The background of the book cover features a large, dark silhouette of the Great Pyramid of Giza against a vibrant, warm-toned sunset or sunrise sky. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue, with rays of light emanating from behind the pyramid.

School of The Spirit

David Metz

SCHOOL OF THE SPIRIT

By David Metz

School of the Spirit
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Some things seem to be hidden from our eyes and minds.

*Though we've heard them for years, we have not truly
grasped, received, and been transformed by them. David
Metz has been directed by God to open our understanding in
this must have book. If you want to apprehend spiritual
things, this is the book you have been waiting for. Thank you,*

David!

~ Pastor Peter Doseck

"The School of the Spirit strengthened our church's foundation regarding the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The attendees are excited as they constantly communicate how they are looking forward to sharing with others what they learned during those sessions.

I believe the School of the Spirit would be a blessing to any group of believers."

Dr. Daniel L. Smith Sr.- Ahoskie Christian Center

The ministry of David Metz and The School of the Spirit teaching has made an incredible impact on our students. Many of them received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and/or a fresh infilling during his classes. They were taught how to be sensitive to the Spirit and to step out in faith to minister in the power of the Spirit. Many of our students have been transformed as a result of these classes. I highly recommend the ministry of David Metz to anyone who is serious about empowering their church.

Pastor David Snyder- Pastor at Asheboro First Assembly and Master's Commission Director

"School of the Spirit accomplished just what I had hoped! People came to a new level in their spiritual gifts and maturity. The ministry left an impact that continues to bring transformation in the lives of the people at New Vision Ministries."

Pastor Sandy Outlaw- New Vision Ministry

"The ministry of David Metz through School of the Spirit had a tremendous impact upon our Church. Leaders and lay people alike were activated and reactivated in the supernatural gifts of the Spirit. The school provided an impartation into lives that is having a lasting effect beyond the church walls."

Pastor Eric Earhart- Upper Room Assembly

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SECTION I

THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY GHOST

Why We Need This

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit



Jesus spent over three years upon the earth investing his life in his disciples. He taught about the kingdom of God and modeled a life of prayer and holiness before these followers. He demonstrated the power of God and the authority of the kingdom to those that were with him. Yet, as the time approached for his crucifixion Jesus told these followers that it was better that he go away so that the Holy Spirit can come. In essence, Jesus said that it was better to have the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost (same person) than to have Jesus himself, present with them. (John 16:7) While on this earth, Jesus was bound by human limitations. He was limited to be at one place at a time. He was limited in that he required sleep. Now the Holy Spirit is Unlimited! He, as Jesus said, is able to teach us. (John 14:26) He is able to reside in

each of us. (John 14:17) He is able to empower (Acts 1:8) all of us and demonstrate the kingdom through us.

Now the Holy Spirit with all His varied manifestations can meet many of our needs. Additionally, we need to see how immensely practical for everyday life are the gifts and manifestations. Therefore, the manifestation of the Holy Ghost is not solely for operation in a church service but for operation in life.

1 Cor. 12:7 “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”

In **1 Cor. 14:1** “Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*...”

If then, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good and I genuinely desire to be a loving person in the world, then I need to be so full of the Spirit that He spills out and I am able to give what others need.

When viewed this way, the Infilling of the Holy Ghost is much more about others than it is about us. The Apostle Paul said that love does not seek its own.

If I truly love people, or want to, I can press into the things of God to give them what they need.

#1 Being filled with the Holy Spirit is motivated by love for God and other people and becomes the loving thing to do.

#2 Scripture tells us to be filled.

Eph. 5:16 “redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

#3 Jesus modeled this for us. The healings and miracles that Jesus did upon the earth he did as a man filled with the Holy Ghost!

Phil. 2:6 “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Jesus humbled himself, removed his deity, and clothed himself with humanity. Therefore, humanity may be clothed with a robe of righteousness, with God Himself.

Jesus never did a miracle, never began His ministry until the Holy Spirit came upon Him. Then he was equipped for the upcoming trials as well as the future ministry.

Luke 4:1-2 “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.”

According to Luke 4:14, when the temptation ended Jesus returned “in the power of the Spirit” to Galilee.

Even though Jesus poured his life and teaching into his disciples, He told them in **Luke 24:49** “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus gives us the pattern, then the direction. **John 20:22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

However, what did He say in verse 21? **John 20:21** “So Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

God sent Jesus as a man, filled with and empowered by the Holy Ghost! That is how He sends us into the world as well!

A Gift to Receive

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



The infilling of the Holy Ghost is a gift. A gift is not worked for; it can only be received. If it were worked for it would be wages. But Jesus declared this to be a gift, free of charge. The only requirement is to be born again.

Maybe it is easier to define what the infilling of the Holy Ghost is NOT.

The experience is not instant maturity. In fact, the use of the varied manifestations will require additional instruction from the gift giver. There are those that have received the gift yet remain immature in the faith. Therefore, we must seek to be used in the Holy Ghost and to mature in Christian character and integrity. Otherwise, the full benefit and effectiveness can never be obtained. The gift is present but its usefulness is

never fully demonstrated in totality of the Christian life.

The experience is not superiority over others. Paul gives instruction for use in the assembly of the believers. The idea that a particular manifestation of the Spirit gives one the right to rule or dominate over another is inaccurate and it is harmful to the body of Christ.

Now, like any gift we must discover how to properly utilize it (the infilling) (Not HIM the Holy Ghost)

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- To Those in Jerusalem

Acts 8:20 “But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

- To Simon the Sorcerer

Acts 10:45 “And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.”

Acts 11:17 “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was

I that I could withstand God?"

-To the Gentiles in Cornelius's House

The word used in each case is dorea in the Greek. According to TDNT¹ dorea means “gift, but with a legal nuance”. There is a legal requirement attached. Therefore, we could say that we become eligible for this gift as the legal requirements of the law are met and our sins atoned for through the work of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. Another possible meaning could be the gift that encompasses the other “gifts” or manifestations of the Spirit.

Often when people think of or refer to the things of the Spirit they think of “charisma.” However, that seems to denote the specific manifestations of the Spirit.

Rom. 1:11 “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift (*charisma*), so that you may be established-- **12** that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” (*Emphasis added*)

In addition, Paul wrote to a young minister and told him to “stir up” the gift.

¹ Theological Dictionary of New Testament

2 Tim. 1:6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift (*charisma*) of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” (*Emphasis added*)

Let us examine two aspects of this verse in 2 Timothy, as Paul writes to a young minister:

First, Paul indicates that you can have a “gift” and yet the specific manifestation remains inactive in your life. Therefore, you are encouraged to “stir-up” the gift that has already been released.

Secondly, that the gift can be released, imparted and activated by the laying on of hands. As Paul states, the gift was already given but, remaining in a dormant state in the life of Timothy.

It then appears that a specific “manifestation” of the Spirit was needed for the situation at the time. Apparently, Timothy was in a place that required the “gift” to be activated in his life in a specific manner.

How to Receive

*Luke 11:13b How much more will your heavenly Father give
the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him*



We ASK!

Luke 11:11-13 “If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

This is at the conclusion of what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” This more accurately may be called the disciples’ prayer because Jesus was teaching his disciples to pray.

Luke 11:1-2a “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” 2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say...”

Jesus then instructs his disciples in the area of prayer.

Luke 11:2b-4 “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **3** Give us day by day our daily bread. **4** And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Jesus includes in this brief prayer areas of focus such as our relationship with God. He is our Father. We have been grafted into the family. There is a connection based upon a loving relationship as well as submission to authority.

We are told to “hallow” or make Holy His name. This relates to our worship, our reverence and our awe of who God is.

Jesus speaks of the “kingdom coming” on earth as it is in heaven. The rule, the authority and the governing principles that are in operation in heaven should be manifesting themselves in our lives and our areas of influence. Since there is no sickness, no poverty, no lack but rather a sense of purpose in heaven, then we should desire that same atmosphere on earth. Therefore, through prayer we call heaven into existence upon the earth.

Provision is covered in this prayer as Jesus instructs us to ask for our daily bread.

Forgiveness is also included in this prayer. The forgiveness we need from God and the forgiveness others need from us. Entire books have been written on this subject. We make a decision to forgive, period! Feelings may or may not follow that decision initially. We must choose to remain in a posture and attitude of forgiveness.

Protection is also included. God is leading in our lives as well as His deliverance from areas that we may already be ensnared.

Each of these various areas is addressed and must be obtained by faith! Faith being the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Jesus then goes on and gives an illustration on perseverance.

Luke 11:5-8 “And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.”

Faith then must be put into action. We must do something and act upon our faith. It is at this point that Jesus includes the gift

of the Holy Spirit. We can simply ask for the Holy Spirit. When we do ask, there is no need to fear deception or trickery as addressed in versus 9-13. But we must open our mouths and speak.

Let's Pray

If you are reading this text, I must assume you earnestly desire the things of the Spirit of God. Perhaps you have had some experiences in the past in Church or with others praying for you. If those experiences are good and positive, that is great! However, if they carry anything less than that for you in your memory then I encourage you to let those things go and focus on what God wants to do presently in your life. Some people may have had an experience and not understood what was happening. Others may have had someone attempt to pray for them before they were ready. Still others, simply because of their unique temperament and make-up, found it hard to respond to the ministry to which they were exposed. Still others like the believers in Ephesus have “never even heard of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19)

However, each of you has something in common. You are reading this text. That tells me it not that you have rejected the Holy Spirit, but maybe He has not been presented to you in a manner you can receive.

If the infilling of the Holy Ghost is something you desire, even if you still have questions, then let's ask and receive. Simply begin to ask God to fill you with the Holy Ghost according to Luke 11, trusting that He gives good gifts to his children.

In the next section we will discuss what happens, as God fills us with the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. I often use the names interchangeably since they refer to the same person, the third person of the Trinity.

Initial Evidence

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



What is the Initial Evidence of being Filled with the Holy Ghost?

The initial “physical evidence,” that, which can be seen, heard, or touched is speaking in other tongues according to the scriptures. Let me quickly interject, that many have stopped short with only the initial evidence and have not embraced the varied applications of this powerful manifestation of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:1-4 “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

We see the initial evidence of the infilling of the Holy Ghost was speaking in other tongues on the day of Pentecost. Interestingly when Peter stands to give a defense, he quotes Joel 2, which states; “your sons and daughter shall prophesy”. This gives us some insight into both the power and the purpose of speaking in tongues. The use of the word “*prophesy*” indicates that speaking in an unknown tongue has the ability to declare, that which is to come or to speak into existence. Thereby, changing the atmosphere, this causes a shift in the spiritual atmosphere so that the purposes of God can come forth. Hold that thought and we will examine it closer when we look at the uses of tongues. This is not the only mention in scripture.

Acts 8:14-19 “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay

hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

We must ask what did Simon see? It had to be some form of physical evidence, that which could be seen, heard or touched.

Acts 10:44-46 "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."

When the Gentiles of Cornelius's house were filled with the Holy Ghost the evidence of the infilling was that they spoke in tongues.

Acts 19:3-6 "And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

When Paul found some disciples in Ephesus 23 years after the day of Pentecost, the evidence given that they were filled with

the Holy Ghost was that they spoke in tongues.

In each case, there was the speaking out of an unlearned language by the recipients.

There remains for some the question of the validity of speaking in other tongues, even with the biblical evidence found in scripture. For those that seek a scientific explanation, the following article gives such evidence:

“Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine have discovered decreased activity in the frontal lobes, an area of the brain associated with being in control of one’s self. This pioneering study, involving functional imaging of the brain while subjects were speaking in tongues, is in the November issue of Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging, the official publication of the International Society for Neuroimaging in Psychiatry.

Radiology investigators observed increased or decreased brain activity – by measuring regional cerebral blood flow with SPECT (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) imaging – while the subjects were speaking in tongues. They then compared the imaging to what happened to the brain while the subjects sang gospel music.

“We noticed a number of changes that occurred functionally in the brain,” comments Principal Investigator Andrew Newberg, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology, Psychiatry, and Religious Studies, and Director for the Center for Spirituality and the Mind, at Penn. “Our finding of decreased activity in the frontal lobes during the practice of speaking in tongues is fascinating because these subjects truly believe that the spirit of God is moving through them and controlling them to speak. Our brain imaging research shows us that these subjects are not in control of the usual language centers during this activity, which is consistent with their description of a lack of intentional control while speaking in tongues.”

Newberg went on to explain, “These findings could be interpreted as the subject’s sense of self being taken over by something else. We, scientifically, assume it’s being taken over by another part of the brain, but we couldn’t see, in this imaging study, where this took place. We believe this is the first scientific imaging study evaluating changes in cerebral activity — looking at what actually happens to the brain — when someone is speaking in tongues. This study also

showed a number of other changes in the brain, including those areas involved in emotions and establishing our sense of self”.

Newberg concludes that the changes in the brain during speaking in tongues reflect a complex pattern of brain activity. Newberg suggests that since this is the first study to explore this, future studies will be needed to confirm these findings in an attempt to demystify this fascinating religious phenomenon. This preliminary study, done only at Penn, examined five subjects in a laboratory setting. The study, set for publication in the November issue of Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging, can now be accessed on-line at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. The article is titled, “The Measurement of Regional Cerebral Blood Flow During Glossolalia: A Preliminary SPECT Study.” Co-authors include: Nancy Wintering, Donna Morgan, and Mark Waldman.^{2”}

² Excerpt from

<https://discernthetime.wordpress.com/2013/10/04/speaking-in-tongues-medical-study-proves-its-the-holy-spirit-praying/> Posted by YVETTE DE JAGER on OCTOBER 4, 2013 entitled “Speaking in Tongues: Medical Study proves it’s the Holy Spirit praying”. Similar article posted in the New York Times Nov. 7, 2006

Let's Pray

Now if you began to pray for the infilling of the Holy Ghost as instructed in the previous chapter you may already be having words, sounds and syllables come up in your Spirit. Speak them out. That is how tongues begin in us. If not, let's pray now!

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for saving me and forgiving me of all my sins. I ask according to Luke 11 that you fill me with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. I now receive by faith the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Amen

As you sense sounds, words and syllables come up in your Spirit speak them out. Do not be concerned as to whether they make sense to your mind, just spend some time praising and worshipping God and allowing Him to fill you.

In our next session, we will look at some of the uses of this particular manifestation of the Spirit.

How to Use What You Have

*Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe...
they will speak with new tongues*



The manifestation of the Holy Ghost through unknown tongues has several uses and benefits.

In the previous section we saw that tongues are the initial evidence of the infilling of the believer. Unfortunately, many stop there, with the initial infilling. They only repeat what once was a vibrant language of the Spirit but now with no growth or vitality to it years later. In some circles there is a reference to a “prayer language,” however, a careful examination of scripture shows that not to be the case. There is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit through tongues. Adopting this biblical view keeps this manifestation fresh before us as we allow the Holy Spirit to move in us.

Imagine if you will a small boy, using his father’s tools. He is feverishly pounding a nail into a board. However, instead of using the appropriate tool, a hammer, he is using a wrench.

Although he is working with great zeal, at best his efforts are ineffective; at worst, it can result in damage to the tool and even possible injury to the boy. This may be a simplistic picture but one I believe accurately represents how the body of Christ often utilizes the manifestation of tongues. We can utilize the tools God has given in a frantic and unfocused manner, perhaps achieving some results, without ever realizing the full effect of what God intended through a focused and skillful use of what He has provided.

In this section we will look at some uses of tongues and begin to see how several other of the manifestations may need to work together in order to fulfill the desired end. In addition, we will seek to activate praying in other tongues through a renewed intimacy with the Holy Ghost.

The uses and benefits of speaking in other tongues are as follows:

1. Initial Evidence of the Infilling of the Holy Spirit

- a. **Acts 2:4** “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- b. **Acts 10:45** “And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been

poured out on the Gentiles also.”

We examined this aspect in a previous section, now let us move on to other areas the Spirit can utilize this manifestation as we seek to develop our own proficiency in this area.

2. A Language of Men and Angels

1 Cor. 13:1 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”

It seems that often the focus is solely on love. But as we examined earlier it is truly a loving thing to press into the various manifestations of the Spirit because of our love for Him and for others. In fact, 1 Cor 13:1 stated there is a language of men and angels. Yes, we can speak in a language known to angels. But we can also speak in languages of men. This was the case on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:8 “And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?”

Each person heard each one speaking in his or her own language! This language was a foreign language that another person could understand.

Now notice the plurality of the languages: MEN... ANGELS, more than one?

Now we see an indication that we should not speak only in tongues but multiple languages in tongues.

I was once challenged in this area by a mentor and quickly discovered that when I focused on a specific area of my life that a new language would be manifested. As I cultivated this in my life, I also began to teach this in the church that I pastored. One dear saint that had spoken in tongues for over 60 years upon learning of multiple languages immediately came to the altar and applied this principle. She found that God gave her two new languages as she focused on two areas of ministry within the church!

There may be areas that we are not having victory or being as effective as we could be because we are not employing all the tools at our disposal.

When we refer to the language of angels, we must remember that there are also those angels that fell in the rebellion against God. Once while ministering in a crusade in the Dominican Republic there were several young ladies twelve to thirteen years old that fell out in the spirit. It was obvious that one of them was not the Holy Spirit! This twelve-year-old girl was on the ground in a large crowd in the street crusade, twisting her body in a perverse manner. I immediately began to pray in the Spirit using the gift of tongues. In a short while, I found myself very frustrated and thinking I needed to find an

interpreter. Suddenly it dawned on me that since this was a spirit, I needed to pray in such a way that this spirit could understand. I asked the Holy Spirit to move through me in just such a way. Immediately, I sensed a shift deep down in my belly. I began to pray in a totally different language than ever before. The girl was delivered in a matter of seconds! When she was able to compose herself, I asked, through an interpreter, what had happened to her and what did she experience? She stated, “I do not know where I have been or how I even got here! It is like I blacked out for several hours!” Thank God that this young lady was delivered! But, what would have happened if this gift of tongues were not utilized? There is a real possibility that this little girl would not have received the deliverance and healing that Christ had purchased for her.

3. Speaks to God

1 Cor. 14:2 “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

This manifestation is not just an evidence of infilling—not only edifying ourselves as listed in 1 Cor 14:4; but speaking to God- and if speaking a mystery- can that mystery be known--- YES- if God gives the interpretation--- but NO MAN knows the mystery.

4. Sign to unbelievers

1 Cor. 14:22 “Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers...”

In a time when even many churches are timid about speaking in tongues, the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in this manner as a sign to those that do not believe. This supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit is a signpost for others. Signs are never the reality of a thing but they do point us in the direction of something. The fact that people are filled with the Holy Spirit and are speaking in tongues is a sign that gives evidence that Jesus has completed his mission. It provides proof that His sacrifice was accepted in heaven. Jesus said he was returning to the Father and would send the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7) Now we as the church are to declare the wisdom of God in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 3:10)

5. Edification

1 Cor. 14:4 “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

This is a different use and perhaps a different language. It seems that the subject most written or discussed about tongues is edification. When used in this manner, tongues will build you up. Being encouraged is not the same thing as talking to God. Howbeit, talking to God, in itself should be

encouraging.

However, we can speak in an unknown, unlearned language with the intent of building our faith, encouraging ourselves and building ourselves up. If for no other reason than this, we should make it a habit to pray in the Spirit.

We are further instructed to build ourselves up in the faith and stay in the love of God.

Jude 20-21 “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

6. A Language that can be Interpreted

A Language that is accompanied by the interpretation is equal to prophesy. As the following verses indicate:

1 Cor. 14:5 “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

Therefore, tongues plus the interpretation are the equivalent of prophesy. Prophesy as you recall is a message to the church, a group of people or an individual that changes the atmosphere.

1 Cor. 14:13 “Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.”

In this verse who was to pray for interpretation? The person speaking in tongues is told they should pray for the interpretation. Many in the church have been told that interpretation is only in the church service. However, interpreting our tongues can be a practical use of this manifestation of the Spirit! This allows us the ability to pray intentionally in the Spirit and then ask for the interpretation. Thereby, allowing God to speak to us in a way we may have before been unable to receive. Now our mind can be “fruitful”. We can begin to see in this example how various manifestations are used together to accomplish God’s purpose.

Once I was fervently praying about a ministry opportunity. It seemed the more I prayed the more frustrated I was becoming. In desperation I said “Lord I am going to focus my faith on this matter and pray in the Spirit. I am going to ask you for the interpretation of what I am praying.” I then did just that and immediately I heard the voice of the Lord say that He was trying to give me increase in the area of which I was praying. But there were some steps of faith I needed to take. Once I took those steps, everything fell into place in one afternoon. The answers needed for the ministry opportunity and all the funding to carry out the assignment immediately came

together.

God had given me a tongue and then provided the interpretation that produced a prophetic word, which changed the atmosphere. This moved me into an increased area of faith, ministry and effectiveness!

I Cor 14:13-15 “Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”

Typically, when giving study to these passages many focus their attention upon order in the church. Order is also needed therefore:

1 Cor. 14:27 “If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.”

It would seem that other members would know the typical manifestations within a body. How else can Paul write in **1 Cor 14:28** “But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”

7. A Language of Thanksgiving

1 Cor. 14:15-17 “What is the conclusion then?” I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I

will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified."

Has the church often neglected to simply thank God in the Spirit? Paul says we are able to pray a prayer of blessing with the spirit, as well as sing. In fact, he says in so doing, we are “giving thanks well.” It can be to our benefit to thank God in the Spirit. We tend to thank God for the things we see, for those things we are physically attuned to and knowingly have received. But, what of the untold blessings we may never know of, without spiritual insight, this side of eternity? What about the doors that God closed that were not to our benefit, His hand of protection we were unaware of at the time, and so many other things, which we may be unaware? Even the thanks over a meal can be enriched and broadened by prayer in the Holy Ghost.

8. Worship

Acts 10:46 “For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”

These Gentile believers were praising God in tongues, magnifying Him and making God large! This is possibly the

most common use of tongues. This is an interesting choice of words. When we speak in tongues, praying in the Holy Spirit we make God larger in our view. We perceive that God is larger than our problems, concerns and needs. Here worship begins. We worship God for who He is! We can praise Him for all that He has done. But we worship for who He is! We can praise from a distance, but worship takes place up close. Tongues in our worship seem to manifest the presence of God and perhaps removes distractions so we can perceive just how close God really is to us.

9. Intercession

Rom. 8:26-27 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

Now the Spirit can and will intercede through us. Therefore, this intercession obviously is not only edifying us but neither is this worship of Him. Since intercession is a petition, it apparently is not giving thanks. This is the Spirit Himself interceding. Since this is the Spirit, should this be the same language we pray in at other times? Should we not focus our

faith on what we are praying for and allow the language to change?

In fact, I believe we can say that our prayers should be deliberate, intentional and focused. Deliberate in the sense that we are not just babbling something without really any thought involved. Intentional in the sense that we are actively engaging our heart our mind and our spirit in concerted effort in prayer and focused upon one thing at a time. Therefore, we are praying for that which we are burdened before shifting to anything else.

In Romans 8, Paul stated the Spirit “helps in our weakness,” the KJV says “our infirmities.” This is the Greek word “asthenia.” Strong’s concordance defines this as “1. want of strength or weakness a) of the body 2. Feebleness of health-sickness b) of the soul 3) want of strength to: a) understand a thing b) to do things great and glorious c) to restrain corrupt desires d) to bear trials and troubles.”

If we pause and give serious thought to the above definition, we see that the Spirit is not doing the things for us but rather empowering us on numerous levels to carryout things that produce a healthy and productive life! He gives strength to our physical bodies, provides health to our soul (mind, will and emotion) and to gives strength for understanding, strength to do, strength to restrain and strength to bear trials. When we

look at the totality of the victory and victorious life the Spirit wants to pray into existence through us, why would anyone hesitate to embrace this wonderful manifestation and all that He desires to do in us and through us?

Let's Pray

This is a good place to pause and pray. I believe if you allow the Holy Spirit to do so, He will expand our prayer life. Specifically, in the three areas we have discussed: multiple languages, interpretation and intercession. Pray this prayer with me:

Lord Jesus,

I thank you for your sacrifice that was received in heaven and that you sent the Holy Ghost. I thank you for infilling me with the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in other tongues. I ask that my intimacy with the Holy Ghost be enlarged and expanded. I ask that as I focus my faith in specific areas that additional languages will come forth.

I thank you I can focus my faith and pray in the Holy Ghost and then request the interpretation and I can receive instruction and guidance from you.

I thank you that I can focus my faith upon my pastor, my church or other areas and allow the Holy Ghost to intercede and speak through me.

Now do so. Focus your faith and allow the Holy Ghost to move in a new way with a new language in each of these areas of your life.

SECTION II

HEALING TODAY

Does God Still Heal Today?

Mark 16:18b They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.



In the following text, we will explore this question. We will also explore that if God heals today, what is hindering us from receiving healing. How does God heal and can God use me in the healing ministry? If so, why should I pursue this?

Psalm 103:2-3 “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...”

Psalm 147:3 “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

Exodus 15:26 "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of

the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." This verse refers to God as Yahweh Rapha- The Lord our Healer.

The New Testament says when Jesus came, He healed!

Matthew 4:23 "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."

Jesus taught about the kingdom, he proclaimed and he demonstrated the kingdom. He did so by healing. In Matthew 4 there is a double reference to healing and disease. Many people read this and think only of the severity of an illness. However, there are two distinct words used. The first is “nosos³” translated sickness, it’s meaning would indicate just that, to be sick in body. The word translated as disease is the Greek work “malakia⁴.” The meaning can go a little further than just the physical realm, it means “softness.” Malakia comes from the root “malakos” also meaning softness as in effeminate. This is the same word translated effeminate in 1 Corinthians 6:9. Therefore, we can say Jesus came to heal all

³ According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance

⁴ According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance

manner of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual ailment. The same all-inclusive healing ministry is referenced from the Old Testament referring to Jesus in Isaiah as well as Matthew in the New Testament.

Matthew 8:16b-17 “And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Matthew uses the same word “nosos” for sickness but instead of disease Mathew uses the word infirmities. The Greek word used is “asthenia” which gives greater reference to “moral weakness” or “weakness in mind or body”. However, Matthew is quoting the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. (Is 53:4) Isaiah uses the words grief and sorrows. In English they both refer to our emotional state. The Greek work “choliy” is translated grief and means to be rubbed or worn. Once again, we see that Jesus heals physical issues and emotional issues, even those of prolonged existence.

The question still remains does God heal today? If not when did he stop? The Cessationist point of view is the belief that all spiritual gifts stopped with the apostolic age. Often, they may refer to the following passage in 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 “Love never fails. But whether there

are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

The person holding to such a view may relate this passage to the canonization of Scripture. They may quote when the Bible was complete in 1611. Actually, this date refers to the approval of the King James Bible. Although an excellent translation there were much earlier translations completed. Regardless of Bible translation or one’s position on the canon of scripture, the bible gives us the answer. Hebrews 13:8 says “Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever”

Heb. 10:1-5 “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me."

Heb. 8:6 “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises”.

Hebrews 10:1-4 indicates that everything in the Old Testament was a type and a shadow and now we have a new and better covenant in Christ Jesus. (Heb 8:6)

Something would not be considered better if it did not have all the benefits and more than the previous item. If the Old Testament included healing, then it would be impossible to not include healing in the New and still consider it better.

In Acts 1:1 Luke writes by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and says in his gospel he began to write about what Jesus **began** to do and to teach. Now in the book of Acts, those things continue through the Holy Spirit.

John 14:12 tells us that we as believers in Jesus would do even greater works than he did because he was going to his father.

And John 21:25 says that if the books were written about Jesus and every miracle and healing was recorded that the whole world would not be able to contain them.

This tells me that now the church through multiplied believers around the world should actively be doing miracles and healing to bring glory to God. Because, of the increase in number we are doing “greater works” than Jesus did.

Then, there are those that actively believe in healing; but are not actively pursuing the very gift they affirm. I would declare that to believe and not be acted upon then is no better than not believing at all!

The Scriptures teach us that to believe there is one God we do well but even the demons believe and tremble.

James 2:19 “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!”

Therefore, we realize that intellectual knowledge is not enough; it is not enough in salvation it is not enough in the area of healing. There must be a practical application and the living out in faith to realize the full benefit of both.

Old vs. New Testament Work of the Holy Spirit



In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon an individual for a specific purpose, function, or task. However, it does not appear that the Holy Spirit was a continual and abiding presence in the lives of people. Some examples from the Old Testament include:

Judges 3:10 The spirit came upon Othniel for leadership.

Judges 6:34 As Gideon blows the trumpet, the Spirit comes upon him, empowering him for leadership.

Judges 13:25 The Holy Spirit began to stir Samson.

Judges 14:6 The Holy Spirit came upon Samson in power and he tears the lion apart.

Judges 14:19 The Holy Spirit came upon Samson and he struck 30 men.

Judges 15:14-15 The Holy Spirit came upon Samson and he killed one thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey.

1 Samuel 10:6 The Holy Spirit came upon Saul in power, and he was changed into a different person.

We begin to see that the Holy Spirit came upon individuals in the Old Testament for an act of service or a task to be performed but there does not seem to be the sense of an abiding, indwelling presence as we enjoy in the New Testament.

John 1:32-33 John the Baptist is speaking and says that he would recognize the Messiah because the Spirit would come upon him and “remain.” There was an abiding presence of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in that he lived a life led and governed by the Spirit of God. You and I as New Testament believers are able to enjoy the same abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He comes upon us and he fills us. The Holy Spirit is both in us and can rest upon us.

2 Corinthians 3:13 says the glory upon Moses was fading.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says we live with “ever increasing glory!”

The work of the spirit in the New Testament is not that he just rests on an individual for an act of service but that he now rests on each of us! In addition, we now have an ever-increasing glory of God. We can and should grow in His presence.

Acts 2:3 says the Spirit came and rested on each of them and

filled them.

Acts 1:8 Tells us we will receive power, dumanis, when the spirit comes upon us.

This “dumanis” is the dynamics by which we live and the means by which we grow and develop.

John 3:34 says the spirit was given to Jesus “without limit.” (NIV) It would imply that we could walk with a limit or a measure of the Spirit. But we can also grow to a new measure of the Spirit in our lives. In a previous section, we discussed the fact that Jesus laid aside his divine nature and ministered upon the earth as a man. Therefore, we can increase in the “measure” of the Spirit in which we are living. Recognizing that there may be one baptism but many infillings.

In Acts 2, the believers were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues. They ultimately spoke the word of God with great boldness. In verse 43, we see that the apostles did many miraculous signs. We also see unity and generosity amongst the believers.

Fresh from an upper room experience, the apostles Peter and John (in Acts 3) are on their way to the temple to pray when they encounter a crippled man and heal him. When they are questioned about the healing and even threatened for using the name they are teaching about, they testify with great

boldness.

Acts 4:30 We see that they are requesting that God consider their threats and stretch out his hand to perform signs and wonders to heal.

Acts 4:31 Says they were all filled again and they spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 5:16 “There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

Acts 6:3 The need for leadership came into being. Therefore, they select a man full of the spirit and wisdom for service. A man by the name of Stephen is chosen. Acts 6:8 informs us that Stephen was full of grace and power and did many wonders and miraculous signs. An interesting note is this man was not an apostle. He was not called to apostolic ministry; he was chosen to be what is often described as the first deacon of the church. In fact, his leadership was needed to distribute food to widows. Yet this believer is said to move with miraculous signs and wonders among the people. This would indicate that early in the history of the church that the power of the Holy Spirit to heal and deliver was not limited to a select few. The grace and power Stephen experienced is now available to every believer.

Acts 8:17 Tells us about the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the Samaritans. This was a half-breed of people part Jew and part Gentile. They were looked down upon by the Jews of that day.

Acts 9:17 Saul who was in the process of becoming the apostle Paul is both healed and filled with the Holy Spirit as a disciple named Ananias lays hands on him. Again, take note that Ananias is not an apostle and there is no indication that he is called to the fivefold office of ministry.

Acts 10:44-46 Peter is called to the house of Cornelius where the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Gentile believers.

Acts 19:1-11 It is now twenty-three years after the day of Pentecost and some individuals in Ephesus received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, Paul did extraordinary miracles. Illnesses left the sick through the handkerchiefs and pieces of cloth sent to them. Verse 20 of Acts chapter 19 tells us in this way the word of God spread and it grew in power.

The word of God continues to spread and the power of God is not diminished in any way. We continue to see how He works miracles through his followers throughout all ages and all time.

A good reference of the healing ministry is a work by Jeff

Oliver entitled “Pentecost to Present”. In this three-volume series, you see that God has always had people involved in the healing ministry. From the early church fathers, through the time of the crusades, the dark ages, the early days of healing revivals in America and right up to the present. Other references valuable toward healing ministry is T. L. Osborne’s classic work “Healing the Sick”, John G. Lake’s book “Healing” and so many others that provide testimony and reference to a modern-day healing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Healing and the Fullness of Redemption

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.



Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, 1 John 3:8. In order to be effective in praying for the sick, we must begin to understand that sickness and disease is a work of the devil. This is a part of what Jesus came to destroy!

Luke 19:10 says Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

The church has often viewed this that Jesus came to seek and to save those that were lost. But Jesus came to seek and to save THAT which was lost. This would cause us to question what was lost? In this verse Jesus is addressing the issue of a man named Zacchaeus. He was a Jew. A man who worked for the Roman government, a man that apparently had taken advantage of his position and overcharged his fellow Jews. Jesus uses the word for lost in the Greek apollymi, which means to destroy, to ruin or to render useless; to kill; or

declare that one must be put to death. What was really lost in Zacchaeus' life? He lost relationship with God and he lost relationship with people. There was also the loss of wealth, as Zacchaeus apparently had overcharged people. He stated that he would restore fourfold. In addition, there must've been a loss of dignity for Zacchaeus, as he knew what he was doing against his own countrymen. His mental health would also be restored as Jesus ministers to his life.

What was lost for humanity? What was lost in the garden? Adam and Eve enjoyed unbroken relationship with God. We should pause for a moment and ask ourselves what was really lost and then ponder what Jesus came to restore. What was it that Jesus came to seek and to save? The following are a few things I think we could agree that were lost:

1. Relationship with God
2. The glory of God that rested upon them
3. Relationship in marriage and our personal relationships
4. Joy- as there would now be pain in childbirth
5. Fulfillment- as there would now be toil in work
6. Health- as now death has entered
7. Peace- as Cain eventually kills Abel

Jesus came to destroy those things that the enemy has released

through deception and to restore everything that was lost.

My Journey into the Healing Ministry

Matthew 11:5-6 “The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”



As a Christian I have always believed in healing. In fact, I have received healing from the Lord on several occasions personally. As a minister of the Gospel, I had seen some positive results in ministering healing to others. But in truth, I think I can say that I approached healing unwittingly, more from a passive point of view, as if God heals sometimes on those special occasions when it seems the Holy Spirit of God invades our life. But the more I expose myself to healing the more I realized it is a significant part of the gospel message and the more I realize that we have authority to heal. However, that authority must be exercised and enforced.

I can say that the real focus on healing came for me as I was ministering to a woman in Kenya. I was praying for her and

for the large tumor she had on her throat. However, I was not praying with authority. Whether it was from being tired, from a long day, or just not focused on what I was doing or on a faulty belief system, my prayer was not effective. I was actually telling God that I knew he was able to heal, rather than exercising the authority he has already given me to minister healing. A man that has since mentored me in the healing ministry corrected me. I was reminded that healing has already been purchased for us at the cross. Jesus hung upon the cross and declared it is finished! What Jesus did is a completed work. Now, it is my responsibility to exercise the authority that He has given. With this instruction, I prayed differently. I realized healing is a matter of walking in the authority already given. As I prayed with authority and released healing into this woman's life, I saw a large tumor shrink in my hand. I came away from that encounter forever changed! I realized at that moment that there were things I needed to learn from Scripture in regard to healing. I determined then and there to seek out God and to seek his word about our authority as a believer to heal.

Since that time, I have prayed and seen God open blind eyes, open deaf ears, instantly remove a number of tumors, heal cancer, cause cripples to walk, countless people healed of pain in their body and many other issues. I have come to realize that healing is available to every believer. Healing can

also, be administered by every believer. So, the question remains for many, why do we not see more healings than what we do?

First, let me say I believe that God has healed and is healing many people all over the world. This is not something that happens in other countries alone. This is something that is part of the atonement and occurs often. However, I do think that particularly in the west many fail to give God praise for what he has done. This can leave others in the body of Christ with the sense that healing happens infrequently.

Secondly, many fail to receive what God is waiting to manifest. This was the case of the Pharisees and teachers in Luke 5.

Luke 5:17-26 “Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. 19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. 20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." 21 And the scribes and the

Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

In Verse 17 Luke records “the power of God was present to heal them”. Who were “them” that were referenced? It obviously was the Pharisees and teachers. It would seem that the power was present to heal all of them. However, we have no record of any other teacher receiving what was available to them. But some men brought a friend in need of healing. These men remain unknown to us today. Jesus saw faith in them, perhaps, even faith in the man being carried, faith which was apparently lacking in the religious leaders of the day.

There seems to be some things we can draw upon from this story. Perhaps there are some things we should evaluate in our

own lives regarding healing.

First, Matthew and Mark both include a reference that Luke omits.

Matt. 9:1 “And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.”

Mark 2:1 “And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house.”

Mark 2:1 in the NIV states “...the people heard that he had come home.”

Whether this was a home Jesus used or Peter’s home makes no difference for our purpose regarding healing. However, Jesus makes no objection when the men tear off the roof. Healing is not always as neat and orderly as some may like. It may require that some other things be removed so that Jesus can do what He desires. I can only imagine the scene that day. Did some complain about the noise, the dust, or the inconvenience, maybe?

Secondly, Jesus links healing and forgiveness of sins. Luke 5:20 reads, “When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." All three synoptic Gospel accounts of this incident record Jesus not praying for this man, but rather declaring his sins forgiven.

Can it be possible that many are living and ministering based

upon a theory of healing without declaring the manifestation of healing?

Thirdly, I see an attitude in the religious people of that day. They immediately question the authority of Jesus to forgive. Mathew's account in particular shows that Jesus called such thinking evil.

Matt. 9:4 “But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

All three accounts indicate that these leaders said nothing, but Jesus through a word of knowledge discerned their thoughts.

Mark 2:8 “And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, …”

Luke 5:22 “But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?"

Is it possible that as our minds are renewed healing will become more prevalent in our lives? That has certainly been the case in my life and I believe with my whole heart it will be in yours as well.

Let's Pray

Lord Jesus,

Search me Oh God! Show me any place that I have allowed a passive mindset, doubt or unbelief to creep into my life. Teach me your will and your ways regarding healing. Forgive me if I have limited you and what you desire to do, in any way. Help me to renew my mind in the area of healing.

Amen.

SECTION III

HINDRANCES TO HEALING

Faith vs. Unbelief

Romans 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, ... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."



In order to deal with the issues of healing in Scripture we must ask where we are concerning our faith in this area. There are at least three categories of people regarding faith in this area. We must be honest enough to ask ourselves what group we fall into:

The first category we address is the **Unbelievers**. These are people that do not believe in Jesus and have not accepted salvation. They may not believe that God is real in any way, shape or form. They are unbelievers. Interesting enough is that these people may still be open to healing in their bodies.

The second category is the **Believers**. These individuals have accepted salvation, accepted the word of God as the true word

of God and now believe in the totality of Scripture.

The third category is the **Unbelieving believers**. This is the group that many are in and that poses the most difficulty. They have accepted salvation through Jesus but may be living like an unbeliever as it relates to healing. They may be living a good moral life but not walking in the power and the authority that Christ has given us. There are; three subgroups within this group:

The first of these is **the unbelieving**. Those people that simply think Jesus died for our sins and that nothing else supernatural is taking place throughout the earth. There are; people and groups of people though genuinely born again who fail to believe in the ongoing work of the Holy Ghost including healing.

Next, there are those that are **the unlearned**. These people simply have not been exposed to anything beyond their initial salvation. They believe for forgiveness of sins and they may believe that supernatural things happen, but more often than not, it is of a passive nature and not something to be pursued.

Then there are **the untrained**. These people believe for salvation. They may have even experienced the infilling of the Holy Spirit, but like the unlearned they now live their life on a passive level. They may fully believe in healing, deliverance, and the manifestations of the spirit but, they

remain unskilled or untrained in how to exercise healing for themselves or others.

The Issue of Faith

Romans 12:1-8 Indicates we have been given a measure of faith. It also includes an accompanying list of gifts and says that they should be exercised according to one's faith. Verse 9 gives the motivation behind such exercise, which is love and sincerity.

There is a false assumption amongst believers that somehow, we need "more faith" to see people healed or receive healing for ourselves. If, we are born again we had enough faith to exercise for our salvation. We had enough faith to defeat the enemy when he was controlling our life, to cast him off and declare that Jesus is Lord. It is not that we need more faith but we must exercise the faith we have. We must grow in the use of the faith that we have.

Picture if you can two men chopping wood. Both have an axe. One man chops sporadically but with great power. He swings hard and with great zeal but stops often, out of breath. When he does, he rests upon the axe. The other man works with a steady rhythm. His pace is steady and smooth even strokes are his normal custom. When he stops to rest, he also sharpens his axe. At the end of the day both men are tired. The first man has some wood cut and frankly put in a good day's work.

The second man has a larger pile of wood cut, in fact, enough for his home and his neighbor's home as well. Our faith for healing is like these two men chopping wood. We achieve better results if we steady use our ax, our faith. We also must regularly sharpen our faith. We do so by remaining in the word and continually renewing our mind in the area of healing.

Luke 5:23 Jesus heals a crippled man and says to him “rise and walk your sins are forgiven.” This caused a problem for the religious leaders of the day. Jesus’ answer to them was what is easier to say rise and walk or to say your sins are forgiven. The indication is that healing is a part of our salvation and is as easily to be administered, as we would lead someone in a prayer of repentance and salvation. Therefore, let us look at some of the things that hinder us from ministering healing to others and also receiving healing for ourselves.

Belief Systems

Mark 5:36 “As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."



Everyone has a belief system. Whether it is a biblical belief system is an entirely different matter. Most people develop their belief system based upon experience or lack of experience. Others base their belief system upon the word of God. Our belief system will determine how we respond in various situations. As a Christian, our belief system will determine how we respond to the trials, troubles and difficulties that come our way. Our belief system is not just the doctrines of the church or denomination of which we are a part. This is a matter of what we really believe. We may call this our “faith journey.” We may find ourselves at different places on a continuum of faith. Therefore, we will examine some commonly held beliefs amongst Christians:

1. Miracles have stopped. We have addressed this earlier. If we really believe that miracles have stopped then we will never pray for people to be healed. It would seem foolish to believe God for salvation and not believe him for anything else. Salvation being the most supernatural experience anyone can have.

Once while I was in the Philippines, a pastor came to me the last night of a crusade. He stated “Because of my theological training I really did not believe in miracles. But tonight, I saw one.” His belief system was suddenly challenged and changed by his experience. As we talked later, it was obvious his ministry was going to shift as he realized he could not deny what God had done.

The practical belief in the God of the impossible must be accompanied by the experience of God doing the impossible!

2. God gives sickness to teach a lesson. If this was truly the case then we should never seek medical care! Otherwise, we may be fighting against God and bringing greater wrath upon ourselves.

Many may not admit to believing in this extreme stance, but ultimately that is the logical conclusion. We certainly can learn many things while dealing with an illness, but that does not mean that God is the source of the sickness.

3. God heals sometimes. This is the belief of many Christians. We find ourselves praying and will say things such as, “if it be your will.” If we begin to look at this belief system, we will see the fallacy of it. In fact, we are indicating that God may want somebody sick. I have even heard Christians say that God gave them a sickness to teach them something. This is outright wrong. By doing so, we unintentionally accuse God of not being good. The very same people may say that God wants them sick or God gave them a sickness, typically have no reservation about going to a medical doctor. If God wanted a person sick then we would be fighting against the will of God to take medication, to have surgery or to receive medical care of any kind. Often, it is not so much that somebody believes that God gave him or her a sickness, but simply they are approaching healing from a passive point of view. This mindset is one that says God sometimes invades the life of people, touches and brings healing. But if that’s the case and healing is only available to a select few, then God would be a respecter of persons, which he is not. We falsely approach healing as the leper listed in Mark 1:40 who asked Jesus “if you are willing”. His reply in this story was that “I am willing”. God is willing to heal everybody. When we question his willingness to heal,

we question his goodness and we ultimately question his character. In fact, in this story of healing a leper in Mark 1, we are told “Jesus moved with compassion” the Greek word “splanchnizomai” is used; which, can indicate anger. One translation uses the word “indignant”. It seems that Jesus was “angry” or indignant. Not angry toward the man, but angry at the sickness which now begins to cause the man to question the very nature of God. This is one reason that sickness is so damaging in the life of the believer. A physical attack in the body can cause a person to question the goodness of God and to question His character.

Scriptural Challenges

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



At this point, we must address some scriptural challenges or problems that will ultimately come up. All of us have some questions about healing, such as, “What about Job?”

Job 3:25 “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.”

We see fear, doubt, unbelief and religious actions without faith all taking place in the life of Job. Living a life of fear, doubt, worry and constant negative and critical thinking can open doors by which the enemy can gain access. But we should note that God was bragging on Job and the enemy took advantage, accusing his motives not his actions.

What was Paul’s thorn in the flesh 2 Corinthians 12:7-10?

2 Cor. 12:7-10 “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

In this narrative we must ask ourselves a number of things:

Who sent this thorn in the flesh?

Very clearly, the Scripture indicates it was a messenger of Satan. God did not give Paul a thorn in the flesh.

What was this thorn in the flesh?

Many commentators have indicated that this was some sort of eye disease or physical infirmity. Often they indicate that it was given to him by God. This also is incorrect. 1 Corinthians 4:11-13 and 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 both indicate that this thorn in the flesh was the persecution that Paul had gone through, and was currently experiencing.

1 Cor. 4:11-13 “To the present hour we both hunger and

thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. 12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.”

2 Cor. 11:24-27 “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness”

What was the purpose of this thorn in the flesh?

Paul himself says this thorn was given to buffet him. He uses the Greek word “kolaphizo” this is the same word used in Mark 14:65 describing how Jesus was treated upon the cross. It means to “rap with the fist” or to beat him down with blow after blow after blow. The Scriptures declare that everyone that wants to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12) This persecution came upon Paul just as persecution comes upon believers today, in an attempt to beat him down and separate him from God’s love.

Why was such persecution given?

Why did Paul suffer such persecution? This persecution came in an attempt to stop and distract Paul because of the revelation he received. This is no different from what every person who hears the gospel must face. In Matthew 13:20-21 Jesus speaks of the parable of the sower and he said some seed fell on stony places. This represents the person who received the word with joy. However, when tribulation or persecution came because of the word, he fell away. The enemy tries to steal the word of God sown in our lives through hardship, persecution and tribulation. If he cannot steal the word of God then he tempts us to forfeit it.

The false belief that somehow, someone earned their sickness and God has given it to them is wrong. However, the disciples had the very same mindset when they asked Jesus about a blind man that was healed. They questioned who sinned, him or his parents. Jesus said neither, but that the works of God would be displayed in his life. (John 9:3) He did not say that God gave him the blindness. However, now that he has this issue, the work of God will be manifested in his life through healing.

In order to be effective in healing we must realize that Satan is the source of sickness and disease. Someone may ask you, “What about natural things?” But we have already looked at

what was lost in the garden. Satan that tempted Adam and Eve. Through that temptation and their failure death, sickness and disease all entered the world.

The Source of Sickness and Disease

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.



There can be only one logical conclusion regarding the source of sickness and disease. Since no sickness, disease or death was present until the fall of man in the garden, we conclude that those are products of that fall. Therefore, Satan is the source of all sickness, disease and death. We can even say that because man did not hold his place of authority but surrendered it through disobedience these things entered the world. Jude describes a similar situation for the angels.

Jude 6 “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day...”

Man left his place of authority. But man, unlike the angels has been redeemed through the blood of Christ. Jesus has

reversed the curse upon humanity and allows us to exercise His authority in the earth. We must choose whether we are going to live in the fullness and freedom Jesus purchased for us, or are we going to remain bound, believing for freedom one day but not today?

The following verses reinforce the fact that Satan is the source of sickness:

John 10:10 refers to Satan as a thief. He comes to steal what is rightfully yours.

John 8:44 calls Satan a murderer. He attempts to kill that which God has given life.

Job 2:7 “So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”

Luke 13:11-17 “And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work;

therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" 17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him."

Matthew 9:32 "As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed."

Matthew 17:14-21 "And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed,

you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Acts 10:38 - Jesus ministered healing to all those that were oppressed of the devil.

1 John 3:8 Jesus was manifested or came into this physical realm in order to destroy the works of the devil.

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them...*"

Ephesians 6:11 says we are to take our stand against the wiles of the devil.

We have looked at the hindrances to healing, the false assumptions that miracles have stopped, that God only wants to heal sometimes in special situations or circumstances and that God may have made someone sick for a reason. That leaves us with a third area of belief and the only logical choice:

God has healed! I believe this is more than God wants to heal, God can heal, or pleading with God to heal. This is the view that it is a finished work of the cross. That which was lost, relationships, physical health as well as emotional, is now restored as Jesus declares it is finished! He declared this

as he hung on the cross. He was then buried, resurrected and then He stayed on earth for 40 more days to teach. I believe the Scripture indicates why he stayed. In John 16:12 we see Jesus instructing his disciples about things of the Spirit and he says he has much more to say to them but they cannot take it right now. Perhaps God has much more to reveal to us about himself, about his nature, about his character and about what he purchased for us. Are we able to grasp it? It is not, that God can heal anything, but that he has already paid for our healing. We now must exercise our right upon the earth to be healthy and whole.

SECTION IV

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE!

Renew Your Mind

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Colossians 1: 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled



In order to live out this reality of health and wholeness we must renew our mind!

Rom. 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Which begs the question that was already discussed, is it God's will for you to be sick? No! However, the pattern of this world says, as you become older, there are some things to expect. Yet we read about men in the scriptures like Caleb and Moses. These men did not grow weak and tired, but retained their strength and stamina. They were under the old covenant. Therefore, since we have a new and better covenant should we not expect at least as much? Such thinking will require our minds to be renewed and not to think as the world thinks.

Our human brain has grooves in it. Researchers found that when a thought is repeated often enough it forms a new groove in our brain. Future thoughts automatically return to the familiar grooves in the brain. As these grooves deepen over time, it takes greater effort to change those ways of thinking. Although it is true, we become a new creation when we are born again; it is also true we must work at continually renewing the mind. Continual repeated focus on God's word, His will and His ways will change us. New channels are formed in our brain for future thoughts as we focus and repeat what the word of God says about our healing and wholeness in Christ. Remembering that it is His will to heal, save and deliver will eventually form new thought patterns and our thinking will come in line with the new grooves created by God's word.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ. We must control our thoughts. Far too many people will accept a sickness, illness or disease as soon as they have any little twinge of discomfort. The body of Christ must speak health and wholeness over their own life.

There are individuals that would say something runs in the family. Have they just set themselves up to be a recipient of the very thing that they feared? Like our example of Job have they opened the door for something to come in? By controlling our thoughts, we can live in faith and actively live out the word of God for our life.

James 4:7 says “submit yourself to God. Resist the devil and he will flee.”

We must submit to God and his word and resist the things that the devil brings into our life. As our mind is renewed, we must actively resist sickness and disease.

Matthew 5:6 Jesus speaking said “blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness.”

We must actively desire to live a righteous life. We must strive and want to be in a right relationship with God and with other people. However, this is not just hoping so. There will even be a point of fasting and praying for things to be as they should be, genuinely hungering and thirsting after what is

right.

Once we have come to an understanding that God is a healer and that it is His desire we walk in health, we are actively renewing our mind. We are taking every thought captive, declaring God's word over our situation. We are submitting to God and resisting the devil and are hungering, thirsting and yearning for what is right. We must also actively stay in faith. If we do everything listed above, I believe we can say we are staying in faith.

Other scriptures pertaining to maintaining faith include:

Mark 11:23-24 “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. **24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

James 1:6-8 “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

3 John 2 “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

2 Peter 1:3 “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

1 John 4:4 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

2 Corinthians 1:20 “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Take Off the Limits

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.



As a Christian, we must take all limits off God. We must believe in the God of the impossible! We must believe what the Scripture says, that nothing is impossible with God. In areas of healing, both ministering to those that need healing and receiving healing for ourselves, there are some things that can still hinder us even if our belief system is in order. They may include:

Unforgiveness of Others or Ourselves

Entire volumes have been written and can be written regarding forgiveness. As Christians, we may know the biblical mandate to forgive, yet as humans we struggle with this very idea. We may actively pray as we are instructed in what is commonly referred to as the “Lord’s Prayer” recorded in Matthew’s Gospel:

Matt. 6:9-15 “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in

heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matt. 18:33-35 "Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Mark also indicates that our prayers are affected by unforgiveness.

Mark 11:20-26 "Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that

those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. 25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

There are times in our lives that we truly “feel” we have been wronged. However, we cannot hold onto anger and unforgiveness. As Mark stated in the above verse, we need to pray believing we have what we ask, choosing to forgive and allowing the feelings to follow our actions.

The writer of Hebrews admonishes us:

Heb. 12:14-16 “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.”

Here we are told to actively pursue peace with all and to follow holiness. The writer warns us that without diligent attention to this matter we may “fall short of the grace of

God.” Literally we can “come up short of the gift God wants to give us.” That something can spring up in us (a root) that can defile us, causing us like Esau to sell our birthright. Healing is one of the “gifts” God desires to give. Have we aligned ourselves to receive what God has for us? According to the writer of Hebrews, we can become “profane.” He uses the Greek word “bebelos” which means a threshold. The indication here is that we have opened a doorway, crossed over into another environment other than the place of God’s blessing. Esau did just that and then sold his birthright. Healing is our birthright! Jesus referred to it as such when He spoke with a Greek woman, a Syrophoenician, and called healing “the children’s bread.”.

Matt. 15:26 “But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Mark 7:27 “But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

We have established that healing is our birthright, the children’s bread, and a gift God has given to us. How can a seemingly subtle bit of unforgiveness hinder our healing? This may best be illustrated with the following story:

One day one of my church members came in to my office. She was experiencing some significant back pain and had

been for many years. She told me a doctor had treated her over ten years prior. She then made the comment “he really messed me up.” I sensed the need for her to pray and forgive this doctor and she readily agreed. As we both closed our eyes, I led her in a brief prayer of forgiveness and then before praying for her back I opened my eyes. God was in the process of aligning her back. Her spine was visibly being manipulated as if a chiropractor was working on her. I watched as God brought healing into her life, removing all pain and properly aligning her body as she forgave a doctor that had treated her over ten years before.

Many people may not have thought anything of her comment regarding the doctor that day. However, God saw this as the key to her healing. She had opened a door that needed to be closed before she could receive the gift that God had for her. Each of us should regularly examine our life to ensure we are pursuing peace with all men and holiness so that we do not miss anything that God has for us.

The Severity of the Illness

Somehow, we can be convinced that God heals the cold but not cancer. Nothing is too difficult for God! When we are faced with something of a severe nature, we must ensure that we do not revert to an area of unbelief. We must keep our guard up to avoid areas of unbelief. If we draw back, we

falsely think that we do not have enough faith to see healing of a severe nature.

Once when I was ministering to a group of pastors in Kenya, a car pulled up on the field. I was asked to come and pray for a man in the car. Once I opened the car door, I realized the situation. One of the pastors had gone to the local hospital and taken his son who had been in an accident out of the intensive care unit. This young man was in the back seat with his heart racing; it looked like his heart would beat out of his chest. I could visibly see his heart pounding. An intravenous bag was hanging from the coat hook. Fear was on his face! In that moment, I thought he was going to die! I had to stop and get my faith in place before I would dare lay hands upon him for healing. As I encouraged his faith and mine, I was then able to pray in faith and God did touch him.

The Length of Time of the Illness

The fact that someone has been sick a long time should be no hindrance at all for the minister. We see in Scripture where Jesus healed a woman with a spirit of infirmity after 18 years. We also see where he healed a man at the pool who was an invalid for 38 years. As a minister we should never let the length of time that someone has been ill stop us from praying in faith. For the person receiving healing, the length of time of their illness can be a hindrance. This can become their new

normal. They can become satisfied in their sickness, all the more reason for our minds to be renewed in the area of healing. In fact, there may be times that we do not need to pray. If faith is not present, it may reinforce doubt and unbelief to pray ineffectively.

Once when I was at a fundraiser for missions, I shared with a group of people about recent healings of blind eyes in a meeting. I shared how through a word of knowledge God opened the left eye of a 40-year-old woman born blind. In that instant, I realized that one of the men in the group also had a left eye that was blind. He commented that he saw me looking at his left eye. I could sense the gift of faith rising up in me. When I asked if he would like me to pray for him, he responded, “If you want to, but I get along okay like it is.” I could sense the faith rush out of me. So, I simply encouraged him to find scriptures that spoke to him, and speak them over his situation.

The Type of Illness

Was the person born that way? They know nothing else. This is their normal.

Are they sick, diseased or injured due to something that was their own fault, perhaps an accident they caused? Some may be prone to think that they deserve what they have. In a case like this, we would do well to instruct and thereby help renew

their mind before we pray.

Is it something that has been gradually progressing in their life? Have they embraced the lie of the world that as you get older things will start to fall apart? This may be something that they have allowed to take over and until their mind is renewed, it is more of a challenge for them to walk in healing.

Is the illness or disease something they were once healed of and now it has returned? They may have failed to fight the fight of faith. Now their thoughts are fighting against their healing.

Is it of demonic origin? We will talk more about this in another section. However, we must note that one quarter of all healings Jesus performed had some demonic influence.

The Age of a Person in Need of Healing

As I have ministered healing to the body of Christ, I have noticed that older people will often come once they see God is healing in a service. Sadly, they often do not come in faith. They come hoping God will do something, instead of faith that He has healed. They sometimes are not prepared to contend for their healing. They come with a mindset that it would be nice, but not necessary and as if somehow, they are instantly going to be restored to their youth without any effort, faith, discipline and or self-control on their part.

God does not give us miracles to replace wisdom. That is not to say that He will not heal because we have not done everything correctly and He does renew our youth as well.

Psalm 103:5 “Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”

It is worth noting in this verse that the mouth is satisfied. It is filled with good things. Both what the mouth takes in and what the mouth speaks out are good. Let us remember, even though we are not under the law, God did give his people many dietary restrictions for their health as well. What we consume will influence our lives in multiple ways. What comes out of our mouths should also be good. Speaking and declaring health and healing over our own life can be an extremely valuable practice. Psalm 103 would then indicate that through this means one's youth is renewed.

Therefore, if you have already been instructed in an area of your life, it is best to walk in obedience as you come to the Lord for healing. This way your heart does not condemn you.

1John 3:20-22 “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

I have seen many older people come to the Lord for healing particularly in the area of high blood pressure and sugar diabetes and God does heal! However, many people struggle to walk in victory and shrink back from it due to their heart condemning them in the area of their diet. There is an underlying false assumption that “if God healed, I can eat whatever I want.” Then a person over indulges on the very foods that may have been a cause of a health issue. Usually they are quite aware of this behavior and know they have done something they should not have done. Often those individuals instead of having a repentant heart adopt a posture of condemnation. Therefore, their heart condemns them, they have no confidence before God, and feel as though they are not deserving of His blessings.

Of course, there are those that are healed, walk in faith, exercise discipline and enjoy the benefit of freedom over these dreaded ailments.

SECTION V

HOW TO SPARK FAITH TO RECEIVE HEALING

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you...

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Matthew 21:22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.



R enew your mind

We have discussed this at length already. However, in truth this cannot be over emphasized. Renewing your mind is not a singular event or a one-time declaration. Renewing your mind is an ongoing continual process. Let us not forget that we live in an unbelieving world and that unbelief is always trying to filter its way into our lives. Even well-meaning people and

supposed Christian things can produce unbelief rather than faith. When actively seeking to renew your mind in an area, be diligent of what you allow to enter through your senses. A renewed mind is one that is confident in God's will for a situation and will be satisfied with nothing less than the manifestation of His will.

Revelation from God

Our minds become renewed when we receive revelation and we now understand God's desire for our situation. There are times when someone receives specific information from God, through a dream, which is just a nighttime vision, or a vision such as Ananias had, when he was told to pray for the apostle Paul. Revelation can be in the form of an angelic visitation, which brings a message of God's desire for a situation. But it does not require angels to show up visibly for revelation to blossom in your life. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus and said that he was praying that they might have a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might know God better. As our mind is renewed, revelation of his character should take place. As we see other people healed, revelation should take place. If we watch a video where healing takes place revelation of God's covenant nature will spring forth in our life. Moses, along with all of Israel, experienced great miracles from God. But Moses also knew the "ways" of God. (Psalm 103:7). We should always remember that when we

speak of “revelation” that this is not simply information. However, it is God uncovering something of Himself that has been there all along, only hidden from our view. Therefore, we should never seek “more” apart from greater intimacy “with” God.

Gifts of the Spirit

Two primary gifts deal with healing. These are gifts of healing, which is most often immediate and working of miracles, which is on-going and progressive. Often other gifts of the spirit are involved to facilitate the gift of healing. Perhaps, a word of knowledge is given, that releases the gift of faith in a person, which produces a gift of healing in them. In this simple illustration we see how the gifts of the spirit must work together, in order to accomplish what needs to be done.

In John 1:44-50 we see Jesus moved in a word of knowledge that sparked faith in Nathanael, that then put him position to receive greater things.

John 1:44-50 “Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw

Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

We also can see "incomplete" mindsets of some believers that believe they have a gift of such and such. As if, they owned the gift. Although we should seek greater effectiveness and openness to be used, we know that the manifestation is still as given as God directs. Many people are convinced that there must be a "special gift" in a person in order for that specific thing to be manifested. As the Holy Spirit fills us, we now have the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit has us. He is now able to manifest himself in us and through us in whatever way he needs to.

Testimony

Revelation 12:11 says we overcame the devil by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. Seldom do I hear people quote the remainder of the verse. They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. It is certainly true

we overcome Satan by holding on to our testimony; that Jesus is our Lord and that his blood has cleansed us from all sin and all sickness.

1 Timothy 1:18 “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare...”

Paul gives instruction to a young minister named Timothy and tells him to do battle with the prophecy given him. A word spoken over you through the anointing and spirit of God should be nurtured and protected in your life. We have victory by hanging on to the testimony of what God has already done in our life. We also obtain victory by hanging on to the promises of God, declaring them over our life.

Matthew 4:4 “But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (*rhema word-emphasis added*) that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

The “rhema” word of God is the spoken word. This is in comparison to the “logos” or the written word. When the written word comes to life in your situation and leaps off the page into your spirit, it becomes the “rhema” word for you. It is this word that the believer lives from; the word that God has spoken over your life and into your situation. Therefore, it should go without saying that the rhema word will always align itself with the logos or written word of God.

Revelation 19:10 says that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”. Every time the story is told it creates an atmosphere, whereby the miracle can be repeated. It is important to exercise your testimony. But it must have life! When a testimony is given about healing that took place in somebody else, perhaps even in another nation; it can create an atmosphere where faith can come alive and the same miracles repeated. That testimony can take place by the person that experienced the healing, a participant in it, someone that witnessed it taking place, someone that saw it through video or some other means. Regardless of how the testimony is communicated we must allow faith to come alive and seize the opportunity for the miracle to be repeated.

Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is...” It can be said that faith has a shelf life! Since faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17), not just having heard. There is a point to express faith, exercise faith, and grab hold of the promise! Therefore, we must allow faith to be built in us so that faith can arise for an area of our life. The very same thing happened at salvation. Most people come to saving faith after hearing the gospel or parts of the gospel a number of times. Then faith comes to life! They grab hold of that which God has provided for them. The same is true in the area of healing. We often need to allow faith to be ripened before attempting to harvest it.

SECTION VI

Ministering Healing to Others

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.



5 Step Prayer Model

How then do we minister healing to other people? There are number ways of doing so just as there are number ways of receiving healing. In this portion we will focus on ministering healing through prayer, in what has been defined as a five-step prayer model.

1. Ask
2. Observe
3. Strategize
4. Pray
5. Activate

Many people have used this pattern over time with many variations. We can never reduce healing and the ministry of

the Holy Spirit to hard fixed steps. However, this is a pattern to help increase effectiveness. We will cover each one of these areas one by one:

I. Ask

Ask questions. Jesus asked questions throughout the Scripture. Mark 9, Jesus asked the father of a demon possessed boy, how long he been that way. Of two blind men, Jesus asked do you believe I can do this. Of the man at the pool and invalid for 38 years, Jesus asked do you want to get well. Ask questions!

- a.** What is the problem? Do not be afraid to ask somebody what the problem is. What you want prayer for? But do not get bogged down in the asking. We do not need a complete medical history. We are not medical practitioners. We do not need to know about every medication and how many milligrams. If you feel like you are getting overloaded on information simply say that is enough let's pray. However, asking specific questions can help.
- b.** How long have you had this problem?
- c.** How did it come about?
- d.** Where is it in your body?

During this time of asking questions be aware if the person is getting carried away. By that, I mean giving every prescription and all the doctor's visits they must attend etc. We want to build faith not doubt, fear and unbelief.

e. Where is your faith in this matter? Remember Jesus asked a man crippled for 38 years "do you want to get well" (John 5:6). The point here is, are we agreeing in prayer? What is the highest place of faith on which we can agree? We must learn to be honest with ourselves about our place of faith. If I am praying for you total recovery and you believe for something different, we are not agreeing in prayer.

II. Observe

Do not feel like you must stand there, with your eyes gripped tightly shut to pray. Be aware of what is going on with the person. If their eyes begin to flutter, their body begins to tremble or any other number of things that could take place with them; this could give you an indication of what is happening. We could just as easily say discern. Discern if this is a physical ailment or is this a spiritual issue? Do they need to ask forgiveness for something or do they need to forgive somebody else? Observe them and their response. Do they turn away when you pray? Do they bow their head and begin to cry? Do they appear angry?

By simply observing what the Holy Spirit is doing and what is taking place in them can give you additional information of how to pray more effectively.

At this point or any point in the process or at any time the Holy Ghost may give you a word of knowledge about their condition.

III. Strategize

By asking questions and observing responses, we are quickly formulating a plan, a strategy of how we are going to pray. Oftentimes healing and deliverance may work together.

If someone indicates that, “everyone in (his or her) family has the same problem”. You may be dealing with something that is of demonic origin. If you begin to pray and the pain moves to another location of the body, this is a good indication of demonic influence.

We will discuss more of the demonic influence in the next chapter then return to the remainder of the 5 Step Prayer Model.

Healing and Demonic Influence

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons



There are at least five specific cases in Scripture where healing and deliverance is linked.

1. Luke 13:10-13 there is a woman in the synagogue that had a spirit of infirmity. This woman had stayed bent over for 18 years.

The word infirmity means lack of strength of the body, a native weakness, feebleness of health. A lack of strength of the soul (mind will or emotion) that affects the capacity required to understand a thing; do things great and glorious; to restrain from corrupt desires; or to bear trials and troubles.

I think we can see that an infirmity certainly can be more than just your physical body; it now affects your ability to

comprehend. It affects your ability to do the great and glorious things that God would have you do. It prevents you from living a godly life. Infirmitiy can cause you to be weak so that you cannot undergo the tribulation or the persecution that the devil wants to bring into your life. Infirmitiy should not be tolerated in the life of a believer.

2. Matthew 12:22 blind and mute are healed and this healing is linked with the demonic. Luke 11:14 says specifically when the demon left the mute man spoke.
3. A demon possessed boy who was unable to be helped by the disciples. This miracle was recorded in all three synoptic Gospels. Each one gives some information about the healing and deliverance that took place.
 - i. Mark 9:17-29 These verses tell us that this boy was robbed of speech foamed at the mouth gnashed his teeth and became rigid when the spirit came out. Many have mistakenly called this a spirit of epilepsy. But that is not what the Scripture says. Jesus specifically rebuked the “deaf mute spirit”. It is interesting that though we were told he was robbed of speech; nothing is said of him being deaf. Could it be that Jesus was operating with discerning of spirits, another gift of the Holy

Ghost, another manifestation of the Holy Ghost, to facilitate effective prayer and bring about the deliverance this boy needed?

- ii. Matthew 17:14-18 These verses reveal that the boy did have seizures. They also say that Jesus told his disciples why they could not cast it out. In verse 20, the NIV reads “because you have so little faith”. The King James says because of your “unbelief”. When the father cried out to Jesus, he did not say increase my faith he said “help my unbelief”. The mixture of faith and unbelief spoken by the father in Mark 9 is indicative of many believers as we discussed in a previous section. We as people often think in terms of amounts of faith. Romans 12:3 refers to the measure of faith. (KJV) We have all been given “the” measure of faith. Now we must exercise that faith. Four times Jesus spoke to his disciples about their little faith. Luke 12:28 and Matthew 6:30 both deal with worry about material provision. In Matthew 16:8 Jesus is reminding his disciples regarding provision. He calls to their remembrance how He fed five thousand and how He fed the four thousand. The other two incidences deal with circumstances around us. In Matthew 14:31, Jesus

speaks to Peter after he walked on the water. Jesus asked him, why did you doubt? The last occurrence is in Matthew 8:26, where Jesus rebuked the wind and the seas. A storm that had come up in an attempt to keep them from fulfilling the assignment that Jesus had given them. The same occurrence of the storm is repeated in Luke 8:25, here it records that Jesus asked his disciples “where is your faith?” Therefore, we can conclude it is not a matter of quantity of faith but rather purity or quality of faith. Where are we putting our faith and how are we directing it?

- iii. Luke 9:38-43 The symptoms included convulsions and foaming at the mouth. It says Jesus rebuked the spirit and healed the boy.
- 4. A mute man in Matthew 9:32-33. Again, this passage indicates that when a spirit went out the man began to speak.
- 5. Healing many in the evening in Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 1:32-33; Luke 4:40-41. In each these references the sick and demonized were brought to Jesus and he healed them.

In each case listed above, there is a demonic dimension to their sickness. This occurred in approximately one-quarter of

the healing miracles we have recorded in scripture.

Realize when the bible speaks of one “possessed” by a devil that this word is inserted for our English language. The Greek simply indicates one being “demonized”, regardless of the level of the influence, if the demonic realm is exercising influence in any arena at all. When we think of “possession” there is the implication of the taking over of a person’s will. This may or may not be the case at all when dealing with those experiencing physical sickness, disease and infirmity.

5 Step Prayer Model – Continued



Now that we have addressed the possibility of demonic influence, we can complete the “5 Step Prayer Model” begun in a previous chapter. We have discussed the first three steps in this process:

- I. Ask**
- II. Observe**
- III. Strategize**
- IV. Pray**

There comes the time we must actually “pray”. Remember your authority in Christ. You are a child not a slave; there is no need to beg and bargain with God. Volume is not a requirement for authority. Therefore, there is no need to scream and yell at a person. Remain aware of what is taking place with the person. As you pray, the person may “manifest” in some form, which could be a demonic manifestation that requires you to shift your prayer; or it may well be a Holy Ghost “manifestation” that gives you additional clarification as to what is happening. We can see at

this point how the manifestation of the Holy Spirit through the discerning of spirits is vital. On many different occasions I have seen people mistake demonic activity for that of the Holy Spirit and vice versa. On one particular occasion in Uganda, several things were happening simultaneously. Several women from the crowd would come out to an open area lie down on the ground and begin to twist like serpents. Others from the church would tie them up with cloth; as if to say they are being bound in the spirit. At the same time, I noticed an older woman in the crowd was trembling violently. Then a peace settled down upon her. At that same time, a young lady broke out of the crowd, touched the bottom step of the platform and jumped about ten or twelve steps up. This was obviously not of human origin. Ushers grabbed her before she could harm anyone and carried her way. I was given the task to go minister deliverance to her. She was delivered of multiple demons quickly. However, nobody ever prayed for the ladies twisting like serpents on the floor. It was determined that this must have been learned cultural behavior. The older lady that trembled so violently and then received such peace appeared to be a genuine manifestation the Holy Spirit. Other times I have witnessed ministers attempting to cast a demon out simply because they were shaking; only later to discover they were receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Just because we have never seen a manifestation of a particular nature before, does not mean it is demonic. Just because we have seen a similar manifestation in the past does not mean it's the Holy Spirit. We must develop the discerning of spirits as an additional manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our life.

5. Activate

Once you have prayed, if applicable, have the person do something they could not do before. Ask the person for feedback. Such as, what did they experience if anything as you prayed? How do they feel now? Do they sense any change? If it is better but not fully healed, pray again. This time it may require our prayer to shift and perhaps, bless what God is already doing in them. If the person is experiencing heat, tingling, etc., encourage them that it is an indication that healing is taking place.

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit/Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:9... to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit



Ministering healing through gifts or manifestations of the of the Holy Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians.

1Cor. 12:7-11 “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

The manifestations of the Holy Spirit commonly referred to as the gifts of the Holy Spirit are often linked and work in

unison not necessarily as separate and distinct as some may have believed. It bears repeating that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and within the gift of the person of the Holy Spirit; He is then able to manifest himself in a variety of ways. Therefore, since we are instructed to “earnestly desire the best gifts”, we should continually be asking God to manifest himself in all nine manifestations through our life.

A word of knowledge may be given as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. It may be as specific as what is wrong, or how it happened, or the name of a person or it could be as general as one word spoken in a congregation. A singular word spoken in a congregation can produce healing for multiple people if acted upon in faith. There may be several people in a gathering that have a similar issue. Is it mandatory that God callout each one specifically? Or a general word like hands, neck, back and so on if received in faith can produce a gift of faith in both the person receiving and or the minister so that healing or a miracle take place.

In further pressing into God, we can cultivate an atmosphere in our own life whereby the Holy Spirit is free to manifest himself however he chooses. In Mark chapter 9, for example, it appears that Jesus used the discerning of spirits to bring healing to a demon-possessed boy. But, Jesus also said this kind comes out but by prayer and fasting. It would appear that a gift of faith was manifested and or cultivated in the life of

Jesus because of his habit of prayer and fasting.

Gifts of healing are typically instant and immediate. Someone ministering or praying for another may utilize the gifts of healing on behalf of another person. This may be based on their faith alone; the faith of the person being prayed for or combination of both.

A gift of healing can be sparked by a word of knowledge, creating an atmosphere of faith. Many times, a word of knowledge is given and this sparks faith in a person in need of healing enabling him or her to receive.

Working of miracles on the other hand is often progressive in nature as this relates to healing. The working of miracles may also be at work in areas other than healing alone. That however may require a separate analysis. Concerning healing however, let us look at the progressive nature.

Luke 17:12-19 we have the story of 10 lepers that came to Jesus to be healed.

Luke 17:12-19 "Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so, it was that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he

saw that he was **healed**, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten **cleansed**? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you **well**."

The KJV uses the words cleansed, healed, made whole in that order. Each word is different and distinct in the original Greek.

It is interesting that in this narrative is one of the cases where Jesus doesn't even pray for someone, he simply tells him to go show themselves to the priest. As they were going, they were **cleansed**. Here Luke uses the Greek word "**katharizo**" which means to make clean in a Levitical sense. They went in obedience to what they had been told and it came about in their life as they were going. However, this is still rather quick in their lives. A working of miracles may require someone to stay in faith believing God has already touched them until they fully recover.

Apparently, there was a continued work still taking place in the life of at least one of these men. Verse 15 tells us "when he saw he was **healed**, turned back". Remember Luke, who is a physician himself, is writing this narrative. He would be

familiar with various medical terms. Luke chooses to use another word in verse 15. He uses the Greek word “iaomai” that means, “to cure”. This is a different level of healing!

In this story of the 10 lepers, only one returns to give thanks to God. This seems to puzzle Jesus. To remain thankful for what God has already done creates an atmosphere where He can and will do more. As this one who was a Samaritan, returns to give praise, Jesus said to him “rise and go; your faith has **made you whole.**” (KJV)

Once again Luke, the Doctor, uses another term to indicate the level of healing. Luke uses the Greek word “sozo” which means “to save, to restore to health”. Now, to be cleansed of leprosy is one thing and amazing in and of itself. However, to be made whole is astounding! Leprosy was a horrible disease, that would cause rotting of the body and even a loss of body parts and there’s different words here used to describe what is taking place. They were cleansed, they were healed, and one was made whole. To be whole would indicate a restoration of that which was lost. It is one thing to stop the progression of the disease; it is something else to see the restoration of body parts that have been lost, of flesh that has been destroyed! In this sense his healing was ongoing progressive and of a miraculous nature.

On numerous occasions, I have seen these creative and re-

created miracles. Once when I was in Kenya, I prayed for an old woman that was blind in one eye. Her eyeball was completely white, no pupil, no iris, just white. As I prayed for her, I watched as God created a pupil and then an iris and gave her sight. It took me sometime later to really understand what had taken place, that God had performed a re-creative miracle!

Both gifts of healing and working of miracles may be initiated by a word of knowledge. We can define a word of knowledge as some information that has been given by God to the minister that he would not normally know. The information may be communicated in a variety of ways. Therefore, what are some biblical examples of a word and how do we receive a word of knowledge?

Receiving Words of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:7- 8 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit



Some biblical examples of a word of knowledge may include:

Matt. 9:4 “But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts"?

Jesus knew the thoughts of the religious leaders without them verbalizing anything. Jesus had just declared a man's sins as forgiven.

Luke 11:17 “But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls."

Jesus again knew the thoughts of people.

Acts 9:11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one

called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.”

In Acts 9 Ananias was given a word, by a different means. It says “in a vision” and also that “the Lord said to him”. Perhaps a combination of a picture and words God communicated information to Ananias that he would otherwise not know. Specifically, where Saul, later Paul, was located and that he was praying. In this communication with God a prophetic word is also released that will change or declare Paul’s future.

Acts 10:19 “While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you."

Peter in Acts 10 is given a word about the three men seeking him. This is part of a larger prophetic vision that revealed God’s desire to bring salvation to the Gentiles.

There are several ways that a word of knowledge maybe given. It is important to know that most of the time it is not all the information regarding a situation. God does not necessarily give us every detail of what has happened or the infirmity He is about to heal. For our purposes will look at five different ways that we may receive a word of knowledge:

1. **A word** God may speak to you through simply one word. As we are faithful to move out with the information he has already given, more information

may be given, or it may not. It is important to realize that God gives us, often, incomplete information about a person or situation that gives someone else the opportunity to act upon that word in faith. Therefore, it may not be anything lengthy. In fact, if we do not cultivate this in our lives, we can miss what God is saying to us.

2. **A knowing** There are times that God drops what some may call, a download or just a complete understanding about what has happened or what is about to happen. You know that you know that you know.

There may be times when you find yourself speaking something as if it just slips out of your mouth and it is not as if you thought about it. It is out of your mouth before you gave it any thought, but it speaks right to the situation.

3. **Sympathy pains** There are times that people feel pain that is not their own. If you have no trouble with your feet and suddenly there's pain in your feet, this may be an indication that God is speaking to you about someone that has a problem in his or her feet, and he wants to heal it. If you have aches and pains in your own body this can be more challenging to discern. You must learn to discern if God speaking to you about healing someone else, or is this just your own issues

that you are struggling with.

4. **Sanctified imagination** God said in Joel that in the last days he would pour out his Spirit, young men would see visions old man would dream dreams. Dreams and visions are interchangeable, one being during the day the other during the night. These both are pictures we see in our mind or spirit. But, how much of a picture does it need to be in to be called a vision? I find this means of communication fascinating. As God gives a picture, it requires communication with him and pressing into him to find the meaning behind the picture. I have discovered that there are many people that have seen pictures or flash images, or visions and not really understand what that is. The prophet Jeremiah experienced that very thing and God asked him what did he see? Jeremiah responded “I see an almond branch” and that apparently was the correct picture, but it still needed the interpretation that God would give. God said “that’s right, I’m watching over my word”. The word for the almond branch and God watching was very similar. God was then able to ask him what he saw next, which became more in-depth revelation and interpretation. When God speaks through pictures, it requires interpretation on our part.

When God speaks to us in a visual form, whether dreams visions or trances; we should perceive it as an invitation. Since this form of communication requires interpretation on our part, God is inviting us into a greater dialogue with him. Therefore, we must communicate that vision dream back to God seeking him for the interpretation.

5. Gut feeling A Gut feeling is like grieving for the other person. You may experience some of their emotional pain.

A word of knowledge regardless of how it is received has within it the ability to tap into the gift of faith. When we operate in the gift of faith, we are then operating with God's faith, faith that can produce the healing or miracle that is needed. Words of knowledge can be cultivated in our lives, for the benefit of other people. Becoming sensitive to how God speaks to us in a variety of ways as discussed above we can receive words of knowledge and move into areas of healing and miracles.

SECTION VII

Final Thoughts



Administrative Confusion Part I

Our primary focus has been praying for the sick and ministering healing to those in need, as well as appropriating healing for ourselves. Let me just make mention of two other areas that can produce healing. Each of these areas is worthy of a book in and of themselves.

Communion

First Corinthians 11:27 speaks to us about taking communion in an unworthy manner. Verses 18-26 of that chapter appear to define what that unworthy manner is. It would indicate that an unworthy manner would be taking communion without the care for others and operating in a selfish and self-centered manner. Verse 30 speaks about those that did not recognize the body of Christ and those that did not discern what was available to us in the atonement. Therefore, for these reasons, many are weak, sick and some have fallen asleep. Traditionally, we view this statement as some have even died.

This is certainly true but it is also true that he uses the phrase that means, “to stop the flow”. Any time we stop the flow of God in our lives by sin, ignorance, or apathy we are dying. Healing becomes a reality by taking communion “in a worthy manner”, recognizing what is available to us by the sacrifice of Christ and partaking of that with the right attitude toward other people.

Confession

James 5:16 tells us to confess our trespasses, KJV says faults and the NIV does say confess your sins one to another and pray for one another so that you might be healed. Some healing may come about in people’s lives as they live in right relationship with others that hold them accountable and pray for them, until they obtain victory over areas of their life.

Why is healing so important

The body of Christ should minister one to another but should also evangelize the lost.

When it comes to the area of healing, we have often mistaken two distinct passages of Scripture, the first being in Mark chapter 16, which says these signs will follow those that believe. Often within the church people are waiting for the Mark 16 manifestation. Born-again Christians, with a passive mindset, or wrong understanding will wait for someone, the

pastor, evangelist, or prophet to call them out and give them a word, which is a wonderful gifting in the body. However, in context, Mark 16 is a declaration of God's nature to those that do not yet know. It is spoken in the context of the great commission. It has been my experience, that once people experience the healing power of God it is far easier for them to embrace the saving power of God.

There are those within the body of Christ that erroneously believe that God only heals those that are born again. The fact that God is a healer is not conditional on our part. As we have learned there are areas that we may help and we may hinder, but God remains a healer regardless.

Healing in the body of Christ is recorded in James 5:13-16. This portion is commonly referred to as “the prayer of faith”. In verse 13-14, this passage gives us our personal responsibility, when it states, “is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church.”

Frequently, the body of Christ is looking for someone else to pray for them, which is good and beneficial. However, the implication is in verse 13, that if I am praying, I may not need to call someone else. I would not get to verse 14 where tells us to call the elders of the church. We should be praying in

faith over our own conditions, struggles, situations and hardships before we call for the elders of the church. By the time we call for the elders we should be able to say we have prayed, (maybe) fasted, sought the face of God and now we can come together in agreement knowing where our faith really lies.

It is less than productive to pray unspoken prayers or unspoken requests and expect God to answer specific needs. Verse 13 addresses the personal responsibility to pray over our lives and to praise over our lives. The latter part of verse 15 and 16 tells us that we need to be in relationship, in such a manner, that we can freely share what is going on in our lives. So that, when we pray, we agree on the desired outcome.

If I am praying for your complete immediate recovery but you are praying that the surgery will be successful, we are not in agreement for the outcome. We need to seek the place, the highest place of faith in which we can agree.

Why healing? Because the devil has come to steal kill and destroy, but Jesus came that we may have life and have it to the full. Those that do not yet know Christ need to see the supernatural power of God at work in their life. For those that claim to know Christ, they need to understand they can appropriate for themselves and for others, the supernatural power of God in their lives.

James also tells us not to be, only a hearer of the word and not a doer of the word unless deception slips in. Begin to seek people out to pray for their healing. Ask God for opportunity to pray for people. When he heals them give testimony of what God has done. When you see someone sick in the market, in the workplace in places that you do business, ask for permission to pray for them. You will be surprised how open most people are for your prayers, and even more surprised how God will move in those situations. As people are healed, you can also inquire about their relationship with God. We have given a good overview of healing in the Bible, now we must begin practical application.

Administrative Confusion Part II



We will now examine how the Holy Spirit will use us in a gift and yet administer that gift in different fashions.

1 Corinthians 12 speaks of spiritual gifts. Verse 4 says now there are **diversities of gifts** but the same spirit. Verse 5 states there are **differences of administration** but the same Lord.

A comparison of Acts 3 and Acts 14 shows how nearly identical situations can be ministered to in different ways, yet God is the source of both. In Acts 3, Peter and John were going to the temple at the time of prayer and saw a man crippled from birth. They called out to him and say, “Look at us!” However, in Acts 14, we see Paul ministering in Lystra and he has a nearly identical situation. Here was a man crippled and lame from birth just like in Acts 3. Yet it says Paul looked directly at him and saw that he had “faith to be healed”.

In one case it would appear healing came about by the faith of the apostles. In the other case it appears that faith was sparked in the man receiving the healing by teaching. Both

men are healed both men jump up. This gives us a good example of healing ministered two different ways. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing and we must be true to who we are. If we find ourselves in a rut and feel that God must do the same thing the same way all the time, we will miss much of what he wants to do in the lives of people.

There are times where you may be able to build faith in a person so that they can receive what God wants to do in their lives. As they see God doing something in them or speaking through you, little by little, their faith will begin to develop.

Certainly, we can learn from the ministry of others but we should never try just try to copy what someone else is doing or has done. We have to be true to whom we are, to the leading of the Holy Spirit in that moment and what He desires to accomplish in the person's life for whom we are praying.

Practical Tips When Ministering to Others



- Mints
 - Always have them
 - Use them
- Ask permission
 - Before touching
 - Before breathing upon
- When touching
 - Do so appropriately
 - This may vary depending on the person, gender, condition etc.
- Pray with awareness
 - Be aware of what is going on around you and with the person with whom you are praying.
 - Be aware of their actions, as this may indicate how to pray.

- Be aware if you need someone to catch them.
- Be encouraging
 - Speak faith to the person
 - Speak faith into the person
- 5 Step prayer mode
 - Ask
 - Observe
 - Strategize
 - Pray
 - Activate

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Metz is the founder of “For This Cause International” a Teaching, Healing, Evangelistic and Missions ministry. Because it is about THEM! Pastor David seeks to help THEM hear about Christ, be healed by Christ and empowered in Christ at home and around the world. The ministry of For This Cause has taken him to several nations of the earth to minister the love of God with signs that follow.

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Other books by David:

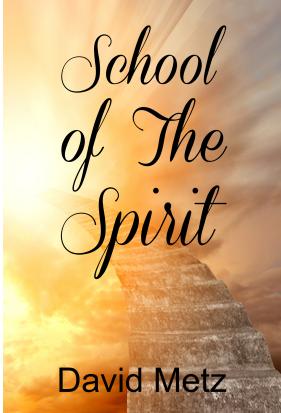
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David Metz is the founder of "*For This Cause International*". As a Teaching, Healing, Missions, minded Evangelist he has traveled to numerous nations of the earth sharing the love and power of God.

Through *For This Cause International*, water wells have been provided in African nations, homes built for families in the Caribbean, orphanages have been supported, business start-up programs funded for African families, churches and leaders have been trained in the U.S and abroad and thousands upon thousands of people have come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

David is the author of *Firm Foundations* and *What I have I Give To You*. He lives with his wife Kimberly of over 20 years, in rural North Carolina.

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