*I have made the a father of many nations.*"... "*by whose stripes ye were healed.* "

***Galatians 3:13*** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

***1 John 5:14-15*** And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

God will respond only to the faith that is produced by and rests in His Word or Promise. Nothing is more ridiculous than to allow symptoms or feelings to cause us to doubt God.

To learn how to believe that God hears us when we pray is a much greater blessing than the healing because we are learning to appropriate grace through faith which can be used to receive every other blessing of God.

## **V. HOW TO RECEIVE HEALING FROM CHRIST.**

***Numbers 21:8*** And the LORD said unto Moses, *Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*

'Looking' is to be *occupied with and influenced by* what we are looking at, which is God's faithfulness, power and mercy. It is in the present tense which means that it is not a glance but a continuous stare which is to be maintained until you are healed. Do not succumb to the temptation to look away from Christ to your symptoms or circumstance.

The Bible says to look diligently or we will not receive the grace of God needed to endure and realize the promise.

Walking by faith is walking by sight of a better kind. Faith is the most rational thing in the world because it is based on the greater realities of the Kingdom of God. Faith sees the faithfulness of God which is more certain than the foundation of a mountain. And what the eye of faith sees, the hand of faith receives and appropriates. It is a great mistake to suppose a thing is not real because it can not be seen with the naked eye. Faith in God's Word is walking on the foundations of the universe.

***Hebrews 11:3*** *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the*



*word of God...*

And "*Joy unspeakable and full of glory*" comes by seeing the realities of the unseen world. The things of God cannot be discerned, appropriated and known by the natural senses and therefore must be rejected as our gauge of reality. It would be just as irrational to doubt Christ's promise to return again because of pain as to doubt His promise of healing because of pain.

We believe we are forgiven before we feel and it is the same with faith for healing. Faith is saying and believing what God says and acting accordingly. Every blessing we take by steadfast faith in God's promise will always materialize.

We must not be double minded. We must put off the '*Old man*' and his habit of thinking only according to the evidence of the five senses. The '*New man*' has new faculties and is not governed by the natural senses.

When we steadfastly believe and act our faith in God's Word, nothing can keep the power in the Word from making all things become exactly as the Word says. All we have to do is firmly believe what the Word says and resolutely refuse to see, believe or think on the things that contradict God's word.

*Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

*Rev. 3:11 ...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

We must live by faith, and by '*looking unto Jesus*' in the Word, we keep all that we have received.

**Get it settled in your heart that after receiving His Word and taking the step of faith for healing, you are going to see nothing but God and what He says. From that moment doubt is not an option.**

Jesus won His victories by saying "It is written" and believing what was written. We must be consumed with worshipping God and rejoicing in communion with Him and not be occupied with our symptoms. The Holy Ghost is always ready to help us exercise faith. Abraham believed God and acted accordingly and God accounted Him righteous. Faith in God has a much stronger foundation and a much stronger "Helper" than doubt or sin or disease. All victories of faith are through the overcoming of doubt and fear through the proper persistent exercise of our better sight. God gives faith but calls upon us to exercise it.

Faith demands the exercise of the heart, mind and mouth. We must think, speak and act by faith and reject everything that would undermine it. We are to believe what God has said and act upon it. He has done it and we are to receive and go forth in obedience to the promise.

The '*prayer of faith*' is believing our prayer is heard before the answer materializes and is manifested. Faith is believing I have and acting accordingly before I feel or see. Before the manifestation I am to rejoice and say "It is written." Faith refuses to see, hear or say anything contrary to God's Word.

## THE FAITH THAT TAKES

Many are waiting for God to heal them when He is waiting for them to take what He is offering them.

"Faith is the evidence (title deed) of things not seen." Jesus says "He that believeth, hath." Faith means we are convinced we have what we do not see. It is to believe I have before I see or feel. It is the evidence of what I do not see yet have.

We believe we "have received" when we pray before seeing it manifest, this is the confidence the Holy Ghost says not to cast away, for it has great recompense of reward. Peter tells us that this is the testing of our faith (that we have received from God) which is more precious than gold.

The fig tree which Jesus cursed dried up not from the leaves which could be seen, but "*from the roots*" which were out of sight. The death of the tree could not be detracted at first by looking at the leaves.

Calvary was our "Emancipation Proclamation" from everything outside the will of God. But we must act on the freedom that is already ours.

Faith believes what God says in the face of the contrary evidence of the senses. We must be steadfast in resisting, as reasons for doubting, everything contrary to the Word of God. Faith means we have left the sense realm. The natural man can not know the things of God. To consult our natural senses for evidence that our prayer has been granted is as ridiculous as trying to see with our ears or hear without eyes. Perfume precedes smell, food precedes taste and healing precedes feeling. It must *BE* before it can be detected by the senses. The angels at Dothan were already present before they became visible to Elisha's servant.

God works while we maintain the posture of steadfast faith. "*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen*" ; At God, His promise, and His faithfulness. Faith has to do only with the unseen and unfelt.

No person who allows his mind to be ruled by his senses can have victorious faith. The mind that is governed by the senses lives in a realm of uncertainty. Our minds must be renewed or brought in union with God's word and our wills must be set to cast down every contrary imagination.

### **Do you demand visible proof from God? Is His Word not enough?**

We must first believe we have received (the invisible form of the blessing) and then we shall have it (in its visible form). First the faith realm and then the sense realm. The 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews records the actions of God's saints in the faith realm before the results took their visible form. All acts of faith are in the realm of the unseen. The Making a "*sacrifice of praise*" is also done in the faith realm. Walking by faith is really walking by sight of a better quality. It sees God, His promise, His faithfulness and is not moved by natural sight. Faith in the Word of God is my title deed which when held fast is the confidence which I cast not away until I see the promise materialize.

## OUR CONFESSION

Christianity is a "confession" which means: *saying the same thing*; to believe and say and act in accordance with God and His Word. It is believing with our hearts and confessing with our mouth. Confession is faith's way of expressing itself. When we are in union with God's Word, He will watch over it to make it good...

***Jeremiah 1:12** Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.*

We do not say to others that our healing is manifested before it is. God does not say that. But you can say to those who ask you *"I am standing on the Word of God."* We will never rise above our confession. We must refuse all doubtful confessions.

Confessing disease is like signing for a package from Satan. He then has the receipt showing you have accepted it. *"Give no place to the devil"* He can come but he can not stay.

***1 John 5:1-21** We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

***1 Peter 4:11** If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

***Ephes. 4:29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

***Philip. 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, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

***2 Cor. 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...*

Let us not testify for the devil. Act, think and speak faith. Remember, the Bible declares, *"As a man thinketh in his heart so he is."*

The Word of God exorts us to *"Forget Not all His benefits."* And this is done by keeping them ever before you.

***Hebrews 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

We must hold fast to our confession of the absolute integrity of God's Word. We hold fast our confession of what Christ has done for us that it may be done in us. Our legal standing becomes the

basis for the act of faith which puts God to work fulfilling His Word to us. God says it and I line up with it by confession and then hold fast until the manifestation.

In spiritual matters, the Word of God is to be my only sense and gauge of reality. Thomas said "*except I see I shall not believe*" but Jesus said "*Blessed are they that have not seen and yet believe.*"

## **THE FULLNESS OF GODS LIFE**

Eternal life is a quality of life; Gods Life. God's life is victorious over sin and sickness and the devil. Being filled with all the fulness of God is the answer to everything. The way to be full of faith is to be possessed of the *Life* which "*believeth all things.*" The way to be full of compassion is to be full of the "*Life of God*" who is Love. And it is in being a partaker of His life that "*ever lives to make intercession*" that is the key to prevailing prayer.

All things are possible through the life of God. By becoming a partaker of His life, He becomes our life, wisdom, sanctification, righteousness... "*We are saved by His Life*" God blesses us with healing , strength, wisdom...by giving us Himself who is All in All. We must be perpetually FULL of the Spirit of God and this is answer to all. And this is realized and maintained through abiding in the Vine.

## **GOD'S TIME IS NOW**

We must cease to put our healing off in the future and must take hold of that which God offers today.

The reason many are not getting what they pray for is that they are keeping their blessing in the future tense which is only hope and not faith which takes the blessing Now.

**2 Cor. 6:2** (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)

**Hebrews 4:7** *Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Mark 11:24** *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

## **SUMMARY**

1. Healing is provided for in the atonement of Jesus Christ. God desires that we be healthy and strong that we may serve Him with all our might.
2. It is God's will to heal all of His children.
3. God heals us because of His compassion towards us. He is more willing to heal us than He is able. We must have a right conception of God's heart of love toward His children.



