
Your Healing Door

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We need to restore confidence in average Christians to function in healing ministry. Jesus, the Head of the church, has commissioned His body to lay hands on the sick (Mark 16:18). Yet, many have allowed themselves to become sidelined in from this important ministry because of some personal failure to either receive or impart healing in the past.

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He does the same for anyone who will trust Him and believe his Word.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

According to this Scripture, Jesus' ministry included teaching, preaching, and healing. Clearly, one third of His ministry involved healing the sick. If that is true of Jesus ministry, then it is also true of the ministry of His church – you and me – today.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do
he will also do, and greater works than these will he do..." (John 14:12)

These are powerful verses. If they are true, then you and I can do the same works that Jesus did, because He sent us to do the same things. What did he do? He preached, taught, and healed the sick. Where does that leave you and me? It leaves us with the responsibility to get involved in healing ministry, like it or not.

Many sincere Christians generally believe in healing, but they do not understand how to activate it or walk it out in their own lives on a consistent basis.

According to Your Faith

A primary key for healing is that it has to be real and genuine with you. It must be according to your faith, not that of someone you perceive has faith.

According to your faith let it be to you. And their eyes were opened. (Matthew 9:28 – 30)

Faith is of the heart, not the head. What you believe in your heart is what matters, because that is how you will receive from God.

When it comes to ministering healing to others, do not attribute your faith to them. Instead, take time to help people identify where they are spiritually and what they believe. Encourage people in their faith. Unless a special gift of healing manifests by the Spirit, those you are ministering to will not receive healing according to your faith, but according to their own faith.

You can actually see and recognize faith in others. There is a spiritual hunger, expectation and tenacity in people who are in faith. Be careful not to push your faith off on those who are not yet demonstrating the same faith level as you for their healing. Take time to find out where they are spiritually and what they want God to do for them. Then agree with them in prayer where you can.

God always meets people where they are. To become Christ-like in your ministry, you must meet people where

they are and attempt to take them from the unknown to the known. Don't allow yourself to get frustrated because people don't "get it" right away. Be patient with them. Share the Word with them as well as personal testimonies about healing and God's faithfulness in your life. Do not pressure people to agree with you or to act on your faith.

Be faithful to give people the Word and allow faith to rise in their hearts. Once faith comes, nothing can stop them from their appointment with healing.

Jesus Took It For Us

This key is essential to receiving anything from God, especially healing. If you are not certain that the blood of Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross has provided for the promise you are claiming for the prayer you are praying, you will lack confidence in your prayer life. What's more, you will become vulnerable to the enemy's lies that produce doubt and unbelief in your heart and mind.

In his book, "Healing, a Forever Settled Subject" Kenneth Hagan Jr. describes it like this: "you cannot build a 'healing building' without first establishing the foundation that healing is forever settled."

Look at the central atonement passage in the Bible in Isaiah 53:4–5:

“Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

In Christ's suffering and death, He bore more than our sins. The penalty for sin is death, but Christ did not need to suffer as He did to provide atonement. This chapter tells us why He suffered. He suffered to bear our griefs and sorrows and He suffered for our peace and healing (verse 5). Surely atonement for sin is our greatest need; yet God, sending His Son to suffer and die, provided more than an escape from judgment (from sin): He provided for abundant life beginning today.

Once we get a revelation of Jesus bearing our sicknesses as well as our sins through His atonement for us on the cross, receiving healing becomes no more difficult than receiving forgiveness of sins.

After I read in my Bible that Himself took my infirmities and bear my sicknesses, I decided there wasn't any need for both Him and me to bear them, and I've been free ever since.

Which one is easier for God to provide for us today: forgiveness of sins or healing? The correct answer: neither! Why is that? They were both provided in the atonement! The same sacrifice paid the price for our healing and forgiveness of sins. That is why whenever you confess your sins and ask for God's forgiveness you don't have to wait in anxious concern about the answer. The answer already came on the Cross! He forgave all our sins – past, present, and future. The same is true regarding physical healing. Jesus already sacrificed and atoned for our healing once and for all.

John G. Lake communicates this truth so powerfully: It is my aim to show that the atonement of Christ lays the foundation equally for deliverance from sin and deliverance from disease; that complete provision has been made for both; that in the exercise of faith under the conditions prescribed, we have the same reason to believe that the body may be delivered from sickness as we have that the soul may be delivered from sin; in short, that both branches of the deliverance stand on the same ground, and that it is necessary to include both in any true conception of what the gospel offers to mankind. The atoning sacrifice of Christ covers the physical as well as the spiritual needs of man.

Let me share with you an example that emphasizes the importance of recognizing and appropriating healing as part of the atonement. There is a real difference between these two situations: 1) going to a bank officer and requesting

an unsecured loan that you are not sure will be granted; and 2) going to the same bank and presenting a check to the same bank officer to withdraw money that is already on deposit in your account.

If you are requesting an unsecured loan from a bank, you have no assurance that you will receive your request. However, if you are making a withdrawal from your account that has sufficient funds on deposit to cover your check, you can be absolutely confident of receiving your request.

Many Christians are praying for healing in the same way they approach that loan officer at the bank – with no assurance their request will be granted because they fail to see what they have on deposit in their spiritual account. Prayer for healing must come on the same basis as the prayer for forgiveness of sins – Jesus atoning sacrifice for each of us that placed unlimited forgiveness, healing, and peace of mind into our spiritual account.

When we ask for forgiveness of sins, we know that we can receive it immediately because of the atonement of Jesus. The same is true for healing. It was provided for us by that same atonement.

Understanding this truth helped my wife and me to enter into rest in our faith for our sons healing. Once we saw it was already on deposit in our account – that Jesus' sacrifice provided sufficient health for Michael – we had assurance of his recovery in our hearts before we saw it manifest with our eyes. What we had assurance of – and appropriated by faith – we received.

It's Your Move

Many people put all of the "healing initiative" in God's court. In other words, whether conscious or unconscious, their thoughts are something like this: if God wants me well, then I'll get well. That is His business, and there is nothing I can do about it. That type of thought pattern places all of the responsibility on God and none on the recipient. That was not typical of Jesus healing ministry. More often than not, Jesus required the recipient's participation and involvement in some way.

**Everything we receive from God is by grace (God's provision) through faith (our response to God's grace). Faith cannot receive what God's grace has not provided.
You can only have faith for healing when you know God's grace has provided it for you.**

Likewise, grace is not received where faith is not activated by the recipient. **You can know that God's grace has provided healing and yet take no steps of faith toward receiving it because you are expecting God to do everything for you.** Let me tell you that you and I will go without healing if we believe like that – and many do!

The truth is that healing does not happen automatically, even though it is the will of God. An individual's will and belief system affect what part of God's will and Jesus atonement he or she receives. Scripture teaches that God is not willing that any man should perish, but men do perish every day without knowing and receiving Christ Jesus as Lord (2 Peter 3:9). This is proof positive that an individual's will does affect the proportion of healing or forgiveness he or she can receive.

Excerpts from a book, "The Ministry of Divine Healing":

That the words "borne" and "carried" (Isaiah 53:4) referred to Jesus atoning work on the Cross is made clear by the fact that they are the same words used to describe Christ's bearing our sins in Isaiah 53:11 and 1 Peter 2:24. These texts unequivocally link the grounds of provision for both our salvation and our healing to the atoning work of Calvary. **Neither is automatically appropriated, however, for each provision – a soul's eternal salvation or a person's temporal, physical healing – must be received by faith.** Christ's work on the Cross makes each possible: simple faith receives each as we choose.

What people believe depends on how much or little they are grounded in the Word. And that knowledge drastically affects what they receive from God. When I was a teenager, our family attended a denominational church that taught us to add the phrase "if it be Thy will" on the end of every prayer we prayed. I am sure they meant well, but all that did was give us an "out" if we didn't receive an answer to our prayers. That way we could blame God if things didn't work out as we prayed.

Whenever the Bible is clear about God's will it is inappropriate to pray "if it be thy will." For example, in 1 Timothy 2:3–4, the apostle Paul said: "God, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." This scripture tells us absolutely that God's will is for the salvation and discipleship of men and women. We don't have to question God's will about this fact. He already expressed His will in His Word.

The same thing is true about everything provided for us by the atonement of Jesus, including healing. I don't have to wonder whether it is God's will for my life or to add "if it be thy will" to my prayer for one of the benefits of the atonement in order to sound humble. Whatever has been provided for us in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus is without question the will of God for us.

We must help those who need healing to see that they have a part to play in the healing process. It is not all up to God. When I am ministering to someone who is sick, I normally give them the following analogy. Though it is certainly the will of God for each of us to walk in forgiveness and freedom from sin, we can still hold onto habitual sin if we want to. That does not make a lifestyle of sin the will of God. In the same way, healing is the will of God for us, but we can keep and nurse sickness in our bodies if we want to. That does not change God's mind and will about His desire for us to be well. The will of God is not just going to fall on us like ripe cherries falling off a tree. Our participation in the process is vital. 1 John 5:14–15, confirms this truth:

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

No promise from the Word of God – salvation, forgiveness of sins, healing, provision, peace, etc. – is automatic, even though each one is the will of God for our lives.

We must respond in faith to His promise of health to us. We must take some faith action toward our goal of healing. Begin by asking for it and receiving assurance that it is the will of God for you.

Spend time meditating on and confessing His promises relating to healing. We cannot wait for God to do something else for us before we begin to believe we are healed. The sacrifice of His Son that provided healing for us is done. It is finished. We're not waiting on God. God is waiting for us to believe and take action on our faith. It's our move now!

You Are Loved

You and I are loved by our Heavenly Father! This is a key principle to understand in order to receive from God.

We live in a "performance oriented" society. Everything we receive in our culture is based on our skills, talents, or work ethic. We must earn everything we have, based on our own merit. That mindset makes it hard to conceive of receiving anything based solely on God's grace and love for us. Yet this is the only way to receive from God.

Our real comfort came from the word of God. The more time we spent reading and studying what God had to say about healing, the more confident we became.

Stop looking for some magic formula you can apply to make your child or loved one well. We encourage them to

focus on God's love and care for them and to commit only to act on those things they feel led by the Lord to do. That helps them to enter into the "rest" of faith that will bring God's provision of health to them without struggle.

Understanding you are loved is a prerequisite to becoming convinced that God's will to heal includes you. Faith works best where we understand that we are loved.

God wants you well. He sent His Son to secure every need His children – you and I – would ever have, including healing. He loves you, and that's the basis for your healing – not your works or performance, good or bad. Once you become convinced of his love and help others become convinced of it, healing will flow like a river to undo Satan's works of physical bondage. Because the Father loves you, He has freely provided all the healing you will ever need. What an awesome Heavenly Father we have. You and I are loved!

Examine Your Heart

Then he led me in prayer over these areas (relationship with Jesus, thought life, close relationships, unforgiveness, etc.) and we took communion together. After all of this, Bill prayed for my healing.

I really didn't get it at the time, but later I understood how important it was to my healing that Bill asked preliminary questions and led me to deal with issues in my life before he prayed for me.

When I received the news from the surgeon that I had cancer, the Lord led me to go to three different men to pray for me. Each one was a spiritual leader in my life. Bill was one of those men.

My expectation was that each would pray a simple prayer of faith over me and something supernatural would happen. Something supernatural happened all right, but much of it was connected with how these men helped me address spiritual issues in my heart. Prior to my visit with each of them, I had not seen how essential righteousness, faith, my love walk, my relationships, and my priorities were to receiving from God.

What I thought I needed was healing from cancer. These men helped me to see that what I needed most was to remove all barriers in my heart that had the potential to block the healing God had provided for me.

They taught me some things I did not realize. I found out that one of the keys to my health was developing a prosperous soul: "Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers" (3 John 2). They also taught me I needed to guard my heart so that the issues of life, which include healing, would flow unhindered in my life. "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

The bottom line is that, with the help of the Holy Spirit and these three men, some **major obstructions were removed from my heart and I was free to receive from God**. When I went in for further tests at the hospital, the doctors could find no sign of cancer. God's healing power had been released to flow from my spirit to my physical body and it had eradicated all traces of that dreaded disease.

In both letters to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul charges them to "examine yourselves" (see 1 Corinthians 11:28 and 2 Corinthians 13:5). What is that all about? What was his motive for repeating this command? Paul was passionate about the church receiving all God had for them and not given the enemy place to work in their lives. He knew unforgiveness, bitterness, pride, offense, anger, hatred, or tolerated and unconfessed sin would hinder the flow of spiritual life in their lives. These things actually can contaminate the soul and act as a dam that shuts off the flow of life from the spirit man to the natural realm, including the physical body.

When ministering healing to others, never assume the condition of an individual's heart. Some people are experiencing chronic sickness in their lives because of an unresolved spiritual problem that is rooted in their heart.

However, that doesn't mean personal sin is always the cause of an individual sickness.

The point is, don't be presumptuous about these things. If you have the opportunity, before you pray for healing, take time to check out the individual's spiritual condition. Do they have a close relationship with the Lord? Do they know what the Word of God says about healing? How are their primary relationships? Is there any noticeable unforgiveness, bitterness, or offense in their lives? Bitterness is a route that can defile many and greatly hinder the healing we are praying for in the life of the sick one.

Kenneth Hagan Jr. describes the effects of bitterness in his book, "Seven Hindrances to Healing" as: "bitterness is one of the greatest enemies of the human spirit. If allowed to continue, it will poison your heart and hinder you receiving from God. Also, if you are full of bitterness, you cannot walk in love. And faith works by love."

In my experience in dealing with people who have cancer, I have discovered a large number of them have allowed a root of bitterness to occupy their souls. Certainly, this is not true of everyone who has cancer, so I do not automatically assume this in every case. But if the opportunity is there, I will help the individual take a "spiritual heart check-up." If I can help people examine their hearts and get rid of that root – if it exists – then I have helped them remove a huge barrier to their physical health.

Once you help people identify and deal with any spiritual root that exists in their heart, they are on the road to physical recovery. Once the axe of God's Word is laid to the root problem, the bad fruit that it produced such as sickness and disease will eventually dry up, die, and leave their body. **A prosperous soul is one that has removed the barriers from the heart that obstruct the life flow from the spirit to the physical realm.** May you not only discover this freedom yourself but also be used mightily to set others free.

See Yourself Well

What is the base emotion in your heart when you think about your physical condition – hope or fear? What is the primary picture on the canvas of your heart, sickness and death or life and health?

I ask these questions because I know first-hand the inward struggles one goes through to believe for healing when a negative report about one's health is received. Once a "worst-case scenario" is communicated from a doctor to his patient, the devil will quickly create a picture of death on their heart – unless a picture of life and health has already been etched on their heart by the Word.

Whenever we receive a bad report like the one I got from that Dr, it has the potential to paint a picture on the canvas of our heart that contradicts God's Word. Once a different picture than the truth is painted on your heart, it becomes difficult to believe the Word of God in that area.

After hearing the bad report from my doctor, we started out with the wrong picture in our hearts. At first, we were only able to mentally assent to the Scriptures we were reading and hearing about healing. If you had asked us if we believed in healing, we would have responded positively. Yet the truth was that God's Word about healing had not yet displaced the picture in our hearts of cancer and death. As we spent more time meditating on God's Word, the Holy Spirit painted a new picture of health on our hearts that displaced the old picture of death. That new picture resulted in my physical healing.

The important principle to understand that will help you overcome every negative report is to see yourself well! If the negative picture in our heart is going to change, it is imperative that we change our focus until we see ourselves well on the inside. The apostle Paul describes this process to the church at Corinth in the following way: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

What a powerful verse. Paul tells us here that we become like whatever we behold. **We are transformed into the image we focus on.** If this is true, then I can become healed by focusing on Jesus and His Word to me about healing. Or, I can focus on the disease and the negative report and become chronically ill or die. Which of these options should I choose? The answer is obvious, but keeping our thought life focused in the right place requires discipline and self-control.

We cannot afford to make our temporal symptoms, feelings, or the conditions of our bodies our primary focus. To do that is to ultimately give those things authority in our lives. If we want to walk in divine health, we cannot allow a health crisis to dictate to us the outcome of our situation.

"Master, Master, we are perishing!" (Luke 8:24). You know the rest of the story. Jesus arose, rebuked the wind and raging water and there was a great calm. Then he rebuked His disciples, not because they were afraid but because they misplaced their faith. They placed greater value and authority on the circumstances and the storm than they did on Jesus and His Word. Jesus told them to cross over to the other side. That word was sufficient to give them faith that their outcome and destiny were on the other side, no matter what came against them. Yet they had allowed the storm to dictate their outcome, declaring "we are perishing" instead of standing on Jesus word to them.

**This is what happens to us whenever we begin to focus on the storms of life rather than looking to Jesus.
How we see ourselves is a critical factor in receiving from God.
Imaginations can get you into trouble, but a faith vision can bring you answers.**

If you are not seeing the right thing, meditate on the Word until God's picture of you becomes clearly stamped in your soul. Let God's Word paint a new picture on the canvas of your heart as it did for us. Then what Proverbs 23:7 says will become reality to you, just as it did for us. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Aggressive Faith

We must become aggressive in our faith when it comes to our health or the health of friends and loved ones we are praying for. We cannot have a passive attitude when it comes to dealing with sickness and disease. Matthew 11:12, says, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

Wake up, Christian! We are in a spiritual battle. There is conflict over our souls, our inheritance in God, and our physical health. There is a real devil out there who is after our faith, and he will tempt us to get angry at God or to blame him or others for our circumstances. He will use sickness, lack, relational conflict, and anything else he can think of to get our focus off our relationship with God. We must realize what is going on behind the scenes – in the spirit realm – and take appropriate spiritual action. We must become violent in our faith.

We must become intolerant of the devil's works in our lives and the lives of those we love. To be certain, sickness and disease are the work of the devil.

Sickness is part of Satan's works. Christ, in His earthly ministry, always treated sin, diseases, and devils the same. They were all hateful in His sight. He rebuked them all. He was manifested to destroy them all.

Sickness and disease should make us angry – not at God or others, but at the devil who brought it.

We must develop a holy anger at the enemy's plan to destroy our lives and the lives of others through his wicked means of attacking our health. We cannot afford to be passive, lie down, or play dead. Instead, rise up and take authority over the devil, sickness and disease in Jesus' name. He gave us authority over all devils. It is time to stand

up and use that authority over every spirit of infirmity and every physical sickness that is afflicting our bodies.

The Gospel of Matthew records Jesus words to us on this important subject about using the authority He gave us: "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades (hell) shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven." (Matthew 16:19 – 20)

What this verse clearly says is that whatever you and I bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we don't, will not. In other words, the gates of hell (hell's authority to kill, steal, and destroy) are only removed when wherever you and I bind or take authority over them.

**The Sovereign God has given you and me authority and dominion
on the earth, and He is not going to exercise that authority for us.**

We must rise up and say "no" to the enemy and to sickness and disease if we want to be healed. It's all right to pray and cry out to God for help, but along with that draw on His strength and boldly exercise your authority. Stop speaking to God about your mountain and speak to your mountain about your God. Command it to be removed. (See Mark 11:23)

Let me ask you men a question. What would you do if you caught a burglar breaking into your home? You would do everything within your power to chase him off and protect your family, right? Well, the Bible says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20). Neither cancer, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, Alzheimer's nor any other disease belongs in the temple of the Holy Spirit. These are all evil intruders and trespassers and are off-limits to God's people. It is time to run these trespassers off!

Stop hugging your sickness as though it was a gift from God. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Christ died for your sickness. Therefore, do not tolerate in your body what He died for and took in His own body for you.

Stop treating sickness like a pet and start treating it for what it really is – an enemy. Get aggressive in your faith. Rise up and tell the enemy "no!" Command him and sickness to leave your body in Jesus name. It is all right to get reinforcement through the prayer of agreement with someone else, but don't substitute God for the exercise of your own authority.

I have nothing against medical science. Thank God for all they do for us. It's just that when it comes to faith and trusting God for our health and the health of our loved ones, the physicians don't have the last word.

I want to stir you up to use the authority God gave you and to be aggressive with your faith today – and in the future. People's lives are on the line. Eternity for all, for some, is at stake. Arm yourself with the Word of God and resist the enemy and sickness with that Word. Respond to the devil the way Jesus did. Tell him: "it is written," "It is written," and "It is written again." (Matthew 4:4, seven, 10). He cannot withstand the power of the Word on the lips of a believer.

Sample declaration - In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I exercise authority over this body of mine. Sickness and disease, I refuse to allow you to stay. This body, this house, belongs to God. It is a temple of God. Satan, you have no right to trespass on God's property. Now you get out. You leave my body. I have authority over you. I know it, you know it, and God knows it.

Exalt the Truth over the Facts

The negative report or first report we hear about our health or finances is not the final report. In other words, it doesn't carry final authority in our lives unless we let it. I went on to encourage her to exalt the truth of God's Word

above the facts of her present physical condition. She said they were standing on some healing verses, and she assured me that they would speak God's truth instead of the natural facts regarding her health.

We exalted the truth of what God's word said about her healing above the facts that said, "you have pancreatic cancer and you are 99% certain to die from this disease."

Until you make God's Word the highest authority, it will not have complete authority in your life. If God's Word doesn't have authority, then someone or something else does. The word of doctors or well-meaning, sympathetic family members and friends and their testimonials of death and failure can carry authority in your heart where your health is concerned if you allow them to.

Doctors mean well and should be honest with their patients, but worst-case scenarios communicated as inevitable outcomes can carry functional authority that is hard to overcome. If you have failed to make God's Word the final authority in your life, the negative words of others – especially those you have confidence in – can rob your faith and your health.

Whose report do you believe? The report of sickness and disease, poverty and lack, failure and loss, and all the other things Satan will try to send in your life? Or do you believe God's report of blessing and provision, healing and life, success and favor?

Just remember, the first report is not the last report! If you believe God's report, His arm of power will come through for you in the midst of every other evil report.

Every person I know needs and desires the arm of the Lord revealed to them. But the condition for God's arm of power to manifest in our lives is to believe His report – the report of His Word – above every other report. The problem for most of us when the crisis of life come is that it is easier to believe what we see or hear right in front of us than to believe the report of God's eternal word.

Faith is not denying the facts, but rather exalting the truth.

This principle will work for you in your health, your finances, your marriage, your children, and every area of your life. Real spiritual warfare works like this: When the enemy comes to you with a lying symptom in your body, or some lying rebellious behavior of one of your children, he is bringing an evil report.

Your response should be: "That may be the facts, devil, but let me tell you the way it really is." Then, tell the devil the truth about the situation. Give him the Word and he won't stay around long. The symptoms will leave. Your child's behavior will change. Your marriage will be healed. Hold fast to what the truth says about your health, marriage, finances – about everything in your life.

"Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). If God's word is truth, I thought, then, what are the symptoms? They must all be lies. So I declare to the enemy, "This sleeplessness is a lie. This headache is a lie. This fever is a lie. This high pulse is a lie. In view of what God has said to me, all these symptoms of sickness are just your lies, and God's Word to me is truth.

... His healing hasn't manifested completely yet so he is faithfully exalting the truth that he is healed above the present facts that try to paint a different picture for him. Healing is not always instantaneous. In fact, many times it is a process. The last words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Mark were His instructions to His disciples that they "will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:18).

Recovery implies a process. I love testimonies of instantaneous healing. But don't give up on your healing just because it didn't happen instantly. Keep the switch of faith turned on. Keep exalting the truth above the facts and

the truth will eventually win out.

Question – have you ever cut down a large tree with an axe? The same principle is true when it comes to your healing. Every prayer of faith, every step of obedience, and every confession exalting the truth above the facts is another swing of the sword of the spirit that will eventually cut you completely free from that sickness and disease. Your "suddenly" will come. Don't stop swinging the sword of the Spirit. Don't stop declaring your healing. Don't stop exalting the truth above the facts.

We need to add patience to our faith. God said He would always cause us to triumph as long as we didn't quit (1 Corinthians 2:14). Keep swinging your sword. Keep exalting the truth above the facts and God will bring you the victory, just as you have seen and heard Him do for others!

Surround Yourself with Faith Builders

Human sympathy always leads to despair, while godly compassion brings hope!

It is imperative that we are selective about our close circle of friends and counselors during critical times of physical and spiritual attack.

It is also important during a faith crisis to control the information and knowledge that is fed into our lives.

Content for the importance of what we read and listen to:

The Bible says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17). We need to read books and listen to CDs and various other media that encourage our faith and build our expectation. I played my favorite praise & worship songs over and over again. We should shut off the voices and resources that discourage us or diminish our faith.

Believers should starve their doubts and feed their faith. Life and health flow wherever attention to God's Word is given.

At the Lord's instruction, we would forgo some normal information venues to focus a greater portion of time on God's Word. This focus on the Word created an environment for faith and healing. I would compare it to receiving aggressive medical treatment that requires great change and adjustment in our schedule. I call it "the attention factor." The book of Proverbs describes this important principle:

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life (Proverbs 4:20 – 23).

This passage tells us that life and health flow wherever attention to God's Word is given. That is exactly what we did during that crisis with our son. We shut out all distractions of other voices and turned aside to give attention to God's Word. The results were health and life for our son.

Be determined to surround yourself with people of faith and words of faith and you, too, will experience life and health in all your flesh!

Hear and Be Healed

I asked God to do a miracle (versus a process over time) for me this time. I believe that for every miracle we need there is an instruction for us. If we seek the Lord he will always give us instruction for our situation. I don't think that God heals or performs a miracle the same way every time. That is why we need to ask God what He wants us to do to cooperate with Him to receive our miracle.

This principle requires us to go inside our relationship with Jesus, listen to Him and depend on Him for the specific strategy He has for our healing. There are many different methods God uses to heal. Also, He does not use the same method with each person every time they need healing. The reason is that He wants us to depend on Him, not the method. Since He doesn't manifest healing the same way all the time, it becomes imperative that we look to Him for the specific step of obedience we are to take to cooperate with His healing power.

I am not suggesting we "work" for our healing, because everything we received from God is by grace through faith. But our faith response does require some action. Knowing what action to take only comes by learning to depend on Him and by listening to His voice. In other words, by having a relationship with Him. We must learn to listen for His instruction when we need healing or a miracle.

The bottom line is this: Jesus did not heal people the same way every time. He listened to the Father, followed the Spirit and involved the recipients of healing. The principles are always the same, but the methods are not.

**Each battle over our health is different. That requires us
to remain dependent upon the Lord and to listen for His voice.**

God does have healing for us all the time, but He doesn't always use the same methods to bring healing.

Whenever you experience an attack against your health, the first thing to do is to take time to seek the Lord. Sometimes you will find that you need to seek counsel or agreement in prayer, or simply stand, take authority over the enemy, and speak to the mountain of sickness, commanding it to be removed from your body.

There will also be times when you may be led to go to a service where the gifts of healing are in operation, or the Lord may instruct you to simply get in the Word, meditate on it and speak it until the manifestation comes. The bottom line is to get into God's presence, listen for his instruction, and follow the leading of His Spirit. If you don't receive specific instructions from the Lord then act on whichever strategy for healing you feel strongest about. God will confirm His Word with signs following.

When you are ministering healing to others, don't lay hands on every individual suddenly. If possible, take time to talk to the person, ask questions and listen to them. Also, listen and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit concerning them. The Bible says he will teach us all things and guide us into all truth (John 14:26, 16:13).

Be followers of Him in your ministry to others. Listen for His voice. Follow the Spirit. Hear and be healed. Hear and bring healing to others!

Dealing With Counterattacks

More battles are lost in counterattacks than any other kind of battle. It is true that you and I have authority over the devil because of Jesus. But the devil doesn't give up just because he leaves you the first time. Demons can't find rest outside of bodies. Jesus said that there is a demon that calls your body his house. Spirits of infirmity, inequity, or uncleanness say, "I will return to my house."

Don't give the devil any room. Whom the son has set free is free indeed. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost now and that devil cannot come back if you don't let him.

The point is this: don't be naïve and don't let down your spiritual guard once you experience a spiritual victory. The devil will be back. Just be ready for him. At the very least he will attack your mind with thoughts of doubt and defeat. He is after the Word. Don't let the Word go. When he comes to steal it, stick him with it. He is the one who is in doubt and is already defeated – not you. Be prepared to respond to every counterattack by saying what Jesus said: "it is written" (Matthew 4:4). When you are ready for these counter attacks and you run the enemy off with

the Word, it puts fear in him about trying to attack you again. He will think twice about coming to your house to try to steal from you.

Jesus told us the kind of house where the devil can regain control. It is a house that is swept and clean, but empty. It is a house that is not filled with the Word and the Spirit. That explains why so many people who are healed by the gifts of the Spirit lose their healing. It is because they have not taken time after receiving their healing to receive instruction in the Word regarding faith and healing.

We must take responsibility to fill ourselves up with the Word so that the healing God gave us cannot be stolen by the enemy later through a counterattack.

The devil can only devour those who are not sober and vigilant – those who do not resist him steadfastly in faith. In other words, those who have let down their guard and become passive. When he comes, they are vulnerable to his attacks. Be ready for the devil's counterattacks and you won't be defeated by them.

Stay in faith and in the Word regarding every aspect of your being. Don't doubt your healing when the devil comes cloaked in a pain or a lying symptom of sickness or disease. Resist him steadfast in the faith. Run him off with the Word and he will mark your house as a place he and all demons will fear to approach again.

**Be intolerant towards the enemy and stand firm upon God's Word.
Be ready for the devil's counterattacks and you won't be defeated by them.**

It is essential after healing has come to look forward to the future. Be thankful for God's healing power and be filled with faith in God's keeping power.

If Healing Does Not Manifest

Notice what the title of this final chapter does not say. It doesn't say, "if healing does not come." I believe healing always comes when an individual asks for it, but it doesn't always manifest. And there is a myriad of reasons why this is true.

It certainly isn't because God is fickle – that He gives healing to us and then takes it back. In some instances, healing doesn't manifest because of a lack of knowledge about healing by the individual asking for it.

In other instances, people just get tired of the fight against sickness and disease and give up. Others open the door to sickness and disease through unrepentant sin in their lives.

Still others get close to death, have a vision of Jesus or heaven and decide there is nothing on this earth to hold them or to compare to the glory that is waiting for them.

Sometimes the devil exploits the weakened physical condition of overworked Christian ministers and attempts to take them out. We see this as the case with Aphroditus in Philippians 2:25–30. (Pastor John!)

These are just a few of the reasons some people fail to see healing manifest in their lives.

"The secret things belong to the Lord." We didn't enter into judgment that John had no faith. His faith was to go home and be with the Lord. No matter how much we preach the truth, we do not have control of people's lives or wills.

I am convinced the primary message of the book of Job is to help us respond to God in faith and trust when life's circumstances do not line up with our theology.

Here are some simple keys I have learned over the years that have helped me stay in faith and maintain my trust in the Lord when circumstances are going "haywire".

First of all, don't blame God or allow yourself to get angry at God. God is not our problem. He is good and just and right all the time. He is not to blame. If anything, focus your anger and blame at the devil by serving God with all your heart and by ministering life and health to others.

Second, don't allow the situation to separate you from God's love. Determine that nothing Satan or people throw your way in life will convince you that God does not love you. The apostle Paul says it so well in Romans 8:38–39:

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Refuse to allow anything temporal to affect your relationship with God.

Third, don't allow your doctrine to be shaped by your experience. A lot of good and sincere people attempt to interpret the Word of God based on their experience. That is not good theology! It is never wise to give your personal experience greater authority than the Word of God in your life. Let God be true and every man a liar (Romans 3:4).

Next, worship God. When disappointment, loss, or tragedy happens to us. We have two choices: Either worship God or become bitter. Whenever the enemy comes to steal from us and we respond in worship instead of drawing back from God, it reinforces Satan's defeat.

Finally, keep praying for the sick. Don't stop praying for sick people because someone you prayed for died. Failure in praying for the sick is no different than failure to see a lost person saved that you shared your faith with. Just because that individual, or 10 others you share the gospel with, did not respond positively, don't stop witnessing to the lost!

If someone I shared the gospel with dies without Jesus, I am not going to stop witnessing to the lost. In fact, that will motivate me to be more resolved to share my faith with others. We should approach healing ministry and praying for the sick in the same fashion. I refuse to stop praying for the sick because of those who don't experience the manifestation of their healing and leave this life prematurely.

Whenever I have prayed for someone's healing and they die, I become more resolved to pray for others health to be restored so that the enemy won't have opportunity to keep them from finishing their course with joy.

One-third of Jesus ministry involved healing for the sick. If I am to represent Him in ministry, then I must keep reaching out to the sick and hurting by giving them hope that they can be well.

Immediately prior to Jesus departure and return to the Father, He left us an irrevocable assignment: preach the gospel to the lost, set captives free from demonic bondage, and minister healing to the sick left. (Mark 16:17 – 18). In spite of our weaknesses, our sense of inadequacy, and past failures, and as long as we have breath, we must keep functioning in healing ministry. Jesus wants people well. He needs you and me to minister in His stead. If you accept this assignment, the Holy Spirit will confirm His Word with signs following in your life. Many lives will be spared. People's destiny and inheritance will be discovered. Jesus will be pleased.