



The Miracle Of Healing

In Your Church Today

By Jim Lynn
For God's Healing Word Ministry

The Miracle of Healing In Your Church Today (Free Edition)

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Notice: This free edition contains just the first 3 chapters of the book.
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Forward



By Dr. Ann Blake Tracy

Dr. Ann Blake Tracy is Executive Director for the International Coalition For Drug Awareness, and is the author of the book, *Prozac: Panacea or Pandora? - Our Serotonin Nightmare*.

Wonderful! Counselor! The Mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace! Every Christmas season we sing aloud these words in memory of His birth and His mission. But what evidence is there that we understand and truly believe what we sing? Do we honestly allow Him to be our counselor? Do we really allow Him to restore His Peace within our lives and within our bodies?

From the instant our first parents, Adam and Eve, partook of the forbidden fruit, Our Heavenly Father's entire focus, through His Gospel, has been to bring us back to His Peaceable Kingdom. No, not back to the Garden of Eden, but to that same type of Peace—spiritual, emotional, physical, societal Peace. All are intricately intertwined together to produce the ultimate in joy. This state of being is His desire for us, His gift to us, a perfect and all encompassing Peace.

In order for His Peace and joy to be restored to us, death first had to be overcome. There was only One who could accomplish that mission. The plan, therefore, involved the greatest sacrifice of all—His Only Begotten Son, the Prince of Peace, Jesus, the Christ.

So just what does it mean to be without His Peace? The term we use is dis-ease, or without ease. The body, the spirit, and soul are not at Peace. Disease literally means being without Peace. The Peace the Savior brought, the Peace He offers us, is the Peace that eases our dis-ease. This all encompassing Peace is why the Savior is known as the Great Healer.

Before the Savior left this earth He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: Not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27). He makes a clear distinction between His Peace and the peace the world offers.

Why?

Because the peace offered to us by the world comes from Satan. The Peace given by the Savior is, in comparison to what Satan offers, the exact opposite. Satan has always offered a carbon copy or counterfeit of what God offers us. His carbon copy is designed to appear to be the answer to our problems, but is, without fail, an empty promise that leaves us wanting in the end. And the reason it leaves us wanting in the end, rather than restoring Peace, is because it is always the wrong solution.

So what type of peace is it that the world offers us? This worldly peace so often comes in the form of a pill—substances designed to protect us from pain of all sorts. We know them today as tranquilizers, anti-depressants, pain pills, sleeping pills, etc.

Why would I say that these are empty promises that leave us “wanting in the end?” All of these drugs have a rebound effect; so that when you stop using them, the anti-depressants produce a rebound depression that is worse than the initial depression they were prescribed to cure. Sleeping pills produce a rebound insomnia that is worse than the insomnia they were prescribed to cure, etc., etc., etc. These empty promises of peace are those things the world offers us to restore the ease to our lives.

One of the manufacturers of the newer antidepressants goes so far as to name their drug, “Paxil”—the French word for peace.

Another drug, PCP, was also known as the “peace pill.” PCP is a very deadly drug, although we were initially told through the latest medical research, this drug had “a large margin of safety in humans.” It was on the market for seven years before we became aware of its extreme dangers. It was then removed from the pharmaceutical market and made an illegal substance, as has been the case with so many other drugs before it and since then. Today there is not a law enforcement officer anywhere who would agree that there is anything peaceful about PCP! They dread the thought of encountering someone on this dangerous drug.

John warns us in Revelation 18:21-24 that this promise of peace, the world offers us in the form of drugs, will be the means by which the whole world will be deceived in our day. He says that Babylon will fall with great violence, brought on by the sorceries that flow out of Babylon via the “great” (rich and powerful?) merchants of Babylon. The word, “sorceries” is little understood in today’s world. As Pastor Lynn points out, the word primarily signifies the use of “medicine from a pharmacy” (see Chapter Four). It should come as no surprise the most wealthy and powerful merchants of our present day Babylon are the pharmaceutical giants.

The pharmaceutical drugs flowing out of Babylon today are perhaps the most deadly the world has ever witnessed, and without doubt, they are empty promises of peace. When we learn that between one-eighth to one-fourth of the population are now on these new anti-depressants, which I specialize in, it becomes clear that the whole world is quickly being deceived by these drugs.

The first of this new group of drugs introduced to the market, Prozac, is manufactured by the same company who patented LSD in 1956. We were led to believe then that this new wonder drug, LSD, would cure mental illness and alcoholism. Clearly it was yet another empty promise of peace.

John tells us in the book of Revelation that even the very elect would be deceived in our day. He declares that the prophets and saints, along with many others, would lose their lives as a result of this worldwide deception. We are also told that this incredible deception would be accomplished by those calling evil, “good” and good, “evil” in our day. Everyone has been led to believe that these drugs are the answer to what ails us. However, I witness death and destruction beyond comprehension, daily, as drug-induced rage rears its ugly head.

Every day for years now I have witnessed the fulfilling of the prophesy that parents would kill their children and children kill their parents. Never before had it crossed my mind that Satan would use drugs, especially prescription drugs, to fulfill the prophesy! Yet, as the anti-depressant-induced mania takes over, Christians throw all caution to the wind and do things they would never have contemplated before taking these medications. Many leave their mates of many years because the drugs prevent them from feeling anything—including the love for their loved ones. They leave their religions as they can no longer feel the Spirit. The drugs have left them “beyond feeling,” something else we were told would happen to people in our day. Assuming they have fallen out of love, they walk away from those who meant the most to them before the drug. Many a tear has been shed over the decisions made under the influence of these powerful mind-altering drugs—decisions that have destroyed many Christian families and lives.

Where do we place our trust when it comes to healing? Do we place our trust in the Savior or in the arm of flesh? When we see the sickness and disease in our world today, it becomes clear that many of us are lacking in faith to be healed by our Lord and Savior.

The Miracle of Healing In Your Church Today needs to be read and studied by lay Christians and Clergy alike. Pastor Jim Lynn's biblical insight and knowledge provides us with a spiritual foundation to call upon Jesus Christ for healing, and offers the biblical model for healing ministries to minister healing in today's Church. Readers will learn there is both good and bad medicine: One clearly comes from the Savior, who loves us, and the other from Satan, who would have us all join his misery. Although pastor Lynn does not question the legitimacy of modern medicine, he does raise the most important question of why the Christian Church has separated its divine mission from divine healing.

We must ask ourselves how long will we stand in the way of Jesus Christ from fulfilling His mission as the Prince of Peace because of our lack of faith and our ignorance? It is long past time for us to stop clinging with all our might to the arm of flesh, and clearly long overdue, that we put our trust where it rightfully belongs—in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Dr. Ann Blake Tracy

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WARNING: The new serotonergic anti-depressants Dr. Tracy speaks of here have very dangerous withdrawal effects. These medications must be tapered off very, very, very slowly, in order to avoid psychotic breaks and possible life threatening physical effects from the shock of withdrawal. This danger cannot be stressed enough!

Introduction

*“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,”
said Martha, the sister of the dead man,
“by this time there is a bad odor, for he
has been there four days.”*
- John 11:39 (NIV)

Those brief words exchanged between Jesus and Martha summarize the conflict Christians face between their faith in God and the world view of life and death.

The big lie in the world today is that human suffering, disease, and death are the result of natural manifestation. Nothing could be further from the truth, but this is the lie Satan wants you to believe. The truth is, that while suffering, sickness, and death take place in the natural world, all human suffering begins and ends in the spiritual world.

Martha’s faith is much like ours today. Even though she wants to believe that Jesus can return her brother to her, she sees only the stone covering her brother’s tomb. The stone is Martha’s reality. She thinks Jesus is too late to be of help. But Jesus tells Martha to remove the stone. That age-old stone remains in place for many Christians today and represents why this book is written. It is the stone of unbelief.

Behind all suffering and sickness lie the whispers of Satan, the father of all lies (John 8:44). Just as Satan deceived Eve, so he does with us today. Just as Eve turned away from God, choosing to be wise in her own eyes, so do we today. It is our own faulty wisdom and the lies of Satan we accept that keeps us from removing the stone that leads to healing. This is the way of the world.

When it comes to placing our faith in God for healing we are like the man who fell while mountain climbing. Poorly prepared, he began his climb alone. When the day was gone, instead of setting up camp, he continued his climb in the black of night. Bad weather set in, and soon visibility was zero. He could not see where to place his footing so he relied on his sense of feel to guide him.

As he was climbing a ridge near the top of the mountain, he slipped and fell. Falling rapidly he could see only blotches of darkness passing by. He felt the terrible sensation of being sucked in by gravity.

In those moments of his fall, memories flashed through his mind. He thought he would die. But then he felt a jolt that almost tore him in half. Yes!! Like any good mountain climber he had staked himself with a long rope secured to his waist.

Suspended in the air he had no other choice but to shout, “Help me God. Help me.”

All of a sudden he heard a deep voice from heaven, “What do you want me to do?”

“Save me,” cried the man.

“Do you really believe that I can save you?”

“Of course, my God,” said the stricken man.

“Then cut the rope that is holding you up.”

The man was shocked into speechlessness and just held tighter to the rope.

The following day the rescue team found a frozen mountain climber hanging tightly to a rope—two feet off the ground. This is the situation in which millions of Christians afflicted with chronic illness find themselves today. God has wondrous healing for us, if we are but willing to trust in His Word and let go of the world’s wisdom.

**Throughout Scripture, one grand theme emerges.
GOD HEALS!**

Someone asks, “I thought the main theme of the *Bible* is “Jesus Saves.” Certainly, Jesus saves. But, saying so is like saying Charles Lindbergh flew airplanes—it leaves out a big part of the story. In this book we will learn that “God Heals” and “Jesus Saves” have similar meaning, but that the attention given to one, over the other, has paid a heavy toll.

Healing (restoring man to wholeness) has always been uppermost in God’s mind. From the foundation of creation, God had a plan to restore man back to health, in body, in spirit, and in soul, to free man of unclean spirits. The *Bible* records God’s divine remedy for doing exactly that. But, for many Christians, God’s Word is a book of salvation, not a book of wholeness or healing. It is this limiting view of God’s Word that has opened the door for unclean spirits to enter into our lives. They are the cause behind the chronic illnesses that plague our bodies.

God created man to be body, spirit, and soul (Genesis 2:7). Without all three dwelling together, we are incomplete as human beings. We are not whole. So any attack on one part of man is an attack on the whole of man. This is the reason why God is as equally interested in our body and human spirit as He is in our soul. For God not only considers our soul to be holy but our spirit and body as well. His great work of restoration is able to make and keep us whole and holy, both now and for eternity.

God’s Word is His instrument for healing the whole of man (Proverbs 4:20-22). This is the reason why so many of us become sickly and die before our appointed time. We accept God’s Word as medicine for the soul, but we treat our body and spirit as separate secular issues. Why?

Healing is the most valuable, sought-after commodity on earth. Some one hundred and twenty-five million people in America suffer from chronic illness.¹¹ The number is

staggering. Nearly one-half of our country's population is affected. Imagine how much more powerful the Christian message of love and salvation would be if Christians turned back to God for healing in body and spirit, as well as in soul. What would happen if churches nurtured healing and included healing ministries as part of their outreach programs? Church membership would overflow into the streets. Church buildings could not contain this growing mass of humanity.

We have faith that God is victorious over death through Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins. We place our trust in Him to keep our souls. But what of our body in the here and now? When Jesus bore our sins on the Cross, He also bore our infirmities and sicknesses (Isaiah 53:4-5). We trust that Jesus healed the sick during His ministry (Matthew 8:16). We believe we can have life through Jesus and have it to the fullest (John 10:10). We even call Jesus the Great Physician. So why then do we pay only lip service to Him in healing?

The answer and sad truth is that our trust (faith) is anchored in someone or something other than in God for healing. We have forsaken God's Holy Word to follow another's voice. That voice has led millions to an early grave, crippling the work of God. That same voice has caused millions more to question their faith. This is the work of Satan, not of Yehovah-rapha, the Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26).

In this book you will learn there is both good and bad medicine within the medical industry. You will learn that true medicine does not harm: Ever! In God's medicine chest, there is no such thing as "an acceptable risk," only healing. You will learn how to seek out physicians who honor God as our Healer and who respect their patients in body, spirit, and soul.

More importantly, you will learn that the early Christian Church never separated the need for repentance from healing but instead pursued both as one healing mission. Today, our culture has separated the two. People go to churches for salvation and nurturing of their souls, and they go to the world of modern medicine when faced with illness and disease. This book does not question the legitimacy of modern medicine, but questions why the Christian Church (the Body and Bride of Christ) has severed divine healing from Her divine calling.

We hear discussion today about integrated medicine. God's concept of integrated medicine is the physician, patient, and Church all working together as partners (spiritual warriors). This form of medicine never harms, never kills. Its sole mission is to overpower the effect of Satan to allow healing. The human *body, spirit, and soul* are considered as one, with each part affecting the whole. Above all, God in Jesus Christ is acknowledged throughout the healing process as Yehovah-rapha, the God of healing.

Jesus asked Martha to remove the stone. His words are just as applicable for us today as they were on that hillside outside of Bethany 2,000 years ago. Jesus is asking us to remove the stone that keeps us in bondage to Satan's lies and sickness. Jesus is asking us to place our trust (faith) in Him that He is (present tense) the Great Physician of man, in

body, spirit, and soul.

This book is written to Christians who accept the *Bible* as the plenary Word of God but struggle between God's Word and Church tradition. If you are one who picks and chooses what to believe or not to believe in God's Word, you will have difficulty grasping the truth expressed between these covers. For it is by reliance upon God's Word that the author's thesis is made.

Having said that, the author accepts and expects skepticism, as it should be. I only ask that, as you read, you keep an open mind. If what you read fails the test of truth as expressed in the *Bible*, you will have lost only some time. But, if what you read convicts your heart, I ask that you fall upon your knees in prayer before God, asking for forgiveness in your unbelief.



Jim Lynn

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Chapter One: Torn Between Two Worlds

The Nature of Illness And Healing

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
- Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

Healing is the most precious, most sought-after commodity on earth. I call healing a commodity because of its great demand and value, both for consumers and the health industry alike. Surely the health industry ranks at the top in terms of dollars spent by consumers. There seems to be no limit to what a person will pay when confronted with life-threatening disease.

Unlike conventional commodities, healing cannot be purchased as one buys groceries or other products. It cannot be stored for later use. In fact, healing has no visible qualities to it at all. We may see its effect, but not healing itself. That is important to understand as we begin our study, because healing does not belong to this world. Healing belongs to God!

God reveals himself to Israel in the Old Testament as Yehovah-rapha, the Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26). That declaration is an eternal truth, unchanged by time or testament (James 1:17). God declares Himself to man that He, Yehovah-rapha, is our source of all healing—physical and spiritual. Further, the remedy that offers healing is believing and keeping God's Word in our heart. Notice the following verses:

"If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."
- Exodus 15:26 (NIV)

"My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body."
- Proverbs 4:20-22 (NIV)

Now consider: If all healing originates from God, then by its very nature all healing is divine. Too often we use words and assume everyone understands their definition. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work this way. So before proceeding further let's define a few terms. The following definitions are taken from Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

Heal: 1a. to make sound or whole. b: to restore to health. 2a. to cause an undesirable condition to be overcome.

Super-natural: 1. of or relating to an order of existence beyond the visible observable universe; especially: of or relating to God, spirit or devil. 2a. departing from what is usual or normal esp. so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature. b. attributed to an invisible agent (as a ghost or spirit).

Divine: of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God.

Miracle: An extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.

By definition then, if God is our healer, all healing is divine in origin, regardless of whether the active agent be spiritual or physical in nature. The fact that we can apply a physical substance to overcome a disease only underscores God's provision to provide for our welfare (Genesis 1:29). To this end, God has made every provision in this world for everything man needs to sustain life and well-being. But God has not limited healing to the natural world.

Before sin entered the world, Adam did not know so much as a bee sting or sliver. Nor did he have to work for provisions. Everything he needed, including a mate, was laid before him by Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord who provides (Genesis 22:14). So long as Adam and Eve dwelled in the Garden and had access to the Tree of Life, they would live forever. It was not until that moment when God removed man from the Garden that Satan could inflict man's body with disease, suffering, and death (Genesis 3:22-24).

The advent of sin into the world changed man's environment. God removed Adam from the Tree of Life and placed a curse on the world because of Adam's rebellion against Him (Genesis 3:17). From that day forward, the earth (all of nature) became subject to the same moral depravity and corruption as man (Romans 8:19-21). The world became a dangerous place to live, and, separated from the Tree of Life, man's life began to change.

Adam and Eve went through what we would call culture shock in today's world. The world had suddenly become hostile to their very existence. They had to fight for every scrap of food they ate. Every step they took had to be calculated to determine whether the ground ahead was safe. They learned about blisters, cuts, the difference between hot and cold, and the ravages of the weather and climate. They had to contend with making shelter and setting aside provisions for future use. They learned about pain, suffering, and death. Still, God had not completely abandoned man (Genesis 3:15).

Had God limited all of healing to the natural world, man would have perished soon after leaving the Garden of Eden. That is, without God's direct intervention, man could not have survived the ravages of sickness to populate the earth, and God certainly could not have carried out His Grand Scheme of Redemption (Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:2-12).

A good example of this concerns the everlasting covenant God made with King David (2 Samuel 7:11-16 NIV). God said to David, “When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish His kingdom” (Referring to Christ, see genealogy in Matthew Chapter 1).

Ten generations after David, Hezekiah, descendant of David and King of Judah, would become the sole remaining survivor with whom the Davidic Promise could be carried out. Hezekiah fell sick from an ulcer, or boil, which had become so infectious it was overpowering his body. God warned Hezekiah that he was about to die and would not recover (2 Kings 20:1). Remember, if Hezekiah died, the Seed Promise made by God to David could not be fulfilled because Hezekiah, at the time, was childless.

Upon hearing his death sentence, Hezekiah wept bitterly to the Lord in prayer (2 Kings 20:2-6). The king’s cries so moved God that He intervened in the course of natural events by healing Hezekiah and granted him fifteen more years. Interestingly, the boil did not heal until a poultice of figs, a natural herbal remedy, was placed over it. Three years later Hezekiah would father a son named Manasseh (2 Kings 20:21, 21:1). I find this story utterly amazing. God was ready to allow the death of the sole remaining progenitor that could keep the Seed Promise alive and intervened only when Hezekiah cried out to Him in prayer.

This is a classic example of God’s beating Satan at his own game, for Satan knew about the Seed Promise as well. If he could kill Hezekiah, God’s Scheme of Redemption would lie in ruin. You see, it is Satan, not God, who bears responsibility for all corruption and evil in the world. Aging, accidents, injuries, mental and physical disorders, disease, and death are all part of that corruption (Job 1:6-12). Do you suffer in body or spirit? Then know that what you suffer is the footprint of Satan in your life. His purpose is to separate you from God, to destroy you. But also know that footprint may or may not be of your own doing.

I hope this book will change how you look at yourself, how you consider your existence as a human being. Consider and think through the following two questions carefully.

1. Is the essence of human life and experience physical or spiritual?
2. Are the thoughts and emotions that rule your actions physical or spiritual in nature?

If you believe that the essence of life is physical and that thoughts and emotions are based on and governed by the physical realm because we live in a physical world, then Satan already has you in his camp. But if you believe that the essence of life is spiritual and that thoughts and emotions are based on and governed by the spiritual realm, then you realize your full worth as a spiritual being of God’s creation.

Understanding that life is a spiritual experience, lived out in a physical world, is crucial to understanding why all healing is spiritual. If Satan can get you to believe that any or all

healing is merely a manifestation of the physical realm, you are in great danger.

Friends, we are spiritual beings, lock, stock, and barrel. Even the physical body in which we dwell is spiritual and subject to God. We bear His very likeness (Genesis 1:26) and belong to Him as His own (Psalm 100:3). We are God's greatest love and most valued possession. We were created to be with God, to dwell with Him. Satan, who could care less about us as individuals, wants only to rob God by keeping us separated from our heavenly Father. He (Satan) will do anything to foster doubt in God or to foil God's work, including assaults on our body (Job 1:6-12).

Thus, there is a great spiritual war at work between the forces of heaven and hell to determine who will possess us, God or Satan (Ephesians 6:12). The battleground of this spiritual war lies within each of us. This is the reason why God tells us to test the spirits to see if they are from God (1 John 4:1-6). And we are not feeble or unable to defend ourselves because God offers us His protective armor (Ephesians 6:10-18). God knows that failure to recognize the presence of Satan in our Christian life plays directly into Satan's hand.

Satan's weapons in this war are fear, worry, greed, lust, jealousy, unforgiveness, low self-esteem and the like. These are the spiritual weapons of evil that can separate us from God. But though they be spiritual in nature, these weapons manifest their presence physically in our lives in many ways, including our body.

That we suffer in body with chronic illness and in spirit with mental anguish is sure sign of the war within us (Ephesians 6:12). God created us perfectly, but sin changes us. Every thought we have, be it good or bad, produces a chemical and neurological response within. So long as our beliefs have their origin in a loving spirit, the response in our body helps to maintain homeostasis (balance). When the origin of our belief originates from an unloving spirit, the response creates imbalance in our body, and we become sickly if we accept and live the lie.

Terry Shepherd Friedmann, M.D., author of *Freedom Through Health* states; "The emotions such as fear, anger, hatred, jealousy, envy, and prejudices kill the spirit and, hence, the very nature of man. The person who is filled with emotions such as these is sick physically, mentally, and spiritually. For example, patients who were more fixed in their thought and behavior patterns often suffered from arthritis. Rigidity in thoughts created inflexibility in the body... Patients who had difficulty expressing love and other personal feelings had blocked coronary (heart) arteries."¹¹

Satan is very clever. He knows our every weakness and attacks us where we are most vulnerable. He knows his unloving spirit (weapons) can destroy our body and discourage our faith in God.

But Satan doesn't stop there. Satan also uses the corrupted world we live in to inflict us with suffering. One of his greatest weapons is the plague, viral and bacterial outbreaks that devour every person whose immune system has been compromised. Such outbreaks

have killed millions of people and have caused untold grief. Chronic illness and disease of all sorts, from arthritis to warts, from AIDS to pneumonia, all owe their due to Satan. Hundreds of millions of people needlessly bear a wide assortment of these illnesses everyday.

God's spiritual weapon to redeem us from evil is love—love not as the world knows it, but love as only that which comes from God, unconditional with no “ifs,” “ands,” or “buts.” (John 3:16; I John 4:16). It is God's love, expressed through Jesus Christ, that empowers us to conquer Satan, to find God, health, and life. Love conquers evil, demonstrated in the physical and mental anguish suffered by Jesus during His trial and execution (Isaiah 53:4-5). Love is the exact opposite of all that evil stands for and is all powerful (I Corinthians 13). It is love that heals the body, spirit, and soul for those of us wounded by Satan's arrows.

Dr. Friedmann in speaking of the positive healing power of love states: “When love (agape) is openly given to others, miracles can happen. There is a complete lack of judgment here. We know judgment of others, as well as self, can limit health and healing and create blocks of negative emotion. Anger, fear, and guilt are some of the more destructive emotions. These cause blocks in the natural energy flow of the body that can ultimately lead to breakdown and disease, The opposite of this is love and the expression of it. Love is the most powerful healing modality known on earth today.”^[2]

God's Healing Word...The Bible

We come to love (God) and have faith (belief) through hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17), which is the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Do you know where your Sword is today? Have you memorized and placed His Word in your heart?

We would all do well to spend more time reading the *Bible* and less time listening to man's teachings. More on this later. For now, know that all of Scripture is inspired by God, or God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), and is flawless (Psalm 12:6). The Word of God is living and active, able to penetrate body, spirit, and soul (Hebrews 4:12). There is no part of your body, no matter how small or large, that is not subject to His glorious Healing Word. Think of that the next time you hurt. But, Friend, if keeping God's Word in your heart is the Sword of the Spirit, lack of it is ruination...

*"my people are destroyed
from lack of knowledge..."*
- Hosea 4:6 (NIV)

*"...a people without understanding
will come to ruin!"*
- Hosea 4:14 (NIV)

When people are ignorant of God's Word, it leaves the door open for Satan to deceive them. Your body is absolutely vital to your well-being as a human being for eternity. Here's why. Without your body, your spirit, and your soul dwelling together, you are not complete or whole (Genesis 2:7; I Thessalonians 5:23). Satan knows if he can keep you suffering in body, you can be tempted to question your faith. During my mission work in Ukraine, the one question I was asked more than all others was this: If there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world? A good question, but one born out of ignorance.

All healing is spiritual and divine in nature. But Satan uses that truth to his advantage. If he can get people who are ignorant of God's Word to listen to the world for healing, then healing will have lost its spiritual roots. And that is exactly what has happened—a marvel of deception.

The form of medicine we rely on for healing here in North America is secular. That is to say, modern (allopathic) medicine no longer considers sickness and disease as a spiritual matter. Rather, sickness and disease are merely manifestations of a physical, material world. And since they are manifestations of a material world, modern medicine believes it can "cure" them.

Please note the word cure is a legalized, medical term, and is not the same as heal. The two words are different.

It is sad that our countrymen would choose a medicine for a cure that is secular without understanding what the word means. Secular means “without God.” So secular medicine is medicine without God. Do you really want that? Do we as Christians ever want to be without God, even for a moment?

The Early Church and Healing

The early Christian Church made no distinction between sin and suffering, and repentance and healing. If this statement is a revelation to you, just remember many of that generation were eye witnesses to the healing ministry of Jesus and His disciples. They did not struggle, as we do, with understanding the relationship between Satan and disease, and God and healing simply because they were there. They learned from being eye witnesses to those events and teachings we read about in God's Word.

To complicate the matter further, our vision is often blurred. Separated from our first century brethren by 2,000 years, we have a tendency to read Scripture through the filtered lens of church tradition (teaching). This lens has a strong tendency to influence our understanding of the Bible. But when the lens is removed and we are free to read God's Word unfiltered, a fresh or different understanding often comes to light.

In Scripture, sickness is always associated with unclean spirits and or the presence of demonic beings. The Bible is very explicit about this so readers will know the source of illness. Acts 5:16 tells us the people were tormented by unclean spirits. The *New International Version Bible* calls them evil spirits. An unclean spirit may be either a demonic being who has possessed the person or simply be a spirit which manifests physical or mental illness. Whenever the unclean spirit is accompanied with a demonic being, Scripture points this out. For comparison, the unclean spirit of Luke 4:33 is actually a demonic being. The unclean spirits of Acts 5:16 have no demonic being associated with them.

Early Christians also understood that sin affects man not only spiritually but also physically and emotionally. They had a firm understanding that if a man suffers in body, he suffers in spirit and soul from unclean spirits. This is why the Apostle James would write:

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

- James 5:14-15 (NIV)

Jesus taught His disciples well. He taught them that sickness is the result of possessing evil (unclean) spirits and that healing the body will accompany healing the whole person of those spirits. This is the reason why both repentance and healing played such a vital role within the early Christian community. Sin and sickness both have the same spiritual roots. (We will examine the role of the early Church in healing in a later chapter)

Two thousand years later, however, the matter of Church-sanctioned healing ministries has done a 180 degree about-turn. Satan's footprints can be seen throughout the Lord's Church. In most Churches today, if a member falls ill, the first person consulted is generally a secular physician, not the Lord. Our entire culture is imprinted to do so, even to the leadership of most churches.

Though not all Christians are totally ignorant of God's role in healing, many are, nonetheless, confused. On one hand they may read and understand Scripture. On the other hand they see little or no healing or effort on the part of their local Church to minister to the sick, either in or out of the Church. This places Christians in a kind of vise, a vise that squeezes their faith. Exactly what Satan desires.

Church leaders, cautious of con-men and false teachers who proclaim healing in the name of the Lord for selfish gain, are fearful of instituting healing ministries within their Church. To avoid even the appearance of association or approval of such healing, many church leaders err on the side of caution and end up doing nothing. This fear alone has shackled the Lord's healing work in many communities for many years.

But this is only part of the story. What is disheartening is the acceptance Church leaders then give to secular medicine to minister to the sick of their flock. In their ignorance of healing and fear of committing doctrinal error, pastors and elders turn the sick of their flock out to a godless form of medicine. The signal this sends to Christians not only confuses them but also places them directly in physical and spiritual harm's way. How can such actions be justified, even in prayer? They cannot. God will not be mocked, not through ignorance or intent (Galatians 6:7). When will we learn...?

*"His divine power has given us everything
we need for life and godliness through our
knowledge of him who called us by
his own glory and goodness. "*

- 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

We will reap what we sow. Medicine in the hands of the righteous is a blessing. In the hands of the unrighteous, medicine is an abomination unto the Lord and a curse. Secular medicine does not seek God in healing, but rather its own power. It is a sham, a lie fostered by Satan and foolishly endorsed by many Christians. By its very nature, secular medicine cannot heal. Neither is it a tool of the Lord. (Secular medicine and the role of godly physicians will be discussed in detail in a later chapter).

This book does not condemn the legitimacy of the medical community but questions why the Christian Church has separated Her divine mission from divine healing. The two are universally joined together as one. Divine healing of body, spirit, and soul is an eternal truth, not a chapter in the Book of Life.

Christians today are torn between two worlds. They are bombarded from childhood on the virtues of modern medicine without regard to its source. Similarly, little or nothing is taught of divine healing in churches. What little is done is more by way of paying lip

service than anything effectual. The end result is that at the first sign of illness or disease, we run to the world, not to the Lord, for guidance.

We wonder why the call of God has not struck a nerve with the lost, why the Gospel has lost its appeal to a suffering world. Could it be that the world sees little difference between the Church and the rest of the world? Until the Church reclaims its divine calling to heal the sick, according to God's Holy Word, our mission will suffer, and the sick and infirm will have little motivation to seek the Lord (Ephesians 3:6-12). Imagine how the world would react if Christian churches once again proclaimed healing in the name of the Lord and undertook healing ministries. Imagine how people healed from life-long illnesses would stand up and shout aloud the name of the Lord, in praise of His wondrous love. I tell you our churches would overflow with so many people that outdoor gatherings would be the only way to assemble in worship. Still have doubts? Read on.

Chapter Two: Why People Suffer

Who You Are

*"...My People are destroyed
from lack of knowledge."*

- Hosea 4:6

Like other movie buffs, I dislike tuning into a movie halfway through its run. I do not know the characters, the setting, and most importantly the plot. As the movie progresses, I am left to figure all of this out on my own. Who are the good guys? Who are the bad guys? And why? But in the drama we call life, that is exactly the situation we find ourselves in. We entered on stage well after the play started. Moreover, we have become one of the leading characters, interacting with other characters, who, themselves, are just as confused as we are. Who are the good guys? Who are the bad guys? And why?

It would be wonderful if someone had a guide-book we could read to figure these things out for ourselves? You know what? Someone has. The *Bible* is God's manuscript for the drama of life. In it, He points out the good guys from the bad guys and tells us why. But, even more, God tells us the whole story from beginning to end. So how was it in the beginning?

The act of creation has to be the greatest event on record. No one can even begin to understand God's love or the power of His Word to make what we see out of something unseen (Hebrews 11:3). This is truly beyond human comprehension. Personally, I marvel and praise God whenever I plant corn seed. I know within each kernel lies the force of life, a force no scientist can ever duplicate. What is more, within each kernel lies a power to create its own kind. Truly awesome!

Of all of God's creation, man is His most prized and beloved possession. For, in creating humankind, God endowed man with His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). As a footnote, Adam's son was born in Adam's own likeness (Genesis 5:3). Since the word "likeness" is the very same word God used to describe the attributes He gave Adam, we can know each generation of man passes on this same image and likeness of God. Think about it, Friend, you and I are born in the very image and likeness of God, Himself.

I once had a small desktop-sized sculpture that depicts a man modeling himself out of a lump of clay. The figure of the man is bent over, working the clay as though to mold his lower torso. Of course, this is pure fiction, a work of imagination. But what God created in man is beyond all imagination. For, when God created man, He instilled in him dignity, honor, glory, sovereignty, love and gave him a body, spirit, and soul, all attributes of the Godhead.

As a side-note, be mindful that God does not traverse time as we do. Rather, our eternal God sees time from beginning to end, as one event, a flash, a snapshot. For time belongs only to the physical realm we call the world. As to the question of our body being like that of God, we have but to look to Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. From God's eternal view, His Son from eternity lives in the flesh as man. Our study will spend

more time on this fascinating subject in a later chapter.

The point for us now is that human beings, you and I, are created in the very image and likeness of the Godhead. Truly mind boggling! No wonder David would write:

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my
inmost being, praise his holy name."
- Psalm 103:1 (NIV)*

*"For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's
womb. I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know
that full well."
- Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)*

Having come into life so late in the drama and being scooped up in the moment of the world, it is easy for us to forget how very special we are. The very demands of life pulls us away from remembering who we are and to whom we belong. The pot of water on the stove boils over. The kids are late for school. We struggle to provide for our families. Our body becomes ill. We become mesmerized by a presidential election, a scandal or a war. All of these things serve as distractions to help us forget our heritage.

What You Are

A big part of our heritage is knowing not only who we are but also what we are. Satan's forces would have us believe that man descended from a great, great, great...great uncle who happened to be a monkey, who had descended from a great, great, great, great uncle who happened to be a marine animal that walked out of some primeval slime bog. You know the story. We are constantly being bombarded by these lies on Public Television stations and Documentary Channels all around the country. Sadly, many people, ignorant of their heritage, believe these so called scholarly, deluded souls.

What we are in truth are human beings, created in God's image to be His children. Children resemble their parents. They carry their parents' attributes. In the case of God, He created us in His image possessing flesh, spirit, and soul (Genesis 2:7; I Thessalonians 5:23).

Our very being depends on possessing all three, for without our body, spirit, and soul dwelling together, we no longer exist as humans. Let me repeat. Without possession of body, spirit, and soul together as one, man ceases to exist as a human being. This is the reason why death is so vile. It separates man from his loved ones and from God. Even more importantly, death destroys our existence as human beings (James 2:26). Understanding this truth is essential as you consider the subject of divine healing because the very purpose of God's redemptive work is to make man whole again, to heal him in body, spirit, and soul.

The Law of Sin and Death

From the moment sin entered into the world, man lost his God-given dignity, honor, and glory. Man fell from his glorious state of innocence into a state of sin, becoming subject to Satan and to God's law of sin and death. That law is simple enough: The one who sins is the one who dies (Ezekiel 18:4). But few people understand the law of sin and death or its implication in their lives.

For example, suppose you drive by a highway speed limit sign that reads 55. You are going 60. There is no law enforcement officer around to ticket you, so you drive on. Are you innocent or guilty of breaking the law? Many people believe if you were not ticketed, you are not guilty. But, Friend, you have an accuser. It is the highway sign. Its arm is pointing at you saying, "Guilty!" No matter how long you live, that sign is pointing you out as a law breaker.

God's law of sin and death works the same way. Only, in this case, man's accuser is also his judge. The penalty for committing sin is death. How many sins? Well, how many times does it take to break the law before you can be found guilty? Once, right? God's law of sin and death demands penalty for even one violation.

Now suppose you lived your life as a good and morally upright person. You helped widows and orphans, gave to the poor, and obeyed the laws of the land. On the day of judgment the Great Judge asks you why you should be allowed to enter into heaven. In reply you quickly point to your life and all the good things you have done. But the Judge's voice rings out back to you, "What about your sin?"

Friend, this is where Satan yells out, "Gotcha!"

This is the reason why no man can hope to stand before God in the day of judgment and argue his case on his own merits. For no man is free of sin (Romans 3:23). And no matter how many good deeds you can stack on top of one another, there will still not be enough of them for you to stand on top of the stack to look into God's face, eyeball-to-eyeball, as a righteous man. On his own, man stands condemned by the law of sin and death.

Unless we have someone who will stand in our place, we will be judged guilty and sentenced to eternal damnation. This is what the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about. God's love for man, through Jesus Christ, has found a way for man to overcome death from sin.

A woman arrested for speeding appears before the county judge. He asks her, "How do you plead?"

"Guilty, your honor!" she replies.

The judge then declares the penalty, "Ten days in jail or \$100."

“But your honor,” she pleads, “I do not have \$100.”

“I cannot excuse you from the law, young lady,” replies the judge. “If the fine cannot be paid, you will be remanded to the county jail for ten days.”

With tears in her eyes, the woman says, “Then I must go to jail, your honor.”

At this point the judge gets up from his chair, and walks around his bench to stand with the woman. He then reaches into his pocket, pulls out \$100 and lays it on the bench.

“I don’t understand,” said the woman.

The judge looks her in the eye and, with love, says, “Daughter, as the judge, I must uphold the law. But as your father, I am free to pay your fine.”

This is what our heavenly Father has done for us, His children. He paid the penalty for our capital offenses through Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins. In doing so, God established a new law called the law of the Spirit of life. This new law frees those in Christ from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-4).

So now when we, who place our faith in Jesus Christ, stand before the Great Judge, God no longer sees our sin. He sees us only through the blood of His Son and judges us as holy. This is God’s great victory, a victory that lays the groundwork, making healing possible and all inclusive—body, spirit, and soul.

The Marks of Sin

A boy was told by his father to hammer a nail into a post every time he did something wrong. Before long he had a post full of nails. Then his father said, “When you do something good, take a nail out.” In time, all the nails were out.

When the father congratulated him, the boy burst out crying. His father said, “You should be smiling.”

The boy sobbed, “The nails are all out, but the marks are still there.”

This is what sin does in our lives. It leaves marks in our body and spirit, not just our soul. It creates suffering, illness, disease and, ultimately, an early death. We can all relate to the ways drug abuse, drunkenness, and fornication affects us in body, spirit, and soul. What we do not see so clearly is how the sin of fear, worry, jealousy, greed, and anger also affects our lives. For these kinds of sin are just as quick to leave marks in our body and spirit as other kinds of sin.

There are many Christians who claim faith in Jesus Christ but who have not yet yielded

their throne to Him. They lack faith. They lack faith to let go of fear, worry, jealousy, greed, anger and bitterness. For them faith is a struggle for which they are paying dearly. They do not realize all manner of sin is a parasite and that they are the host.

God created us as spiritual, sexual, electrical, chemical, and neurological human beings. The old song that says in part, “the leg bone is connected to the thigh bone,” illustrates in simple terms how the whole depends on the part.

For example, every thought we generate produces a chemical and neurological response. The response comes from neurons that fire in the brain. If the source of the thought comes from an unloving spirit, i.e. worry, the brain fires a set of neurons directed to other parts of the body to respond accordingly. Allowed to continue, the body, acting through the endocrine system, creates hormones associated with worry which have direct access to our central nervous system. The body then becomes fully alive with worry. The end result becomes any of several chronic illnesses controlling muscles, organs, and glands.

What makes all of this so tragic is that Jesus Christ has set us free from sin and sickness. He carried our illnesses, as well as sin, with Him on the cross (Isaiah 53:4-5). And, in so doing, freed us from sin and its effects of sickness and disease. Friend, good health is not a matter of chance; it is your birthright as a child of God. It is our heritage. But Satan’s purpose is to alter that heritage, to cause you misery and suffering at every turn. If he can keep you on your throne and make fear, worry, jealousy, greed, and anger part of your life, he can keep you from allowing Jesus to be the center of your life. In the end, it all boils down to faith.

Sin in the World

Once loosed, sin forever changed the world and our lives (Genesis 3:17-24). A child is born deformed. A family is killed in a violent car crash while on vacation. Drive-by shootings kill innocent bystanders. Violent storms kill thousands every year—and on and on. The truth is that we live in a world corrupted by sin. Violence, suffering, and death are common everyday occurrences because of sin. There is no safe harbor to avoid this corruption. All of this is the result of one man and woman turning their faith away from God for no longer than the time it takes to take one bite (Genesis 3:1-7). This is why we need Jesus Christ in our lives more than we need our next breath of air.

A little girl kept bothering her father. To keep her quiet the father gave his daughter a new jigsaw puzzle, a map of the world. He scattered the pieces on the floor. Part of Brazil fell beside Italy. A piece of Alaska lay atop Zaire. The father thought to himself, “That’ll keep her occupied for a long time.” But to his amazement she had the puzzle together in almost nothing flat. “How did you do it?” he asked.

“Oh, it was simple,” she answered. “On the other side of the mixed-up world was the face of Jesus. I put His face together, and the world came out right.” It is this same childlike faith we need in our lives to make the world turn out right. We cannot stop the world

from its corruptness, but we can turn to Jesus in simple, trusting faith to heal our wounds. Again, it all boils down to faith.

If You Want To Walk On Water You Have To Get Out of The Boat

Did you happen to see the made-for-TV movie, "Jesus," that aired the summer of 2000? I especially was moved by the scene of Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on the water to Jesus. It was during the night and very dark. The wind was blowing and the waves were high. Even though it was all Hollywood trickery, I watched spellbound as the Lord told Peter to come to Him.

Poor Peter. Who of us could not sympathize with his desire and faith. He made a good start of it, stepping out of the boat. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, his faith held him up. But Peter's faith faltered. He began to notice the waves (the world) and started sinking into the sea. Reaching out to save Peter (and his faith), Jesus rebuked him saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

We echo back, "Ahh, yes, Peter, why did you doubt?"

But Jesus is asking us, "Why do WE doubt?"

What is keeping us in the boat when it comes to believing in Jesus to heal our body of sickness and disease? We know what it means to "man the oars," but to step out of the boat in faith that Jesus will heal us is another matter altogether!

God's Victory Through Jesus Christ

Throughout His ministry, Jesus did two things. He preached about the kingdom of God and healed people of physical suffering (Matthew 9:35) over and over again. He never relented. Why? Because Satan is found in every spiritual and physical sickness. What good is it to preach about goodness if that goodness is incapable of overcoming the power behind both sin and suffering? The message and mission of Christ is twofold: Repentance and healing.

*"Surely he took up our infirmities and
carried our sorrows...he was pierced
for our transgressions, he was crushed
for our iniquities...and by his wounds
we are healed"*

- Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)

When I was attending school for my *Bible* degree, our professors would have us all repeat, "and Him crucified for our sins," whenever we mentioned the name of Jesus Christ. They did this so these words would become part of our vocabulary. But that statement carries only half the story. We need to say, "and Him crucified for our sins and infirmities." Jesus conquered not only the grave but all our sicknesses, all our diseases, and all our infirmities as well. Because He is raised from the dead, Jesus not only saves

us from the grave, He also heals us of illness and disease. Are we willing to step out of the boat on that truth?

Friend, if Jesus were here today looking you straight in the eye, can you imagine Him not healing you of whatever sickness or disease you may have? He would call you by name, tell you God's kingdom is near to you, and ask you if you want to be healed. "Do you want to be healed?"

"Oh yes, yes, Lord. Heal me!" We wouldn't think twice about our cancer, our AIDS, or our Leukemia, would we? Heal me, Lord, we would cry. What a powerful testimony you would become for the Lord.

Now ask yourself, is your faith any different, any less, because Jesus is physically out of sight behind heaven's door? Unfortunately, for many of our brethren, the answer to that question is, "Yes, it is."

God's Adversary

The greatest hindrance to the advance of Christianity in the world is not lack of money or people. The greatest hindrance is the whisper of Satan who has gotten into our head telling us God no longer heals the way we read in the Bible.

We have taken the everyday nuts and bolts of our faith and intellectualized them. For many who wear the name of Christ, their faith in God is no more secure than the boat that held the disciples up from sinking. Sure, they trust God with their souls. That is easy! But holding up their faith for healing. Well, that is another matter altogether.

Never mind that God says He is our healer. "I have cancer. I have diabetes. I have leukemia. These are incurable diseases," we reason. The voice of Satan fills our head. The father of lies, the evil one, gives us all sorts of reasons to doubt God and keeps us in bondage by our own words.

Like Peter, who took his eyes off Jesus, we've taken our eyes off God's promise to heal. We focus our attention on the waves (our problems) instead of God's promise. We want healing but are confused and afraid. We are afraid that God heals, and afraid that He will not heal, both at the same time. The end result is that many of us have forsaken God as our Healer. We have canceled Him out as Yehovah-rapha.

Early Christians witnessed the power of Jesus' preaching and healing, and, as a consequence, they never separated physical sickness from spiritual sickness. They recognized that God places great worth on our body and heals us body and soul. The thought of saving someone's soul without addressing his physical need never entered their minds. Today, we are just the opposite.

In many churches today sickness is viewed as a matter for the world, and salvation as a

matter for the Church. Many Christians no longer bother to consult with God about their maladies; they simply go to the nearest doctor.

If You Want Healing Step Out of the Boat

Isaiah 53:4-5 is not intended to diminish science or modern medicine. But, Friend, God does not require science and medicine to heal. All He needs is your permission and faith. Beyond that, He calls “things that are not as though they were” (Romans 4:17). He alone is the source of salvation. He alone is the source of healing. Can we come to grips with this eternal truth?

This is the place where “the rubber meets the road” of our faith and the reason why so few churches serve as healing centers today. Like the rest of the disciples, we want to profess our faith but prefer doing so from the safety of our boat. Humanity seems to work that way, and we can be sure Satan knows it as well.

Do you want healing? It makes no difference to our heavenly Father what ails you, lifethreatening or not. If you want healing, you must step out of the boat. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, and Him crucified for our sins and infirmities.

Chapter Three: By Whose Authority

The Occults

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
- Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

Born-again Christians differ little from other Americans on a number of basic non-Christian beliefs, this according to the Princeton Religion Research Centers *Emerging Trends Study*, published by **George Gallop**, December 1997, and the **Barna Research Group**, January 1997. The pollsters set forth stringent criteria to pre-qualify who would be classified as either Christian or non-believer in their polling. To accomplish this task they asked three questions:

1. Did the pollee have a "born-again" experience?
2. Does the pollee believe the *Bible* to be the literal Word of God?
3. Has the pollee witnessed his or her faith?

Those who affirmed all three questions were placed in the Christian category. Those who did not affirm all three questions were placed in the non-believers category for the study. Here are partial results from that study:

Question:

Is there any such thing as a Holy Spirit?

Six of every ten of all Americans believe the Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's presence or power but is not a living entity. Fifty-five percent of all born again Christians reject the Holy Spirit as a living entity.

Question:

Is there such a thing as a literal devil?

Sixty-two percent of all Americans do not believe Satan is a living entity but, rather, exists as a symbol. Fifty-two percent of all born-again Christians deny the existence of Satan as a living entity. Among Catholics, the percentage of those who do not believe in Satan rises to 72%.

On a number of other issues ranging from believing in astrology to ghosts, here is a comparison of the two groups. As you can see from the chart below, there is little difference in belief systems between many Christians and non-believers with regards to occultism.

	Christians	Non-believers
Those who believe in: Astrology	26%	24%

Fortune Telling	16%	20%
Channeling	17%	9%
Reincarnation	20%	24%
Witches	22%	20%
Ghosts	28%	31%
Superstition	22%	25%

In another more recent survey conducted by **George Gallop** in 1999 called *Surveying the Religious Landscape*, 39 percent of Americans describe themselves as born-again, evangelical Christians; 25 percent say they are fundamentalist; 15 percent say they are evangelical. Gallup found that of self-described born-again/evangelical Christians:

- 20% believe in reincarnation.
- 26% believe in astrology.
- 16% have visited a fortune teller.
- 33% are “pro-choice,” supporting a woman’s right to have an abortion.

In surveying born-again Christians, the **Barna Research Group** survey found that:

- 45% believe that if people are good enough, they can earn a place in heaven.
- 34% believe that Jesus “committed sins like other people.”
- 35% do not believe that Jesus was physically resurrected from the dead.

Given the previous figures, roughly 4 in 10 “born-again” Christians do not believe the basics (the foundation) of their faith. They do not understand that sin separates mankind from a Holy God. They do not understand that sin (even one) is the cause of corruption and death. They do not understand why a human sacrifice had to be made from One who had no sin, so that death could be overcome by all through faith in that One.

The fact that born-again Christians do not believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus from the grave is appalling because belief in the resurrection of Jesus is the very core of Christian faith. If people who call themselves “born-again” do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, into what do they believe they are “born again?”

Based on the above polls, roughly 1 in every 5 Christians in the U.S. is engaged in occultism, even as they worship God. Truly, even among our own number, many hearts are far from the Lord (Matthew 15:8-9). Is it any wonder our people die for lack of knowledge? Is it any wonder our people are confused where to find healing?

Competition in Medicine

From traditional eastern-based medicine to scientifically-based western medicine, there are literally hundreds of different “healing” modalities (relating to structure) from which to choose. With over 125 million Americans suffering from chronic illness, it should come as no surprise that huge enterprises are in place to capture a share of this growing industry. Many of the people who would seek healing from these enterprises are Christians. In the United States the medical system that dominates the medical industry (clinics and hospitals) is heavily dependent on the use of drugs, surgery, and radiation for treatment. These methods of treatment are very costly.

During the past twenty years, while the consumer price index in the United States has risen 74%, the cost of medical care has escalated by 330%. Between 1950 and 1971 public expenditure for health insurance increased tenfold, private insurance benefits increased eightfold, and direct out-of-pocket payments about threefold.^[1]

One of the fastest-growing components of America’s costly health bill is the pharmaceutical drug trade. “In the United States, the volume of the drug business has grown by a factor of 100 during the past 100 years.^[2] Twenty-thousand tons of aspirin are consumed per year, almost 225 tablets per person.^[3] In England, every tenth night of sleep is induced by a hypnotic drug, and 19% of women and 9% of men take a prescribed tranquilizer during any one year.^[4] In the United States, central nervous system agents are the fastest growing sector of the pharmaceutical market, now making up to 31% of total sales.^[5] Dependence on prescribed tranquilizers has risen by 290% since 1962, a period during which the per capita consumption of liquor rose by only 23% and the estimated consumption of illegal opiates by about 50%.”^{[6], [7]}

According to *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the percentage of the personal healthcare dollar spent on prescription drugs has grown faster than any other segment, including doctor and hospital bills. Prescription drug sales in the U.S. have risen from \$37.7 billion in 1990 to \$122 billion in 1998. The number of retail prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. have risen from 2 billion in 1992 to nearly 3 billion in 1999.^[8] This represents a 50 percent increase in just seven years. Over the counter (OTC) nonprescription retail drug sales amounted to \$18.9 billion in 1999, up from \$10.3 billion in 1990 (not including vitamins/minerals/nutritional supplements).^[9] It is no wonder that *Fortune* magazine ranked pharmaceuticals as the most profitable of all industries when measured by returns on equity, sales, and assets.

The Truth Behind Drugs

From the above figures, if nothing else, America is fairly swimming in a sea of pharmaceutical drugs. One would assume, with this mass reliance on drugs, that the medical community has great faith in their efficacy. But are drugs really safe? Do they heal? Are they a tool of the Lord for healing or an abomination? As we review the facts, remember that God is our healer, not our destroyer. And if God be our healer, who then is our destroyer?

According to JAMA (*Journal of the American Medical Association*), 106,000 people died in 1994 from unintended drug side effects of legally prescribed drugs. Another two million people had to be hospitalized, but survived, from suffering adverse reactions to these same drugs. The death count reported by JAMA is so high that *USA Today*, April 24, 1998, listed adverse drug reactions as the 4th leading cause of mortality on their list of Top Ten Killers in the USA. Ranked first to last, the top 10 killers of man are:

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Strokes
4. Adverse Drug Reactions
5. Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
6. Accidents (all kinds)
7. Pneumonia and Influenza
8. Diabetes
9. AIDS
10. Suicide

To give you some sense of the numbers, 2 1/2 times as many people die from adverse drug reactions as they do from AIDS. Deaths caused from illegal drugs did not muster up the numbers even to make the top 10 list. Note, also, that of the top ten killers, only two are purposely self-inflicted, #4 and #10.

Friend, look at that list. Does it speak to you?

Perhaps you know personally of someone who died needlessly from suffering an adverse drug reaction. Two hundred and ninety people die this way everyday from drugs their doctors prescribed to them, the equivalent of one jumbo jet crashing every day, 365 days a year. Of course, the death count is never reported in this manner because these ghastly figures are scattered from city to city. But if they were, how long do you think the public would allow this carnage to continue?

A report by the General Accounting Office in the United States revealed that 51.5% of all drugs introduced between 1976 and 1985 had to be re-labeled because of serious adverse reactions found after the marketing of these drugs. These "side-effects" included heart, liver and kidney failure, fetal toxicity and birth defects, severe blood disorders,

respiratory arrest, seizures, and blindness. The changes to the labeling either restricted a drug's use or added major warnings.^[10] Still, the carnage continues unabated.

You do not need to be a rocket scientist to recognize that pharmaceutical dispensed drugs are toxic failures not fit for human consumption. But this is what the secular world of medicine strives for and what millions of people expose themselves to every time their physician hands them a prescription. People need to know. They need to hear this message: **ONLY YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for your own health, not the **American Medical Association**, Food and Drug Administration, or your physician. If your physician prescribes a drug for "treatment," ask him or her what known side-effects exist. If he or she talks about the drug as being an "acceptable risk," or downplays any risk, ask yourself this question: Is playing Russian Roulette worth the risk to your life? It can and does happen. One hundred and six thousand people who play this game die every year!!

With such a record, the pharmaceutical/medical industry would be considered criminal by any other civilized standard. However, it is condoned by law, medicine, and the Church in the U.S.A. And for what? In spite of heavy promotion, there has never been a pharmaceutical drug that has healed or cured a single disease. No man-made chemical drug ever will. Do you have an idea or think you know the reason why? Who is our destroyer?

The very words, "acceptable risk," are an oxymoron. They are accepted only in a corrupt world which knows only death, not the kingdom of God. Only a corrupt world would use poison in the name of healing. Only a corrupt world could justify such inhumanity.

God is our healer, not our destroyer. Nowhere in Scripture will you find any record of God doing harm in the name of healing. Understand there is both good and bad medicine. Medicine that heals without harm is a blessing. Medicine that harms in the name of healing is an abomination unto our Lord God. If we want healing free of acceptable risks, we must turn our face to God, to the Church, and to godly medicine for healing. God tells us, over and over again, to come to Him for healing. And yet, we turn a deaf ear to His Words.

Secular Medicine

What price will a man give to be made whole, to be made healthy in body? Apparently there is no limit, for many hundreds of billions of dollars are spent annually in quest of healing. But in his quest for health, man is at the same time paying for his very demise.

Sadly, most people affected with chronic illness are hooked into the health insurance scheme to pay for their ills. They are not interested in paying out of their own pockets for preventative measures that could avoid chronic illness. If their health provider will not pay for it, they will not buy it. The result is a continuation of dependency on the status quo, which leads to a life of suffering.

Doctors who treat chronic illness are also hooked. They have been heavily courted, dined, entertained, and duped by pharmaceutical drug companies to treat their chronically ill patients with known toxic, lethal drugs at never mind the cost. Ignorance about associated risk prevails.

Most of our generation and our parents' generation before us were raised to believe in those people wearing white coats (embroidered with a symbol of a staff entwined with snakes) to heal us. They were as gods to us. If they prescribed a drug to us, we took it. Certainly that was the case in my own family. But life's experience has changed that precept for many. Today we know doctors are mortals, subject to all human frailties just as we are.

More importantly for our study, doctors are as much subject to the schemes of Satan as anyone. This is not said to be negative, only stating in another way that doctors are human. Satan knows if he could remove the spiritual dimension of sickness and healing in organized medicine, he could forever change medicine. And this is what has happened. Today doctors do not pray with their patients (See note at end of chapter). They do not hold them up to God for healing nor read God's Healing Word to them nor rely on godly medicine—and for obvious reason. Sickness and disease in organized medicine are not considered bound by demons but are rather a natural occurrence of the material world. This is the philosophy behind secular medicine on which Americans depend.

Called modern or western medicine, secular medicine functions unto itself. It does not concern itself with the spiritual nature of illness but only with the physical symptoms that are produced in the form of disease. Therefore, western medicine does not try to heal the cause of illness; instead it focuses on the symptoms of that illness to either suppress or remove them. Since healing (removing the root cause of illness) is not the goal, modern medicine speaks of "treating" instead of healing. The word used most often, "cure," is indicative of eliminating symptoms, not healing. You would think medical schools teach healing. But, in fact, medical schools teach very little or nothing about healing. Secular medicine is secular humanism all over again.

Secular humanism is the belief that man lives unto himself. There is no God who is

transcendent above and beyond reality. Secular humanism is a religious belief system that presupposes God does not and cannot exist, and that everything which does exist is merely the product of matter, time and chance. The secular humanist presupposes that the only thing which can exist and have importance to mankind is that which is open to empirical verification and observation by man. Therefore, God and Christianity are ruled out-of-bounds from the start by the “objective,” materialistic scientist, even before the investigation of reality begins. The essence of secular humanism is that man is the measure of all things. Man, not God, is the determiner of reality, meaning, and ethics.

This is the reason why hundreds of thousands of people can die every year by the hand of doctors without condemnation of their peers, pundits, or controlling governmental agencies. They all are guided by the same secular mind-set. The suffering, misery, and deaths caused by adverse drug reactions and other medical mistakes may be unfortunate, but they are virtually accepted and expected in a world that does not know God.

As will be pointed out later, even when the seemingly unexplained healing does happen after the doctor can do no more, secular medicine always has a secular answer. The diagnosis was wrong. The treatment worked. The patient’s immune system kicked in. Whatever the reason, it was not by God’s doing.

In godly medicine physicians are healers, not peddlers of death. For instance, what justification does a physician have in counseling families of the sick that their loved one will not survive or in telling their patient he or she will die? What insanity! What evil! This is nothing less than witchcraft placing a hex on the patient. Yet patients and loved ones are counseled in this manner as a matter of routine in secular medicine. How much better it would be for a physician to say, “With God’s help you will be healed.” But this mindset is absent in the secular medical community. Not being content for God to be God, doctors put themselves in that role. They are fixated on disease, disease management, and death.

Advising a patient he is expected to die is tantamount to a death sentence. Many patients who hear these words simply give up. What a heinous thing to say. But, again, healing is not the agenda in secular medicine.

In the chapter entitled “When Healing Makes no Earthy Sense” you will meet Debbi Cortelyou. Debbi refused to accept the “your husband is not expected to live” death sentence handed to her.

The doctor told Debbi, “We believe we have diagnosed your husband's blood disease, and it is called TTP (Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura). We don't expect your husband to live through the night!”

But Debbi had just spoken to the Lord. She had received God’s Word that Pete would survive, and her faith was strong. She replied, “Oh don't worry about it. The Lord just spoke to me in the chapel and told me he was going to heal my husband.”

The doctor looked back at her as if to say she had lost her mind and said, “No, I don't think you understand what I'm saying. We don't expect him to live through the night.”

With her face aglow in faith, and without hesitation, she fired back, “No, you don't understand what I'm saying. The Lord is going to heal Pete.”

Bravo, Debbie. This is one Christian woman who did not accept or buy into the “we know better than you” mentality of godless medicine. What a heroine! It should come as no surprise that Pete did not die that night but experienced a sudden and unexplained recovery. Praise the Lord! I share this story with you now because the doctor's counsel and reply to Debbie is typical in secular medicine. Pete's doctor was more interested in Pete's disease than he was in healing him.

Unfortunately, there are Christian medical doctors who also practice secular medicine. They accept the influence of drugs in treatment of disease as normal. For us to understand how or why, we have but to look at their training. Drug influence upon the medical community lies at every turn. Doctors are heavily courted by drug salesmen, who they rely on for information. Drug companies pay doctors to take vacations and provide them with incentives to prescribe their products. This all seems normal to the physician because he/she has been exposed to the drug industry since the first day of medical school. It is as though the medical community is married to the drug industry.

Of all of man's enterprises, can you think of one that Satan could do more harm than that of medicine? Remember, the source of all sickness and healing is spiritual in nature. If Satan can corrupt a sacred practice into believing that the source of sickness is physical, then it is a problem for the world. What need is there of God?

Friend, this is a most fiendish scheme of Satan. The damage he and his angels have caused is immeasurable. Millions of people have suffered and died before God's appointed time (Acts 17:26). In doing so, Satan has greatly hindered the work of the Body of Christ, the Church. Who knows of the countless numbers of people who could have witnessed their faith had it not been for secular medicine being their demise? Who knows what influence the Church could have on the world at this very moment were it not for countless Christians who turned to the world for healing only to find death?

Friends, why do God-fearing believers submit themselves by the millions to this demonized form of medicine? Is it due to the fact that we are ignorant of God's truth and His will in our lives? Is it due to the fact that we are so into the world and the occults that we do not know the truth from a lie when we see it? Is it due to the fact that we are confused by our own churches, which have nothing to tell us about the nature of illness and healing and which do little to come to our aid when we come under attack?

God's Word warns us not to be taken captive through hollow and deceptive philosophies (like secular medicine) which depend on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ (Colossians 2:8). Knowing this, one would think Church leaders would sound the alarm, that there would be a ground swell of righteous

indignation rising up against secular medicine. But there is none.

Confusion in the Church

The entire subject of secular medicine versus divine healing is received with mixed emotions in church circles. Christians know of divine healing from Scripture, and many have experienced the horrors of secular medicine. The natural conclusion an outsider would assume is that churches would shun secular medicine, favoring Church-sanctioned, healing ministries. But many churches not only embrace secular medicine, they are void of healing ministries as well.

Reasons vary, but the most popular teaching (which, by the way, has no biblical foundation) is that the days of healing miracles, as written in Scripture, are over. This comes from two men who have had profound influence on modern day theology, **Martin Luther** and **John Calvin**.

Luther concluded the day of miracles is past, and the real gift of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten Scripture. He wrote, “Now that the Apostles have preached the Word and have given their writings, and nothing more than what they have written remains to be revealed, no new and special revelation or miracle is necessary.”^[1]

John Calvin would write; “The gift of healing disappeared with the other miraculous powers which the Lord was pleased to give for a time, that it might render the new preaching of the Gospel for ever wonderful. Therefore, even were we to grant that anointing was a sacrament of those powers which were then administered by the hands of the Apostles, it pertains not to us, to whom no such powers have been committed.”^[2]

In today’s world of theological academia, I Corinthians 13:8-13 is frequently referenced to support the views held by Luther and Calvin. But there is nothing in those verses that says God will stop divine healing. If there is, I beg someone to tell me where. Luther may have well been reacting to the excesses of the medieval Church when he penned those words. No one knows, for sure. What we do know is that both Luther and Calvin’s theology lives on today in many churches. Their impact on religious beliefs is profound.

And what if God has, indeed, taken a “time out” on healing miracles? What are we to believe about Satan? Has he taken a time out, too? I do not mean to sound flippant, but sometimes the best way to look at a problem is to turn it inside out.

There is also the false notion in today’s Church that healing must be instantaneous to be called a miracle. Truth is, all healing is miraculous and divine by its nature, but not all healing is instantaneous. Just because healing may occur over time does not make it less miraculous or divine, but the manner in which healing is administered does. (See Chapter One for definition of terms).

The healing of a beggar in Acts 3 was instantaneous and termed a miracle in Acts 4:22. However, the healing of the sick in Acts 5:16 was not instantaneous as many presume. There is nothing in the text to say so. The language of verse 16 lacks any suggestion of

immediate healing. It suggests, by the meaning of the word used, “therapeuo,” that the sick received medical attention. No, not drugs, godly medicine. Healing occurred over a period of time. Was this healing divine? Yes! Was this healing miraculous? Yes! Why? Because all healing, be it immediate or not, is always of divine origin. This is the reason why great numbers of people who were healed became believers. They witnessed healing in the name of Jesus Christ that the secular world could not deliver. Is there a lesson here for us today?

In Acts 28:8 Paul healed a man who lived on an island and who suffered from fever and dysentery. Here we learn the laying on of hands and prayer was administered by Paul. The word used for “healed” in Acts 28:8 is “iaomai,” which indicates the healing was instantaneous. When the rest of the sick on the island heard about the healing, they came and were healed also (verse 9). But the two words used for “heal” in both verses 8 and 9 are different. The word used in verse 9 is “therapeuo.” Those who were healed in the latter case received (godly) medical attention, just as in Acts 5:16.

Many Church leaders today consider a healing must be instantaneous, something that is immediate, to be called a miracle. But Scripture does not limit miracles to being instantaneous. The word “miracle” simply means of divine or supernatural intervention. The view that miraculous healing must be instantaneous has led many to abandon their faith in divine healing altogether. They reason almost no one is instantly healed; therefore, whatever healing takes place must happen through physical means beyond the direct intervention of God.

But is this right? Without the direct intervention of God, could there be healing of any kind? You already know Scripture tells us that God is our healer (Exodus 15:26). But just for a moment, imagine that God turned His back on healing. You fall sick with illness. The doctors tell you there is nothing more they can do. You are not expected to survive. What a bleak picture! And not because the doctors tell you that they can’t help you, but because God is out of the picture. Friend, this is what happens many times a day in churches all across the land when we turn our sick out to the world. God hasn’t abandoned us; we have abandoned God! This is why James would write;

*"Is any among you sick? Let him call for
the elders of the church; and let them
pray over him, anointing him with oil
in the name of the Lord."
- James 5:14 (ASV)*

Now some would argue that God heals today but only indirectly through the work of physicians and medicine. God, indeed, heals by working through physicians and medicine. But if God is not honored by the physician, and if the medicine used is ungodly and/or is poisonous, God will not be mocked, and healing will not occur. Understand that there is both godly medicine and evil medicine. Like begets like, and God gives to every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings (Jeremiah 17:9-10, KJV). Why should we expect healing to come to us when we rush to evil medicine? This

is to our folly.

How sad! How sad it is that God's glory of healing is denied by those who bear the mark of His Spirit and wear the name of His Son. But we are confused as to whose voice we will heed and by whose authority we are willing to trust in healing, God, or the world. It is time we begin listening to the voice of God in our heart. God has won our victory over Satan in all things, but our faith is weak. Many of us are so mixed up with the world that we are not sure what we believe. Somebody needs to point the way back to God for healing—healing in body, spirit, and soul.

God has ordained the Church to make the manifold wisdom of God known, which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:10). It is God's will that we be strengthened with power through His Spirit in our inner being so that Christ may dwell there through faith (Ephesians 3:16-17). He (Christ) is able to do more than all we ask, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). This is the healing glory that God desires.

With what you just read, how is it possible that we have allowed the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body, to withdraw from this wondrous victory? Victory over Satan in all things. Friend, whole Churches need to repent, to fall on their knees to God in prayer asking for forgiveness. Then we need to arise and claim God's promise. We need to become the spiritual warriors God desires of us, pushing Satan out of our lives (sin and sickness) through faith in Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

God's Medicine

Early in his ministry Jesus went into a synagogue, as was His custom. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it He found the following verses and read them aloud to those in the room.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

What happened next was a “you could hear a pin drop” moment. For Jesus declared, “Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21). Jesus was reading about Himself in prophecy. His ministry of proclaiming freedom for the prisoners was not to those in man-made prisons, but to those being held in bondage by Satan through sin, sickness, disease, and all sort of infirmities.

It is interesting that this event is recorded only by Luke, and no other Gospel writer, because Luke was a physician, a medical doctor. He had special interest in watching Jesus heal the sick. Being a physician, he was educated and accustomed to being meticulous (Luke 1:3). If there was any trickery, any hocus-pocus, in the countless healings he observed Jesus perform, he would have exposed Him as a fake. I can easily imagine Luke examining people after they were healed and set free from the prison of sickness by Jesus. What must he (Luke) have thought? What would the world think if they witnessed this same divine healing today?

Luke, who many consider the author of the Acts of the Apostles, confirms this prisoner concept set forth by Isaiah in recording the words of Peter at the house of Cornelius:

"You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him. We are witnesses of everything he did..."
- Acts 10:37-39 (NIV)

Satan is our jailer, the one who binds us in sin and sickness. After witnessing Jesus heal, Luke understood both the spiritual nature of sickness and the spiritual nature of healing.

In reading the prophecy of Isaiah recorded in Luke 4, Jesus is announcing that Yehovah-Rapha, the God who heals, is here among us. Praise the Lord! There is no more need to suffer at Satan's hand. That message is timeless and badly needed in our generation today. Our God is victorious over Satan's schemes, for God is with us. Can we begin now to fathom how wonderful God's victory is over Satan in sickness?

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

- Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

The same Word of God who commanded "let there light" heals today. The nature of God's Word contains the capacity, the energy, and the ability to effect healing in your body just as The Word created light. There is no law known to man to explain this. Certainly the nature and purpose of God can now be seen in His Son, Jesus Christ.

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

- Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)

That word, "infirmities," means our sicknesses and diseases. By His sacrifice, Jesus Christ conquered (has power over) not only sin and death but all forms of sickness and disease.

In the time of Jesus, great crowds followed Him. They were amazed by His teaching and healing powers. His reputation as a teacher and healer was the talk in every town. How times have changed. Today we see Jesus as the Son of God, the Lamb who took away the sins of the world, not the healer of disease and sickness He was known for. In fact, in my many years as a Christian, I have heard precious little about Jesus, the Great Physician, for our time.

It is strange to me that we point to Jesus Christ as the author and finisher of our faith yet seldom speak of His victory over Satan in sickness and disease. Why is that? Consider:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men."
- John 1:1-4 (NIV)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- John 1:14 (NIV)

Jesus Christ is The Word who became a man that mankind might be saved and that we might be able to relate to His nature. John said he was a witness to His glory. He saw the heart of God revealed in Jesus Christ. And what is the heart of God? The four Gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry display one central theme: God Heals!

Friends, this is the place where many people fumble Scripture. We read Scripture with salvation in mind, and we should, but then we forget that salvation is only part of the whole story. The whole story, the central theme of the entire *Bible* is freedom and healing the whole of man—body, spirit, and soul—not just his soul. Jesus' ministry focused on two things, preaching the kingdom of God and healing the sick—not just for His generation, but for all generations to come.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
- Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

If Scripture reveals that Jesus is The Word, that the Word of God heals, and that Jesus is the same today as yesterday, does it stand to reason Jesus is ready and willing today to heal people afflicted with so-called “incurable” diseases? Countless numbers of people who have experienced His healing say, “Yes!”

These are people who have thrown all caution to the wind. They refused to listen to voices that silence the healing power of God's Word. Instead they poured their hearts out to God in faith that He keeps His Word. They fed their spirits on the Word of God until it penetrated every joint and marrow of their body. And there, deep within, the healing power of God was released on their body. You will meet some of them in the Chapter entitled, “When Healing Makes no Earthly Sense.”

The healing power of the Word of God defies all earthly understanding because healing does not belong to this world. Only those who open their hearts to the Word of God will find it.

Do you want healing? Then take heed by whose authority you seek it. For Satan is crafty like a fox, looking for those whom he may devour. Stop looking at disease. Look at God, the source of life. Keep your eye's fixed on Him.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

- 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

Whose Voice Are We Listening To

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

- Hebrews 11:3 (KJV)

What do the words, "Word of God," mean to you? Are they words you pick and choose or something far more meaningful? In essence, does God's Word contain the remedy for life, or is The Word just another book that sits on your coffee table?

Can we comprehend the infinite power of God's Word? When God created the heavens and earth by His utterance, cataclysmic events unfolded. Genesis 1:3 reads, "And God said...Let there be light and there was light." Know something? I don't think our finite minds can begin to comprehend what awesome power is required to make light from the sound of one's voice or will, do you? God commanded, and it was so. Mind boggling, isn't it?

David sang a praise unto the Lord declaring that the angels, sun, moon and stars all praise Him, "for he commanded and they were created." (Read all of Psalms 148.)

Friends, this is what separates faith from unbelief. The world, who believes only what can scientifically be proven, must disclaim any supernatural law it cannot prove. But God said:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

Even with this head knowledge made known to us, many people still cannot connect God's sheer, raw power over that of their own frail, corrupt nature. (By corrupt, I mean being subject to the laws of nature, i.e. sickness and death.)

The question of God's inadequacy is illustrated by people confronted with the resurrection of the dead in the end of time. As people ponder the idea of the resurrection, I am often asked in class, "How can God resurrect the bodies of people lost at sea who were eaten by sea creatures?" They ask this as though such a resurrection is impossible. It's an innocent question but one that is born out of ignorance to the infinite power of God's Word.

Logically, of course, if God can create the universe through His will by the sound of His

voice, resurrecting the dead, in like manner, no matter where their remains are scattered, should be well within His domain of unlimited power. But what is troubling here is that by questioning, people tend to fence God in by limiting His ability to their understanding of the world. This is unfortunate because binding God binds us as well.

If we believe God cannot, will not, or is not capable of healing us from life's diseases and ailments, we have not only fenced in God, we have consigned ourselves to a life of suffering and misery as well. For God has no compulsion to intervene in our lives without our consent.

So here we are, a world filled with so-called incurable diseases and people dying by the millions simply because they believe they have an incurable disease. How soon we forget the words of the Psalmist...

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget
not all his benefits...who forgives all your
sins and heals all your diseases..."*
- Psalm 103:2-3 (NIV)

May I ask you something? Why are we so quick to reach out to God for salvation yet turn away from Him for healing. Could it be we do not fully believe Him when He says:

*"My son, pay attention to what I say;
listen closely to my words. Do not let
them out of your sight, keep them
within your heart; for they are life
to those who find them and health
to a man's whole body."*
- Proverbs 4:20-22 (NIV)

Do you know what those words mean in practical terms? They mean that in order to receive healing you must keep faith in God's Word over all things, even the words of a medical doctor who may proclaim that you have an incurable disease. This is where many of our brethren stumble in faith. They lose faith in God's Word, choosing instead to listen to the words of death and succumb needlessly before their appointed time. Again, I ask, why? Why do we turn to the world of secular medicine for healing when it is God's good and perfect Will to heal you through His Word. Let these words sink into the very depths of your being:

*"For the word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword,
it penetrates even to dividing soul and
spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the
thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*
- Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Joints and marrow are your body. God wants us to know our body is subject to a law higher than nature, a law not bound by scientific knowledge. We are subject to the penetrating power of the Word of God but only through our own will.

Through our own will. Do we understand that through our own will we are speaking of choice and faith? That we so quickly turn to the world of secular medicine and the occults for healing is witness against our faith. Secular medicine and the occult are bound by a law which cannot heal and, by its very nature, destroys. By going to the world for healing, we look no different than the rest of the world. Is it any wonder the world looks on Christianity with no understanding. Consider how much more powerful our message of salvation would be should the world witness healing that makes no earthly sense. This is why Jesus healed all who came to Him in countless numbers. Their healing became a powerful witness to the message of God.

Note: A study by **Dr. Dana King** at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, showed that 48% of hospitalized patients want their doctors not just to talk about spiritual issues with them but actually to pray with them. Doctor King found that doctors were praying with patients less than one percent of the time, and only rarely were doctors addressing spiritual needs. According to **Dale Matthews, M.D.**, author of *The Faith Factor*, physician training implicitly and explicitly teaches students to avoid the spiritual dimension in working with patients.^[13]

Chapters Four Through Nine

Notice: The remaining chapters of this free edition are available online from [Amazon Kindle](#), or from [God's Healing Word](#) website. The version on God's Healing Word website is available in PDF format, the same format you are reading now. The Table of Contents below lists the chapters missing from this free version.

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- Epilogue

End Note for Introduction

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