

Healing Lesson – Two Dispensations; *Even Three*

Tim Day – September 2022



Gentlemen, this is meant to be a **hard look at healing**. This lesson is meant to challenge us to seek God as to why we are ***not seeing more healing***. It includes a touch of **theory** based on God's word for us to prayerfully consider before the Lord. Empirically speaking, we are simply not seeing all that God's word seems to promise, with respect to healing.

God Heals

Three words - '**God still heals.**' I believe that He '*delights in healing.*' It is promised.

Psalm 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth **all thy diseases**;

Mark 16:17 And these **signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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**.

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith **shall save the sick**, and the Lord **shall** raise him up ...

3 John 1:2 Beloved, **I wish above all things** that thou mayest prosper and **be in health**, even as thy soul prospereth.

Exodus 15:26 And said, **If** thou wilt diligently **hearken to the voice of the LORD** thy God, and wilt **do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes**, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee**.

Looks like a **guaranteed** promise – “*all*” and “*shall*.”

Plus, it is in the **atonement**:

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses**.

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**.

We have just as much reason to expect to be healed by God as we do to be saved.

Jesus healed the sick. The *Apostles* healed the sick. We should be healing the sick – “***these signs shall follow them that believe***.” In fact, we should be doing even more than Jesus did:

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. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God **by us**.

By who? “***By us***.” Thus, if we pray for someone and they are **not healed**, there **must be a reason**.

Many today do not believe this. Their prayers, if they pray for the sick, are “***hope so this time***” prayers, *devoid of faith*. It is almost like many see it as a nice Christian thing to do, but do not expect real results.

There are two, broad, **distinct beliefs** with respect to Healing today:

- **Cessationism** is a doctrine that **spiritual gifts, prophecy and healing ceased with the Apostolic Age**. The doctrine was developed in the *reformation* and is particularly associated with the Calvinists. It is a common view within the **Reformed** traditions and the dispensational segment of evangelicalism.
- **Continuationism** is a Christian theological belief that the **gifts of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual gifts, have continued to the present age**. Continuationism as a distinct theological position arose in opposition to cessationism. It traces its origin to the **Charismatic** Renewal Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Historically, the **Catholic, Methodist, Moravian, and Pentecostal** traditions of Christianity have preached *continuationism*.

While **Dispensationalist Baptist, the Reformed, and Presbyterian**, and much of the **Anglican** traditions, have been *cessationist*. The Protestant Reformation saw the birth of a doctrine of cessationism, especially within Calvinism. John Calvin principally developed a doctrine of cessationism.

Lutherans have held to a *middle position, "open but cautious" continuationism*.

I have, personally, *witnessed too many miraculous* healings to believe in cessationism.

Two Broad Camps

These two beliefs tend to fall along two broader camps – **Mainline Protestant Churches** and **Charismatic Churches**.

The Mainline Camp has made every excuse for not seeing healing today that you can imagine. They are pulling God's word down to their level of experience, while making excuses. They generally "*deny the power.*"

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such **turn away**.

These are more focused on comfortable "**Old Tradition**", the church doesn't expect healing and miracles – and thus, doesn't see them.

Mark 7:13 **Making the word of God of none effect** through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

The **Charismatic Camp**, generally, believes for supernatural healing today.

I grew up with a foot in both camps. Yes, I might be **schizophrenic** as a result.

The **mainline camp** rarely bothers to pray for the sick. If they do, their **hope-so prayers** include every **excuse** imaginable for why God probably won't heal. These are *weasel clauses* to save face when their prayers are not answered.

[*Neighbor's Husband – Hospital Story*]

The **charismatic camp** usually seeks to pray for the sick. Sadly, this camp attracts charlatans by the bus load. It is the "*clouds and wind*" folks who do God's word a grave disservice. While they talk a big game, they more often than not fail to bring the "*rain.*"

Proverbs 25:14 Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like *clouds and wind without rain*.

"It is not a **boasted valour**, a **fiction**, a thing of which men talk, but which ends in smoke. ... All true **strength** comes from 'the mighty God of Jacob.'" – *Charles Spurgeon*

The Problem

Empirically speaking, **neither camp has a success rate of worth boasting**. In fact, it has been my experience that success rate in prayer for the sick *is abysmally low*.

Keep in mind that I am not referring in this teaching those whom the Holy Spirit has given the **Supernatural Gift of Healing**. I am addressing the rest of us.

Nor, herein, am I addressing or discounting the importance of **Prayer**.

What I am saying is that we **need to be honest** with our situation. Maybe we are **doing something wrong!**

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." - *Albert Einstein*

As a former consultant, I know that a **problem cannot be fixed** until the problem has been recognized. As Christians, especially charismatic's, we hate to admit we might have a problem. We would rather talk the big game and rehearse the same old tired testimonies where someone was healed decades ago.

Matthew 7:7 **Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Mark 4:24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

It is high time we *asked, sought, and knocked* until we get an answer. I have been seeking for over a decade.

The mainline camp needs to *stop pulling the Word of God down to their experience*. The charismatic camp needs *be painfully honest*. We should both be on our knees **asking God to pull our experience up to His Word**. We both need move back to the center of God's road of Truth away from our respective Ditches.

Spiritual Roots

We must first recognize that much of sickness is **spiritual in nature** - *demonic*. We see it in Jesus example:

Matthew 17:18 And Jesus **rebuked the devil**; and he departed out of him: and the **child was cured** from that very hour.

Mark 1:34 And **he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils**; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

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.

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**: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses**.

God does not make us sick. But, the devil is glad to. Yet we tend, in our day of modern medicine, to ignore this fact.

Western Medicine versus Eastern Medicine

Western Medicine masks symptoms with drugs – pharmaceuticals.

Eastern Medicine blocks the pathways of symptoms with acupuncture and other means.

Neither addresses the **spiritual aspect of healing**. In fact, we have never found a cure for a disease in 100 years of trying. We merely mask symptoms.

Maybe, we are not properly addressing the source – the **root cause**. Maybe it is not merely physical, but often spiritual.

Just Do It

Like Nike, we are told to just “**do it**.”

Jesus’ instruction to the Disciples was to “*do it*” ... it was an **imperative**.

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and **gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.**

He sent them out telling to:

Matthew 10:8 **Heal the sick**, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

It has been extended on to us, it would seem:

Mark 16:17 And these **signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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.**

Andrew Womack says, *if you can name it, speak to it* ... in the authority given in Christ. We should be **commanding** the '*demonic*' sickness to leave.

Like Demons

Just like with **demons**. Once a demon manifests, we don't huddle up to pray that God would remove the nasty creature. No, we **cast them out** in Jesus name.

Command the sickness to leave, like you would a demon. It may, in fact, be a demon at the root of the sickness.

Speak the Word, as with Jesus example:

Matthew 8:8 The **centurion** answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but **speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.**

Womack also says it is high time we **quit asking God to that which God told us to do**. If, for example, you are praying for someone to be saved and you have not shared the gospel with them, get off your knees and go "*do it.*"

As we go "*do it*" for healing, he also suggests **short directive prayers – more authoritative statements or commands**. You may have to do it again and again.

We see this **repetition** in this example with *Jesus and the Blind Man*:

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to *Bethsaida*; and they bring a **blind man** unto him ... 23 ... when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he **asked him if he saw ought**. 24 And he looked up, and said, *I see men*

as trees, walking. 25 After that he **put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up:** and *he was restored*, and saw every man clearly.

I have no doubt that Jesus could have healed him the first time. I suspect this was an example to us that we may have repeat.

Two Methods – Two Dispensations (Methods, Techniques, Approaches)



Here is the **meat of this lesson**. This is what I want you to prayerfully consider. Let's call it a theory – a theory based on God's word. You will need to **hear me out** before you draw conclusions.

The Lost - There is a method for healing for the Lost – those outside of the Body of Christ – that we see in Scripture. It is meant to be a **sign and wonder** leading to salvation. We see this with Jesus ministry:

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.

Mark 2:11 I say unto thee, **Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way** into thine house. 12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; **insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God**, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

We see it again with the Disciples after **Pentecost**:

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may **speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.**

With the lost we should "*just do it.*" We should **expect immediate healing** as "*a sign and wonder.*" Then we should lead them to the Lord. Step two, is always to share the gospel, as with Jesus' example:

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.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the **kingdom of God** is not in word, but in power.

"*Signs and wonders*" are for the unbeliever – the Lost; not something we are to hold up in our Holy huddles to experience for ourselves.

The Saved - Then there is a method inside the Church – within the Body of Christ. We have **clear instructions** in James:

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:** 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;

Smith Wigglesworth makes an interesting observation:

“There are any number of people who are **believers filled with unbelief**. I have very little difficulty when I am dealing with a sinner about being healed. **I scarcely ever see a sinner that knows nothing about Jesus fail to be healed when I pray for him. But if I pray for the believer, I find it very often he is not healed. Why? Unbelief in the believer it is a very astounding thing.**” – *Smith Wigglesworth*

Is it merely *unbelief*, as **Wigglesworth** suggests? Faith is important, no doubt. But I believe that there is possibly more. I have come to believe that we are **not following God’s instructions**, as we shall see in a moment. But, first let’s explore more about healing the Lost.

The Lost

Witness **Torben Sondergaard** with his Swedish ministry called ‘*Second Reformation*.’ His street ministry is electrifying in its success. (Now arrested by the US Customs & Immigration) **Ministry is 95% to the Lost.**

In this ministry, they **expect God to heal the sick completely, on the spot**. God does, more often than not. If the person is not completely healed after the first attempt, they simply pray again. I have seen them go up to three times. Torben says he has gone up to ten times.

[*Times Square example*]

Interestingly, they do not pray long, flowery, self-aggrandizing prayers chocked full of scripture quotes. They merely touch to part of the body needing healed, saying things like “*pain leave,*” or “*back be healed in Jesus name.*” People are often healed, right there on the spot.

Mark 16:17 And these **signs** shall follow them that believe; In my name ...
18 ... they **shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

2 Corinthians 12:12 **Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you** in all patience, in *signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

“**Note** Paul’s words in this verse: **signs, wonders, mighty deeds**. Most Christians today cringe when they hear these words! Why? Because these words **have been made an abomination by unscrupulous, power-hungry preachers and teachers!** The great tragedy is that such perversions have caused many God-fearing pastors, evangelists and laypeople to turn away from the truth of a fully preached gospel.” – *David Wilkerson*

The Saved

First, I would *cautiously suggest* that we within the Body of Christ **should not be sick** (I am not talking about a common cold. I am talking about serious diseases and incurable syndromes.)

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ...

9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, **neither shall any plague come** nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Is God’s word true? Or not?

So, why are we so often seeing **plagues** come near our dwelling? Our churches are full of folks who have diseases – *plagues*.

Could it be sin? I contend that it could be so. If we give the devil ground, he takes it. He is a legalist. If as a Christian, I am living in sin, I am outside of God’s protection – at least in that aspect of my life. Stay with me a moment more! Another ministry example will help make my point.

Henry Wright – Pleasant Valley Church in Georgia (Books: *More Excellent Way* and *Exposing the Spiritual Roots of Disease*)

His story – Praying for sick, tracking results, **less than 3% healed**, leaving ministry, God showed him the spiritual ground, **now 78% are healed**, seeking the Lord for the other 22%, he will not pray for the Christian sick. **Ministry is 95% to the Saved**.

[*Crippling Arthritic Old Ladies example*]

[*Breast Cancer example – Right breast/Left breast*]

1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall

ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is **a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.** 17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

[*Woman with Breast Cancer example – mother-in-law*]

Am I saying that all **sickness is as the result of sin.** **Yes and no.** Yes, all sickness came into the world through the Fall, by way of sin. So, is all of our sickness because of our sin? It is doubtful. Though, much is, to be sure – I believe.

Matthew 9:2 And, behold, they brought to him a **man sick of the palsy**, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; **thy sins be forgiven thee.** ... 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But **that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins**, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) **Arise**, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 **And he arose, and departed to his house.**

Wright believes that 80% is; that in 80% of the cases the seriously sick **Christian has opened the door to the devil through sin.** Remember what God told the Israelites:

Exodus 15:26 And said, **If** thou wilt diligently **hearken to the voice of the LORD** thy God, and wilt **do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments**, and **keep all his statutes**, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

Follow the Instructions

A couple years ago I was reading through **James** and understood something, I believe, that I have never made sense of before. Remember the Bible is written to Believers. It is our instruction manual.

Within the church, James 5 has the **prescription for healing.** As is with the entire Bible, it is clearly directed to the Body of Christ – to those within the Church.

John Wesley said of this passage in his day, that James 5 was the *'preferred method of healing until the Church forgot how by reason of disuse.'* We all know this passage:

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: 15 And **the prayer of faith shall save the sick**, and the Lord shall raise him up;

and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults (*sin*) one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Within James directions for the sick to “*call for the Elders of the church*,” is a rather odd mention of “*sin*” and “*faults*.” We seem to completely ignore it.

In fact, I have never heard a pastor speak to that peculiar aspect in **James prescription**. But, it would seem that **God makes it clear** that the confession of sin/faults is a prerequisite of healing.

James 5:15 And the *prayer of faith shall save the sick*, and the Lord *shall* raise him up; and **if he have committed sins**, they shall be forgiven him. 16 **Confess your faults** (*sins*) one to another, and pray one for another, **that ye may be healed**. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Do you see the link between sin and confession, “**that ye may be healed?**” There it is. This may be the lost ingredient, which we ‘*forgot how by reason of disuse*.’

It hit me ... this is **Henry Wright’s ministry!** He is following **James prescription**.

As the **Puritans** say, ‘**repentance leads to healing**.’

“We need to be **killing sin or it will be killing us**.” - *Puritan John Owen*

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but **whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy**.

Yet, when was the last time the sick confessed their sin prior to folks laying hands them? It could be that we are too eager to lay hands on and pray for the Christian sick. When, maybe, we should be counseling them to “**confess [their] faults**.”

1 Timothy 5:22 **Lay hands suddenly on no man**, neither be partaker of other men's **sins**: keep thyself pure.

No, I am not suggesting that we do this before a large crowd or the whole congregation. Rather, it might make sense within a select small group of spiritually mature, tightlipped elders. ... Consider this rather odd passage of Jesus healing the lame man:

John 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an **infirmity thirty and eight years**. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? ... 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was **made whole**, and took up his bed, and walked ... 14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

We see the same link to sin here as we do in James. We are all sinners. Our sin can lead to sickness.

1 John 1:8 If we say that **we have no sin**, we **deceive ourselves**, and the **truth is not in us**.

Notice in this next passage that Jesus did not rebuke the disciples for a *stupid* question about the connection to sin:

John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, **who did sin**, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

However, to **temper my point**, we gather in this verse that **not all infirmity is the result of sin**. But, much may be. If it had been a **stupid question**, Jesus would most likely have corrected them.

You see, we are given clear promises, such as in **Psalm 91**, for example, that “***no plague will come near [our] dwelling.***” But, it does – frequently, in Christian circles! I believe, when we persist in sin subsequent to salvation, we give ground to the devil.

He is a **legalist** and will immediately take it. As such, we are outside of God’s protection. **Sin gives ground**; the devil takes it, camps out and makes us sick. The plague, as it were, comes near our dwelling.

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and **depart from evil**. 8 **It shall be health** to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, **attend to my words**; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are **life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh**.

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**.

Pastor **Henry Wright** may be the only one I know of truly **practicing James prescribed approach to healing – in total**. He says that God has shown him that many, if not most, diseases are caused by sin in one's life. It is often the unaddressed **root of the sickness**. He claims that if a person repents of the sin, then we can pray for healing with success – if they still need healing.

“All healing of spiritually rooted disease begins with **reconciliation with God.**” – *Henry Wright*

Sin unto Sickness



What kind of sin am I referring to? There are many. The enemy infiltrates your thoughts with temptations and lies. There are many sins that seem to lead to sickness – at least, according to Henry Wright:

- Bitterness & Unforgiveness
- Hatred & Accusation
- Envy & Jealousy
- Fear, Anxiety & Stress
- Anger & Rage
- Rejection, Shame & Self-hatred
- Self-loathing, Guilt & Self-bitterness
- Unloving Spirits
- Occultism
- Addictions

Sin came into this planet through one man's sin (Adam) – **disobedience**. It brought **sickness**. *I believe that it still comes on us through **disobedience***. These are doorways for the devil. God called us to **righteousness**.

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**.

“Nutrition (or drugs) does not replace **righteousness**.” – *Henry Wright*

Spiritual Warfare

The enemy wants to train you with his lies. This is the essence of **Spiritual Warfare**. *God trains us from the inside out; the devil trains us from the outside in*. There is a war going on within us – in **Golgotha** – the place of the skull. It can be a disease maker.

Unforgiveness and bitterness may be **chief of sin** in the Body of Christ. Wright believes this particular sin, for example, is at the **root of many of the afflictions** present in the Church. Until this sin is repented of, and the person forgiven, it seems that sickness will persist regardless of the fervency of those praying for healing. ...

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us ...” (Lord’s Prayer)

You see, **Satan attacks us in our minds**; in *Golgotha*, the ‘place of the skull.’ Our mind is the chief **battleground** for spiritual warfare. Few seem to realize this. Our mind (soul) is the bridge between our body and our spirit. Random thoughts that appear in our mind are virtually always from the devil. Paul instructs us:

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strong holds**;) 5 **Casting down imagination**s, and every **high thing** that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought** to the obedience of Christ.

The enemy has a **multistep strategy**, to get us to: *recognize the thought, entertain the thought, engage the thought, accept the thought, embrace the thought, believe the thought, and then act on the thought*. If we do, then he has us; the thought manifests in and through our body.

To the contrary, when God speaks to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit His word **wells up from within**. The devil speaks to us from without. Both make it into our mind. Our job is to test the spirits, consider the source, before we embrace the thought.

2 Corinthians 10:5 **Casting down imagination**s, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought** to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to **revenge all disobedience**, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Hearing God

Most Christians have no idea **how to hear God**. Likewise, most have no idea that **the devil can speak to us** in our minds. As a result they are subject to every thought that crosses into their thinking. Hearing God and spiritual warfare are **two side of the same coin**. We cannot understand one without understanding the other. They are inextricably linked.

You must learn to **separate the voices** in your head. Yes, they are voices. You have thoughts; your mind processes information and you essentially speak to yourself. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit speaks to you. But, so does the devil; he speaks to you often. All of this occurs in what we perceive to be **our thoughts**.

It is a **busy place**, our mind. There is a constant wrestling match taking place for a thought to take preeminence over other thoughts. Mine starts every day at 4:30 AM.

It seems we have background thoughts always rolling around in the fringes of our mind, in our subconscious. It is when the devil gets us to elevate a background thought to our conscious thinking that he does his dirty work. Like the adage 'you are what you eat,' **we often become what we think.**

"Meet Me in the inner chamber of thy spirit, for I am there." - *London Christian*

The Sick Church

Sadly, the Church is filled with every work of the devil found in Deuteronomy 28; it leads to a curse. The curse abates the blessing. In our day of *hyper-Grace*, we generally ignore the process of **Sanctification, and Obedience**. (See: *Sanctification, Affliction, Purpose and Power teaching*)

It is the key to our walk with the Lord; to **obey** His word.

Proverbs 26:2 ... **the curse causeless shall not come.**

Thankfully:

Galatians 3:13 **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse** of the law, being made a curse for us ...

However, when we engage in sin, we **invite the curse back**. Our disobedience essentially gives Satan permission.

"The law of God brings you health; the **law of sin brings you disease.**" – *Henry Wright*

2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them **repentance to the acknowledging of the truth**; 26 **And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

The problem is that many want to be healed without getting rid of the sin – the root of the disease.

I see this routinely in **deliverance**. Many want their 'cake and eat it too.' They rarely tell you the whole story.

"The spiritual roots of disease are **hidden by an enemy** who is a deceiver." – *Henry Wright*

"God's truth will have **no effect upon you unless you accept it and believe it**". – *Henry Blackaby*

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the **truth shall make you free.**

Maybe, just maybe, we should reevaluate our approach to healing the sick. Maybe, we should **follow the instructions.** Maybe, if we did, our success rate would increase!

Final Footnote: *Third Dispensation*

If someone calls you to pray for someone who is sick, ***do you pray?***

YES, of course you do! ... And in *faith*.

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

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That **if two of you shall agree** on earth as touching **any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father** which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, **whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and **his ears are open unto their prayers** ...

The problem is that this tends to be the **only method we practice.**

Maybe, we should just "*do it*" with the **Lost**, and counsel to "*repentance*" the **Saved**.

Selected Quotes



Discouragement – Despondency - Fear & Doubt - The failure of Israel to enter the land of promise began in murmuring ... We can set our will against doubt just as we do against any other sin; and as we stand firm and refuse to doubt, the Holy Spirit will come to our aid and give us the faith of God and crown us with victory. It is very easy to fall into the habit of doubting, fretting, and wondering if God has forsaken us and if after all our hopes are to end in failure. Let us refuse to be discouraged. ... Let us rejoice by faith, by resolution, by reckoning, and we shall surely find that God will make the reckoning real. – *Streams, Selected*

Fear & Doubt - The devil has two master tricks. One is to get us discouraged ... and so are defeated. The other is to make us doubt, thus breaking the faith link. – *Streams, G.E.M.*

Hearing - The simplicity that comes from our natural commonsense decisions is apt to be mistaken for the witness of the Spirit, but the Spirit witnesses only to His own nature and to the work of Redemption, never to our reason. If we try to make Him witness to our reason, it is no wonder we are in darkness and perplexity. – *Oswald Chambers*

Relationship – Hearing - If men and women are not willing to assume this listening attitude, there will be no meeting with God in living, personal experience. – *AW Tozer*

Truth - The only possibility of understanding the teaching of Jesus is by the light of the Spirit of God on the inside. – *Oswald Chambers*

Relationship – Hearing - If we have never had the experience of taking our commonplace religious shoes off our commonplace religious feet, and getting rid of all the undue familiarity with which we approach God, it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence. – *Oswald Chambers*

Relationship – Hearing - The Bible has been so many words to us — clouds and darkness — then all of a sudden the words become spirit and life because Jesus re-speaks them to us in a particular condition. – *Oswald Chambers*

Hearing - The majority of us have no ear for anything but ourselves, we cannot hear a thing God says. – *Oswald Chambers*