

CHAPTER 9

THE LORD'S HEALTH

"Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers." (3 Jn. v2 KJV) The health of our bodies is the outcome of the physical, the spiritual and the supernatural.¹⁰ It does matter what we think, for our thoughts are making us. It does matter what we confess with our lips, for our words are making us. I remember traveling with Harry Greenwood one day and he said; "When you get a soreness in your throat or a sniffle in your nose, what are you getting? A cold? Influenza?" It is so easy to make that negative confession; 'I'm getting a cold'. Such confession is telling our bodies to get a cold (although one does not usually think in those terms). Harry said he found it far better to make a positive confession; "I'm receiving the Lord's health. By His stripes I am healed etc." During the past number of years, I have proved for myself the truth of this and found that it is far easier to get rid of colds etc., before they take hold of my body by positively confessing with my lips what Jesus has already accomplished for me. This is not denying symptoms, but is a positive confession of the source of health and that the great Designer of us, DOES care for us. We make the confession of what God has done for us so that God can bring the truth of that from our spirit into our bodies. For God to heal us is far simpler than it was designing and forming us in the first place. It is now nearly 46 years since Harry's words to me and I am thankful to say that in that period of time I have not lost a days work through ill health, this is not to say that I have never had a cold or needed to take a day in bed but that I have not lost a days work through ill health. I really appreciate this because I was a very sickly child and was often off junior school for a week because of very painful pressure build up behind my ears which resulted in perforated ear drums on many occasions. Thanks and Praise to God. (Now in 2016 and there are challenges, I have been warned to reduce sugar intake , as I am borderline Diabetic, warned to keep Cholesterol down, and have had a high but steady white blood cell count of 20, but I am thankful for energy to work, and enjoy for example running a chain saw)

The physical healing of our bodies is more readily accomplished when our spirits are rejoicing in a right relationship with God. Let us consider some of the Scriptures related to health: "If you will, you can make me clean;" said the leper. Jesus replies, "I will, be clean." (Mark1v4) "Take heart my son, your sins are forgiven. Rise, take up your bed and walk." (Matt. 9v2-7) "He forgives all your iniquity, He heals all your diseases." (Psalm 103v3) "Do you believe I am able to do this?" "According to your faith, be it unto you." (Matt. 9v29) "Take heart daughter, your faith has made you well." (Matt. 9v22) "Why could we not cast it (the demon) out?" "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." (Mark 9v28, 29) "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received and it will be yours." "And when ever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses." (Matt. 11v24-27) For thus says the Lord; "Because your guilt is great, your hurt is incurable; because your sins are flagrant, your wound is grievous. There is no medicine for your wound, no healing for you. Your pain is incurable." (Jer.30v12-15)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn.1v9) "If you remember that your brother has something against you, go first and be reconciled to your brother.." (Matt. 5v24) "SO far as it depends on you, live at peace withal! men" (Rom.12v18)"Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence toward God, and we receive from Him whatever we ask because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him." (1 John. 3v21. 22) Remember what Jesus did for us. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter2v24) "Upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53v5).

"Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no plague come near your tent." (home} (Psalm 91) Remember why Jesus came: "to bind up the broken- hearted (depressed} and give recovery of sight to the blind" (Lk. 4v18) And furthermore, this is what He did: "The blind received their sight. The lame. walked, lepers were cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up." (Matt. 11v5)

Positive confession of what we have in Christ is the best way of dealing with negative fear. Job said; "The thing I fear comes upon me and what I dread, befalls me." (Job 3v25) It is nearly as if what we confess gets a grip on us for good or bad.

It is important too, to remember that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6v13) Too often we treat them as garbage cans. My mother was not very strong in her youth and in the early 1930's she had a dropped womb. The doctor's wanted to operate and remove it but fortunately instead, she went off to a nature-cure place where she fasted. Her body had the opportunity to get rid of a lot of poisons and with exercises to become toned up physically, her health improved, so much so that my sister Faith and I were born after this. Also She did not need her glasses for the next 15 years.

Rufus Mosley¹⁰ said that he did not experience good health until he combined his faith with eating wholesome foods. I myself know that my nerves stand on end so to speak, if I take too much coffee. If this happens, I have to stay off coffee for several days to de-toxify. There are so many chemicals in our diets today that probably it is best to eat a varied diet without too much of any type or source of food and especially not too much highly refined food. Recently some food additives have been associated with behavior problems in some children

THE SUPERNATURAL As I set out in the opening chapter, I experienced the healing of my stomach ulcer as a result of the operation of the supernatural word of knowledge ministry. My eldest brother Douglas, was troubled with a pain in his back for some time, so when I asked him one day if he would come to a special meeting that evening, he said; "No" as he had to rest his back and be ready for the week's work. "Well," I said; "Did you not upon Me because He has anointed Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim release to the captives." (Isaiah 61v1, 2 & Lk. 4v18) "To set at liberty those who have been crushed." (Lk,4v18 Interlinear) "Come unto Me all the **ones having been burdened** and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11v28 Interlinear RSV) "The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34v18).

"No one who believes in Him will be put to shame. The same Lord bestows His riches on all who call upon Him." (Rom.10v11) Jesus said, "Him who comes to Me, I will not cast out." (John 6v37) "He came to His own home and His own people received Him not, but to all who received Him who believed on His name, He gave power to become children of God." (John 1v11, 12) "If children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ." (Rom. 8v17) "Little children, you are of God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 Jn.4v4) As Paul says;

"For the sake of Christ then, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities, for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12v10) "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4v13) "We exhort you, rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5v18) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom.15v13)

"For whatever was written in former days, was written for our instruction that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope." (Rom, 15v4) The importance of the Scriptures is to realise that the normal will of God for us is health. , Abraham, when he considered his and Sarah's bodies did not decide against God's promise by unbelief, but gave glory to God being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised.' Praising God and confessing with our lips what God has done in the past, and can do for us, provides the right climate in our spirits for healing to take place in our bodies and for us to live in the Lord's health. Yet we need to see that health is only part of the Lord's will for us. It is not a be-all in itself. My ulcer was healed not as I looked for healing, but as i sought to do the will of God and was enjoying worshipping Him. I had had the ulcer for 4 years when I was at a charismatic meeting one night when someone there said someone needed their stomach prayed for. I asked for prayer, the pain did not go immediately but I received faith to command the devil to get off my back and under my feet, After 2 weeks the pain left and I have not had significant trouble since, yes there was one time I felt like the pain was coming back after I had eaten too many mince pies at Christmas and rather than moving into fear I ate another in the name of Jesus. The eyes of a man I know were healed from needing very strong glasses when he sang in faith for the ex-prisoner beside him; "Tell prisoners they are prisoners no more, tell blind people that they can see." We need to do the known will of God in expectation of the Lord's health and strength to enable us to do it. The Lord blesses us that we may be a blessing and help to others.

Equally well, especially when we pray for others we need to realise our dependancy on God as Jesus did when He said; "Of myself I can do nothing, but what I see the Father doing, that I do." (John5v19) Without the anointing of God we can do nothing. Without His touch, we are as clanging brass and tinkling cymbal, and while we must keep the vision of perfect health, we need to listen to the Lord to know how to pray at a particular

time. 'We need to receive from the Spirit the prayer we can pray in faith that the person we pray for may receive the answer to this prayer of faith and be blessed. It is better for people to experience a small improvement and have their faith encouraged to receive further improvements, than to pray for a complete healing and nothing to happen. How we need to be in tune with the Lord!!

One evening after the Friday night meeting at Eustace Street, a young lady came asking for prayer for her father. I felt no prayer that I could pray in faith for him, but felt I was to pray for her mother. So I prayed that her mother would be free from fear and at peace. Six months later I met the young lady again and she told me that while her father was still dying, her mother was now at peace and no longer needed valium. This girl's faith was encouraged by this experience rather than being discouraged as would have happened had I just mouthed a prayer.

Jesus spoke in the parable of the sower of the seed which fell on stony ground -of people who receive the word with joy, but have no roots in themselves. They believe for a while, but in a time of opposition fall away. I think of a sad case of a young, nearly blind girl who was lead to a meeting one day and received a great improvement in her sight. the next morning she could read the telephone number on a shop front as we drove past. Later that day she visited some friends and they spoke negatively to her and she lost her sight again. We need to realise that people in the world don't like hearing of the power of God as it is a challenge to their lives.

About 40 years ago, a similar thing happened to a brother-in-law of mine. To put the incident in context; on their honeymoon, my sister discovered that the reactions in his feet were not normal and a number of years later he was diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis (MS) The deterioration became noticeable and he had difficulty walking and took up using a stick. One evening he received prayer at a meeting and threw away his stick. Someone said his improvement would not last, and it did not. A few years later, now in a wheel chair, he was prayed for again. Looking back, one can see that the deterioration basically stopped then, but he could not walk. He went through many valleys including a major period of sickness which was eventually diagnosed as gallstones. There was concern that because of the MS an operation might cause incontinence. One evening a friend Basil was at a prayer meeting and when someone there felt called to pray for someone with gallstones so Basil sat in for Norman and the people prayed. About the same time Norman turned to his wife Joy and said "I am

going to get better” so they were not surprised when Basil turned up the next morning and told them of the prayer time. Norman sailed through the surgery and when he got back to work traveling the country and selling lacquer to furniture producers he told people how Jesus had helped him. He found that he could stand and balance again and walk a few steps after fourteen years in a wheelchair. He was able to get his own wheel chair out of the car. He was also able to get out of bed and go round to his wife’s side and turn her when she was incapacitated by Motor Neuron disease. It is now 60 years since his wife Joy discovered the wrong reaction in his feet. Sadly he later lost the use of his legs but I continue to be thankful that he has been able to provide for his family as I so distinctly remember praying for 40 years earlier

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Rom.10v17 KJV)
Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christⁱ (Rom.10v17 wycliff)
Jesus Christ the word who became flesh (John 1:14 &17), indeed the Greek in Romans 10:17 would have been better translated : “Faith comes by hearing *message that encourages faith* and hearing through the [ρηματοξ] proceeding word of Christ” The greek ρημα proceeding word is also used in “The sword of the spirit is the ρημα of God. (Ephesians 16:17)

We live in a day of instant food, instant whip for sweet, instant potato, frozen vegetables from the freezer etc. etc., yet our lives are not instant. A baby does not suddenly become a mother. It takes years of development. So it is that wrong attitudes learned over years, do not often change instantly. With the touch of the Lord, some things do change instantly but others have to be worked at over a period of time. . At one stage, Marge ministered to a person with depression for nearly a year. There came a point in time where we realised that we could do no more. It was disappointing not to see complete healing and for the person to go away. Yet we learned a lot through this experience. God did not want us to be discouraged, but to be encouraged. Soon after this He sent someone else who needed ministry and Marge was able to help. It is a joy to see how this person has developed and grown stronger over the years. This type of ministry requires love, time, and God's patience, and wisdom as well, but it is wonderful to rejoice in what God has done. -

One day I was visiting a man whose faith had been crushed and happened to say that I had been at a Katherine Kulmann meeting in Pittsburgh and could hardly believe the healings that were taking place. He

remarked that it was strange that I mentioned her because he had been at one of her meetings 10 years earlier and after he had listened to her screechy voice she suddenly pointed up in his direction and said "There is someone up there getting his varicose veins healed" and he was healed!

I recognized that there is a mystery to healing, why some people are healed and others not. Rufus Mosley and Katherine Kulmann used to say God Heals with the help of Doctors, without them, and sometimes in spite of them.

Someone once said," A person wrapped up in themselves makes a mighty small parcel." My mother was fond of a poem about how to 'unwrap'.

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS

Are you almost disgusted with life, little man? I will tell you a wonderful
trick

That will bring you contentment, if anything can - Do something for
somebody quick!

Are you awfully tired with play, little girl, Weary, discouraged and sick?
I'll tell you the loveliest game in the world - Do something for somebody
quick!

Though it rains like the rains of the flood, little man And the clouds are
forbidding and thick,

You can make the sun shine in your soul, little man, Do something for
somebody quick!

Thought the skies are like brass overhead, little girl And the road like a well-
heated brick,

And all earthly affairs in a terrible whirl- Do something for somebody,
quick!

TAKEN FROM MY MOTHER'S NOTEBOOK

ⁱ Wycliffe in 1395 was faithful to the Greek and translated "of Christ" why subsequent translations used of God I do not know.