

Healing From Jesus

by

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Receiving Healing From The Lord Jesus Christ

First Edition

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The healing that God intends for us to experience is **wholeness**, with nothing missing and nothing broken, in every area of our life, through confidence, faith and trust in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. This includes the wonderful gift of salvation, which deals with spiritual healing, in addition to many other types of healing, including physical, financial, emotional and mental. God wants us complete and whole.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;...” Romans 1:16.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Healing

So many people today are living below their God-given potential. Some part of their lives is not operating in a complete, smooth, and efficient manner. They need to be restored back to perfect operating condition in one or more areas of their life. The word healing implies to be made sound or healthy again, and to be set back into proper order, the way God designed for us to properly live. This book was written to help people grow in their faith, and to discover the many helpful truths that are contained in God's Word about healing.

There are many types of healing outlined in The Holy Bible, including spiritual, mental, financial, emotional, and physical healing. Healing has to do with wholeness in every area of your life, and being restored back to the proper and optimal way that God has designed for each of us to function. It seems that today so many people need some type of healing in their lives, and I pray that the Biblical truths contained in this writing are helpful in your life and in your pursuit of God. The most important type of healing in my opinion is the salvation of the soul, because your eternal destiny depends on whether you decide to believe in Jesus Christ.

This book is not designed to practice medicine, nor give any kind of legal or other professional advice, but rather contains my personal opinions, beliefs, and discoveries that I have made in seeking the spiritual truths contained in God's Word. I am not a medical doctor, health care practitioner, lawyer, or any kind of licensed professional. I am a minister, who is called by God to teach and share the hope and spiritual truths contained in God's Word with the world. If you have a medical, financial, emotional, or other type of problem, I would encourage you to go and seek immediate help from a hospital, doctor, police, or other qualified professional. God can use a doctor or other professional to help with healing, especially if a person's faith for believing in healing is not solid. I advise all people who believe that God has healed them to get checked out by a doctor.

I believe that God clearly wants to see people healed and set free from various types of bondage. Prayer and faith are very important to helping achieve healing in many areas that people are struggling with. I believe that God can either use doctors and other professionals to help people receive various types of healing, or else He can elect to heal people through the application of faith and prayer, which is the subject of this book.

"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

Prayer changes things. Prayer is vital and is essential to a proper, healthy, well-balanced Christian life. Many people have not, because they ask not, **"...ye have not, because ye ask not."** James 4:2. We need to **ask properly**, in prayer, while maintaining an expectant attitude of faith and belief in the promises of God.

Prayer is the key to receiving healing from the Lord. Effectual means that it will produce the desired results. Fervent means to have or display passionate, sincere, devout, committed intensity. Prayer, simply put, is communication with God. Your prayer should be specific, focused, and heartfelt. It must also be a prayer of faith, filled and wrapped with confidence in God's ability to properly and faithfully perform it.

Then you should thank Him: **"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."** 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Give proper thanksgiving unto God, then wait expectantly and patiently for the fulfillment of His promises. **"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."** 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:” Philippians 1:6.

Jesus is the true healer. That is why this book is titled *Healing From Jesus*, because all healing comes from God through Jesus Christ, His Son. Few doctors I know of claim that they have supernatural powers where they can heal someone. They can give information, treatments, or medicines to help with assisting the body to heal itself, or they can perform surgery to remove something, but healing is a process that often takes time.

Many people might be inclined to call me a “healing evangelist” or “faith healer,” but in reality I claim no such power to heal anyone. It is God who does the healing through Jesus Christ. I do my part to pray for the person, and to help increase faith for healing in the person, and God does the rest through Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, not everyone believes that God still does healing today. Many people can believe that Jesus and His disciples prayed for people ~2,000 years ago and they were healed by God, but they have difficulty in grasping the fact that God still performs various types of healing in people today. If you have a hard time believing in healing, please do not reject my other writings, but hear and read His Word to help you believe.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that He changes not, so why wouldn't He still heal today? **“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”** Hebrews 13:8.

Healing is promised to the children of God, just as He promised and gave them the daily bread they needed. **“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.”** Proverbs 4:20-23.

The Word of God is essential to receiving our healing from God through faith in Jesus Christ. God's Word acts to stimulate faith, belief, and trust in the promises and benefits of God. We need to hear the Word of God so that our faith in Him may grow. You do not pray for faith, but rather it is built up by hearing God's Word.

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17.

We need solid, faith-filled Bible preaching and teaching to be delivered to us, so that we can properly have faith in Christ. Find a preacher who ministers to you, and glean from them. Hunger for God's Word and His Righteousness. Make the appropriate investment of your time and money to receive the best Bible teaching. You will find that God responds to your study and hungering for Him and His Ways. *See* 2 Timothy 2:15.

The ultimate goal of healing is that you help others experience the love, freedom, restoration, and wholeness that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ brings. If you are sick or poor, you will probably not be able to reach out to as many people as when you are whole and prosperous. Also, if you tell people that they need to accept and believe your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they will likely inspect your life for evidence of fruit.

Healing helps to confirm the promises of God: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits:** Who **forgiveth** all thine **iniquities;** who **healeth all thy diseases;** Who **redeemeth** thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who **satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*;** *so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*” Psalm 103:2-5. Christians truly have the best benefit package!

So Great Salvation

“**Enter ye in at the strait gate:** for wide *is* the gate, and **broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction,** and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which **leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**” Matthew 7:13-14. Hell is the destination for sinners that die without Christ.

“**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;** which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and **was confirmed unto us** by them that heard *him*; **God also bearing *them* witness,** both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” Hebrews 2:3-4.

The most important reason that Christ suffered and died on The Cross was to pay the price for our Salvation. Our eternal reward is made available thanks to what Jesus Christ did for us through His Life, Death, Burial, and Resurrection. He lived a sinless life as an example and testimony for us. He willingly gave up His Life for us, as payment in full for the penalty of our sins. He requires us to accept Him as our Lord and Savior, and fully believe upon Him. “...he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it...” Philippians 1:6.

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,** and thy house. And **they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and **was baptized,** he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and **rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**” Acts 16:30-34.

Under natural law, we should be put to death as punishment for our sins, but thanks be to God who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins instead. He has redeemed us from paying the death penalty!

“**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation **through faith in his blood,** to declare **his righteousness for the remission of sins** that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, *I say,* at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which **believeth in Jesus.**” Romans 3:23-26.

“***THERE is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made me free from the law of sin and death.**” Romans 8:1-2.

There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ, who have stopped walking after the fleshly, sinful ways, but have now embraced Christ and His Ways. The Christian life is not promised to be free from trials or persecutions, but “...**in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**” Romans 8:37. We are called to be overcomers, and live a life of victory through faith in Christ. “**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.**” 1 John 5:4. We must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 1 John 5:5.

Many Christians get confused about what truly believing in Jesus Christ is. It requires that we trust Him and are fully persuaded in our beliefs about Him, and that we do not doubt, deny, or disbelieve Him in any way. It is putting away the deceptive, fleshly thoughts of our mind, and being led by the Spirit of God instead.

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is death*; but to be spiritually minded *is life and peace*.” Romans 8:5-6.

“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;**...” Romans 1:16.

“For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**” Romans 10:11.

“And now, little children, **abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him** at his coming.” 1 John 2:28.

God is looking for those who will rise above this world, and enter into an abiding, covenant, overcoming relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. God desires to be **honestly and purely believed**, as **believing in Him through Christ brings pleasure to Him**. Our trust and belief in His Son brings pleasure to the Father.

We are compelled to tell others: “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: **and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**” Matthew 28:18-20.

“**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:13-15.

Pure And Contrite

God is a discerner of the heart, and its motivations. We must ask for His help to remove all hardness of heart, all manner of sins, and everything that keeps us from having a proper belief and trust relationship with Him.

“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God **are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:16-17.

“**Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**” Matthew 5:8. We need a pure heart before God.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; **and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**” Psalm 51:10-13.

“**Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.** And this is his commandment, That we should **believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another**, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby **we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit** which he hath given us.” 1 John 3:21-24.

“But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33. *See also* Hebrew 8:10.

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.” Ezekiel 36:26-27.

“...I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15.

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9a.

God is calling us to a life of perfection in Christ, abiding with Him. He measures the perfection by our heart. Surely, it is possible to walk perfectly before Him, or why would He have said that we could achieve it?

Perfection implies obedience, full surrender, and trust in God through Christ, displaying His Nature through our lives. **“Be ye therefore perfect,** even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48. Apart from Christ I am nothing, but “I can **do all things** through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

“Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:3.

He is seeking those **who truly love and trust Him**, who are willing **to humble themselves** before Him and obey His Voice and His Laws. His Words are life and health to them that find them. Soak yourself in them.

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:20-23.

“WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

All Things Are Possible To You, If You Believe In Jesus Christ

All things are possible to people who believe in Jesus Christ. Never limit God, nor His Son, Jesus Christ. **“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.”** Mark 9:23.

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:24-25.

Jesus said, **“...and as thou hast believed, *so* be it done unto thee.”** Matthew 8:13a.

It's All About Relationship

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;” Joshua 24:15-16.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6.

God desires a relationship with us through His Son, Jesus Christ. We come to God with all our sins washed away through the blood, due to Jesus' sacrifice. This wonderful redemptive, sacrificial gift is made available to all people that truly call on and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from their sins. Abiding faith insists that there remains a continual belief and trust in every aspect of Who Christ Is and What He Did.

The goal of faith is to be known by Christ, and therefore be known by the Father. Jesus knows those who are His, and rewards them according to their faith, “...as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**” Romans 1:17. For those people who are not His, He will speak these words, **“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”** Matthew 7:23b. Jesus is clear in this regard. Some will be cast out. *See also* Luke 13:27.

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:” Matthew 7:18-24.

Therefore having a relationship with Christ, through faith, is of the utmost importance in our lives. It should be a healthy two-way relationship, constantly growing in wisdom and demonstrating faith and trust in Him.

The word **Christian** seems to be so watered down today that it means many different things to many people. Some think it may help them get a job or be accepted by certain types of people. The word Christian means to be a follower and believer in **Jesus Christ**, evidenced by the commitment to live following His teachings.

It is not an open license to sin and disobey His teachings and instructions. Unfortunately, too many people **who call themselves Christians** disregard, or selectively ignore, Jesus' instructions for how they should live.

There are several steps to becoming a mature **Christian** which I like to call: **follower, believer, and disciple.**

A **follower** is a person who is following Jesus Christ for some purpose, perhaps to get something from Him or to see something happen in their life. They are what I would call an observer. They may not be as deeply rooted or grounded in their faith, until they progress to the next stage, which is that of a **believer**, who truly professes faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in His Ways. A **disciple** desires a deeper walk to emulate Jesus.

There is **power and authority** that has been granted to every true **believer** in Jesus Christ. As believers, we can do **great exploits** for **His Name's Sake**. We are called to help advance the Kingdom of God, and to **win souls** for His Kingdom, being **empowered and led by** His Holy Spirit. We have mighty tools at our disposal, including, but not limited to, the Name of Jesus, The Word of God, the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, our Testimony, the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, and so much more. **Avail yourselves to everything that God has made available through Jesus Christ**, including the wonderful, powerful **authority of Jesus Christ!**

“Let **this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself **of no reputation**, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly **exalted him**, and **given him a name** which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; **And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. **Do all things without murmurings and disputings**: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a **crooked and perverse nation**, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” Philippians 2:5-16.

“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned**. And **these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they **shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following**. Amen.” Mark 16:15-20.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**. **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world**. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20.

Jesus gave to the disciples and to us the keys to His Kingdom. He has given us power, because we have right relationship with Him, to fulfill The Great Commission — power to preach and to make disciples of those who would believe upon Him. We are to make a difference in this world by helping others find faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ. We are not to consume our time here by seeking after and fulfilling our own lusts.

True believers in Jesus Christ are given His full authority to do His works here on earth now. We have the ultimate Power of Attorney to act in **His Name**. Nothing shall be impossible for us, who believe on Him.

“**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**” John 1:12. We are to be like Christ, and live our lives in a manner pleasing to Him. We must show the evidence of Christ, “...Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise**.” Luke 10:37.

Believing On Jesus

Jesus admonishes us in His Word **to believe on Him**. Without Him we are nothing, but with Him we can do everything. Remember, **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”** Philippians 4:13.

The benefits of believing in Christ are not to be forgotten (Psalm 103:2-4) or taken lightly. Christ wants us to remove all limits and preconceptions that we may have about how to properly ask and believe Him in faith.

“Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake. **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;** because I go unto my Father. **And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.** If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” John 14:11-16. Believing is the key that unlocks the door to Christ’s Power.

Jesus wants us to do great works to honor and glorify both Him and The Father. We should do everything for His Name’s Sake. His Name is powerful and is to be respected, believed, honored and properly responded to.

We should follow the mighty men and women of faith in the Bible, who are mentioned as receiving a reward from God for their faith in Him. Take for example father Abraham, “For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**” Romans 4:3. See also Hebrews chapter 11.

Abraham’s faith is to be an example for us. **“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;** Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. **THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**” Romans 4:20-25, 5:1-2.

We need to be so filled with the Word of God, that our mind will yield to the things of God, so as to have its thoughts based on what God says about things, rather than based on what our senses tell us what to think. We need to take every thought captive, and heed every Word that God has spoken to us through His Holy Word.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, **and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**” 2 Corinthians 10:5.

We must resist the devil by using the power of God’s Word. **“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** Matthew 4:4.

In order to defeat the enemy and live the overcoming, victorious life in Christ, we need to be not ignorant of the enemy’s devices, and we must use the Word of God, which is our testimony of our belief in Jesus Christ. “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12:11.

Renewing Your Mind - Right Thinking

The Lord knows every thought, for He is discerner of the heart. No one can escape their thoughts from being examined by Him. That is why we are commanded to **take every thought** captive to the obedience of Christ. God demands that we honor, respect, and obey Christ in every way, including our actions and thoughts.

It has been said that **as a man thinks, so is he**. This lines up with the verse, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...” Proverbs 23:7. Your thoughts expose your true nature and your beliefs. When we reason things apart from being truly led by the Spirit of God, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment and disaster.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” Jeremiah 17:9-10. God will reward those with a pure heart and will punish the wicked.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore **come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may **obtain mercy, and find grace** to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:12-16. Jesus discerns the thoughts and intents of your heart.

What you meditate, think on, and fill your mind with, you become. You begin to displace whatever you have in your mind with new thoughts and information. That is why you must continually keep filling your mind with thoughts and words that uplift Christ, so that you may maintain that abiding relationship with Jesus.

Allow God’s thoughts from His Word to abide in you and to displace all impure, wrong, and sinful thoughts. Be diligent to remove all thoughts that allow fears and doubts to exist, grow in, and take hold of your mind. Nip any bad thought immediately in the bud, by rejecting and rebuking it. The enemy delights in sending his thoughts to “the door” of our mind, trying to get us to receive and allow them into our mind. He wants us to accept his thoughts as our own thoughts. Discern the source of all thoughts right away, and reject those that come from the enemy immediately. Do not allow them to be accepted into your mind, to prevent them from growing into something that chokes your belief and faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11. God has good things planned for those who truly love Him.

We need to walk in humility before the Lord, taking every thought captive to the obedience of the ways of Christ, renewing our minds with God’s Word. **“I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly,** according as God hath dealt to every man **the measure of faith.**” Romans 12:1-3.

He is calling us to walk on the “Highway of Holiness” in Christ and follow after Him and His ways:

“And an **highway** shall be there, and a way, and **it shall be called The way of holiness**; the unclean shall not pass over it; **but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men**, though fools, shall not err therein.” Isaiah 35:8.

We **must not compromise** our Christian walk by engaging in any sinful thoughts or practices. We are to be holy as Christ is holy. The Holy Spirit shall guide us into all Truth, if we seek, trust, obey, and honor Him. We must avoid taking God for granted, or treating God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit improperly. Too many people are careless about how they treat God and His ways, which shows a disrespect and a lack of faith.

“**Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts**: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**” Isaiah 55:6-9.

We need His Thoughts alive and working in us, to renew our mind and give us the Mind of Christ. The Word of God is the way that our mind is renewed and washed from all unrighteousness. A renewed mind will reject bad thoughts, and will accept good, godly thoughts. It will rightfully discern and filter all thoughts, choosing not to accept anything that is contrary to walking out in joy the life of righteousness in Christ. Renewing the mind is a continual process of feeding our spirit with God’s Word, that will bring us the true riches in Christ.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word**, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**” Ephesians 5:25-27. Likewise, we need to make sure that our mind is washed and renewed by God’s Word.

“SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained **like precious faith** with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as **his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us** to glory and virtue: Whereby are **given unto us exceeding great and precious promises**: that **by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall**: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you **always in remembrance of these things**, though ye know *them*, and **be established in the present truth.**” 2 Peter 1:1-12.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23. We must be active and diligent to **protect and preserve** the wonderful things that God has made available to us through Christ.

Death To Self

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:20.

It is no longer I that lives through my flesh, but rather it is Christ who lives in me and through me. Christians need to be very aware that they need to be dead to self and alive through Christ! There are many people who pick up the old fleshly things, and allow these things to rule and direct their life, instead of being led by the ways, the nature, and the things of God. He made it very clear that apart from Him we are nothing!

“I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5.

Are you being led by the Spirit and by the Word of God, or are you being led around by your senses and the fleshly things of this world? We are called to be led by the spirit in all things, and give no way to the earth and the things thereof. We should be led by what we don't see, rather than being led by what we do see. This is the basis for our true and pure faith in God. If God said it, it is true. We do not need confirmation from our senses, if we are truly hearing from God. One of the ways that we can hear from God is through His Word.

If the Word of God says that we must act in a holy manner, then God surely isn't telling us to go out and sin. He never contradicts His Word, as it is impossible for God to lie. We need to be careful whose voice we are hearing from. Be careful when someone says they have “a word from the Lord” for you, but make sure God has confirmed the “word” by His Word and by other reliable, trusted sources. He can speak to you through a person, a sermon, a situation or event, by dreams, or any way He so chooses, but He will never contradict or violate His Own Word recorded in the Holy Bible. The Bible is our gold standard, and everything we need is in the seed which is contained in His Word. Think of the Bible as containing many truth seeds, waiting to be planted and acted upon by us, which will produce the desired crop when believed and activated by our faith.

Remember, in Romans 10:17 it is recorded that **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.** It is by the Word of God, **that we know**, which builds our faith. If we don't have the seed of the Word within us, how can we expect a faith-filled harvest to be produced. If we are spiritually empty of the Word, faith can not be increased or produced. It is only when the true, pure seed of the Word of God gets planted in our heart and in our mind that we will begin to see results and positive changes. Faith needs the Word in order to grow.

“For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one **that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**”** Romans 1:16-17. *See also Habakkuk 2:4.*

The just shall live by faith. We are not to be led around by our senses. The evidence that our senses brings can take us in the wrong direction from God's Truth. **“Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)”** Hebrews 10:23. **“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*:** for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6. **“NOW faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** Hebrews 11:1. It is when our faith wavers, that we deny and lose out on God's promises.

Provision And Stewardship

What do you treasure? What occupies your time, energy, and money? Your heart will be focused on whatever you treasure. Do you love money, or are you concerned about the things of God, and the proper fulfillment of His plan through your life? Are you using all of the resources which God has blessed you with wisely, or are you squandering them away on your own lusts? Are you trusting in yourself as the source of your provision, or are you seeking God and trusting in His provision? Do you make financial and all other decisions with the Kingdom of God in mind? Are you a good steward of everything that has been entrusted to you by God?

Stewardship includes the management and allocation of time, energy, money, gifts, talents, encouragement, and proper ministry. When all is said and done, what will remain of everything you have done here on earth?

Note the example given in Daniel 5:1-31 about Belshazzar, the King, who was a poor steward before God. “And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: **and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:** Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this *is* the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This *is* the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; **Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.** PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” Daniel 5:22-28.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For **where your treasure is**, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21.

“**Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.** Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.” Proverbs 23:4-5.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, **O ye of little faith?** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.” Matthew 6:24-34.

“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17.

In all things we should be content with serving, glorifying, and following after God through Jesus Christ.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. **For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** But thou, O man of God, **flee these things;** and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:6-12.

God has already given us everything we need through Jesus Christ. We need to lay hold of His precious promises, and receive them properly, with joy. What has a true hold on us — the world or the things of God?

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, **because ye ask amiss,** that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**” James 4:2-4.

Are you on God’s side, or are you an enemy of God aligned with the things of this world? Forget not the many benefits of serving Christ! Jesus is all that we need. God gives us His riches through Christ.

“**No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.** This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17. “**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**” Luke 1:37.

“**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**” Philippians 4:13.

“But my God **shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19.

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.**” John 14:13-14.

God gives us the keys to His Kingdom through binding and loosing. “**And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:** and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19. “**Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:18-20.

Nothing Missing, Nothing Broken

God designed us to live our life in the *shalem* of God: **with nothing missing, nothing broken**, in every area. Many people have walked away from, or have been disqualified from receiving, the true riches in Christ, which God has promised to every believer who walks faithfully, without doubting any of His promises. God desires wholeness in all areas of our life, including physical, mental, financial, emotional and spiritual areas.

“Beloved, **I wish** above all things that **thou mayest prosper and be in health**, even as thy soul prospereth.”
3 John 1:2. God truly wants His best for us, which is Jesus! “**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**” Jeremiah 29:11.

The Bible is clear that anyone who doubts or wavers in their faith in God is **double-minded**, and they should **not expect to receive anything from Him**. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ask** of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; **and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For **let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.** A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-8.

Our confessions, including our spoken and written words and our thoughts, need to line up with our faith.

Demonstrations

We are called as Christians to demonstrate our love, trust, and faith in God through our proper profession and confession of the Lord Jesus Christ, by all our words, actions, and thoughts coming into alignment with what He said in His Word about The Heavenly Father, Himself, and The Holy Spirit. His Word is TRUTH and life.

Jesus spoke to His Father about believers, “Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**” John 17:17.

By our agreement with and confession of His Word, about what Jesus has done for us, we are then sanctified and placed back into proper standing with our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. **Be careful to hold fast to your profession of faith and confidence in God through Jesus Christ.** Your actions and thoughts **need to agree** with Him. Be careful to not harden your heart with unbelief. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.**” Hebrews 4:14.

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**” Romans 10:8-11.

“**Take heed**, brethren, lest there be in any of you **an evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you **be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are **made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;**” Hebrews 3:12-14.

Words are powerful. Our words should be chosen to demonstrate our respect for God, giving His testimony.

“...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**” Matthew 12:34-37.

Empowered Through Christ

We are worthy (through Christ) to receive the many promises and blessings from God. Satan attacks people’s minds trying to get them to feel and believe that they are unworthy to receive and partake of God’s promises. We have been made worthy through Jesus Christ to receive everything that God has already provided for us.

“**Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**” Mark 9:23.

“**And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled,** saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith, and doubt not,** ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, **but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**” Matthew 21:20-22.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** For verily I say unto you, **That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed,** and be thou cast into the sea; **and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.** And when ye stand praying, **forgive,** if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **But if ye do not forgive,** neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:22-26.

Nothing is impossible, if we will only believe and have faith, or confidence, in the finished work of Jesus.

“**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**” Philippians 4:13.

Speak to that Mountain — Be Thou Removed! Use your confession of godly faith-filled words to command unproductive and unfruitful things to be removed from your life. Use your actions and words to get rid of wrong relationships, wrong people, wrong jobs, bad environments, and distractions from your life. There is no need to put up with time-wasters, with people and things that distract you or remove faith from your life.

When our thoughts, our faith, and our actions line up with God’s Word, God tells us to “**command ye Me.**” Surely He will do whatsoever we ask, as long as we ask in faith, for then we will not ask amiss. He desires to give us good gifts, and for us to do His work here on earth so many souls may be saved for His Name’s Sake.

“**Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.**” Isaiah 45:11.

“**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do,** that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**” John 14:13-14.

When God is telling us to command Him concerning the works of His hands, I believe what He is saying is similar to a father who gives his car keys to his son or daughter, and tells them to be careful with the car. Just because we have been entrusted to use our father's keys to drive his car, in no way means that we become our father. We are simply his representative, authorized to use his car and keys to accomplish a given task. The car has a lot of power, and can get people from point A to point B, but we need to use wisdom, care, and restraint in how we drive the car and use its power. God is really giving us the keys to His Universe and His Kingdom, and is telling us to be careful with everything He is entrusting us with. If we do not properly use the keys and power He is entrusting us with, we are not eligible to use them in the future, and He will take that powerful privilege away from us. Let us properly realize our responsibilities so as not to be disqualified.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.** And every man that striveth for the mastery **is temperate in all things.** Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; **but we an incorruptible.** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Do not be disqualified or be a castaway!

What God is saying by “Command Ye Me” is basically akin to “Take My Car.” Exercise faith in Him, and respect and believe all of the promises from His Word, just as you would be very careful when driving your Father's Car that He has given you authority to drive. You are not better than He, nor is your driving better than His. God is teaching us things about His Kingdom, and how to do things according to His Plan, like a parent teaches their child how to drive by giving them their car to practice driving with. We are truly given powerful rights and responsibilities. We need to make right choices that would honor our Heavenly Father.

Here is a **daily prayer** that we should pray and meditate on, which tells us about being empowered by Jesus:

“**In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.** Wherefore I desire that ye **faint not** at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the **riches of his glory**, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ **may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and **grounded in love**, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to **know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.** Now unto **him that is able to do exceeding abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to **the power** that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:12-21.

“WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

In all things, we always need to **look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.** See Hebrews 12:2.

We are commanded and empowered to go into all the world to preach the Gospel, and to make disciples of all nations. We are to take no thought of what we need (cloak) for the journey, but simply to trust in Him for our needs. Every answer from Christ Jesus is yes, yes for the believer. Boldly approach the throne of grace.

Things That Are Important To Understand About Healing

First, we must acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the source of our healing, and not man, in order for Him to receive the proper credit and glory. No matter if it is physical healing, emotional healing, finances, or the salvation of the soul, Jesus is your source. Too many people today fail to receive the fullness of what God has planned for them because they look to a man or woman as their source, instead of looking unto Jesus.

That is not to say that people aren't used by God to help others with healing, but they are not the ultimate source which provides the healing. All healing comes from God through Jesus Christ. God can use doctors, lawyers, and other professionals to assist, but ultimately He does the true healing, through Christ, for those who would have faith in Him. God has set various laws at work in the universe about how our bodies and minds should operate, and people who properly work those laws will see benefits. For those people that are sick and do pray, studies show that prayer is often a great influence that can help the body to heal better.

If we deny that God, through Jesus Christ, is our source for any kind of healing, then we are actually denying that He is the source for all types of healing. You can not claim Jesus Christ as your Savior and deny that He provides for your physical, mental, and financial well-being. He is all or nothing — you can't choose to just have faith in only part of Who He Is or What He Has Done (for you). To think or believe that way would be an example of having a lack of faith or being double-minded. Your words and thoughts act to convict you of what you really believe about God. What you say and think really matters. You can profess that you love and believe in Jesus Christ, but your actions and words will speak otherwise if they don't line up with your confession and profession of faith in Christ. Watch out for denying Christ by your erratic confession of faith.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:32-34.

There we have it, either we are found to be confessing Christ to the world, before men and women, or else we are found to be denying Christ before men and women. The choice is ours — **to confess or to deny Him.**

That is why every word that we speak, every action that we take, and every thought that we allow to remain in our mind, are all critical to our spiritual, mental, emotional, financial, and physical well-being. Either we testify of our faith in Jesus Christ or we deny our faith and belief in Him.

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**” Matthew 12:36-37. No word, thought, or action of ours will go unnoticed by God. He is always watching us.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, **and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**” 2 Corinthians 10:5.

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

“For to be **carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**” Romans 8:6.

If we say that we have fellowship with Christ, and profess a relationship with Him, but then we do not walk according to His ways and His statutes, we deceive ourselves and we lie to others about our relationship with Jesus. We are the victims of a broken relationship which we caused by our lack of proper confession of faith.

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk in darkness, we lie**, and do not the truth:” 1 John 1:6.

We should confess the Lord Jesus Christ at all times, in every action, and by every word that we speak.

“I WILL bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.” Psalm 34:1-2.

“This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; **we will rejoice and be glad in it.**” Psalm 118:24.

The greatest miracle that a person can receive is that of God’s Salvation through Jesus Christ. It is when we confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, repent of our sins, and ask His help to change our life. It is a step of faith.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1:7-10.

Many can believe God with eternity, entrusting the care of their soul to Him, but often can’t believe Him for the other things He has promised them through Jesus Christ, such as provision, health, long life, and wisdom.

If He can be trusted with the most important thing (our soul), why can’t we trust Him with simpler things? After all, He did create the Universe, human and animal life, and many other complex systems and things.

“...Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because *there is* no water, and dieth for thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.” Isaiah 50:2-3.

“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With **long life** will I satisfy him, and shew him **my salvation.**” Psalm 91:14-16.

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” Psalm 34:8.

“Depart from evil, and do good; **seek peace, and pursue it.** The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the **righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.** The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. **The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.** Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: ... **The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.**” Psalm 34:14-22.

His servants, the ministers of God, should be continually telling others about the goodness and the freedom that The Lord brings. We have good news to share with the world about Jesus! Ministers should not ignore telling others about healing and the many other benefits that accepting Christ's sacrifice brings into their life.

We are to not forget all His benefits promised believers in His Word, a few of which are stated in Psalm 103: "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; **who healeth all thy diseases**; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; *so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. **The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.**" Psalm 103:3-6. If we have a need, we should go before Him in faith asking Him to meet it.

"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:11.

"Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! **Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.**" Psalm 119:4-6.

"My soul, wait thou only upon God; **for my expectation is from him.** He only *is* my rock and my salvation: *he is* my defence; **I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.**" Psalm 62:5-8.

"O keep my soul, and deliver me: **let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.**" Psalm 25:20-21.

"Blessed *is* the man **that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.**" Jeremiah 17:7.

"Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, **and put your trust in the LORD.**" Psalm 4:5.

We are to hold fast to the Lord and put our full faith, trust, and confidence in Him in all things. "**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.** Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be **health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.**" Proverbs 3:5-8.

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst **believe, all things are possible** to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**" Mark 9:23-24.

A most important statement about our confidence in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God is: "And this is the confidence that we have **in him**, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**" 1 John 5:14-15. We must ask in His Name, knowing that He hears us, and that we have what we asked.

Can you truly say that you have put your full confidence (faith) in Him? Do you trust Him in every area of your life, in every circumstance, and in every decision that has to be made? Our goal is believe like David:

"**IN thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.**" Psalm 31:1.

The Bible is very clear that God has provided Jesus Christ to be our source, so that we may receive healing. **“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”** Acts 17:28. **In God, through Christ, we live, and move, and have our being.**

He desires to give us good things through Christ. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:7-12.

In order to be eligible to receive these gifts we must be His and we must acknowledge Him as the source and the giver of all good gifts. **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”** James 1:17.

After we are convinced that God, through Jesus Christ, is our source for all manner of healing, we can enter into His courts with thanksgiving and praise, freely receive from Him, and glorify Him for His Name’s Sake.

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusteth in thee.” Psalm 84:11-12.

Second, we must have the matter settled in our spirit, and in our hearts and minds, that healing is for today. Some people mistakenly believe that healing ended after the initial disciples and apostles died. They do not believe that healing is for today! What a shame that they have chosen to only believe part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! To deny that God still heals today through Jesus Christ, is really only having faith in part of His Finished Work. You are only believing in a part of Christ, and are disbelieving many important parts of Jesus.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Hebrews 13:8. Jesus does not change. If He healed back then through His disciples, then He must still heal people today who are called by His Name.

God promises to not only heal people physically, but also to heal our land. **“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”** 2 Chronicles 7:14.

I believe that the Bible teaches that all types of healing are **for true believers in Christ today**, that healing is the children’s bread (Mark 7:27), and that **by His stripes we were healed.** **“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”** 1 Peter 2:24. “But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5.

Our daily bread that we are to ask The Father for includes not only food and drink (sustenance), but also peace, healing, and protection through Jesus Christ. **“Give us this day our daily bread.”** Matthew 6:11. What we should be daily asking Our Heavenly Father for is all that is necessary for our body, soul, and spirit.

If we walk in faith toward Christ, and meet His conditions of how we should properly live, He will heal us: “...for **I am the LORD that healeth thee.**” Exodus 15:26. **Do not doubt Him, or show any unbelief!**

Has He not said this? Will He not do it? We simply must meet the conditions of faith, abiding in the spoken truth and promises of His Word. “And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**” Mark 11:22.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” Philippians 1:6. He Who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it!

Maintaining a walk of faith, with unwavering trust and confidence in God and in Jesus Christ, is essential to receiving anything from The Lord. If we doubt, we are not qualified to receive anything, including healing.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**” James 1:6-7.

Note that **Jesus** in The Bible recognized a person’s **faith** and equated it with being **made whole** (healed):

“And he said unto her, Daughter, **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” Mark 5:34. Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus’ garment in faith.

“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.” Mark 10:52. Jesus heals the blind man who had faith in Him.

“And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: **thy faith hath made thee whole.**” Luke 17:19 — Leper healed.

We need to have faith like the Centurion, for he respected Jesus’ authority and power. **“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”** Matthew 8:10. “And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; **and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.** And **his servant was healed** in the selfsame hour.” Matthew 8:13.

Jesus went about healing all that were sick and oppressed of the devil. He has paid the price for our healing. “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: **and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**” Matthew 8:16-17.

He has called us, **as Believers**, to go worldwide, in His Name, preaching the Gospel, **with signs following confirming His Word**, including casting out devils, and laying hands on the sick, so they shall recover.

“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.** And **these signs shall follow them that believe;** In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they **shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.** Amen.” Mark 16:15-20.

“For I am the LORD, I change not;...” Malachi 3:6. It is impossible for God to lie and He does not change.

We are to trust Him, by placing our entire dependance and faith in Him. Apart from Him we can do nothing.

“Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses. **He sent his word, and healed them,** and delivered *them* from their destructions. Oh that *men would praise the LORD for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!” Psalm 107:19-21.

Jesus healed them **by His Word.** We always have access to speak the healing power of Jesus Christ through speaking His Word. Find His promises in The Word and speak them boldly in faith. He has called us to be representatives in this world today. We are to train up others to be His disciples, to believe on Him, and do great exploits In His Name as well. “...**If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” John 8:31-32. Sin will no longer control you.

“Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works** than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” John 14:11-14.

Be Prepared To Defend Yourself Against The Enemy

The enemy of our souls wants nothing more than to see you fail to get healed, delivered, and set free by the power of Jesus Christ. The devil is hard at work, going around like a roaring lion, trying to deceive even the elect, if that was possible. He wants you to believe his lies. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” Hosea 4:6a. We must always be very careful to forgive others and walk in God’s love without judging others. “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are **not ignorant of his devices.**” 2 Corinthians 2:11. The tricks of the enemy are many, but they are not new, but may possibly be repackaged to try and fool us today.

We need not fear the enemy. “**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**” 2 Timothy 1:7. Christ triumphed victoriously over the devil, and has given us His keys and His power to resist and triumph over all the works of the enemy.

“**Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**” James 4:17.

“Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.** He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.** Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin;** for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness **is not of God,** neither he that loveth not his brother. **For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.**” 1 John 3:7-11. Sin means separation from God, being outside His covenant of protection.

Be prepared with God’s Word to counter all attacks and challenges in the court of Heaven from the enemy, who is the accuser of the brethren. Satan knows the Word of God, and will try to find legal technicalities to accuse you of sinning, so that the shield of protection from God will be lowered, and he can then attack you.

Let no fault be found in your communication, thoughts, or actions. May your confession always line up with The Word of God, as to glorify God and Jesus Christ. May you never violate His Word, or distort His Truth.

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even Christ*.”
Ephesians 4:15. Always be careful to speak the truth (God’s Truth) in love, as you are an example to others.

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, **that he may have to give to him that needeth.** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, **whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake **hath forgiven you.**” Ephesians 4:25-32.

Give no place to the devil, or evil communications, in your life. Let him that is a thief steal no more from you. Enabling requires agreement and permission. Enable your part in fulfilling the Great Commission. You either permit, or you allow, things to occur. Enable good things. Too many people are enabling others to do incorrect and bad things. Start rewarding, encouraging, and enabling good behaviors and actions by people.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.* This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**” James 4:7. “What shall we then say to these things? **If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?” Romans 8:31. “...**let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2. “Ye are of God...and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**” 1 John 4:4.**

God is calling all true Believers in Him through Jesus Christ to cast away every evil imagination and every evil work. Sin has no place in His Kingdom. Sin means separation from God. He can not allow a person who is involved in sin to be in His Presence. If we believe God, it is counted to us as righteousness. Romans 4:3.

Righteousness means “right standing with God.” Jesus talked a lot about righteousness, which always comes through Him. Our righteousness is as filthy (menstrual) rags, but His righteousness is pure and it will remain. Jesus wants us to be so focused on having faith in Him and in God, so that we may obtain His righteousness.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33. **“Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”** Matthew 5:6. **“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”** Revelation 21:6-7.

Standing

In most courts of law, you must have **standing** or *locus standi*, before you are permitted to have your case heard by the court. It is the same with God. If you do not have relationship with God through Jesus Christ, you are not entitled to make a claim before Him to decide your case. If you do not have a proper relationship, **Jesus will testify that He never knew you.** All of Jesus' promises are yes, yes for those who believe in Him.

For all true Believers in Christ, you have the right to stand on the promises contained in His Word, and He will faithfully perform what He has promised to do on your behalf, since you take Him at His Word, in faith.

It is when people doubt Him, or have unbelief in what He has promised, that they get into problems of losing their proper standing before God. How can a person make a claim based on promises in His Word that only apply to His Believers, when they have demonstrated their lack of belief and faith in Him and in His Word?

We can see the conditional promises of Jesus evidenced by, "And these signs shall follow **them that believe; In my name shall they...**" Mark 16:17. "For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**" Romans 4:3. Here we can clearly see that God equates righteousness, or right standing, with those who believe in Him. We must also believe in, and obey, His Son, Jesus Christ.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." 1 John 5:10. "He that hath the Son **hath life; and** he that hath not the Son of God **hath not life.** These things have I written unto **you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**" 1 John 5:12-15. We have an awesome promise to be heard and have the petitions granted that we have sought from Him, if we ask things that are according to His Will.

Not only do we have standing before God to make our requests known to Him through Jesus Christ, but we also have the privilege to live standing on His promises. "**...not my will, but thine, be done.**" Luke 22:42.

Only we can cause our prayers and petitions to not be answered before God. When we pray, we need to make sure we are fully persuaded in our faith, belief, and confidence in Him and in Jesus. We need to watch out for any sign of selfish desires, including pride and lack of humility, hardness of our heart, unforgiveness toward others (Mark 11:25-26), judgmentalness, anger, bitterness, unconfessed sins, discord, disbelief, and doubt.

We need to expectantly continue in faith to await the fulfillment of our petitions before God. An example of persistence is found in Luke Chapter 18, where a woman troubled the judge until she was properly avenged. God will surely answer us more speedily than the unrighteous judge, if we believe in Him and faint not.

If we do not have proper standing before God, through our improper belief in Him and in Jesus Christ, we should not expect to receive anything from Him. If our faith, actions, and confession do not line up with truth, God is not obliged to hear or act on our petitions. "**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**" James 1:6-7. **Where do you stand with God through Jesus Christ?**

Danger Of Things

This section is extremely important to your well-being. Things can control you and divert your time, money, affections, virtue, and health. They can encourage you to become separated from God and from Jesus Christ. Things work to detach you from what is important and really matters, and can serve to destroy relationships.

What you possess often will control and direct your life. Things cry out for your devotion and your attention, and usually will distract you from what really matters in life. Anything that possesses you is your master, and you are its servant. **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** Matthew 6:21. As I talked about earlier in the *Provision and Stewardship* section of this writing, your heart will be focused on whatever you treasure. Having money and other tools to accomplish the various assignments from God here on earth is not bad or evil, but the love of money is the root of all evil. Let us look again at this important Scripture text:

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having **food and raiment** let us be therewith **content.** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** But thou, O man of God, **flee these things;** and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:6-12. We are commanded to flee these things and seek virtuous things instead.

I have known many people who have an insatiable desire for things, which can never be quenched. They are under the false delusion that if they acquire more things they will be happy and satisfied. They have allowed things to become their master, which has become a force that drives them in almost everything that they do. In reality, they are acting no differently from a drug addict who is driven by the desire to get their next “fix.” These people are “hooked” on things, and have allowed themselves to be controlled and possessed by things.

Jesus warns us in Matthew 6:24 that **no man can serve two masters, for he will hate one and love the other.**

“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” James 4:4.

If you love the world, and the things in the world, you are an enemy with God. You are just like one who engages in adultery in God’s eyes. You have replaced the affection that is rightfully due to God with your affection for things, and have placed those things above God in your eyes, your heart, your mind and life.

That is why the rich young ruler had such a hard time parting with things, because he was rich. Jesus knew that the riches possessed him. *See* Mark 10:17-31. Jesus told him to give away the riches, as they were his master and were controlling him. His treasure was enshrined in his heart in the place reserved only for God.

“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, **how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**” Mark 10:21-25. Possessions did not control Jesus. “And Jesus said unto him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**” Luke 9:58.**

Things can promote us to have selfish desires, lusts, jealousy of things that others have, pride, anger, hatred, and a host of other ills. To be healthy and be a well-balanced Christian, we need to separate ourself from the things that would try and control us, and instead look solely to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

We should have no other gods or idols before the one and only True God. Things can become idols or gods to us if we are not careful. We can worship, adore, and serve things to our detriment. **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that is in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:** for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:3-6.

We need to examine ourselves, and repent from adoring things, instead of having a proper adoration for God. For God will not share the worship and adoration that is due Him with any person or any thing. He will allow nothing to be put in the rightful place in our heart that only He should occupy, for He alone is worthy of all of the praise, glory, and honor by all of His Creation. Be led by the spirit, and not by the flesh and by things.

We also need to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to, but rather walk out our life in humility. “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” Romans 12:1-13.

Flee the snares of the world, the senses, and of things. We should be led by His Thoughts and His Ways, rather than by our thoughts and our ways. Stop adoring things, and rather adore God with all of your heart.

Judgment Begins At The House Of God

Our churches, and the people who call themselves by Christ's Name who attend these churches, need to have their bodies, hearts, minds, wills, and emotions healed, and be whole in every area. If we are not whole, how can we properly testify to others, and live our lives as a positive example that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ?

“For the time *is come* that **judgment must begin at the house of God**: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17. If we as Christians who believe on Christ are poor examples in the world of the power, victory, and love of Jesus, why would people want to be saved?

If people observe our conduct and behavior, and see no real virtue or positive attributes, then we have failed to represent Christ well to those around us. We must get rid of all lying, gossip, pride, selfishness, and vanity.

If we act no differently than those in the world, what kind of testimony for Christ is that? We are called to be in the world, but not of it. Our actions must be spirit led, and not led by our flesh. For those who love the world are set apart by God as His enemies. See 1 John 2:15-17. God's Word is truth, and It will sanctify us.

Jesus prayed to the Heavenly Father, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that **thou shouldest keep them from the evil**. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.” John 17:14-17. “**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**,...” Romans 12:2. His Word will renew you.

You must respect God, the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the precious Holy Spirit in all that you do, say, think, and imagine. The Bible in Romans 13:7 says that we are to give honor to whom honor is due. God is surely due all honor, praise, and glory! We are commanded **to love the Lord our God** with all of our heart and all our soul. See Deuteronomy 6:5, Deuteronomy 10:12, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27. We are also **to love our neighbor** as ourselves. “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:8-10. Perfect love casts out all fear.

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And **we have known and believed the love** that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. **Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.** We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? **And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.**” 1 John 4:15-21. **We must demonstrate the fruit of love.**

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7. Are you ruled by fear of man, and fear of the things of the flesh, or by your faith in God and in Jesus Christ? Be ruled by the Love of God **in all your dealings**, in every situation. Never forget to be a vessel of His love.

How can we expect God to honor our confession, prayers, and the exercising of His Word, if we choose to dishonor His Ways, His Name, and His House? Jesus got so upset at the moneychangers that He overturned their tables, and He cast out those people who bought and sold in the temple. God's House demands respect.

“And **Jesus** went into the temple of God, **and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple**, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, **My house shall be called the house of prayer**; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” This account is found in Matthew 21:12-13. *See also* Isaiah 56:7, Mark 11:17. We should not treat His House as common!

What have we made His Name and His House, by our public and private examples to others? Is His House a **House of Prayer**, as God intended — a place for communing with God, where we study and worship Him? Or, is it rather a den of thieves, who have prostituted the truth of God's House for their own vanity and gain? Are His House, and the ministers who claim to represent Him, pure and holy before Him, or are they stained with selfish desires, lusts, all manner of sins, a lack of humility, and no evidence of love for people or souls?

A house divided against itself can not stand. “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:**” Matthew 12:25. “**He that is not with me is against me**; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” Matthew 12:30. We must be careful to be on Jesus' side, and to not fight against His plan.

The church should be a welcome place, especially for the Son of God. Is Jesus welcome at your church, and would He be pleased at what He sees? Would you, or your church, be weighed and found wanting by Him? Many churches are so full of people who seem to love to gossip, judge, control, and condemn other people. There is much pride, resentment, jealousy, sin, unforgiveness, compromise, poor stewardship, and infidelity.

We can get so caught up in worldly things, that we lose our proper spiritual focus. We must focus squarely on fulfilling the Great Commission, to reach out to lost souls. We need to stop trying to please people, but rather please God by glorifying our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God will not accept or tolerate His standards to be compromised in the Body of Christ or in the life of a Believer. Judgment truly will begin in God's House.

How can we expect to be healed and made whole when our lives and our churches are not pleasing to Him? Ask Him to help show you, and also help remove from you and your church, all manner of sin and impurity.

Find true ministers of the Gospel who walk in humility, who love the Lord Jesus Christ with all their heart and soul, and who want to see Him exalted and glorified in all the earth. They should have a hunger to reach out to lost souls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We should honor those who minister the Gospel with our respect, time, prayers, love, encouragement, and financial support. We should be friendly to them, and help assist and support them, as directed by the Holy Spirit. To be a true minister of God is a worthy profession.

Unfortunately, not all who minister do so out of selfless motives. There are people who try to control others and take advantage of Believers in Christ. That is why it so important to only follow after and support those ministers who are genuine and are obedient to God. We should give honor to whom it is due. Romans 13:7.

When Believers, who make up the church, learn to be led by the spirit, instead of being led by the flesh, and walk in humility toward Jesus and each other, we become healthy and grow into the Body that Christ desires.

Spiritual Healing

I believe that one of the most overlooked areas is that of spiritual healing. As the next section, *Let Nothing Shake Your Faith*, details, we need to believe upon the Finished Work of Jesus Christ in order to have our right standing with God restored on all levels, including spiritual. If we have no standing currently, to entitle us to God's benefits, promises, and forgiveness for sins, we are operating outside of His Kingdom. Without a "new birth" experience, where we accept everything that Jesus has already paid for and done for us, we are at a dangerous place, and need to receive Him, and believe on Him, as our Lord and Savior soon, before we die.

The environment and people that we allow ourselves to be surrounded with, will likely control and direct us. We need to immediately take an inventory to discern which people and things are good and bad in our lives. You will find that many people need a major housecleaning in their lives on many different levels.

Past hurts, offenses, neglect, and abuses can serve to "open doors," allowing for the entry of spiritual attacks. You might not believe me, but I have personally experienced and lived through what I am talking about here. I have had numerous encounters with demon possessed and demon influenced people. Just like a person can be DUI (driving under the influence), I have personally seen many people who were demonically influenced. I am not just talking about full blown demonic possession here, but many people can be haunted by demonic issues, without demons being able to possess or involuntary take full control over the functions of their body.

The full description of spiritual healing, and how to perform deliverance, are beyond the scope of this book, and I highly recommend finding trained pastors, ministers, or evangelists who specialize in exorcisms and spiritual deliverance in your area, and not try to "deliver yourself or others" without guidance and assistance.

There are many types of spirits at work in the world now, including those of: iniquity (sin), disease, sickness, condemnation, control, seduction, deception, homosexuality, anger, jealousy, hatred, rejection, abandonment, pride, lust, fear, greed, adultery, fornication, masturbation, destruction, murder, religious, shame, and guilt. This list is not complete, but if there is an enticement to sin which exists, there may well be a spirit behind it. Then, when a person engages in sinful behaviors, their flesh often gets accustomed to the sin, and craves it.

"THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then **they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**" Romans 8:1-2, 5-8.

A person can rarely be delivered from a sin or demonic influence if they fail to believe or acknowledge that demons exist, or if they continue to permit the spirits behind particular sins to have entry. Jesus' disciples were given power to cast out demons and to heal sickness in His Name. I believe, that same power is given to Jesus' true Believers and disciples today. Unfortunately, there are few that can walk in that level of belief and faith in Jesus Christ, to see the miraculous evidence be manifested now. I am convinced that all types of healing, including physical, emotional, and spiritual, are available for those who have faith in Christ today!

Jesus came to set captives free. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall **be free indeed.**" John 8:36.

Let Nothing Shake Your Faith

Jesus finished the work of restoring our access to Father God, through Himself, by paying the ultimate price with His Life and Blood, for all who would believe on Him. His sacrifice on the cross is an example of how much He loves us. Jesus said, “...**It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” John 19:30.

He did so much for us, so why do so many people still deny Him, and His finished work on the Cross, today? They have been deceived to believe a lie, instead of the truth, and they have exchanged the truth for a lie. “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who **changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” Romans 1:24-25. Unbelief is denying Him.

As I talked about earlier, **we either confess Him or else we deny Him**, by our words, thoughts, and actions. “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:32-34. We either testify of our faith and confidence in Jesus, or else we deny our faith and belief in Him and in God.

We will be tried and tested in our faith by the devil. We must be careful to not reject or deny the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, or the Heavenly Father. We must hold on to our confession of faith until our last breath of life. We should expectantly live life, with full confidence and faith in Jesus Christ, being fully persuaded of the hope at the end of life’s race to hear Jesus Christ, the Finisher of our Faith, speak, “...**Well done, thou good and faithful servant:...enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**” Matthew 25:34. *See also Matthew 25:23.*

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith;** who **for the joy** that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

Jesus is calling us to go and make disciples of all nations, and to, “...**Feed my sheep.**” *See John 21:15-17.* “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” Matthew 25:34. As we do unto the least, we do to Jesus.

No matter what challenge or obstacle is thrown at you in life, you must hold fast to the victory which has already been purchased for you by Jesus. We are to use the Name of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus, and His Word.

Whether it is fear, a raging sea, or tragedy, **do not let your faith be shaken!** Trust in Him alone, and be not moved by what you see with your senses. Remind Him of His promises that He has spoken. Stand on His Word, and resolve that your faith cannot be moved. “**See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.** For if **they escaped not** who **refused him** that spake on earth, much more **shall not we escape**, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, **that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved**, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **For our God is a consuming fire.**” Hebrews 12:25-29.

Difficulties Make You Stronger

So many people today are living below their God-given potential. When the cares, fears and doubts of the world seemingly threaten to overtake them, they usually avoid any potential conflicts, and tuck tail and run.

People are told by many sources throughout their life that “they are not good enough” or “they can’t do it.” We can get so beaten down, that we actually learn to deal with, and live with, both pain and disappointment. In fact, many people even expect pain and disappointment to happen. Their expectations often become self-fulfilling prophecies. The Bible both says that, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: ...” Proverbs 23:7, and “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” Galatians 6:3. Our thinking must be right in how we treat one another, how we look upon life, and how we treat ourselves.

Unfortunately, we are sojourners living in a messed up world where people often mistreat themselves and us. Once we have established, believed, and accepted the fact that other people may not really care about us, we can walk in a new level of freedom, where we stop blaming ourselves and others, and instead focus on being both kind and loving to others. People can get deluded, and extremely disappointed, when other people lie to them and mistreat them. Some people, if they are not careful, can get so used to various forms of abuse, that they begin to accept it, and even crave it. Depravity is what results from someone who does not renew their mind and exercise right thinking. Thoughts influence, and will steer, the mind of a person, so it is imperative to only allow right thoughts to be present in your mind, to produce the desired harvest, or end result, in life.

Our life should serve to please God, and our thoughts should all line up with His Ways, to produce the good fruits that He desires to be harvested from our life. We do not belong to ourselves, but rather belong to God. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, **and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We are His property, and inherit all the rights and benefits of belonging to Him, through the great sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. It is through Christ that we exist, “For **in him we live, and move, and have our being**; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” Acts 17:28. We must allow His Nature to be worked into our life.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17.

Without an enemy, or an adversary, we have no real challenge to cause us to grow. We get stronger when we face, successfully overcome, and properly exit each difficulty that presents itself to challenge us in The Way. Plants must be properly pruned to stimulate growth in the desired direction and to produce the right harvest. Without proper pruning, you end up with a unwieldy plant, that drains resources and produces inferior fruit.

The key is how we deal with difficulties that present themselves in our lives. Do we fear and run away from them, or do we confront them in the proper manner that glorifies God? Do we seek wisdom from God with how to deal with every situation, trial, and difficulty that arises, or do we allow our flesh to come up with a solution to deal with the problem? God promises always to provide a way of escape from every difficulty or problem that arises, “...**but God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear *it.*” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Healing People Through Evangelism

The greatest gift that you can give anyone is the gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The salvation of the soul is the most important thing that we as Believers in Christ can share with people all over the world. Imagine the great and wonderful privilege that Christ has given us, to be partakers in the preaching of the Gospel, inviting as many lost souls as possible to spend eternity in the Kingdom of God. We are Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, every day, everywhere that we go. We as Christians need to “break out of the four walls” mentality and go into all the world preaching the Gospel. If we expect people who need to receive salvation to come in and fill our churches by themselves, we are gravely mistaken. That would be like a farmer who saw his fields “white unto harvest,” who did not want to go out in the field to do any work harvesting, then just sat back in his comfortable barn and expected the crop to pick itself and come into the barn by itself, so that he could enjoy the fruits of the harvest without doing any work in the fields to bring the harvest inside. Too many Christians and churches may only be praying for souls to be saved, but they may fail to go outside the walls of their church buildings to actually participate in the process of soul-winning, to bring souls inside.

We are to go get the harvest of souls out in the world, where they are, and not only from clean, safe places. We are to show the love of Jesus to people who are lost, hurting, and have lost hope. He is the hope of glory.

“*Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, **but now is made manifest to his saints:** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:** Whereunto **I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.**” Colossians 1:26-29. Christ in us, the true hope.

“The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; **and he that winneth souls *is* wise.**” Proverbs 11:30.

You should invest your time, gifts, talents, and money in productive seed planting, fertilizing, encouraging, and gathering of the harvest of souls that are out there in the world waiting to be cultivated. Do your part in evangelism as led by the Holy Spirit. Some plant seeds, some water or cultivate, and others reap the harvest. Remember that all the harvest of souls belongs to The King. We should willingly labor in His harvest fields.

“**THE earth *is* the LORD’s,** and the fulness thereof; **the world, and they that dwell therein.**” Psalm 24:1.

We need more qualified laborers, who have been properly taught and trained up as disciples of Jesus Christ. “Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**” Luke 10:2. To better help you understand Jesus’ command for how you, as a disciple, should go out and minister, see Matthew Chapter 10.

To summarize the need for saving of souls by God’s Salvation through Jesus Christ, and how to do our part:

1. Unsaved people do not normally walk in the doors of a church begging to find out how to get saved.
2. We, as Christians, must leave the “four walls” of the church, and go out where sinners are to reach them.
3. Jesus commanded us to go into all the world “...and **preach the gospel to every creature.**” Mark 16:15.
4. Once we find them, we must be good examples of Christ, demonstrating His Love and His Hope to them.
5. We must make ourselves available, to participate in working in the harvest fields, as led by the Holy Spirit.

Healing Your Country - An Example From Freedom In America

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies, In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The United States of America was established as a nation under God (“their Creator”) in its beginning. While the founders of this country purposely decided against allowing for there to be any kind of state religion, or a state church, they purposed for there to be many kinds of freedom, including the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech. A definition for the word **liberty** from the dictionary is: “the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.”

I believe that the signers of The Declaration of Independence got it right when they decided to acknowledge their Creator (“God”) as the One who endowed them with certain unalienable rights. They called these things **self-evident truths**. We are free to worship and believe in God, without the government dictating our beliefs.

I am honored to be descended from one of the signers of The Declaration of Independence, Richard Stockton of New Jersey, who risked his life and property, due to his willingness to sign and take this important stand. The United States has **freedom of religion** constitutionally guaranteed, as a right, in the First Amendment.

“Congress shall make **no law** respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” **First Amendment to the United States Constitution.**

The First Amendment contains both the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause which both pertain to religion in the United States. This provision was later expanded to state and local governments, through the Incorporation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Many court cases, including Supreme Court cases, have been decided, and numerous laws have been passed, regarding the freedom of religion in America.

James Madison, one of the framers of The Constitution of the United States of America, who influenced the drafting of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, stated that religion was “the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it.” Various courts have also attempted to define religion over the years, with varying degrees of success. Courts have interpreted the Establishment Clause to mean that neither the federal government nor a state can organize a church. There is much debate over the idea of a separation of church and state that has been injected into the modern legal framework. Supporters of this separation rely on a letter written by Thomas Jefferson on January 1, 1802 to the Danbury Baptists. I believe that the original intent of Thomas Jefferson’s letter was to assure the Danbury Baptists that their rights to *free expression of their religion* would not be interfered with, then or in the future, by the federal government.

“...Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should “make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. ...” — Thomas Jefferson, *Writings* (1904 edition), Vol. XVI, pp. 281-282, to the Danbury Baptist Association on January 1, 1802.

This so-called “Wall of Separation Letter” has sparked much controversy, and 8 words from it, “a wall of separation between Church and State,” have been used extensively to help shape law and legal decisions.

The phrase “separation of church and state” is not found recorded anywhere in the deliberations about the wording of the First Amendment among the ninety Founding Fathers who framed the First Amendment, (*Congressional Records* from June 7, 1789 to September 25, 1789), including by Thomas Jefferson himself during these deliberations. In fact, Thomas Jefferson expressed the strong need for religion to help preserve the government and society as a whole in his various writings. To take 8 words out of one of his personal writings, and bend it for a particular use, and for supporting legal opinions, is in my opinion disingenuous.

“And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have lost **the only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?** That they **are not to be violated** but with His wrath?” — Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Philadelphia: Matthew Carey, 1794), Query XVIII, p. 237.

“Those who will not be governed by God, will be ruled by tyrants.” — William Penn

“**Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom.** As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.” — Benjamin Franklin

Our faith and belief in God should be used to help mold and better our society and government, and our government should not interfere with the natural rights of people to worship, serve, love, and believe God.

We should not “roll over and play dead,” but we should live our lives as shining examples of God’s love and His righteousness. We should be beacons radiating the truth and the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ.

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” Matthew 5:13-14.

We are to be free indeed through Christ. We should not allow any chains to be put on us, or anything to keep us from believing Christ. “**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**” John 8:36.

Freedom is not always free, and someone usually needs to pay a price, so that others may have peace and walk in real freedom. Jesus Christ paid that price, as Kinsman-Redeemer, for all who would believe on Him. Because of Christ’s atoning sacrifice for our sins, we can boldly walk by faith through life using His Name.

We should humble ourselves and pray for our nation to turn back to God. See my writing *Christian Revival*.

Whether you live in the United States of America, or in some other country, the principle of freedom in God through Jesus Christ should be held high and received with thanksgiving. Your country may not be as free as the U.S.A. is in 2008 and you might be facing persecution or even death for openly believing in Jesus Christ. Wherever this writing finds you, in time and in place, I pray that God reveals His Secrets of New Life to you in Jesus Christ, and that you find His Salvation and receive a measure of His Strength to see you through life. May your country be a land where God is honored and respected, through the faith and prayers of Christians.

Touching Jesus

Touching Jesus is all that matters. We are to look unto Jesus, and be healed. How we approach Him matters. We are to have **full faith, confidence, and expectancy** in Him, that He **will perform** what we are asking for. Jesus is touched by our measure of faith and belief in Him. Jesus marveled at, and rewarded, convinced faith.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.” James 4:7-8. We must make the decision to approach God through Christ, to turn from our wicked ways.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, **Jesus** the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.** For we have not an high priest which cannot **be touched** with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us **therefore come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find **grace to help** in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16.

Mercy is defined as being released from the punishment or penalty that we deserve, thus being released from judgment. Grace is “receiving extra beyond mercy,” a blessing that we do not deserve, or unmerited favor.

When we yield to Jesus Christ, no matter what is going on in our life, we can rest assured that He is with us. “...**My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...**” 2 Corinthians 12:9. “**THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**” Romans 8:1. When we follow Christ in humility, we can walk boldly in grace.

“WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

“...**God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**” James 4:6. Flee self, walk in humility. “**Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and **he shall lift you up.**” James 4:10. Humility is our key!

How you approach someone, especially royalty or a leader, is very important. A wrong approach gets you thrown out of the presence of the King. Too many people are trying to treat as common their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ — He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! “He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is good*; and what doth the **LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**” Micah 6:8. Do not glorify your own accomplishments, but rather walk softly before Jesus. Ask the precious Holy Spirit to reveal things to you, so that Jesus may be continually glorified (John 16:14). Jesus Christ glorifies the Father (John 17:4). We must decrease, so that Jesus may increase in us (John 3:30).

Go before God using the Name of Jesus and confess and repent to God of all your sins, and have them totally washed clean by the Blood of Christ. Boldly come before the throne of grace, to receive mercy and grace, so that you can be made whole, and be empowered to help others find freedom through Jesus from their sins. **Not everyone invited will come to Christ.** We need to put on our proper wedding garments, when we have been invited and come to the wedding feast of the Lord. We must be clothed with the garment of salvation and the robe of righteousness. See Isaiah 61:10. “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.” Matthew 22:14.

Partakers Of Christ's Sufferings

There is great power in realizing that we are called to be partakers in Christ's sufferings. We need to be fully aware of, persuaded of, and identify with, what Jesus Christ bore for us, and how we are to partake of all that He took upon Himself for us, in our stead. How can we truly expect to receive anything from Him, and from the Holy Spirit, unless we first truly identify with His sufferings. We can't really know Him, unless we know exactly what He did for us, and what tremendous power He has already given us through His Finished Work. If we learn, and hold fast to, what He did on our behalf on The Cross, we will walk in His Power and Love.

Some people want the blessings and promises of God, but do not want to partake of Jesus' sufferings. One is not qualified to be a partaker of Christ's blessings and promises, if they ignore partaking of and identifying with the sufferings of Christ. We must believe and be persuaded in the whole Christ, and not just believe in only some parts of Who He Is and What He Has Done for us. Jesus Christ is all or nothing, just like faith is.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5.

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God **by faith**: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.** Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark **for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus**. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, **be thus minded**: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” Philippians 3:8-15.

“The words of the LORD *are* pure words: **as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**” Psalm 12:6. His Words are pure, and we must have faith in the seven places on Jesus' body where He bled, to understand and be partakers in His sufferings and in His power. He bled for us, to redeem us back into right standing with our Heavenly Father. The curse of all sin was destroyed. Jesus paid the price, once and for all. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, **being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved** from wrath through him.” Romans 5:8-9.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, **shall keep** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things**. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**” Philippians 4:7-9.

Just as Christ was chastised, or whipped as punishment and correction, for our peace, we must partake of Christ's sufferings, and receive the peace that Jesus paid the price for us to receive. Jesus was already the Prince Of Peace, but He purchased, by His sufferings, God's peace, for all of us who would believe on Him.

“WHO hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, **and made intercession for the transgressors.**” Isaiah 53:1-12. Jesus loved us so much that He bore The Cross and made intercession for us, who were transgressors of the law through our sins.

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might **be partakers** of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the **peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; **but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**” Hebrews 12:5-14. Be diligent to avoid the root of bitterness, and all sin.

We need to know what wonderful power that God has promised us to seek after, and partake of, in Christ.

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you **the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that ye may know what is **the hope of his calling**, and what **the riches of the glory** of his inheritance in the saints, And **what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power**, Which he wrought in Christ, when he **raised him** from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put **all things** under his feet, and **gave him to be the head over all things to the church**, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:17-23.

How To Walk In Victory

I have summarized here many of the Biblical truths that relate to how Christians are to daily walk in victory. Always being obedient to Christ in every area of your life, you are to, “...**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**” Philippians 2:12. We spread wholeness and healing to others by our testimony and life.

“**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;** and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelations 12:11. There is power in the Blood of Jesus Christ and in all ways living our lives as a testimony to Christ. We need to always walk in humility, never being selfish or prideful.

1. **What you say shall come to pass.** Avoid all negative talk, but speak only positive things that will serve to glorify God, and call them into existence, for there is power in your words. Be careful what you give birth to by your words, thoughts and actions. Be careful what kind of people and environments you allow yourself to be exposed to, and what you hear, think about, and partake of. “**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**” Proverbs 23:7. We need to follow God’s instructions and be acquainted with Him and His Ways. “**Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.** When *men* are cast down, then thou shalt say, *There is* lifting up; and he shall save the humble person. He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.” Job 22:21-30. “Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.** Again I say unto you, **That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**” Matthew 18:18-20. Jesus will respond to our faith, “...**According to your faith be it unto you.**” Matthew 9:29. Jesus also says, “...**and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.** ...” Matthew 8:13. Truly, “...**thy faith hath made thee whole.**”

2. **We must not waver in our faith toward God or toward His Promises.** His promises are all yes to us, if we have confidence and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. “**For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.**” 2 Corinthians 1:20. “...**Have faith in God.**” Mark 11:22. Jesus made this clear when He said, “...**and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.**” Matthew 8:13a. “**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” James 1:6-7. “**God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?** Behold, I have received **commandment to bless: and he hath blessed;** and I cannot reverse it.” Numbers 23:19-20. “And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**” Romans 8:28.

3. **Flee all manner of sin, and any unforgiveness.** Put aside every weight and sin. “**WHEREFORE** seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1.

4. **Stay in a constant, abiding relationship with Jesus Christ, where you have full faith in Him.** He is looking for disciples who truly love Him, and love one another, who will abide with Him, and spend their lives seeking after His Ways. We must **know someone** before we can have a real relationship with them. This includes discovering their nature, their likes and dislikes, and spending uninterrupted quality time with them. Have your mind stayed upon Him. “**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**” Proverbs 3:5-6.

“**I AM the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, **and cast them into the fire**, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.**” John 15:1-9.

5. **Remind God of His Promises.** If we are truly abiding with Christ, we are eligible to partake of His many wonderful blessings and promises which are contained in His Word. God will open the windows of Heaven to those who abide with and glorify His Son, Jesus Christ. We are then qualified to partake in His Covenant, and also partake in Christ’s Sufferings. When we either proclaim, with a shout, or confess, with our lips, His Promises contained in His Word, God will answer us and will be faithful to perform His Word. He wants us to stand on the promises in His Word. We must know them, and also remind Him that we believe His Word. “And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**” Mark 10:27. **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**” Mark 9:23. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

6. **We must continually renew our mind.** “For to be carnally minded *is death*; but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace**. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:6-7. The flesh or carnal mind is an enemy of God, which resists His Ways. See the earlier section in this writing, *Renewing Your Mind - Right Thinking*. We are commanded to have our minds washed, cleansed, and renewed with the water which is The Word of God. See Ephesians 5:25-27. Too many Christians neglect spending adequate time delighting in, studying, and being renewed by **God’s Word**.

7. **Love both God and other people, and do not be critical of, or offended by them.** There is a natural carnal tendency to judge and be offended by people. Many can be critical or hold bitterness toward others. We, as Christians, need to be ever vigilant to never become offended by, or demonstrate a critical spirit toward, other people, or toward God Himself. **Take no offense, but be long-suffering**, walking in patience toward others. God has been patient and long-suffering with you, waiting for you to properly respond to His free gift of Salvation, so likewise, you should be patient with others, who have not yet experienced the full renewal of their lives through Christ. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**” 2 Peter 3:9. Do not harden your heart to God or others! “**...To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**” Hebrews 4:7. See also Hebrews 3:6-15. Instead, believe all of His many promises. “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” John 13:15. See also John 14:1.

8. **Know that God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and mighty.** To avoid anyone walking in pride, God often chooses unusual, simple things to be points of contact and catalysts for miracles. God will often touch people and situations when we least expect it, using objects that do not seem to make sense in the natural. I believe this is so man cannot glory because of it. This also shows that it was the power of God, enabled by the Spirit of God, which has done the particular miracle or the healing. It is true that it is, “...**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**” Zechariah 4:6. God will not share His Glory with the flesh. To avoid pride arising in us, He does it this way so that no flesh will glory. “**But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and **things which are not**, to bring to nought things that are: **That no flesh should glory in his presence.** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, **He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**” 1 Corinthians 1:27-31. We must constantly strive to realize, believe, and acknowledge God as our source for all things. If we get our eyes or our thoughts off Him, we will likely take credit for these things with our flesh, and allow the door to be open for pride to be exhibited in our life. “**The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**” Proverbs 16:17-18. Always avoid all pride! Worship belongs to God alone, and we should not allow others to worship, reverence, or idolize us. Always look out for those who would flatter or try to glorify us. Some people try to get us to accept their worship, instead of properly worshipping God as their source. **We should be like the angels who refused to accept the worship of any man.** “And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: **worship God.**” Revelation 22:8-9. We need to be careful who and what we worship. “**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**” John 4:24. There are many examples of God using foolish things to show that the power is by His Spirit, so that no flesh will glory in a miracle. It is evident that it is all God, and not of any man. Jesus spit in the mud, and healed a blind man. Elijah told a widow woman to use the last of her meal to make a cake for him, and God would provide a miracle that her barrel of meal would not run out, so that she and her son wouldn’t starve and die. When a borrowed axe head fell into the water, God had them toss a branch into the water, which caused the axe head to float so that it could be properly returned to the owner. To pay a debt, to keep her sons out of bondage, a widow woman was instructed by a prophet of God to have her sons gather empty pots from the entire village, and then for her to pour from her cruze of oil until all of the pots and jars were filled, and sell the oil to pay off the debt. A well known man with leprosy came to Elijah and took offense because the prophet sent a servant to him telling him to dip seven times in the muddy Jordan river. He almost lost his blessing of healing, due to the simplicity of the instructions and due to thinking the instruction foolish. But when he obeyed, he was instantly cleansed and healed of leprosy. All of these things seemed unusual and strange in the natural, and people thought them to be foolish things, but God empowered these seemingly common things with His Spirit to perform a miracle so that no flesh would glory. Many people laughed when David challenged the mighty Goliath with a stone and a slingshot, but God empowered the stone to strike its target and kill a giant, because of the faith of David. Cloths and aprons were touched by Paul, and sent to be given to those who were sick, and when they touched people, the people were healed. Another example is God using Christians as vessels to deliver His Good News of Salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, to others. We must worship God and be humble. I am nothing. He is everything. “**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**” 2 Corinthians 4:7.

Hearken Diligently

God is calling all of His True Believers to **hearken diligently** to His Words, and to not neglect any portion of His Instructions. He wants us to pay attention to every detail of His Nature and His Commands. We can miss out in walking in God's best blessings, by the ignorance that we show to God, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit. We need to get to know Him, and walk in His Ways. There are many blessings and promises associated with **hearkening diligently** to the Lord our God. To **hearken** means to hear, listen, and give respectful attention. To do it **diligently** means to have a steady, earnest, and energetic effort, often described as doing it in a painstaking fashion. **Therefore, we are to be diligent and careful to properly listen, heed, hear, and give respectful attention through our efforts to everything that God says and requires of us.** We are to be like Jesus Christ, transformed into His Image. We must decrease so that Christ may increase in us. We must constantly crucify our flesh and carnal thoughts, and instead take on His Flesh, His Body, and His Mind. We are to have His Thoughts, which always glorify God The Father.

“And it shall come to pass, if ye shall **hearken diligently** unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,”
Deuteronomy 11:13.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt **hearken diligently** unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.” Deuteronomy 28:1.

“And said, If thou wilt **diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God**, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, **I will put none of these diseases upon thee**, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: **for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**”
Exodus 15:26.

“Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? **hearken diligently** unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.” Isaiah 55:2-3.

“**He must increase, but I must decrease.**” John 3:30. We need to constantly remind ourselves that we don't own anything. He owns everything. We are stewards. Decreasing of self is the key that few discover. We can not truly expect God and Jesus Christ **to move** on our behalf, if we are not **totally pure** in our mind, our thoughts, our actions, and our relationships with others. We need to have the God kind of purity and love.

“**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**”
Galatians 2:20.

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.”
Romans 13:14.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27.

Just like we would want to please our mate, and know everything we can about their likes and dislikes to be a better spouse for them, we should study what pleases God and spend time abiding with Him through Jesus Christ to know more of Him. **God** finds great pleasure in being believed and hoped in. God is our only hope, through the great sacrifice paid by His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the hope of glory. See Colossians 1:27-29. It pleases God when we believe in Him, as evidenced by our faith and belief in Jesus Christ. I believe **God's greatest desire is to be fully believed and trusted, by people, without there being any remnant of doubt.** Nothing else brings Him so much pleasure, as to be fully believed and relied upon by you! The Bible is full of examples of when people truly believed God it was credited or counted unto them as righteousness (or right standing) with God. See also Daniel 6:23, Jonah 3:5-10, Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, James 2:23, Hebrews 11:1-40. **Faith in God causes us to have a good report before God. Faith opens the door for us to receive His many blessings.** “**And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.**” Mark 11:22.

“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*” Titus 3:7-8.

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:15-19.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:1-5.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:17-18.

In this fast paced, fast food, microwave society that we find ourselves in today, we tend to expect everything to come quickly and easily in life. Many people are losing the desire to expend time and energy, in the pursuit of a long term goal, and are ignoring the value of hard work. God did not say that life would be easy or without tribulations if we accepted His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior, but He did say that He would provide a way of escape for everyone that diligently sought after Him. Pursuit of God through Christ demonstrates both your faith and your passion. **He will respond to your pursuit, faith, and hunger for Him and His Ways. We need to walk in purity before Him, being true vessels of His love in the world.**

You have no right to anything that you have not pursued. Christ tells us to seek after God's Kingdom and His Righteousness, and all things shall be added unto us. “**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**” Matthew 6:33. Likewise, Christ tells us to ask, seek, and knock, which demonstrates our pursuit and our faith. If you do not believe in something or someone, why would you pursue them?

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:7-14. Also see Luke 11:9-13.

What you possess now is like a picture or image of what you have pursued. If you have nothing, perhaps you have not properly pursued what is right and pleasing to Him. If you need love, have you pursued love, by sowing proper seeds of love toward others? Likewise, he who wants friends must show himself friendly.

“A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24.

Pursuit brings many benefits, including the fruit of who and what has been pursued. If you pursue evil things and people, you will likely reap evil, but if you truly pursue God, and godly things and people, you will likely receive a reward of good things. You will reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7-10). **True pursuit shows God that you truly care about Him, and not just that you care about what He can provide for you.** He looks at the motives for your pursuit to see if they are pure and genuine, manifested out of your love for Him and desire to serve Him.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: **for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.** As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all *men*,** especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:7-10. **I am nothing, He is everything. We can surely do all things through Christ.**

God is calling us to believe Him, and to believe Jesus, and to not doubt or waver in our faith or in our confession. Doubt acts like a poison to faith. We are called to have a constant, abiding walk with Christ, always acknowledging Him as our source for everything, staying always connected to Him, The True Vine.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. **I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye **bear much fruit;** so shall ye **be my disciples.** As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall **abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. This is **my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”** John 15:4-14. **Love one another.**

Healing Scriptures Summary

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**” Psalm 103:2-5.

“**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Romans 10:17.

“**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**” 1 John 5:4. “And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**” Mark 11:22.

“**...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**” Romans 8:37.

“**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**” Philippians 1:6. “**...ye have not, because ye ask not.**” James 4:2.

“**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**” James 1:6-7.

“And said, If thou wilt **diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God,** and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, **I will put none of these diseases upon thee,** which I have brought upon the Egyptians: **for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**” Exodus 15:26.

“**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**” Isaiah 53:5.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the **LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**” Micah 6:8.

“**...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**” James 4:6.

“**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**” James 4:10.

“**...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...**” 2 Corinthians 12:9.

“**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.” James 4:7-8. “**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**” Philippians 4:13.

“**No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.** This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**” John 14:13-14.

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, **Jesus** the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.** For we have not an high priest which cannot **be touched** with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us **therefore come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find **grace to help** in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16.

“THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1.

“WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God **are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart,** O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:16-17.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; **and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**” Psalm 51:10-13.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8.

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should **believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another,** as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby **we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit** which he hath given us.” 1 John 3:21-24.

Closing Comments

These are just a few of the many healing Scriptures contained in the Holy Bible. You should search for more healing verses and start confessing them over your life and your situation. **God responds to relationships. God longs to be believed and trusted by you. Renew your mind daily with His Word.** Let your faith for healing grow each day, combining your current treatments (medical, emotional) with these spiritual truths.

Ask God to reveal Himself to you in a fresh, new way each day. Never give up in your quest through faith to receive your total healing from God. **Healing can be a process**, where your **faith in Him is built-up.** “But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Ghost, **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**” Jude 1:20-21.

Find a faith-filled congregation of Christian believers who know how to agree with you in prayer for healing. **“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;** and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:15-16.