

Jesus' Healing Ways



Luke 10:3,9

By: Terry W. Collins

Cover Page

Go now, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Heal the sick. As you heal them, say, "The Kingdom of God is near you now." Luke 10:3,9 (NLT)

Marcie Collins, the daughter of the author, designed the cover. She chose the medical symbol to remind the reader that divine healing comes in many different ways. Medicine, surgery, physical rest, and miracles are all part of God's process. The cover reminds the reader that Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins by dying on a cross. The wings on the staff form the cross. The wolf, in all its ferociousness, was made to look human. Note the human eyes and the contemporary ring through its ear. This is to remind the reader that this commission from Christ is not an easy task. When one goes out to heal the sick in the name of Jesus, this will take great faith. The lamb on the opposite side of the wolf depicts innocence, note the human eyes. The cover reminds us that we are not the healers, but the faithful that will honor the passage by praying for healings, knowing that Christ will use us. Finally the dark side of the cover is to depict the wolf's world which is evil, violent and corrupt causing death. The lamb's brighter background reminds us that as believers we can live in this evil world with the heavenly joy and peace of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the light of the world.

Let us go and heal the sick as we talk about Jesus Christ

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I have written this book to give hope to those that are hurting from the pain of an illness, suffering from heartache, or finding themselves agonizing as a result of receiving a diagnosis of a terminal disease. This book has been written for those who find themselves living hopeless, empty lives as a result of grieving the loss of a loved one. I believe that there is an abundance of Godly blessings for all those that seek Jesus Christ' healing touch through the Bible.

This book will challenge the heart of the reader to seek out personal convictions concerning the miraculous healing powers of God. I have given testimonies of divine healings that I have witnessed and have attempted to show a biblical process that explains why Jesus heals today. My prayer is that the reader will be encouraged to reach out to Jesus Christ for His wonderful healing touch as a result of reading this book, and then honoring God by sharing their experience with as many people that will listen to them.

My prayer and my hope is that every reader will grow closer to the Lord by searching for an intimate personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I also pray that many non-Christians will be brought to Jesus through these teachings.

I want to thank my wife, Susan , my children, Marcie, Michael and Anna, and all those friends that have supported me in this writing.

May God continue to bless you and yours forever.

Terry Collins
2006

JESUS' HEALING WAYS

Chapter I

God's Healing Process

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14

Do you believe in divine healings today, **or** do you believe healing is something which only happened in Christ's time? You are not alone if you question divine healings. There are many people who would dispute the fact that Biblical miracles even took place during the time of Jesus.

Over 25 years ago I attended an in-house Bible study and was prayed for by the elders of the church that night, just as the Scriptures instruct us to do in James 5:13. The elders anointed my head with oil and asked God to divinely heal me of asthma.

At that time in my life, I had asthma so badly I had to go to the emergency room several times a year for help when my lungs would swell, causing me great difficulty in breathing. I was on all the modern medications, including two steroid inhalers, and I had to have these monitored so my blood system would not be poisoned. Every time I entered the hospital they would immediately place an intravenous needle in my arm to pump drugs directly into my system and then place an oxygen mask over my face to ease my breathing. Many of you, who have experienced asthma, know how frightening an attack can be.

When the Bible study group prayed over me, I expected to be healed immediately, but this was not the case. Instead, at the end of the prayer, I experienced perfect peace within my heart. I believed God heard our prayer, but knew I still had the asthma. The peace I received was a result of the knowledge that God had not only heard our sincere prayer, but would also heal me in His time.

I decided to go to my family doctor in Farmington, Pennsylvania, and asked him to take me off all my asthma medications. I wanted to see whether I would ever need

them again. He said to comply with this request was impossible. I told him I was coming off the prescriptions with his guidance or without it, but I hoped he would help monitor me. He finally consented, but warned the first time I felt my chest constrict, I was to come into His office and slowly start back on the medications. I agreed.

You might be asking yourself why I would be so foolish as to do something like this. I knew by going to my doctor's, I placed myself in a very humiliating and possibly dangerous position, but I also knew this would be a true witness for the Lord. I did this out of pure faith. I felt the healing would be a dramatic statement to the doctor confirming God's power and grace.

You might be wondering how I justify this faith. To me the answer is simple. I believe the Bible is sacred and is the Word of God revealed to humanity. Therefore, I believe the illustrations and teachings given to us all through the Bible demonstrate a process and a lifestyle for contemporary life, as well as, for yesterday and tomorrow. The Bible proclaims Jesus healed miraculously two thousand years ago and therefore, I believe He heals today.

Since I visited my doctor that day, I have never had another asthma attack. There is no explanation for this phenomena other than a divine healing by God.

I would like to look again at the passage in the book of James 5:14, striving to understand God's process for divine healing; "**Is anyone among you sick?** Let him call for the **elders of the church**, and let them **pray over him, anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord, and the **prayer of faith** will save the sick".

There are two questions raised by this passage: first, why would God want the sick to come before the elders of the church for corporate prayer, and second, why would God want the sick to be anointed with oil?

The passage clearly sounds like a step-by-step process for healing, but to understand this divine process, the passage must be broken down and examined further.

IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SICK?

When people become sick, the last thing most want is a lot of visitors. Most just

want to be left alone to rest and get better. However, there are those times when an illness is serious and lives are threatened. The doctor might say surgery is needed, or a rare virus has been contacted, or cancer cells have shown up in testing and chemotherapy or radiation is needed. On those occasions we find ourselves under great stress and afraid, because we are forced to face our mortality.

Many people still do not want others to know they are sick. They feel this is a private affair. But what does God say about this? Is this fatal illness, or any other illness, to be kept private? The Bible teaches illnesses are not to be private affairs among believers, but rather to be used as opportunities to reach out to God publicly and honor His life-giving process, knowing they will be blessed, both in life and in death.

We understand that our individual prayers can be private, and we can seek out Jesus in our private prayer closet, but our faith walk and our relationship with God, is not private. We are instructed by the Lord to seek Him out for a healing when we are sick by calling upon the elders of the church.

Look at the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 8, starting at verse 43. These verses describe a woman who had hemorrhaged for over twelve years. No one was able to help her. The woman spent all of her money on medical assistance, but found no relief or healing. She had heard that Jesus, the Son of Joseph, was coming by her home. She had heard about all the miracles He had performed and thought Him to be a prophet of God. As Jesus approached the multitude which had gathered around Him, she came up behind the Lord and touched the edge of His cloak. Immediately, her bleeding stopped. She knew at that moment she had been healed by God.

Jesus knew someone had touched Him from the crowd, because He felt the power of God leave His body. He stopped suddenly and addressed the crowd asking who had touched Him. His apostles wondered about His question, saying that there were so many people around Him, He was being touched by everyone, but Jesus inquired again. The woman who was healed as a result of her faith came trembling toward Jesus. She knew she could not go unnoticed. She told Him why she touched Him and that she was immediately healed of her bleeding. Jesus' reply to her was simply, "Daughter be of good cheer; your faith has made you well, go in peace."⁽¹⁾

Why didn't Jesus just leave this woman to her private faith? Why did He call her out? Wasn't it to show those around her the glory of God through the healing touch of Jesus Christ? Jesus wanted the crowd to witness the faith of this woman, and to know the loving grace of our God. This healing was a public witness to the glory of the Father. It is no different today. God wants people to witness His awesome power through healing to draw them into a personal relationship with Him.

I think it is so sad that many of God's churches today do not teach this Godly process and are thereby missing so many marvelous healings from God. In this writing, I am not just talking about the colds and minor illnesses a person gets as a consequence of living in the world of today. We are to pray for these illnesses, but it is just a matter of time until a cold or headache runs its course. I am talking about really being sick, experiencing pain, suffering and not knowing what to do. I am talking about times when there is a chance the illness can be disabling or become life threatening.

According to the Book of James, Chapter 5, we are not to keep these illnesses private. We are instructed to search out the elders of God's church, and give our illness a chance to glorify God. We are told to step out in faith, following His process of testimony and prayer to be healed. Is anyone among you sick? Call for the elders of the Church today!

CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

If we are to be blessed and be a testimony to God, we need to know just who the elders are whom we must seek. In any civilization or culture, elders are those who would be viewed to be the best qualified to rule, or lead, a group of people. It is no different in the church today. Elders can be qualified by their age, their wisdom, education, or their experience, but they are always the ones we look up to and trust.

In Exodus, Chapter 3, verse 16, you will read about the Israelites who had elders from the time of the Egyptian captivity, and it is with these elders that Moses consulted to seek God's grace to free the Hebrew people. By the time of the New Testament, the "elders of the people" shared responsibility with the chief priests in determining the religious affairs of the synagogue.

Seeking out the elders of the church today becomes a step of faith. We must believe this is the way of the Lord, and it is a witness for the Father, to His church and to the world. As we speak about God's kingdom, going to the elders becomes a very public act. One who is sick either comes before the elders, or if bedridden, asks to be visited by the elders, is anointed and prayed for, always remembering, "the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much".(2) Let's look more closely at who these elders are.

According to Thomas Nelson, publishers of the Spirit Filled Bible, the elders of the church are the officers of the church; "blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach: not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous: one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence."(3) In the book of Titus, we learn that the elders of Christ's church are also to be; "hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."(4)

We see from these verses, the qualifications for the elders of Jesus' church which apply to those people characterized by personal uprightness and spiritual maturity. These people have special ability, particularly in the area of discernment. They hold particular positions of authority within the church and are men/women of faith and prayer.

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 10, tells us Jesus sent seventy of His followers out, two by two, into each city into which He was about to go. These teams were to heal and to speak about the kingdom of God. These teams were Jesus' elders, those in whom He placed heavenly power so God the Father could be glorified.

We, too, have been instructed to go out two by two, like lambs among wolves, into every city, healing in the name of Jesus and speaking of the Kingdom of God. The public witness of healing is so the world can hear about the life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven by Christ for the forgiveness of humanity's sin.

The healing process is the divine process of God, used to reach out to the world proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The people God honors with a specific place in this process are the elders of Christ's holy Church. If you are sick, call for the elders of

the church, pray and be anointed with oil. This is not a suggestion from God, but rather a Biblical command.

PRAY ANOINTING WITH OIL

Why would God want us to place oil upon our heads as we pray to be healed? What is the significance of this act? In the Book of Exodus, Chapter 30, the Lord spoke to Moses and commanded him to take quality spices to the perfume makers. God spells out the exact ingredients for this ointment. The Lord states that this is to be a holy anointing oil, separate from all other perfumes. This compound was to be poured out on the tabernacle and all that was in it, in order to cleanse and purify the items. In other words, the items were to be separate from anything in this world. This purification and separation defines the word “holy”. These items were to be God’s. The items must be made holy, because the Lord is Holy. Anything that was in His presence must be holy, or separate, from anything created by man. The special anointing oil was used to purify the contents of the tabernacle to make them holy.

In Exodus, verses 30 and 31, we see God further instructing Moses to anoint Aaron and his sons and to consecrate them, so they could minister for God as His holy priests. They were to be made holy and pure before the presence of the Lord. This anointing process was established by the Creator of the heavens and the earth, in order to purify and to make holy the priests who were His elders.

Today we can see a very distinct clue given to humanity in this passage. In the presence of God there cannot be any sin. God is holy and pure, therefore, one must also be holy and pure upon approaching His presence in prayer. This is the purpose of anointing with oil today, just as in the time of Moses.

In the First book of *Samuel* we find for the first time, someone other than a priest being anointed. Here the kings are purified and made holy before God. These chosen men are anointed before taking office to rule God’s chosen people. In the Second book of *Samuel* we read that David, the son of Jesse, is anointed King over Judah and Israel. In the First book of *Kings*, Chapter 1, starting at verse 32, Zadock the Priest and Nathan the prophet, anoint Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel.

What we learn from these passages is that the anointing process is ordained by God, not only for priests and kings, but for anyone who desires to be pure before God. When anointing is done in perfect faith with prayer, a purity is established and the person being prayed for and anointed becomes pure before God. The Lord hears the corporate prayer.

Remember the term **anoint** means to **make clean, to be holy** in the sight of God. James is instructing all those who are sick to become pure and holy before you pray for God's miraculous healing touch. The only way a believer can be healed is to be in the presence of the Lord, and one must be Holy and free of sin, to obtain this audience with God.

This is exactly what happened to me as a result of the Bible study I mentioned earlier, where I was anointed with oil and prayed for. I was made pure in the eyes of God and He heard the elder's prayer of faith. I would like to let you know that I have never had another asthma attack since the day I went to the doctor's office. I have never had to take any asthma medication, or spend anymore time in the hospital. I have never had an intravenous needle in my arm, or had an oxygen mask placed over my face to get air into my lungs because of asthma.

I praise God for this healing. I have witnessed many more divine healings in my ministry.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him/her call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him/her, anointing him/her with oil in the name of the Lord knowing our God continues to heal today.

References;

1. Luke 8:46-48, Spirit Filled Life Bible, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville
2. James 5:16b, Spirit Filled Life Bible, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville
3. I Timothy. 3:1-7 Spirit Filled Life Bible, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville
4. Titus1:8-9, Spirit Filled Life Bible, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville

Chapter II.

Why Does God Heal Today

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick”. Matthew 14:13, NKJV

Several years ago, a healing service was held at Chalk Hill United Methodist Church in Farmington, Pennsylvania. There was a great turnout, and a sense of Godly expectation filled the house of worship that night. One local community family brought their baby boy, Wayne, to the service. He needed a liver transplant and couldn't get on the transplant list. Without this transplant death was certain, and his doctors had already prepared the family for the loss of their child. .

Everyone in the community knew this boy, his family, and the illness with which he was dealing. Little Wayne was already swollen as a result of his liver not working and his skin color was yellowed from the deficiency of the organ. His parents and grandparents found themselves desperate, because they could not get this child on the transplant list for the surgery, and that seemed to be his only chance for life.

As the boy was anointed in Church that night, and prayed for by the church elders, there was an enormous amount of joy in the hearts of the congregation. There was a spiritual sense God had touched this child with His healing mercy and that this boy was going to be healed. After the prayer there was overwhelming applause and all present praised and worshipped God.

A very important question comes to mind, “Why would God heal this boy?” A miracle was not necessary for his family to gain faith in God. You see, they already believed in the Lord. A miracle wasn't necessary to bring this family to Jesus Christ, because this had been done years ago. I believe the Scriptures will give us answers to help make some sense out of the question presented for our consideration.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we see Jesus go to a deserted place by Himself as a result of His disciples informing Him of the beheading of John the Baptist at a party hosted by Herod the Tetrarch. (1). One gets the impression from reading the passage that

Jesus wants to be alone to grieve the loss of His cousin John , a mighty man of God. Jesus wants to seek out the Father in prayer. He departs and seeks out a private place in the wilderness, to pray and seek the Father's comfort, strength and guidance.

But a multitude of people are following Jesus. They, too, heard the news, of the prophet John's execution. There is a count taken of the multitude numbering over 5,000, not including women and children. It would be safe to say over ten thousand people are seeking the comfort and guidance of Jesus as they follow Him into the wilderness.

The author, Matthew, points out in verse 14 that Jesus was seeking comfort and privacy with the Father and upon seeing the multitude following Him was *moved with compassion*. As a result of this compassion, Jesus healed all the sick in the crowd who approach Him that glorious day.

In other words, Jesus has feelings of affection for the people who are seeking Him, and He pours out His mercy and grace upon them. The multitude just needed to be with Jesus, and were willing to lay everything important to them aside that day in order to find Him in the wilderness. As a result, Jesus healed the sick among them.

Can we say we find ourselves needing and seeking Jesus today, knowing this is the process of securing the Lord's compassion? In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them.(2)

I believe this is what took place in Chalk Hill United Methodist Church the night little Wayne, and his family, came to the altar for a divine healing. They experienced the compassion of Christ, because they were seeking Jesus. God blessed Wayne and his family by healing this child. This family laid everything important to them aside that evening, and in their desperate need for a miracle to occur for this child, they sought out Jesus Christ. Wayne received Christ's compassionate mercy and was touched by His healing hand.

Wayne suddenly got on the liver transplant list and was in the hospital undergoing surgery a couple of weeks later. The procedure was completed hours before the surgeons expected and his recovery has been total. Wayne is ten years old at this writing and he plays softball, soccer, and does everything else a young

boy would do at his age. Praise God for His compassion and mercy, which was poured out upon Wayne that night, and for His compassion and mercy awaiting us.

Do we find ourselves seeking Jesus out every day of our lives? The passage in Matthew teaches us that this is how we receive a healing touch from our Lord.

SEEKING OUT JESUS

It is my opinion and experience, that the Holy Bible shows humanity a lifestyle which will be blessed by God everyday in the midst of the world in which we live. This way of life has been given to mankind as a gift from God. There are blessings waiting for us in the midst of the evil, violence and corruption that surrounds us. A part of this lifestyle is to seek God day in and day out, and to expect to experience His compassion each and every day of our lives.

We might ask if this could really be possible. Can we expect to be in relationship with the Son of the Most High God every day of our lives, with confidence that Jesus will hear and answer every one of our prayers? We learn in the Bible that Jesus has His followers reflect on their personal concerns for survival. Jesus informs them that they cannot serve two masters here on earth at once. He tells them, they will either hate one and love the other, or they will find themselves loyal to one and despising the other.(3)

In other words, we cannot serve both God and this world. If we choose the world, we cannot expect to experience God's blessings upon our lives consistently, because we will be out of relationship with Him. If we, as believers, do not seek Him out, we cannot expect His healing compassion to be there, because sin separates us from our relationship with God. However, if we strive to seek out God, and we are constantly in relationship with Him, we will not have to worry about anything. The passage confirms this process, stating that we are not to worry about our everyday needs, like what we will eat, drink, wear, or about our health. Jesus pointed out that there is more to life than food and clothing for the body.

Jesus instructs humanity not to worry about tomorrow's things, for today has its own concerns. We are specifically instructed by Jesus to seek out God's kingdom and His

righteousness, and by doing so, all our needs will be filled.(4) Our choice is one between God or this world, we can't have both.

In the book of Psalms, Chapter 1, starting at verse 1, the Psalmist gives a promise which seems to be one of those secrets everyone needs to know. He reveals the process of receiving God's blessings in all we do. To live under this blessing, we are to associate ourselves with Godly people, not secular people, and we are to delight in God's law and His ways.

We are to reflect on God's laws and His ways day and night. This is to be a continuous process, not a sporadic one. If we can adopt this process of living, we have a promise from God's Word that we will prosper in all we do. Think of this! Everything we do will be blessed by God! To receive His compassion is to receive His blessings. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, Jesus promises us heavenly joy twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This promise is made available to us if we keep Jesus' commandments. Verse twelve of the chapter explains to us His commandment to strive to become a loving person. If we love as Christ loved us, we can expect to receive His joy.(5)

Consider what has been presented so far. We cannot serve two masters, which means we must choose between God and this world. We cannot have them both. If we choose God, and seek out Jesus Christ, we can expect Him to pour down His compassion upon us, including being healed of our sicknesses. If we find ourselves delighting in the ways of God, and reflecting upon God's laws day and night, we can expect to prosper in everything we do. Finally, we learn from Jesus that if we strive to be a loving person in the same way as Christ loved us, knowing He loved us with His life, we can live in His full joy. This is not an easy lifestyle, but is it worth it? Absolutely!

God created humanity to live healthy, peaceful lives in His joy. Sin took this perfect lifestyle away, however, this is still offered up to us as we pilgrimage through this sin-filled world in preparation to be in the heavens with God for an eternity. This Godly, abundant life can only come from living in relationship with God, meaning to live according to His ways, and not the ways of the world.

Jesus said, "*Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and it*

will be open to you, for everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened to him.(6) The apostle John instructs us to remain constant in Christ totally and to have His Words remain constant in us. If we do this, when we ask what we desire, it shall be done for us.(7)

We learn from Jesus Himself to ask and seek His blessings, but know if our hearts are not right, and we are out of relationship with God, then our request will never reach the compassion of Jesus' heart.

Do we wait until we are in a crisis before we seek Jesus in prayer? Perhaps this is the reason very few prayers seem to be answered. To abide in Christ means to walk with Jesus in the morning, in the afternoon and in the night. We are to be in relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ, all the time, thus our thoughts will be the thoughts of God, and our desires, the desires of God.

How familiar are we with Jesus' process for living within His compassion. Do we know it? Do we thrive on it? Do we find ourselves loving His way? If we can answer in the positive, then His promise to us is a life full of blessings as we seek Him out.

Several years ago I found myself in the position to experience the truth of these passages. You see, I received one of those phone calls from my wife, Susan, no husband wants to receive. There was no, "Hello.," or "Good-bye.," it was just a command to get home fast and the phone conversation abruptly ended.

I had no idea what was wrong, but I knew Susan would never call like that unless it was a life and death situation. I was working at our insurance office and arrived home in several minutes (my office was three miles from home), only to find my little girl Anna, about six months old, lying on her changing table in a full-blown seizure. Susan was trying desperately to help her and I became very aware that Anna had been this way for some time, because she was turning blue. Anna could not catch her breath. I told Sue to call a nurse, or the ambulance, and I would see what I could do with our daughter.

I took Anna into my arms and walked her into my library where I have a kneeling bench. I knelt down and started to pray for all I was worth, knowing if she did not get her breath soon, she would die or have brain damage. I cried out

to Jesus, knowing if He allowed this little girl to die, Sue and I would need some very special Godly help to deal with the tragedy.

It was at this time, in this very personal prayer, I remembered John 15:7, and immediately cried out to the Lord something like this: “Oh God, You know I love you and strive to abide in you day and night and I thrive on your Word and strive to make it the biggest part of my life. You promise if anyone does this, then the desire of our hearts will be answered. Lord, hear my desire. Let our little girl breathe right now. I pray in your name, Jesus.” Immediately, Anna took a breath and color started to return to her face.

Anna is nine years old at this writing and is in excellent health. She is also an honor student and does not have seizures any more. I praise the Lord for His most Holy Word. It is a way of life for us.

Is this a way of life for all of us? If we abide in Christ and His Word abides in us, our desires become God’s desires and our prayers will be answered. We will witness His glorious divine touch when we seek Him out. We will experience His amazing healing compassion.

We are given additional instruction in the Epistle to the Colossians from the Apostle Paul. He tells all those who love Christ to seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand side of the Father. He also says to set our minds on things above, not on the things of this earth, for our lives are hidden with Christ in God. He instructs us in this Godly process not to give in to anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language. We are not to be liars, but to be in Christ, for He is our all.(8)

Seek out Jesus like the multitudes. Seek Him out everyday of your lives. Ask Jesus for **His compassion** to be poured out on you, and be made well, in body, mind and soul.

JESUS HEALS TO SAVE

Several years ago I had a discussion with a neighbor of one of the churches I pastor as a result of a conflict over a driveway he and the church share. You see, this man bought the church’s parsonage years ago, when the church found

themselves not needing it anymore. A couple of times a year, someone inevitably parks on our neighbor's side of the driveway on his grass. This really disturbs him. We discussed this problem many times over the years.

While we were having one of these conversations, I asked him if he believed in God. This question caught him off guard. After a moment, he told me he wasn't sure. He was brought up to believe in the Lord, and as a child, had always gone to church, but as he became older and matured, he became unsure about God, and all the traditional religion he had learned, and had found himself leaning toward unbelief. This man could be classified at that time in his life as an agnostic, neither totally disbelieving, nor believing.

I walked away from the conversation feeling very bad and concerned for this person. I had known him for many years and knew him to be a person of high integrity, but I was concerned for his soul. I knew his wife was a devout believer, but not he.

One day, I received a call from my sister-in-law informing me this man was in the hospital with very little hope of surviving the day. He underwent surgery, but the doctors did not give the family any hope. I went to see him with my wife, Susan, and we found his wife and daughter in the hospital room with him. He was lying in bed, grimacing as a result of extreme pain.

What I didn't know at that time was he had just gotten out of surgery and the pain medication they had given him wasn't working. His gall bladder had burst, and the poison from the gall had spread throughout his upper body cavity and was taking his life. A hole had burned through one part of his colon, and the poison was burning a hole in another section while he was being operated on, placing him in critical condition.

I knew we only had a few moments to talk with this man. I later learned the surgeon had closed him up immediately in the operating room without even taking out his gall bladder. The medical staff had pumped him full of antibiotics hoping to make a difference, but felt it was too late to save this man. His wife and family were preparing their hearts to lose him that day.

I placed my hand upon his head to get his attention, When he looked up and saw Sue and I there, he was surprised. I simply asked him if he wanted us to pray for him. He shook his head yes, and I simply called on the name of Jesus and asked God to heal this man. We weren't in his room more than ten minutes.

Three days later, I received a message on my answering machine from this man. He was obviously crying tears of joy while he asked me why God would heal a man like him?

He asked a very good question. Why would God heal him? He was not seeking Jesus when his gall bladder burst. In fact, He wasn't even sure there was a God, let alone a Savior called Jesus. So, why would God extend His healing mercy to this man?

We learn in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter ten, that Jesus heals to save the lost from damnation. Jesus gets the attention of a non-believer by using someone who does believe in God's ways, and will witness to the non-believer. Jesus extends His grace and mercy upon a non-believer to draw them near to Him as they hear about the kingdom of God. He then presents them with a choice to either accept the miracle God placed upon them, or to reject it.

The Scripture teaches us that Jesus sent out seventy of His followers two-by-two into each surrounding city into which He was about to go. Jesus told them they were being sent out as lambs among wolves, meaning this commission was not an easy task. They were commanded to heal the sick and to talk about the Kingdom of God.(9)

I believe these Words are instructional for people today. Just as in Jesus' time, many will accept this witness, but many will also reject the witness of Christ and strive to make fools out of those who follow this command of Christ.

The reader of this passage should recognize that these words of Christ, to go out into every city by two's, are not a request but a commission, a command from Jesus to His followers. We, too, are to go among the people of this earth with heavenly power granted to us by God, to be a witness for Him. The purpose of this witness is to proclaim God through His Word. This will allow the sick person to hear that Jesus is truly the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament, when Isaiah prophesized, "a child would be born to humanity, a son would be given; and the government would rest upon His shoulders;

and His name would be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”(10)

This prophet, Isaiah, is proclaiming Jesus approximately eight hundred years before He was even born. Jesus is the one about whom Isaiah was speaking. He is the savior of the world, and His believers are to go unto all the people of this world today healing the sick and proclaiming Him as Lord of all.

When the seventy returned to Jesus, they were filled with heavenly joy and told Jesus all they had seen and all they had done. They testified that even the demons were subject to them when they used the name of Jesus.(11) Jesus replied that He had given them this authority. He told them they were able to tread upon scorpions and serpents and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing should injure them. Jesus went on to teach them they should not be overwhelmed with this reality, but should rejoice since their names were recorded in heaven.(12)

This is exactly what Susan and I experienced the day we visited the church neighbor in the hospital. He was healed miraculously as a result of our praying over him at his sick bed. We went as instruments for God, two by two, to heal the sick, while we proclaimed Christ's healing ways so the lost would be found and saved. The saving grace was distributed by God. We were instruments and did what God commanded us to do.

I was given the opportunity to talk to this man about the Kingdom of God that week, and the next Sunday morning he and his wife walked into our church. He gave his testimony to the congregation and walked up to the altar and asked Christ into His life. Now he is telling his personal story to all who will listen, and he can rejoice in the fact that his name is recorded in heaven above.

Why did God heal this man? Because this was His way of drawing him to His saving grace so he was not condemned to eternal damnation. Jesus continues to heal today in order to save the lost.

I have presented through personal witness, and the testimonies of others, my belief, that God heals today in the same manner Jesus did over two thousand years ago. I have used the Holy Bible as a source to confirm these healings and have attempted to

answer the question of why God would heal today.

God's purpose is always to draw His created people to Him, so they can live in relationship with Him. Those who are drawn can expect to be healed if they seek out God as a result of the compassion extended to them by the Son, Jesus Christ. They can also expect to see God use them, His believers, to go out among the sick to heal others so the lost, those who do not know God, or who have rejected Him, will be saved from eternal damnation. From the evidence I receive from the Holy Bible, and from the personal experience and other modern day testimonies, I believe it is safe to say God definitely heals today.

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CHAPTER III

The Master Physician

If we believe in Jesus, the works that He did we will do also, even greater works than Jesus, we will do, because He will intercede to the Father for us and whatever we ask in His name He will do it; John 14:12-14.

During the month of October, 1999, Walter Hess, a man in his fifties, was shocked when he found out he had pancreatic cancer. He underwent an eleven hour surgical procedure and the cancerous tumor was still entwined around, and imbedded in, his pancreas. The doctor told him there was no surgeon in the world who could remove it. After the surgery, the medical world gave Walt about six months to live.

I remember sitting in the Hess's living room with his wife and my wife, Susan, as we listened to Walt's story. The date was Dec 2, 1999. I asked Walt how we should pray. I wondered what Walt wanted God to do for him, if anything. I wondered if he had the kind of faith that God required of a believer to request a healing, so I asked him if we could pray together and what we should ask God for specifically.

Sue and I knew this family, and knew their belief in God, but did not know how they viewed miraculous healings. We found out Walt was a realist. He told us he knew he was dying and he was not afraid of death. Without a miracle, he told us, he would never see another birthday with his family.

He asked us to pray with him and his wife for a divine touch from God, so he could spend more time here on earth with his wife, his children and his grandchildren. He told all of us he would totally accept the Lord's answer to this prayer, knowing God would hear us. He said after all he had gone through, he thought he was ready to die, but he would rather live awhile longer so his family could truly prepare for his early death. Walt also shared with us his willingness to tell the story to all who would listen to him if God would heal him. We prayed that

day for the Lord to heal Walt and asked in the name of Jesus for a miracle.

In the previous Chapter, we learned Jesus healed thousands of people because they were seeking Him out, resulting in Jesus' pouring out His compassion upon them. We also learned God will use His believers to bring others to the Lord by sending them into this world to heal the sick while they talk about the Kingdom of our Lord. This was what Sue and I did at the Hess's house the day we all prayed together. Walt and His wife were definitely seeking Christ's compassion as a result of this terminal illness.

The Gospel of John gives us another link to God's healing ways. The author talks about a sheep gate in Jerusalem opening onto a pool with five decks around the water. We learn that sick people would gather around this pool and wait for the water to be stirred by an angel. When this happened, we are told the first person in the pool would be miraculously healed.⁽¹⁾ The passage describes the people as being blind, deaf, lame, and paralyzed.

The author of this Gospel writes about Jesus coming to this sheep gate and approaching a man who has been coming to this pool striving to be first in the stirred water in order to be healed. The problem the man had was finding someone to push him in the pool. He had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years and couldn't get himself into the water before anyone else. As Jesus approached him, the Lord simply asked this man if he wanted to be healed. The man answered by saying there was no one to put him in the pool. He explained to Jesus that someone always got in before him. Jesus replied by telling him to, "Pick up his sleeping mat and walk." (John 5:11) The man was immediately healed.

Remember Jesus heals out of compassion for those believers who seek Him out and for those who ask for His healing touch. This man is healed when Jesus asks Him if he wanted to be made well and the man affirmed he did.

PRAYERS OF PETITION

We specifically petitioned God to heal Walt Hess the day we prayed in his living room. We were seeking the Master Physician, and our prayer was for God's will to

be done, as we let Jesus know our desire was for a divine healing touch to be placed on Walt. In this prayer, we promised to tell this testimony to everyone we could as we talked about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Walt went in for surgery once again and this time the surgeon could not find the tumor that was previously around and imbedded in his pancreas. After the surgeon fixed the scar tissue which developed as a result of his first surgery, the doctor told Walt and his family the cancer was gone. Walt received his miracle. He had been touched by the Master Physician. Walt has seen other birthdays as a result of simply seeking out Christ, and asking Him in faith for His compassion to be poured out upon him.

As we strive to understand God's miraculous healing ways today, we must remember, God does not tolerate our individualism or independence in any way. When we reject God's ways and find ourselves living independent of God, and out of relationship with the Lord, we become separated from Jesus. If we are separated from God and come to pray asking for a healing for someone else or for oneself, then those prayers, whether intercessory or personally desperate, are not heard until unity is re-established between the petitioner and God.

To understand how this works, we must look at the fall of Adam, the first created man. The book of Genesis, Chapter six, defines humankind as being evil, violent and corrupt.⁽²⁾ In other words, mankind is found to be totally wicked, except for one man named Noah. This man is described in this book as being a righteous man, blameless in his generation and who walked with God.

Walking with God means Noah had a personal relationship with the Creator. This means there was dialogue between God and Noah, about which we read in Chapters six of Genesis, when God talked with Noah. It is interesting to note, the rest of the world did not have this personal relationship with God because of their evil, violent, and corrupt ways. In fact, we learn the rest of humanity was about to face God's judgment due to their sinful ways, rather than receive His holy compassion.

Since Noah lived in relationship with God, his family and two of every living creature created by God, were spared the awful flood of judgment God poured out upon the earth which drowned all living things. There was no mercy shown to creation as a

consequence of humanity's unrepented sin.

Many of us today find ourselves afraid to petition God for individual needs, because we fear our personal prayers will not be answered, resulting in not being able to hold on to our faith. There are also those of us, as believers, who would never even consider praying for a miraculous healing, because we do not believe these healings take place today. Perhaps we have never witnessed this Godly phenomena, or perhaps, we do not understand the dialoging process which can, and must, take place between ourselves and the Lord.

We must remember the Bible teaches people to live in relationship with God. If we strive to walk daily with the Lord, and live according to His ways, we can come to God with confidence in prayer, expecting our prayers to be answered. This is the way of the Lord. God will speak to us through His Holy Word, sound Biblical preaching and personal Scriptural experiences.

There is a wonderful illustration in the Bible of this kind of spiritual confidence. The author of the First Epistle of John writes; *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will , He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*(3) In other words, if we are living according to God's ways when we petition Him, our petitions become His will, and our prayers will be answered.

Another beautiful example of bold miraculous prayers being answered is seen when John and Peter were entering the Temple to pray and came upon a man who had been lame from birth. This man had been carried before one of the Temple entrances so he could beg for money. When he asked John and Peter for a donation, they both looked at him and Peter said, *“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give you; In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*(4) When they physically lifted this man up, he found himself divinely healed.

What gave them the confidence to ask God such an impossible thing? Simply put, they were living their lives according to God's ways, rather than by the secular ways of this world. John and Peter knew they were in relationship with God, and therefore, knew they had His power and His strength to ask for anything, knowing it would be answered

for them.

The miracle performed that day was exactly as Jesus taught us. God revealed Himself to the paralyzed man, to his family and to the Jewish Church, and it is no different today.

Are you ill? Perhaps the doctors have told you that there is no surgeon in this world who can remove your tumor. There is another surgeon. He is called the Master Physician. His name is Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of this world. As you seek Him out, ask yourself if you are living and walking with God all the day long. If you find yourself out of His will, then ask for His forgiveness at this very moment, and be restored to His favor. Then ask for His compassion and be made well.

Jesus confirms this teaching throughout the Bible. I love the way the Apostle John teaches this Christ principle in his Gospel. The author writes, *“That if we believe in Jesus, the works that He did we will do also, even greater works than Jesus, we will do, because He will intercede to the Father for us and whatever we ask in His name He will do it.”*(5) Jesus heals people all the time and gives His Word that it is no different today. We can do the same thing. Everything Jesus asks of the Father is done. Remember, Jesus is never out of God’s will and wants us to live in relationship with Him.

Remember there is “A Master Physician” who can heal anyone today. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Seek His compassion, repent of your sins and ask Him to make you well, knowing Jesus hears your petitions and continues to heal today.

PLACE YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

Susan, and I bought our first house in 1978. It was a place requiring a lot of work and we knew it. We couldn’t wait to get started. The first thing to be done was to put a bathroom in the basement, since the previous owners utilized an outhouse. This house had three rooms, one bedroom, a living room and a kitchen. It was situated on two beautiful acres of ground on the Wharton Furnace Road in the mountains of Farmington, Pennsylvania.

I can remember driving to Susan’s parents house early one evening, after

clearing the brush off a big portion of ground, which we wanted to use for a garden. As we drove, we saw her father's car heading west. We could see Susan's mother in the car and her sister Patty driving as fast as she could go. We followed the car wondering what was going on, only to discover the family was heading to the hospital with Susan's father, who was in need of emergency care. We later found out Clarence had a stroke and we might lose him in the next twenty-four hours.

I remember praying with the family with bitter tears, asking God to spare this beloved man. We were not prepared to lose our loved one. Clarence was the patriarch of the family, and we all looked to him for wisdom and love. We asked God to give us more time to prepare our hearts for this untimely moment. God answered this prayer, and Clarence received his healing. His speech returned and he had the same quality of life after the stroke as he had before. Clarence was granted five more years of life. When he finally went to be with the Lord, he was seventy-one years old and told me in the hospital he was ready to go home. He was prepared to be with the Lord.

Those last five years Clarence prepared us, his family, to live our lives to the fullest without him. If Susan and I were at the house visiting and he was going to bed before we left, we would always tell him we would see him sometime the next day. He would simply say, "If it be God's will." We grieved the loss of this beautiful man when it came, but thanked God for the extra time we had to prepare ourselves for his death to this life. Clarence truly used his extended time to place his house in order.

Is this the way of God; to pray He would spare the life of a person because that person is not yet prepared to leave this world? Would God truly heal someone and extend a time to his or her life? We can receive an answer to this most important question by turning to the Second Book of Kings and reading Chapter twenty. The chapter starts out with a testimony to the life of one of God's ancient Kings named Hezekiah, who found himself gravely ill. We learn in this chapter that God sent His prophet, Isaiah, with a message to King Hezekiah. The prophet was to tell the king that he was to set his house in order, for he would die.

Think of this for a moment. This was a word from God, the “Master Physician.” There would be no second opinion needed. Hezekiah knew a Word from God, sent by this prophet, was an absolute message from the Creator of the heavens and the earth. This was a message from the One who controls life and death. What would, or should, you do if you ever receive this kind of message concerning either a loved one or yourself? King Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord earnestly. He petitioned God for a healing. He reflected on his life, in prayer, asking God to remember he had walked with God all of his days. He lived in truth and he was loyal to God’s ways, and then Hezekiah wept bitterly. You see, this King was not prepared to die at that moment in time. The Lord sent His prophet Isaiah back to the King to say God heard his prayer and saw his tears. Hezekiah was to know through Isaiah, God would surely heal him, and he would be granted another fifteen years of life.

Clarence Morrison’s family experienced this answered prayer in 1978, when Clarence was healed of a stroke and granted five more years of quality life. We learn from Scripture, if we walk with God, and are steadfast in His ways, God hears and answers our prayers when we find ourselves pleading for Him to extend His mercy and healing to us. Yes, as we learn God’s desire for us, we can expect miracles of healing.

Remember King Hezekiah reminded the Lord that he walked with Him everyday of his life and was loyal, never desiring to step out of God’s will, and a prayer from his heart was answered.

Could you plead this lifestyle to God in your prayer? Do you walk with God continually? Perhaps you might have to admit that you love and believe in God, but you choose to live by the ways of man. In order to be assured of your prayers being answered, you must put your house in order according to God’s Holy Word. You must change your lifestyle, ask God to forgive your sins. Only then can you expect His blessings to be poured out upon you. By doing these things you will have the life God desires for you. You will have a personal relationship with the Master Physician of the world, Jesus Christ, who will allow you to do all the works He did. In other words, God will answer your prayers, and bestow upon you power through the Holy Spirit, because the Master Physician is interceding for you. Amen.

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CHAPTER IV

“A Step of Faith”

Jesus said, “take away the stone,” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” John 11:39

We have learned through the Bible that Jesus heals out of compassion for those who seek Him. He heals those who ask Him to be healed and He heals to save the lost. I would like to present another part of Christ’s healing process which I would call **A Step of Faith.**

Several years ago during one of our healing services, a local woman came to the altar to ask God to heal her. As I approached her, I noticed this woman weeping in despair. I gently placed my hand under her chin and lifted until we made eye contact. I asked her if she believed God would heal her and she responded in the affirmative. Her friend, Ruth, who came to the altar to pray with and encourage her, asked me if I knew the nature of the illness which concerned this lady so much. I responded I did not. In fact, I shared I had never met this woman before. Ruth proceeded to tell me the woman had been diagnosed with severe melanoma cancer on her back. The woman began to weep again and I simply asked her if she still believed God would heal her. Once again, she responded, “Yes”. I told this concerned woman I would claim the healing with her. I then instructed her to go back to the doctor and follow his instructions, remembering the prayer we were about to make. We then prayed in the name of Jesus, anointed her with oil and asked that she be made whole.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 11, starting at verse 38, the author tells us Jesus came to the grave of His friend, Lazarus. Some of the Jews followed Jesus, and Lazarus’s two sisters, to the site where he was buried. This grave was actually a cave, with a heavy

stone laid against it. Jesus commanded the stone be taken away and Martha responded by saying, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead for four days.”⁽¹⁾ It was as though Martha feared it was impossible for her brother to live again and wasn’t really sure Jesus could perform this miraculous act. Jesus responded, “Did I not say to you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God.” By saying this, Jesus asked Martha to take a “step of faith” by having the stone moved away from the opening of the tomb. Then, and only then, did Jesus call out in a very loud voice for Lazarus to come out. He came out alive, hands and feet bound. Jesus raised him from the dead, but before he did this, He challenged Martha to take a step of faith. Jesus had Martha give permission to have the grave stone moved away.

Think about this for a moment. Jesus could have done this without Martha’s permission. Wouldn’t this have been a more dramatic display of His Godly power, a double miracle? He would have removed the stone without even touching it and then brought Lazarus out alive. Everyone would certainly have been spellbound. But no, this was not the way of the Lord. Jesus requested that Lazarus’s sister, Martha, reveal her own faith by ordering the stone be removed. There was to be a step of faith taken before the miracle would be performed. This step of faith was truly a witness to humanity which glorified God.

A “step of faith” results when our faith is tested by God to see if we are willing to be a witness for Jesus no matter what the cost to ourselves. A “step of faith” results when we are willing to place ourselves on the line for Jesus Christ when we seek His healing ways. “A step of faith” results when we make a decision to witness for Christ based on belief in God no matter the consequences.

Martha was asked by Jesus to act on her faith in Him. She was to give permission for the stone covering the grave to be rolled back. Martha stepped out in faith as she gave permission. To understand the importance of the action Martha took, think of what it would take today to have a grave opened. Without the permission of the family and the legal authorities, this just wouldn’t be done. For Martha to have given permission for this, she was showing she had total trust and faith in Jesus. She believed He was about to perform a miracle, and allowed the stone be rolled back. This became her “Step of Faith.”

One of the key factors in Christ's miraculous healings is the "Step of Faith" He requires us to take. The "Step of Faith" is part of Jesus' healing process.

The woman with the melanoma cancer took this "Step of Faith" when she went to her doctor claiming the prayer of healing we had for her. She first came forward in front of the whole church seeking a divine touch from God. She placed her pride aside, relying totally on Jesus as she asked to be healed. She sought Jesus' compassion as she came before the elders of the church to be anointed with oil, and personally asked Jesus in prayer for her miracle. Finally, she came back to our church the following week weeping again. This time her tears were not tears of despair and fear, but tears of joy. You see, she had been healed of the awful cancer. What a witness for our Lord!

Every testimony I have given in this book has that "Step of Faith" which must take place in Christ's heavenly process. When the prayer group at the Bible study asked God to take my asthma away, I went to my family physician and asked him to take me off all my medications and monitor me. I know my physician thought I was a religious fanatic. He didn't know how to handle this in the best professional manner, but allowed me to do it just the same.

Remember the little boy who needed a liver transplant. His parents and grandparents took a "Step of Faith", when they came before the church at the healing service to ask God to touch their child.

I took a step of faith as I stood on God's Word in prayer when I held my little daughter up to God as she violently shook and gasped for breath in a seizure.

The critically ill church neighbor took a giant "Step of Faith" when he nodded to Susan and I to pray to God for a healing touch from Jesus to restore his health and life. It is important to note, this man was an agnostic prior to this action.

Walt Hess also took the same "Step of Faith" in his living room and sought Jesus and asked God to heal him.

All of these examples testify to Jesus's healing ways. I believe there is a definite divine process to God's healing ways. The process is found in the Holy Scriptures, and like any other Godly process, we can test the Word to confirm it is Godly truth.

HEAVENLY TESTING

It must be noted, without Scriptural confirmation, any action would mean nothing. The Bible teaches that Jesus was also tested. He had to step out in faith when He was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil.(2) Jesus endured this testing period for forty days and forty nights, before He started His ministry in this world.(3) It was right after this testing phase that He started to preach, teach and do many signs and wonders. His ministry prepared humanity for the sacrifice He was about to make for the forgiveness of original sin, beginning with Adam's disobedience of the Father.

Testing is a part of God's process to bring us into relationship with Him. Adam was tested with the "Tree of Knowledge" and failed, bringing sin upon mankind. Noah was tested by God when he was instructed to build an arc, and took his "Step of Faith" when he obeyed God and built it. As a result of his obedience, Noah and his family were spared the terrible wrath of God's judgment. Remember God flooded the earth, because every thought of mankind was nothing but wicked.(4) The blessings resulting when Noah stepped out in faith were a second beginning for humanity, given by God so we could multiply and fill the earth according to God's creative plan; a second chance to live in relationship with Him.

One of Abraham's tests was God's request to offer his only son, Isaac, up as a sacrifice of love. Abraham trusted God with all that he was worth and was about to take his only son's life, when an angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven and stopped this action. As a result, God spoke these Words of blessings to Abraham; *"Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your beloved son, I swear by my own self that I will bless you richly. I will multiply your descendants into countless millions, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. They will conquer their enemies, and through your descendants, all the nations of the earth will be blessed--all because you have obeyed me."*(5) God stopped Abraham from taking the life of Isaac, and blessed his "step of faith".

Moses was tested when God sent him to the Egyptian Pharaoh with specific

instructions to let His people, the Jews, go free to worship God in the wilderness.

All the prophets were tested when they were given a Word from God to deliver to His people. Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus was tested when she was given the message she would give birth, as a virgin, to the son of the Most High.

Heavenly testing is a part of God's process to bring humanity into relationship with Him. The correct Biblical response to this testimony is what I call taking a "Step of Faith", which brings us into a divine, holy relationship with God. Many people refuse to step out in faith. They refuse to respond in an affirmative way to the testing of God, because they do not believe God will have this personal relationship with them. Thus, without knowing it, they place God in a box, and they miss the many blessings God would liberally bestow upon them.

GLORY THROUGH HEALING

I have utilized the teachings of the Scripture and shared numerous testimonies affirming God heals today. I have offered reasons why God heals and have taught Jesus' process of obtaining a healing touch, but I have not yet presented the heavenly results of a divine healing touch from God.

We would be naïve to think everyone who receives, or witnesses, a healing will be converted to discipleship for Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 17, we are given a perfect example of people being divinely healed by Jesus and yet rejecting Him. We learn in these Scriptures that Jesus was going toward Jerusalem, and upon reaching the border between Galilee and Samaria, He started to enter a village there. Ten lepers stood at a distance crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" He looked at them and said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they went, their leprosy disappeared. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back to Jesus and shouted, "Praise God, I'm healed!" He fell face down on the ground at Jesus' feet, and thanked him for what he had done.⁽⁶⁾

This man was a Samaritan, an enemy, or rival, of the Jews, and yet, he recognized that God had healed him through Jesus, who was a Jew. This leper's actions before Christ, and his individual worship, truly showed God's glory. By giving the glory to God,

he became a witness for the Lord. The other nine did not give God any glory at all.

The miraculous healing touch from God is not only for the individual who is divinely touched, or for those who witness this miracle, or for the lost who are saved as a result of God extending His divine touch upon them. It is primarily to give God glory.

Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Does only this foreigner return to give glory to God?" And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has made you well."⁽⁷⁾

In the Old Testament, glory would generally be defined from the Hebrew word "kabod," meaning a heaviness, or weight of worthiness. The most important concept is that of the glory of Yahweh denotes the revelation of God's being, God's nature and God's presence to mankind. In the New Testament, the translation of "kabod" to the Greek word "doxa", secularly means "opinion" or "reputation". "Doxa" also refers to human honor, but its chief use is to describe the revelation of the character and the presence of God, in the person and work of Jesus Christ.⁽⁸⁾

When this man returned to thank Jesus, he gave "glory" to God. Thanksgiving is a true act of faith which always gives glory to God. Ten men received Christ's compassion by being divinely healed, but only one returned and responded in accordance to this biblical principal. We need to always remember God is in charge of the healing process, not man, and therefore, God is always to be glorified.

Are you sick? Do you believe God's healing powers are displayed today? Do you believe God will heal you? Take a step of faith, seek out the elders of a church, be anointed with oil and pray a prayer of faith as you ask Jesus to be made well. The answered prayer is to glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Always remember to give God the glory, and strive to constantly live in relationship with God all the days of your life.

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Chapter V

Does Christ Heal All the Time?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it; John 3:16,17

We have learned from the Scriptures, Jesus Christ's divine healing process comes from His compassion for those who seek Him out and ask for a healing. We must also recognize many people have sought out Jesus through prayer asking God for a healing, but were not healed, or they prayed for one of their loved ones, and they were not healed. Knowing this, we must strive to answer the question remaining in the hearts of many people. Why doesn't God heal all the time? The following testimony will help us understand another part of God's healing process.

A few years ago, a young woman in her 40's asked her husband to invite me to one of our local hospitals to visit her. I learned this woman was diagnosed with terminal bone cancer. Her husband informed me that she only had days to live.

When I visited her in the hospital and approached her bed, I asked her how she was doing. She said, she was comfortable at the moment. The pain wasn't too bad. I asked her what the doctor told her. She groaned very deeply, and cried out in a loud voice she had cancer, cancer in her bones! As soon as she said this, she desperately told me she did not want to die. Her plea broke my heart. What was I to do? This woman was looking to me for help.

I wondered how I was supposed to pray for her. What was the will of God for this young woman? I wondered if I was to ask God to divinely heal her.

Knowing death was certain without God intervening, I did not want to give this woman any false hope, causing her confusion about God's healing ways. In my

heart, I knew God could heal her, but the question was, would He? I kept thinking of Jesus' instructions in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 10, verse 9, instructing us to go and heal the sick as we talk about the kingdom of God.

I experienced the miraculous touch of God many times in my life, and in the lives of others, but I must admit, I have also witnessed prayers for healing with different results.

This young lady had received a diagnosis of death from her physician. Once she composed herself, I asked her how she and God were doing in this situation? She said she believed in God and had asked Jesus into her life years ago. She told me she did not live a very religious life and was not a church attendee, or member of a church. All in all, she told me she did not know Christ personally or His Bible. At this point in the conversation I went into prayer seeking God's direction.

I did not know what to say to her next. I knew in my heart that Jesus heals today, but what was His desire for this woman. Would He pour out His abundant compassion on her, or would she be allowed to die from the cancer invading her body?

She also informed me her rib cage had broken from the cancer and the cancer had spread into her abdomen. She could not hold down any food. She hadn't eaten in a week. Medically speaking, this woman was dying and death could be any day. Did I dare pray for Christ's divine touch for this desperate young lady?

SHORT TERM HEALING

I knew God loved this woman and was reaching out to her through His grace, because she was seeking Jesus Christ's compassion through me. I knew this compassion would be placed upon her, but would God heal her of this cancer the way she wanted? Would her life here on earth be spared for a while longer? I did not know the answer to these questions.

I decided to explain "short term healing" to this young woman. I explained to her that "short term divine healing" meant God could heal her immediately, but there would come another time in her life, here on this earth, when she would face

death again. I told her, she was almost through this battle at the present time. I told her, she was almost home with Jesus. After explaining this, I then asked her how we should pray? I asked her what her desire, or special prayer to God, was to be.

I have learned any divine touch, or healing, from God is short term, since we still must eventually face death. Death to this sinful world occurs when the believer receives a “permanent healing” from God. Dying is an end to life as we know it. Dying means no more suffering, pain, tears or heartache, but rather life, for the believer in Jesus Christ for an eternity in another realm. This eternal, heavenly life is the way God intended us to live from the beginning of time.

Death allows us to enter a lifestyle God created in the beginning, perfect, where there is no sin, no evil, violence or corruption, if we believe in Jesus Christ. “Permanent healing” is passing through this realm of life and entering into relationship with God forever, in perfect harmony without any sickness, pain, tears, sorrow or death.

This new life, this perfect way of living, is extended to all those who trust and obey God and who reach out to Him through the belief in Jesus Christ (John 3:16). This life, after death to this evil, violent and corrupt world, is for the believer the “Permanent healing,” which is an eternal and perfect existence with God..

SALVATION OR PERFECT HEALING

The Scriptures teach us in Genesis, the first created being (Adam) made a choice costing him and all humanity eternal life, and brought death to God’s perfectly created immortal creatures. The “Good News” is, God loved His created humans so much, He gave us His only begotten Son, Jesus, to restore humanity back into relationship with God and to restore their immortality once again. Jesus, the Son of God, became the way to be permanently healed from the death sentence mankind received as a result of the first man, Adam’s, sin.

Adam, his wife Eve, and all of humanity were condemned to die as a result of this sin. In spite of this condemnation God prepared a way for mankind to be restored and live in relationship with the Lord once again. Every person must choose between God and His ways, or the world’s pleasures, desires and lust. One choice leads to peace, joy and

eternal life. The other choice leads to death and destruction.

This process of being established, or restored back to God, is known as receiving God's gift of grace, His favor or blessings, or what I like to call God's "*perfect permanent healing way*". This healing comes from receiving Jesus, the Son of God, into your heart, in order to be restored to immortality when you pass through this realm of life. This "permanent healing" re-establishes a life after this life, where there will be no tears, no pain, heartache, suffering or death, but rather life like the Lord intended at creation. (1). This life is eternal without any more temptation.

It is not hard to convince most people we live in an evil, violent, corrupt world. All we need to do is look around the world today to observe the evil of terrorism that is being acted out everywhere. Innocent people are being murdered. Men, women and children are being killed, maimed and abused by persons who believe they are justified for their actions. We live in a world jeopardized by the threat of nuclear and biological warfare, putting fear in the hearts of all people. There is also the local level of life where evil people prey on one another, maiming, crippling and killing for gratification, sadistic joy, or greed.

Remember this way of life is not new. Every generation faced this evil, violent and corrupt lifestyle as a result of Adam's disobedience to God. We can see the evil and destruction of one another clearly in our history and in ancient cultures. Without God's intervention, we could look forward to nothing but death with no hope. Without God's intervention, there can never be a hope of "peace on earth".

It is reasonable to conclude, mankind is mortal and destructive as a result of original sin and needs a savior, or redeemer, to be restored back to our Creator so we can live in the peace and joy intended by God for mankind. Jesus Christ is that Savior.

Without accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we will die before we can truly live the life God intended for us, and we will not be permanently healed according to the Bible.

God revealed to all humans through the Old and New Testaments that we have access to restoration, or "permanent healing", through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God has revealed to us, that our Creator was incarnated to become fully human, to live among us

and to pay the price of sin with His life.

The Gospel of Luke is one of the synoptic testaments describing a part of God becoming human, known as Jesus Christ. This Gospel describes the Lord sending an Angel over two thousand years ago to a woman by the name of Mary. The message the angel had for her was that God had decided to bless her. "You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" (2)

The passage describes Mary as having a hard time understanding how this could happen since she was a virgin. The reply from God's messenger, the angel, was, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God." (3)

The belief that this child, Jesus, is the Son of God, is the way to be "permanently healed" in this life. Jesus was born without sin, the Son of God, who was rejected by His own people and the world. This child, Jesus of Nazareth, grew to be a man.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn the people shouted to "Crucify (*the man*) Jesus"! "Why?" Pilate, the Roman Governor, demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the crowd only roared the louder, "Crucify him!"(4) Pilate saw he wasn't getting anywhere and a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man. The responsibility is yours!" (5) And all the people yelled back, "We will take responsibility for his death--we and our children!" So Pilate, ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip and then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to crucify him. (6)

By one man's (Adam's) sin, humanity was condemned to death, which is eternal destruction, and by one man's (Jesus') death, resurrection and ascension back into the heavens of God, humanity is restored to eternal life. But only if we accept this as God's way.

According to the Holy Scriptures, this means "God so loved the World that He gave us Jesus that whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life". (7) When the time in our life comes when we hear the Gospel, believe and trust in that Gospel of Jesus Christ,

and turn our life over to God through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we become sealed with the Spirit of God and claimed as a child of God. In other words, we are restored back into relationship with God to live eternally with Jesus Christ. This is receiving our "permanent healing" from our Creator. As children of God, this is our promise and hope.

I believe we receive this "permanent divine healing" the moment we die to this world. Remember the thief on the cross, who asked Jesus to remember Him when He got back into His kingdom. Jesus' reply to this man was that he, the prisoner, would be with Christ that day. "Permanent healing" is when we die to this world and gain our life with God in His eternal Kingdom. We know this because it is the Word of God.

A WITNESS FOR GOD

We know many people seek out Jesus Christ's compassion and specifically ask to be healed of all kinds of sicknesses, sufferings and burdens, and do not receive answers to their specific prayers in the way they wanted. How do we become closer to God, when the prayer we asked for is not answered in the way we expected?

Joni Erikson Tada was paralyzed from the neck down in a tragic diving accident. Joni Erikson Tada went through every emotion anyone would with such an injury and turned to God in prayer for a divine healing. Her prayer was not answered the way she prayed. She remained paralyzed, but she received a divine touch from God in such a powerful, though different way, that she now helps others who are paralyzed deal with their disability and become closer to God. Joni has received peace from God and joy in her life, through her disability. She is also an extremely talented artist. Joni Erikson Tada's life illustrates that Jesus' full joy will remain with us in the midst of our illnesses and injuries. Joni considers herself healed.

We can also look at the life of Fanny Crosby to see this Godly work again. She was born in 1823, and became a very gifted person, writing over eight thousand hymns. At six weeks of age, she became blind as a result of a medical procedure and remained blind during her entire lifetime.(8)

Fanny Crosby received unwanted pity from people constantly. There is a story

about a Scotch minister who said it was a great pity that the Master, when He showered so many gifts upon her, didn't give her sight back. Fanny Crosby rebuked him instantly saying, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition to my creator, it would have been that I should have been born blind because when I get to heaven, the first face that would ever gladden my face would be that of my savior". (9) This wonderfully spirited woman had perfect peace with her disability all the days of her life. She received her short term healing from God by accepting her illness, knowing she was a child of God, while bringing many others to the Lord through her physical disability. The day she died is the day she received her permanent healing, and she sees today in the heavens above.

We can also look to the apostle Paul for wisdom concerning this matter. Paul explains receiving a wonderful revelation from God concerning an illness from which he suffered. The Scriptures disclose that this illness was not divinely lifted from him, to keep him from getting puffed up. Paul was given a thorn in his flesh so to speak, a messenger from Satan to torment him, but it kept him from becoming proud. Three different times Paul begged the Lord to take this affliction away, but God never did. In fact, Paul explains each time he asked for healing, God revealed to him that His gracious favor was all Paul needed. Paul was told God's power worked best in his weakness.

The Apostle Paul ended up being glad to boast about his weaknesses, so the power of Christ would work through him. He understood his illness was used by God for Christ's good. Paul went on to teach believers he was quite content with his illnesses, with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities placed upon him. Paul teaches, when he is weak, he is spiritually strong.(10)

We need to learn from Joni Erikson Tada, Fanny Crosby, the Apostle Paul and the young lady with bone cancer about whom I have spoken of at the beginning of this Chapter. None of them received a short term divine healing touch from God. They all were healed differently than expected. They received heavenly joy and peace in the midst of their physical pain, burdens and weaknesses. They received strength from God to be able to help others with similar afflictions, and they became true witnesses for God. Each of them would say their quality of life came through Jesus' healing touch.

When the answer to your prayer is different than you expect, know your healing is

your peace of heart and mind, which you will receive from Jesus. You will also have a personal story to tell, to enable you to proclaim God's love to others by the way you live your life in the midst of your illness or burden.

The beautiful young woman called B.J., who was in her mid forties, and became afflicted with bone cancer, prayed for a short term healing. When she did not receive it, she asked to be taught about Jesus Christ and then learned about heaven. She realized God was about to grant her a permanent healing touch. She passed through this world into the eternal world of God with no more pain, suffering or heartache, to live her life with Jesus forever. It was a privilege to teach her all of this through the Scriptures.

This young woman learned to trust God and received her perfect healing. She died at home very peacefully with her husband and family beside her and is with Jesus Christ today.

Jesus continues to heal us today and answers every prayer lifted up to Him when we seek out His compassion. There are times Christ answers prayers differently than expected, but know each and everyone of us are touched by God when we go to Him in prayer. Every prayer is answered and Christ heals all the time. Remember, "perfect healing" is being with Christ in His perfect Kingdom forever. Amen!

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AN INVITATION FROM SUSAN COLLINS

One of the things that I have learned in this life is that we can not carry out the great commission to go and make disciples if our bodies are lacking in physical, mental or spiritual health, full of burdens, sickness, or illness. In John 10:10 - Jesus said; "I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. John prays (3 John : 2) that we may prosper and be in "good health," just as our soul prospers. When Jesus left us to go to the Father he left us with the power and presence of His Holy Spirit that enables us to do the works he did and even greater works (because I go to the Father) John 14:12. We are gifted/equipped with all we need to fulfill the ministry that is laid out before us.

I have been privileged to witness the healing hand of our Lord as Pastor Terry has detailed to you in the pages of this book. Laid out in these pages are lives and stories of real people. I have seen and bear witness to the touch of God in their lives.

Do you desire to know more of the healing ways of Jesus? Does someone you know need to be made whole? Are the mountains in your life impossible to climb? We can be victorious over the strong hold of disease, sickness, pain, and mental anguish. We have the promise from God to do the works of Jesus and greater works because Jesus is at the right hand of the Father.

Have your questions answered and experience the freedom of knowing what Jesus means when he asks the question. "Do you want to be made well?" I would encourage you to Invite pastor Terry to teach your church or study group about the biblical process of healing. It is wonderful to have the full joy of Jesus. Call or write us today to schedule a teaching, seminar, revival or healing crusade in your church or community.

Thank you for taking time to read about the "gift" of healing. May you be blessed and renewed in your relationship to our Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

Tell everyone you meet about Jesus and His healing ways.

Love in Jesus,

Susan Collins

BACK COVER

Rev. Terry W Collins

Evangelist/Pastor/Teacher/Radio Host/ Author

Rev. Terry Collins is an Evangelist preaching over twenty five years. He pastors three rural churches in the Laurel Mountains of Western Pennsylvania and is the founder and President of “Discipleship Ministries of Western Pennsylvania Inc.”

Rev. Collins has taken many delegations to the Republic of Komi, Russia representing “The Russia Initiative of Western Pennsylvania which he co-chairs. He is active in organizing and feeding orphans and the destitute in this republic and has taught “Ethics” and “Christianity” in the Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages several times while visiting Syktyvkar, Russia.

The author and his wife, Susan, are the co-founders of a weekend retreat called “Fire On The Mountain” now going into its twenty third year.

In 1988 Rev. Collins was honored as a recipient of the Evangelical “Denman Award”.

Terry lives with his wife Susan and their three children in Farmington, Pennsylvania.