

Faith

for

Healing

William H. Hinkle



FAITH FOR HEALING

by William H. Hinkle

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William and Mary Hinkle

Lovingly dedicated to my
devoted and faithful wife

MARY ELLA HINKLE

whose strong faith and
dedicated life
has been a blessing to many

FOREWORD

Few people who believe in a personal God object to assertions about His ability to heal the body. This would be denying that a personal, all-powerful Creator-God even exists. Logic demands the acceptance of the possibility of Divine physical healing.

That the Bible teaches this truth from the beginning of the Old Testament to the last pages of the New Testament is believed by many Christians. Others defend their unbelief by saying, "Healing ended with the death of the Apostles." However, the testimony of history is too voluminous to accept this facile objection. This volume by William H. Hinkle is added evidence to this fact. An objective reading of the New Testament tells any honest reader that our Lord's ministry was accented by healings. In fact, there are nearly seventy-five references in the gospels where Jesus spoke healing words to individuals. His commission to His disciples included a ministry of physical healing.

It is to the discredit of many ministers and churches that they neglect a ministry of divine healing. Those churches today that are emphasizing this truth are the fastest growing in the nation. Of course, a ministry that makes healing a fanatical fetish is bound to eventually leave people in a spiritual void. The premise of Mr. Hinkle in this book is that God wills wholeness for every person. He courageously and wisely denies that God wills sin or sickness or accident or affliction. Rather, it is an evidence that God wills for every person to be whole in every aspect of his being—body, mind, and soul—the total personality.

I count it a privilege to attest the worthiness of this volume and to encourage its wide reading among laymen and ministers who would enjoy an increased faith and a wider influence witnessing to the power of Christ to save, sanctify, heal, and keep vital for His service. My own labors have been strengthened by preaching divine healing and praying for the sick as I approach forty years of active ministry as pastor, evangelist, and college administrator. The call today is just as clear as it was when Jesus first gave it to His disciples: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8). What a cheering challenge. The results are up to us.

Sincerely,
Max R. Gaulke
Gulf-Coast Bible College
October 12, 1971

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This book is a culmination of many years of study. I have probably used many thoughts and ideas from the books I have read and from conversations I have had with friendly people. I have been privileged to work with men and women of great faith, among them being Rev. O. L. Yerty, Dr. R. A. and Nellie Germany, Dr. H. M. Riggle, and Dr. Boyce Blackwelder. My wife has prayerfully worked by my side, giving me great encouragement as she exercised faith for her own healing and the healing of others.

I am especially grateful to Pauline E. Doty for so graciously rewriting these messages and typing the manuscripts for printing. She has been a tremendous blessing, an instrument in God's hands. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Glen Underhill and Professor Everett I. Carver, who carefully criticized the manuscript and contributed greatly to its overall correctness. This advice has been very valuable. Also Rev. Lawrence Chestnut assisted with counsel and direction, and Rev. Kenneth Good gave several hours of his time retyping part of the manuscript. All this help is greatly appreciated.

PREFACE

For many years I have felt the need for a more concentrated effort in the ministry of healing in the church. Many of my friends who share this burden for healing and have seen the power of God working have urged me to make my burden known and share my faith and belief in writing so that others might be inspired. I am writing this book with the prayer that it will be an inspiration to you, enlighten your understanding of the Word of God, and produce greater faith in your heart as you read. May this book help you to take the Word of God as true, factual, and practical.

This book is compiled from a series of messages that I have used in camp meetings, revivals, seminars, and minister's meetings. I have altered them somewhat in form, but in essence they are the same. There will be some repetition, but I pray that these messages will be a blessing to you as they were to many who heard them.

Jesus implied that healing is the children's bread (Mark 7:25-30). He was referring to the Jews who were God's children at that time, and He said that it was not fitting to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs (the Gentiles). The Greek woman answered him, "That's true, Sir; but even the puppies under the table are given some scraps from the children's plates." In response to her faith, Jesus healed her daughter saying, "Go in peace, I have healed your little girl." The demon had left her. Truly healing is the bread for God's children. The Lord said, "If ye ask for bread, will I give you a stone?" The answer is no. The bread is ready and waiting for all of God's children who will ask for it, believing.

What is divine healing? Is it faith healing? No. Is it prayer healing? No. Is it metaphysics or mind healing? No. Divine healing is physical healing given directly from God through the intervention of the Holy Spirit without help of drugs or knife—a divine work, direct from God to man through faith in God's promises. It is not by having faith in the healing power of a human being or by the repetition of a prayer; but it comes by direct intervention of the Holy Spirit.

Because I take this stand, many have asked what I believe about doctors and medicine. Many think if you believe in divine healing, you must oppose all human remedies or else unite all healing together and call it divine. It seems to me that most are confused on this matter. Doctors and medicines are a blessing to mankind. I do not belittle or speak against them; they have their place.

To illustrate: I am an experienced sewing machine repairman. I understand its mechanics because I have studied and applied my knowledge of sewing machines. But I am sure the inventor of the machine knew much more than I do about it. Likewise, doctors have studied the functioning of the human body and understand much of its working and therefore are able to assist nature in healing. But this is not divine healing. I am sure God, who made man in the first place, knows more about us, understands us better, and is able to help us in a far greater capacity than a medical doctor.

Thus we can put our trust completely in Him and know definitely in whom our faith is fixed. We must not lose this direct line of faith in God because we do know from whence our help cometh. We can glorify Him as our healer. I seek to magnify God the Father and Christ His Son through the Holy Spirit, for in divine healing we reach out beyond the human and by faith take hold of the promises of God and are healed directly by His Spirit. Anointing with oil, the laying on of hands, and the prayer of faith is the avenue through which God has promised to work.

God's Word promises: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 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" (James 5:14-16). Why not use these avenues through which God has promised to work? Why not believe and receive the promise as your own and be healed by divine power today?

THE GREAT I AM

And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations (Exodus 3:11-15).

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am (John 8:58).

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18).

On one of my plane trips going to a preaching mission, I was privileged to ride with an executive from Washington, D.C., who asked me, "Reverend, what does Christ Jesus mean to you?" "Sir," I answered, "Jesus Christ is real; He is God's Son as well as the Son of Man, or God incarnate. He is my Lord, my all, for He lives in this temple, my heart. He is everything to me, for He is my Redeemer and Savior. He always has been and always will be, for He is the GREAT I AM. Before Abraham was, He said, 'I am.' He saved me from sin, and He heals me now when I'm sick or afflicted. He is my supreme master, my life—THE GREAT I AM."

I ask you, is Jesus Christ THE GREAT I AM to you or is He THE GREAT I WAS? In Hebrews we read the familiar Scripture, which says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). We have heard about the wonderful power Christ used to have, the miracles He once performed, and the sick He used to heal. Yes, this is a graphic and blessed history of those things that Jesus did approximately 2000 years ago in a far away land and among people we have never known. Wonderful and marvelous was the power that used to flow from THE GREAT I WAS. Formerly He opened the blind eyes, unstopped the deaf ears, and made the lame to walk. He used to show forth such mighty works and even manifested them through His followers so that the attention of the multitudes was arrested and gripped in an irresistible way. Thousands were brought storming at His door for mercy to receive blessing and healing at His hand.

Is it true He is unable to do these miracles any more? Cannot His followers take His commission in Mark 16:16-18 and apply it to their lives today? Or is the once able Jesus able no more? Is it true that the power He once displayed when the glory of His majesty and love came down to destroy the works of the devil, and when it flashed and played through the gloom like lightning around Mount Sinai, is now dark, cold, and dead? Is it true that the visible manifestation of His power has left us desolate, as though the light that once shone in the darkness has gone out? Shall we preach "THE GREAT I WAS"—"The Power that Used to Be?" Shall we look back to D. S. Warner, George Fox, John Wesley, or George Muller and preach, "There were . . ." Or is there a ray of hope today?

THE GREAT I AM

Moses asked, "What shall I say [to the people]?" What is thy name? And God answered, "Yea, say that the I WAS . . ." Oh no! He did not say that! God told Moses: "Thou shalt say . . . I AM hath sent me unto you. . . This is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations" (Exodus 3:14-15). Oh what a wonderful name! What a wonderful promise! As Moses said, THE GREAT I AM sends us. If Moses had said, "THE GREAT I WAS has sent me," I doubt whether Israel would have followed such a call. But the message that Moses bore rang clear and firm: "I AM hath sent me." He walked with assurance and confidence; the solid rock was under his feet.

Moses' God was a living God—a miracle-working God! Moses knew his business was to preach and deliver the message God had given him. THE GREAT I AM had contracted to back up that message with signs following. God said, I AM has sent you and will be with you forevermore. Ah, the servant of God can take heart to know that I AM has sent him. No more apologizing! No more hanging of the head. No more trembling with fear and failure! With head erect, footsteps firm and full of assurance, heart full of His power and majesty, hands pointing unhesitantly to the way, let each say, "THE GREAT I AM has sent me!"

"I AM" LIVES TODAY

The I AM promises that He will build a tabernacle in our midst, deliver us from our enemies, and guide us by His hand. The

I AM will feed us with the bread from Heaven and give us water from the rock. The I AM will deliver us from the sickness and the diseases of the Egyptians, for He 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). I AM will lead the believers into the Promised Land. Oh, the blessed assurance, the authority, the majestic glory of the name I AM.

No wonder the children of Israel left the fleshpots and the bonds that bound them! No wonder the weary eyes of the toiler looked up with new interest and hope! No wonder that heads which had hung down were lifted and the feeble knees were made strong! When Moses promised those who were weak, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Deuteronomy 31:6), he meant what he said. He did not have to say, "The Lord *used* to do great things"; but he could triumphantly declare: "The Lord will do great things, for He is THE GREAT I AM! And though Heaven is His home, the earth is His footstool where he answers the prayers of His people." During Moses' ministry the sick were healed, the lepers cleansed, and the plague was stayed.

Oh Moses, how we envy you with the great commission: Go! Call My people out of bondage into liberty, out of darkness into light, out of sin into holiness, out of sickness into health! But tell me, just why did the day of supernatural, miraculous manifestation of the power of God end? When did the I AM become the I WAS?

My good friend, I AM has never changed! His power is just the same in this your day as it was in the days of yore. Did He not say, "This is my name for ever . . . unto all generations" (Exodus 3:15)? They who have faith will see the lightnings of His glory flash in power of answered prayer today as well as in the days of yesterday! Elijah and Elisha lived in a day when doubters said the miracles had passed away, and the I AM had become the I WAS. But through faith and prayer, Elijah and Elisha proved His name to be I AM unto their generation.

After the Ascension of the only begotten of the Father, Jesus Christ, the disciples proved that He who was dead was alive forevermore. THE GREAT I AM who saves, heals, and fills with the Spirit and power was alive forevermore! Down through the centuries, although surrounded by unbelief and skepticism, there have always been the Elijahs and the Peters who have proved that I AM is His name even unto their generation. Warner, Fox, Wesley, and Muller believed that Christ came not only to save but to heal the sick in their day. The biography of John Wesley tells of the lame made to walk and of cancers that melted away through answered prayer, thus proving I AM to be the Lord's name even unto his generation. In the past generation, E. E. Byrum and O. L. Yerty were men who proved the present miracle-working power of THE GREAT I AM. Today we have the same facts and the same truth.

Then, surely God has not changed at this late hour! He is the same today! Elijah, Peter, and an army of others who have heard and obeyed the message believed the words of the Lord: "Thus shall you say, I AM hath sent me." They were ridiculed and persecuted by those they loved best. Even so today, though it may mean being criticized and misunderstood, get alone in the wilderness of quiet and stillness before God and seek His face till your soul is kindled with the flame from the burning bush. Get your authority from God! Inquire of Him! When they will ask who sent you and what is his name, thus shalt thou say unto all: I AM hath sent me! And let it ring in your soul forever—louder, clearer, and more wonderful than ever before.

Therefore, lift up the living Christ—not the dead one—proclaiming not THE GREAT I WAS, but THE GREAT I AM! The clouds of uncertainty are dispelled; the shades of night are rolled back! We see Christ in a new light, a glorious light, even as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. I AM is His name today and shall be evermore. Throughout the Bible we read the following: I am the Lord, I change not; I am the Lord that hath chosen thee and called thee by thy name; I am come down to deliver thee and to bring thee up into a good land—unto a land flowing with milk and honey; I am the Lord that healeth thee; I am He who was dead, but am alive forever more; I AM shall be my name. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Revelation 22:13). Go forth, my friend, and this thy cry shall be: "I AM—I AM hath sent me unto thee! Glory, Hallelujah!"

Awake! Thou that sleepest, arise from the dead! The Lord still lives today! His power has never abated or changed! His Word has never changed! The things He did in Bible days, He still lives to do today. Not a burden is there He cannot bear, nor a fetter He cannot break. Bring your sins; He will wash them away! Bring your sickness; He will heal you today! We serve not a dead, but a living Christ—not the I WAS, but THE GREAT I AM!

An invitation is given to you to come to Jesus for what you need, for "the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). Come and eat the bread from the Lord's table for your healing. There is food for the hungry; there is strength for the faint; there is hope for the hopeless; and there is sight for the blind. THE GREAT I AM is here to own and bless and thrill your heart and life.

Thus burdens are lifted; tearful, weeping eyes are dried; the sick are healed; the crooked made straight; and sin-guilty hearts are cleansed and made holy. Empty water pots are filled with new wine, and the cold, worldly churches rise from the dust with garments glistening white. With oil in their lamps and sheaves in their arms, they worship THE GREAT I AM, the bread of life.

I was called to Kansas a few years ago to hold a revival meeting where only five to ten people were attending each night. So I decided to go to town and inquire why the people did not attend. I invited the business people to come as I went from store to store. But they just casually dismissed me, saying they might come sometime. As I continued, I came to a drugstore. When I entered and

introduced myself, I asked him why I hadn't seen him out to the revival, enjoying the services, and he replied, "I will come when you practice what you preach." I said, "Sir, I want you to know that is exactly what I do." He replied: "Then go out and heal the Sunday school superintendent's daughter, for she has been an invalid for twelve years; and your church has been preaching healing all the time. Now prove it to me!"

With this challenge, I requested the reluctant pastor to take me to see the young lady. He finally did so, and upon arrival at the home, the mother made the sick one presentable for company. She introduced me, and then all of them left the room. I asked the young lady, who was about twenty-four years old, if she believed Jesus heals. She replied, "Yes." "Do you believe He heals now?" "Sometimes." "Do you believe He will heal you?" And she said, "No."

After reading promise after promise from the Bible and instructing her about healing, I asked her if she could believe now. She said: "No. Please leave me alone." But instead of leaving I asked if she was in pain. She affirmed it was so. Then I told her I would pray and prove to her that God would heal her. I prayed once, twice, thrice, four times. Each time when I asked if the pain was gone, she said: "No. Please leave me alone." But I prayed the fifth time, and when I looked, up the pain was gone. And she admitted it was so. I told her: "You're not healed, but God has proven to you that He will heal you. I'll be back tomorrow, and the Lord will heal you."

The next morning, I received a letter—four pages long, written on both sides—telling me why God could not and would not heal her, for she had twelve complications. On and on she wrote trying to prove to me that it was not God's will to heal her. The next morning I took the letter and a Scripture text for each problem, and asked the good pastor and his wife to go with me to visit the young lady again. Again they made the sick one ready and left the room, but God did not go; He stayed. They left because they did not have faith for her healing, for she had been prayed for so many times and never had been healed, and they did not want to hinder me. I read the letter and the Scripture for each problem with the promises for her healing. As I finished, I stood up and taking my oil I anointed her and prayed the prayer of faith. As the Amen came, she was on her feet looking around with utter astonishment because she was healed. THE GREAT I WAS all at once became alive and real for her. He became THE GREAT I AM. "Oh, wonder of wonders, God heals today," she said. "Now what will I do?" And I said, "Come to church and testify." She did so, and others were healed and souls were saved. The church could not hold all the people that came. Thank God, we are serving a God who lives. He is THE GREAT I AM. He is the Everlasting God, and He will become your I AM when you look up in faith and believe.

GOD IS ABLE

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (2 Timothy 1:12).

God Is

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). Who is God? "Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). As the Father is, so is the Son.

"For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (John 5:21-23). Christ is the express image of His Father God, and also, the Father is the express image of the Son.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:1-4).

Christ is one with the Father God, and He prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21). Christ is the true and living God. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20). He is eternal life. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

God is before all things and by Him all things consist. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17). Christ said, "I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). The Father spoke unto men and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Stephen testified, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56).

The Father Himself never comes and presents the message to us, but through His Son He delivers His will and message to the world. So, the Son represents the Father, and as the Son speaks, He speaks for the Father. When He says, "If you ask anything in My name, it will be done unto you," this is also the message of the Father. Christ comes as the representative of the Father: "This is my beloved Son."

GOD'S ABILITY

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). God indeed is able and is not overtaxed by the needs of this world. God was able to send in quails for a whole month for the Israelites in the wilderness. This does not deplete God's adequate resources. God can make food without having to wait for it to grow. Our faith in God is our greatest resource. God, who spoke our earth into existence, is able to supply all our needs if we have faith in Him. Abraham staggered not, although he was tested enough to stagger. It was not because he ignored the difficulties, but by faith he believed God was able. His unstaggering faith arose from his great thoughts of Him who had made the promise. He kept saying, "He is able; He is able." Abraham simply believed God and believed Him able. He fed his faith by cherishing lofty and profound thoughts of God's infinite resources. It rang in his heart, "God is able."

GOD IS WILLING

Yet, God's ability is to no avail unless He is willing to answer our need. We see, though, from scriptural accounts that God has always been willing to supply the need of His children. "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matthew 8:2-3). A woman was healed according to her faith in His will. "Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour" (Matthew 15:28).

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). ". . . that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the

will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). By His will we are saved, sanctified, and healed. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5). "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

As children of the most high God, we must seek to know and do His will, whether it be for the salvation of our souls or the healing of our bodies, because God is willing to supply our need.

GOD IS DEPENDABLE

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). Christ came to fulfill and not destroy. He received all who came unto Him. God is trustworthy. He gave His Son Jesus Christ, and Christ gave His life for us. "God is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be depended on); by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9, Amplified Bible).

Find a promise and stand on it; it belongs to you. It was said of Abraham: "No unbelief or distrust made him waver or doubtingly question concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, Fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised" (Romans 4:20-21, Amplified Bible).

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"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). God has obligated Himself to man: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We can have the faith to say, as Paul did, that "I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]" (Philippians 4:13, Amplified Bible).

As the two blind men believed, so must we learn to believe and be healed. "And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:28-29). It is all up to us, for according to our faith, it will be done.

The writer of Titus admonished, "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 3:8). Christ said to believe the very works that ye may know and believe; but still there are those who question, "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?" (John 9:36). Like Martha, we must be able to answer, "Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" (John 11:27). For John said that the Bible was written "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31).

You and I have a big responsibility: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought . . ." (2 John 1:8).

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

While we were pastoring at Ogallala, Nebraska, we received a phone call from a man, Mr. Walter Porter, who had been in our services three or four times, requesting I come to the hospital and pray for his son who was very ill. I went to the hospital at once, but they did not let me go directly to the room. They requested that I wait in the vestibule until the doctor came for me. He came and said that I might come with him. The boy's father and nurse were with him. On the way to the room I asked what was wrong with the boy, and the father told me he had meningitis. I was requested to put on a face mask and gown and told not to touch anything until the nurse had helped me take off the mask and gown, and I had washed in Lysol water.

Entering the room I found the boy, who was about fifteen years old, strapped down to the bed. He was flouncing and raving. The boy's father was the only one who went in with me, and frankly, I was afraid. I prayed after dropping some oil on the boy's head, but I knew I prayed with fear and had no faith. Then I took hold of the promises of God, cast out my fear, and anointed him as I usually did, and prayed the prayer of faith. God healed the boy, and in three days he was up and leaving the hospital.

On the way out as I went down the hall, the head nurse said, "Sir, it would be a shame for this boy to get well now, for the fever has burned out his brain." But God healed him every bit. He went back to school in two weeks and even played football again. The paper in the little town where they lived ran a headline on the front page, which read, "The Power of God United With the Hand of Man Brought About a Great Miracle." Glory to God, He is real! He is able! But most of all, He is willing to heal and ready to take care of every problem we present to Him. My God is a living God.

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all . . . Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be (Romans 4:13-16, 18).

Abraham is called the Father of Faith, and as he exercised great faith, great things were brought about. Faith is the avenue wherein one is able to believe God's promises and receive, or appropriate, them to one's own life and needs. Divine healing is promised in the Word, and you must have faith to be its recipient. Healing is the children's bread. In other words, we can eat from the Father's table for healing, which is spoken of as the children's bread; and this bread is to be eaten by faith. It was spoken of Abraham as having no unbelief or distrust that made him waver or doubt or question the promises of God. But he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His Word and do what He had promised.

Now healing calls forth strength and love from us and implies confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you to continue to fight the good fight of faith, to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). To *contend* means "to strive for" and "to fight opposing doubts and ideas." You must labor and work until you attain the promised victory. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is difficult for people to have faith if they never hear a message on faith or healing. Thus, I urge you to listen and to take heed of the promises in the Word of God.

Since healing is the children's bread, do not stop at one little bite, but continue believing and consume the whole loaf. Fight until victory is yours. If you lack faith, ask of He who is the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Christ is indeed the answer. He is the One who makes us complete. He is the ultimate, and He wants to be the accomplishment of our every need and request.

A CONFIDENT FAITH

God gave to Abraham the gift of faith: "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. . . his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:3, 5). ". . . to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed" (Romans 4:16). This includes all of us today. God has given to us the promise of grace through faith.

God promised Abraham a son: "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 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" (Romans 4:19-24).

As Christ arose, victorious over death, we can come forth victorious over afflictions. Glory hallelujah! Insert your name in this Scripture and affirm that "Being not weak in faith, [John Doe] considered not the affliction of his body and staggered not at the promise of God [to heal] through unbelief: but was strong in faith, giving glory to God."

When faith takes hold, the tree is girdled. The affliction is dead. Note that Abraham simply believed the Word of God, and he had faith that God would do exactly as He promised. He was "fully persuaded" by the Word of God alone. He was fully occupied with the Word of God in this matter, and the promise became his. He refused to cast away his confidence. The tree had been girdled. And so it is with our afflictions. When we claim the promise, the affliction is dead just as a tree is doomed when the bark encircling the trunk has been removed.

God had promised Abraham many descendants through Isaac, but later his faith was tested again when God told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. All the visible encouragement to his faith in God's promise was apparently going to be removed. Yet he ignored the physical impossibility and did not consider any evidence necessary for the promise of God to be fulfilled. Abraham's faith was not based on anything he saw, and we must see that ours is not either. We must simply hold to and definitely rely on the promise that God puts within our heart from the Word by the Holy Spirit. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free [victorious], and be not entangled again [in doubt] with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:35-36). We are made partakers of God's promises if we hold

from the beginning our confidence, steadfastly unto the end.

"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 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" (1 John 3:19-22). "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).

In Psalms we read the reassuring words of David's testimony: "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. . . . This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. . . . Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. 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" (Psalm 34:4, 6, 13-15).

CHRIST, OUR REMEDY

Remember, Christ is your remedy, your hope, and your healing. He is able, willing, and ready to heal. Yes, He is always available, and His remedy is ample and all-sufficient. Stop! Think! What wonders were wrought in the Bible by touching the divine! A little boy was raised to life by Elijah. The woman with the issue of blood was healed. The Gadarine man was delivered. Everywhere the sick were healed, the lepers cleansed, and the dead raised to life.

What will touching the divine accomplish today? He still delivers from all sin, purifies the heart, regenerates the soul, imparts spiritual life, delivers from a guilty conscience, gives peace to the soul, renews the mind, and heals wasted, diseased bodies.

You ask, How can I be healed? How can I touch the divine Healer? Simply seek with your whole heart, be in earnest, and expect results! He said, "I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). It is His will to heal. Believe His Word when He says, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). That is all! Believe! And Receive!

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF MRS. W. H. HINKLE

I had a growth on my face, which had become malignant. I was anointed at our 1963 State Camp Meeting, but I was so full of fear that it was impossible for me to exercise faith for my healing. I was so burdened the night we came home from camp meeting that I prayed earnestly, and the Lord delivered me from fear. However, there was still some doubt mixed with my faith, and the growth developed and grew rapidly for the next three weeks.

The week after camp meeting, my annual bout with asthma began. One night I asked my husband to pray for me that I might get relief so I could rest. The presence of the Lord was so near, and I was confident He would answer prayer. As he continued to pray, he asked God to put an eternal rebuke on this affliction so it would trouble me no more. A cold feeling stole over me, and I could not believe He would. But God answered the first request, and I rested. (Remember the promise, "Whatsoever ye ask believing, ye shall receive.") Later I awoke and tried to analyze my faith. Realizing God was just as able to do one as the other, I said, "Why, Lord, can I believe one and not the other?" Then the impression came to me, "You have allowed a spirit of unbelief to come upon you, causing you to doubt."

The next morning I told my husband about this and said, "You'll have to help me overcome it." He said: "I can't. You'll have to do it yourself." Then I understood why I had not been healed all these years; I had not put up a strong enough fight to overcome the spirit of unbelief, which is one of the devil's tools. But I asked my husband: "How? Tell me how to overcome my unbelief!" After meditating a bit he quoted, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). He said, "You must search the Word and read some books on healing to build up your faith to overcome the unbelief."

The growth on my face made it impossible for me to wear my glasses, but I found I was able to read by holding them above my nose. The Lord must have helped me when He saw my earnestness because without too much searching my faith was anchored on the promise, "By His stripes we are healed." This, coupled with some truths about faith and unbelief that I found in the book, *Christ the Master of All Diseases*, by L. L. Yerty, gave me the victory. I grasped at these truths as a drowning man grasps at a straw; but they were strong as steel, for they were the tools I needed. As Christ resisted Satan with Scripture in His time of temptation, I resisted the spirit of unbelief with these truths and overcame also.

This is the essence of the contrast between faith and unbelief as Reverend Yerty wrote of it in his book:

1. Faith says the disease is rebuked; it must subside. Unbelief says, I feel better now.
2. Faith does not hesitate to claim the promise of God for healing. Unbelief is afraid to step out on the promise of God.
3. Faith realizes the impossibility of God failing to fulfill His promise. Unbelief says, I know God can heal, but what if He doesn't?
4. Faith puts the case unreservedly in the hands of God, believing God is willing and capable of doing what He has promised;

and then it is no longer his responsibility, but God's.

By understanding better how unbelief works, I was able to stand on what faith does and claim the promise, "By His stripes I am healed." On September 7, I was anointed and prayer was offered. I put both of these afflictions unreservedly into God's hands, believing Him able and capable of healing them. On the eighth I went to church and was not bothered with any asthma symptoms. On the ninth the Lord allowed my faith to be tested, because I awoke with asthma heavy upon my chest. But I arose and said: "It's God's business. He'll take care of it." And victory came. That evening the symptoms returned again with weakness, but I would not give in. I said, "I'm healed because Jesus suffered the stripes for me."

We were invited out to supper, and I was scheduled to have devotions at a W.C.T.U. meeting. So I went, trusting the Lord, although I was so weak I could hardly walk to the car. The Lord gave me back my strength, and I did not have to cancel any of the evening's engagements. I stopped trying to avoid weed pollen, which had been the cause of the asthma, and the Lord gave victory. Praise His Holy Name!

The growth began to shrink and decrease in size, and as it shrank, new skin formed around the edges. After a few weeks it became loose and wiggled when I moved around. I bumped it accidentally one day, and the outside shell came off. It was hollow. All the cells inside had disappeared. It left a hole as big around as a match stick unhealed on my face. I thanked the Lord and covered it with a band-aid. In two or three weeks it was healed perfectly, filled in with new flesh and skin. Only a slight scar was left. I was healed by the mighty power of God.

I hope this may be an encouragement to others who would like to trust God for healing. Do not be afraid to rely on God. When we put our case unreservedly in His hands, believing He is willing and capable of doing what He promised, it must go. God is no respecter of persons: "Whosoever will may come." Nothing can stand against the power of prayer and faith.

In humble gratitude,
Mrs. William Hinkle

DIVINE HEALING IS A FACT

Immanuel Kant, the great German philosopher who as a child was raised by godly parents and himself accepted and believed in God, was asked by other philosophers of his day to prove that there was a God. His reply was, "The burden of proof is yours; you must first prove that God is not."

There are many facts and principles that need not be proven, but by faith are to be accepted and believed. If God is, then God heals. It is just that simple. If God once healed, He still heals. If one person was ever healed, then I can have the privilege of believing in God's healing power and of being healed myself. For is not "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8)?

GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL

When the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage and started with them to their homeland, He made them this promise: "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). As long as Israel obeyed God and walked with Him, they were the holiest, happiest, and most prosperous people in all the whole world.

Another promise to Israel is found in Deuteronomy 7:15: "And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee." In Proverbs again God promised: "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" (Proverbs 4:20-22).

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus came to earth that He might distribute this life-giving bread for the healing of the nations and all who believe in Him. This bread is life-giving, health-producing food from Heaven, for it is as manna; and it would be well if we would eat of this manna every morning. In other words, we should pray and ask God's blessing of healing upon us throughout the day. But there are times when we are not able in our morning prayer just to say, "Give us this day our daily bread," and to believe it. We need to be strengthened with the prayer of others. This is where we need to eat what bread we can throughout the day, and then call others to agree with us in prayer. Thus we might be healed of any affliction of disease that fastened itself upon our bodies.

Christ wants His kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. In other words, your healing is already purchased, and it is provided for you. It is written, ". . . with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Therefore, claim by faith what is yours and appropriate it to your needs. Remember, if healing is already provided for us, all we have to do is claim it. It belongs to us, and God wants to give it to us. It is His will that we have it and receive it.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF FAITH

When we were pastoring and beginning the new church at Cozad, Nebraska, it was necessary that I work, so I was shingling houses. I was carrying the shingles on my shoulder, and as a result of strain, a large lump appeared on the back of my neck. I went to the doctor, and upon the second examination, he pronounced it malignant, as the test had revealed it so. He told me to go at once to a doctor in one of two places to have this taken care of, for he was afraid that I would let it go too long. I told him I appreciated all that he had done, but I felt that I wanted to trust God. And since I was going to our State Camp Meeting, which was being held at that time in Kearney, I would have the brethren anoint and pray for me and ask for God's healing.

This I did, and when I came home from camp meeting and went to the doctor for an examination, he could not find the cancer. It had all disappeared. But he said, "Young man, this will come back on you again." Yet, thank God, it never has, and I am sure it never will.

One of the ministers of the community heard about the healing, and he just could not believe God still heals today. So he came to me and asked me about it, and I told him what God had done and that God was able, willing, and ready to heal anyone. But he said he could not accept this testimony. So he went to the doctor and asked him if it were true that Reverend Hinkle was healed of a cancer by the Lord. The doctor said: "I do not know. All I know is that it was cancerous when he came the first time, but now it is gone! I don't know how it was healed." Healing is a fact. There is no question in this. As God healed me of this cancer on my neck, He will heal everyone, provided they have faith in Him.

GOD HEALS PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

There has been a great controversy in the Christian world as to whether or not the Gospel meets the needs of the individual

physically as well as spiritually. Did Christ really bear every sickness, disease, and infirmity by His vicarious suffering and atonement? I believe He did, and I believe that healing of physical disease through divine power in answer to the prayer of faith is the privilege of every believer.

According to the words of the Apostles John and Peter, the Gospel is twofold in that it meets every need, both spiritual and physical. Peter said, "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).

We have some very specific promises that should lead us to trust God for healing. All who read the Bible admit that Jesus healed when He was on earth. He healed to show His power and establish His claims, but He healed mainly because He was moved with compassion for the suffering of mankind. And He has not changed today.

HEALING FOR THE PRESENT

Let us note some Scriptures that will prove that healing is for us as surely as it was for the Apostles. Jesus promised just before ascending to Heaven: "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" (Mark 16:17-18). In James we read: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:13-15).

The important thing is to have faith. When this is present, the conditions are very simple: call for the elders, anoint with oil, lay on hands, pray, and believe. "And they . . . anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them" (Mark 6:13). The mechanical steps of laying on of hands and anointing with oil are acts of obedience that pave the way for faith and healing.

GOD HAS PROMISED

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). God has promised to answer even in cases when no one else is present to pray with us. "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). ". . . we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:22). "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). "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

MY FIRST WITNESS OF HEALING

The first healing that I was privileged to witness was in the very beginning of my ministry. Mrs. Hinkle and I were holding a revival meeting at Walworth, Nebraska. In the home where we stayed, the lady went to Sargent, a town close by, to consult a doctor about a sore on the side of her forehead. When she came home, she said that the doctor had told her that she had a cancer on her face. She wondered if I would pray for her. Well, I did not know how to pray at that time for healing or how to anoint and lay on hands. All I knew was that God promised to heal.

And so upon the request, I said, "Shall we kneel down and pray?" We just committed it into God's hands, and as we arose I said, "Well, I don't know what to do, but God says to lay on hands." So I laid my hands over the cancer and prayed again and asked God to rebuke and remove it. Then we just left it in His hands.

That night as we retired, I could not sleep, and I prayed most of the night trying to know the will, the plan, the purpose of God to heal. About three o'clock in the morning God assured me that He had touched this lady and healed her of the cancer, that the pain was gone, and the cancer itself would be removed in a short time.

My faith was tested the next morning when my wife asked, "Do you believe Grandma's cancer is healed?" I was glad that I had prayed through in the night because I was able to answer, "Yes, I believe it is." As we went to the breakfast table that morning, we did not inquire about it; but after we had started eating, the lady said: "Well Brother Hinkle, about my cancer, I believe God has healed me. The pain is gone. The itching has ceased, and I accept the fact that God has healed me."

This was a great blessing to us as we closed our revival meeting at that place that night. We were privileged to come back the following Wednesday and hear this lady testify in prayer meeting that the cancer was completely gone. God had healed her. Healing is a fact. There is no question about it. The only thing is we have to have faith and believe and trust. And when we do, God is willing and ready and able to grant unto us the answer to our prayers.

FAITH IN DIVINE HEALING

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went (Hebrews 11:1-8).

"He did not weaken in faith when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or [when he considered] the barrenness of Sarah's (deadened) womb. No unbelief or distrust made him waver or doubtfully question concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, Fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was accredited to him as righteousness—right standing with God. But [the words], It was accredited to him, were written not for his sake alone, But [they were written] for our sakes too. [Righteousness, standing acceptable to God] will be granted and accredited to us also who believe—trust in, adhere to and rely on—God Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Who was betrayed and put to death because of our misdeeds and raised to secure our justification—our acquittal, and to make our account balance, absolving us from all guilt before God" (Romans 4:19-25, The Amplified Bible).

We often wonder why we cannot have faith as the old patriarchs did, and we marvel at their wonderful faith and mighty works. Yet we, living in a miracle working age, do not have that kind of faith. Why should this be? I think there is an adequate reason for our lack of faith: too many people are fighting faith's possibilities, thereby destroying faith. Faith is a gift from God, but it must be exercised and developed.

FAITH FOR DIVINE HEALING

What is divine healing? It is not healing by remedies. Neither is it a figment of the imagination. It is not a mind cure or the application of metaphysics. It comes neither by touch nor thought. It is not the power of magnetism, or of mind over matter. It is not spiritualism. It is not "faith cure" or "prayer cure"—faith and prayer are merely the avenues leading to its manifestation. It is not immunity from death, but strength for life! And it certainly is not presumption upon or insubordination against God's will, but a fulfillment of His will.

WHAT IS DIVINE HEALING?

Divine healing is the direct, supernatural power of God upon the physical body. Healing is a temporary redemption of the body from death. Death is common to all, but in the resurrection the effects will be swept away forever. Healing is just a foretaste of that mighty power which will destroy death with all its consequences. Healing is in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and is founded upon them. It is based on Christ's sacrifice and work of redemption.

Healing is through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ". . . with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). It is through the personal indwelling of Jesus Christ in the body by the Holy Spirit. Divine healing comes by the personal faith of the sufferer or by his faith united with the faith of others. Faith for divine healing comes from complete submission to the divine will requiring our repentance of any disobedience, and our complete consecration to God's will.

Divine healing is for the service and glory of God. It is a sign of our Lord's approaching advent. It is a testimony to the Word of God and the truth of Christianity in this day of unbelief. It is a part of church history from the beginning, from the apostolic age to our age, and is confirmed by innumerable testimonies in our day.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF HEALING

Two years ago I went to Kansas City to a minister's meeting, and I became ill from an insecticide, Chlordane, that had been sprayed in my sleeping room of the hotel. Somehow I got it into my system. For over a month I was sick and seemingly could not exercise faith for my healing. Our young people's convention was at Thanksgiving; and I went to the convention. I secured a room

at the hotel and called some of the ministers and my son, Herman, to the room and laid before them my problem and my illness. I asked them if they would agree with me in prayer that the Lord would heal me. They anointed me with oil and laid on hands and prayed the prayer of faith. God healed me completely.

Now for some reason or other, I could not exercise faith for myself. Possibly it was because of the suffering and pain, but as they laid hands on me, and as we looked up together, God answered. I needed the faith of others to help me, and this is often the case. When you seemingly cannot have faith for your own self, you can call on the elders of the church and others to agree with you in faith. Then God hears and answers prayer, because our faith is built by the faith of others. The Bible says, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them" (Matthew 18:19).

HEALING BY FAITH

If healing is scriptural and comes only by faith, then what is faith and how do we have faith? Faith is a gift of God, but it must be exercised and developed by us. "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality—faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses" (Hebrews 11:1, The Amplified Bible). The substance of faith is spiritual in nature and is evidenced by its presence and work within us.

Faith is the essence of our mind uniting and agreeing with the mind of Christ and the Word of God. In other words, it is already in existence and waiting in the storehouse of Heaven; we just have to fix the "agreement" and appropriate it for our own use. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

We must have faith and believe in the historic truthfulness of the scriptural narrative—its happenings and facts, and the supernatural origin of its teachings. We must believe the facts and truth of the Scripture and have a sincere love for them—especially an affectionate belief in the person and work of Christ, which transforms the character and life of a man to make him a true Christian. Faith is an eternal principle. It continues evermore. "For these three things are abiding—Faith, Hope, and Love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, Syriac).

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

While holding a revival near Cozad, Nebraska, a good saintly brother who was very ill with Bright's disease came to us and requested prayer for his healing. He had heard us preach that healing was in God's plan, that He had made provision for our healing. So as we prayed, God inspired his faith, and he was healed.

In about two hours he was back again. This time his wife and a small boy about three years old were with him. The boy had a tumor on his head, and the doctor said they could not operate on it because the X-ray showed that it was as large on the inside as on the outside. The good brother said: "God healed me. Will He heal my son?" We prayed the prayer of faith, and in three days the tumor was gone, and the child was perfectly well. This is God's plan, to heal all. The boy is a grown man now and teaching in one of our large cities. God is able, willing, and ready, so why not have faith for the healing of all your diseases and afflictions?

THREE KINDS OF FAITH

There are three kinds of faith: historical faith, evangelical faith, and overcoming faith. There are also three different requirements to obtain these levels of faith: knowledge, belief, and trust.

Knowledge brings to us historical faith. "So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ, the Messiah [Himself]. But I ask, Have they not heard? Indeed they have; [for the Scripture says] Their voice [that of nature bearing God's message] has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the far bounds of the world" (Romans 10:17-18, The Amplified Bible). We must first come to the knowledge of the creation, of God, the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit; we must understand their work and happenings. Faith cometh with knowledge of the Word of God, so we see how important it is to know and teach the divine Word in all its fullness.

Belief comes by the knowledge we have of God and His promise, but it is more than knowledge. Belief is accepting all of God's given truth, all the teachings of the Bible and being ready to practice them in life. Each promise must become personal to us. Belief produces evangelical faith. We accept Christ as our Savior, Redeemer, Sanctifier, Keeper, and Healer. This belief works within us as a life-giving force by the Spirit.

Evangelical faith works to produce overcoming faith. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). This kind of faith is not speculative nor blind, for it begins with knowledge, and believes facts of which one can be sure. This faith works within as a life-giving flow of God's love and presence. Faith is not impractical, for the promises of God are proven and practical facts. And these promises are received when one can fully trust in the Divine.

DIVINE HEALING FOR POLIO

Some years ago while pastoring at Cozad, Nebraska, there was an eighteen-month-old boy in our congregation who contracted the disease of polio, which was very prevalent at that time. In fact, there was almost an epidemic in the city. The disease had caused a paralytic condition of the right leg of the little boy; it hung limp and useless. The doctor was doing all he could to treat the polio, and they were giving the "Sister Kenny" treatment. The boy was alive but he was paralyzed.

I had been out of town during this time, and as soon as I returned they asked for me to come and pray for the boy. On entering the home I found the boy not only paralyzed but suffering from extreme pain. He was in the other room crying and suffering as I talked to the father about the boy and encouraged his faith. The mother came out, and I encouraged her in the Scripture and asked: "Why don't you bring Roger into the living room and let us pray for him? Let God heal him." The mother did so. After reading some more Scripture, we anointed him, laid hands on the boy, and prayed for him. God miraculously and wonderfully healed this boy.

The next morning he was walking and pushing a baby carriage when the doctor came. Quite concerned he said: "What has happened to this boy? Now something has happened!" They said, "Our pastor, Brother Hinkle, was here and prayed for him and God healed him." But the doctor said, "We can't permit him being up because it could go into his throat or some other place." They said, "No, God has healed him."

I am sure the medical profession was doing all they could for the boy's healing, but there is a difference between healing by natural causes and divine healing. Divine healing is accomplished when the Holy Spirit supersedes everything in the physical realm and touches the body and makes it WHOLE. So divine healing is not just natural healing. It is God's Holy Spirit reaching down, correcting that which has been disrupted in sickness or disease, and making it normal and well again.

GOD'S WILL IN HEALING

God our Heavenly Father, even before the creation of this world, conceived a plan for man's full redemption if he should fall. This full redemption is complete healing for the soul, mind, and body. He worked out a plan through His Son that man might be redeemed from sin and sickness. He sent His Son with instructions to perform and bring about His will in the lives of men and women. As the Bible says, ". . . the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting" (John 12:49-50). And again Jesus said, "Many good works have I shewed you from my Father" (John 10:32).

The will of God then was given or presented through His Son Christ Jesus. "For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth; and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will" (John 5:20-21). "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me" (John 5:36). Indeed Christ was sent to show us the will and works of God.

Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, to sanctify His church, and to heal the lame, blind, sick, and afflicted. We find His will in healing through His Word. In proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel, He presented the will of God unto man: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10:17). The Father's will is that those given to Him should not be lost, but be raised up at the last day, and the ones to be raised up are those that believe on the Son. "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). Thus Christ went among the people doing and teaching the will of His Father.

Jesus said, in effect: "Just believe it—believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe it because of the mighty miracles you have seen Me do. In solemn truth I tell you, any one believing in Me shall do the same miracles I have done, and even greater ones because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask Him for anything using My name and I will do it, for this will bring praise to the Father because of what I, the Son, will do for you. Yes, ask anything using My name, and I will do it. If you love Me, obey Me, and I will ask the Father and He will give you another comforter, and He will never leave you or forsake you" (John, Chapter 14, paraphrased). "In His name"—this is not simply using His name in prayer. To ask in Christ's name, is to come to God identified with the very person of Christ. The nature of His name expresses His character and is equivalent to His person.

To go to God in Christ's name is to claim identity with Christ, as a member of His body (His wife), as being one with Him before the Father and having in Him a right to the Father's gifts, a right to draw on the Father's infinite resources. As the wife of His son, we ask in the Son's name, believing His promise. The Father honors His Son's name and our relationship with the Son, thereby granting unto us our petitions.

We must then find the will of God. Thereby knowing the will of God, we ask in Jesus' name, and it shall be done.

SICKNESS IS NOT THE WILL OF GOD

The basic foundation upon which the healing ministry rests is that sickness is not the will of God. If you can wholeheartedly accept this fact, you are already within reach of His healing hand. But if you debate within yourself, is it His will or is it not His will, doubt will destroy your faith; and without faith it is impossible to please Him. We need to note that two-thirds of the Gospels are devoted to our Lord's healing ministry, and it is recorded that He invariably healed wherever He went. "And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing" (Luke 9:11). The writer of Hebrews wrote, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

I am sure Jesus did not work in defiance of His Father's will, but in harmony with it. "And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole" (Mark 6:56).

Some say it is God's will that we be sick. If you sincerely feel that it is God's will for you to be sick, and you are a Christian striving to be submissive to His will, you must, to be consistent, reject all medical treatment. One's purpose in receiving medical help is to be healed, and those who believe God wills for man to be sick would be deliberately working against His will if they went to a doctor. To me this is the most ridiculous thinking there is. We support enormous research projects, yet we say, "It is God's will that one be sick." How foolish!

FIND THE WILL OF GOD

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, He showed us the will of His Father regarding salvation, sanctification, and healing. Healing

the sick is the message and work of the kingdom. "And into whatsoever city ye enter, . . . heal the sick that are therein" (Luke 10:8-9). Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8).

Jesus pointed out for all time the origin of disease when He spoke of the sick being bound by Satan. "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16). In healing Jesus rebuked the sickness—both the disease and the cause. "And he stood over her [Simon's mother-in-law], and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them" (Luke 4:39). Jesus leaves us no doubt and neither does Paul that disease does not emanate from God, but from Satan. "And lest I [Paul] should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure" (2 Corinthians 12:7). We find there are exceptions to most rules. In Exodus 15:26 God said, "I will put none of these diseases upon thee." Again in Deuteronomy 7:15 God promised to "put none of the evil diseases of Egypt . . . upon thee." God afflicted Miriam (Moses' sister) with leprosy, because she murmured against Moses as God's chosen leader. God created fiery serpents in the wilderness, which brought sorrow and death.

Paul, in Acts 13:8-11, pronounced a curse from God of blindness for a season upon Elymas because he withstood them, seeking to turn the deputy from the faith.

These were acts of murmuring and disobedience that incur God's wrath, but when repentance took place, God removed the affliction. These were all opposers to God's will.

Too many people use the theory, "It is not God's will to heal every one," to justify their lack of faith and complete trust in Christ. They use it as a crutch or excuse. How foolish to think Jesus wants them to remain sick for His glory. This unholy belief is exactly opposite to the teaching of the Scriptures and to the will of God. The Bible reads, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in [good] health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2). How can we glorify God by remaining sick? This would be impossible. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). The very purpose of our Lord's visit to the earth was to make men well. "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).

You may say, "When it is time for me to be healed, the Lord will heal me." The truth, however, is this: It is YOU, not Jesus, who sets the time for your healing. Faith changes things, and it changes our thinking. Your faith, or the faith of someone who prays for you, can bring the time of your healing down to the present moment, even now. We often hear, "When the Lord comes on the scene, He will hear me." But Jesus is already on the scene. He is ready, willing, and anxious to heal you.

GOD WILLS THAT ALL SHOULD BE HEALED

Over and over again, our Lord declared, "If you can believe, I will do it." "I will, be thou clean." "That I will do." For it is not His will that you should be afflicted. Our Lord promises seventy years of life. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). Why should we die before our time? "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?" (Ecclesiastes 7:17). God has promised: "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil" (Exodus 23:25-26). It is a mistake to pray for a sick person with that faith destroying phrase, "If it be Thy will." Only once did a man say that to Jesus, then He promptly corrected this false idea. "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matthew 8:2-3).

We must search out God's will regarding healing and then pray "thy will be done." Not closing our prayers with, "if it be thy will" but first find out His will then with faith we can pray thy will be done.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH IS OFFERED

A few years ago when the polio epidemic was at its worst, there were two families in our community who were struck by this disease. One family and the girl of the other family attended our church. The little boy of the one family and the girl of the other family took polio, and the girl died within twenty-four hours. The boy became paralyzed on the right side and was very ill. I was gone at the time, holding a meeting, but upon returning home I was asked to pray for the little boy. I did, and he was walking the very next morning.

But the other family became bitter and critical. Was it God's will for their daughter to be sick? Was it God's will she die? I told them emphatically, "No." "Then why did she get sick? Why did she die? Surely it was His will." "No, it was not," I replied.

"Sickness comes from germs, viruses, and accidents. And the one responsible is old Satan himself, not God. We were just unable to exercise faith for the healing. Blame no one but old Satan."

As the family was made to see this, all bitterness left. They were grateful to see and understand that their daughter's dreadful illness and death were not God's will. If they had thought it was God's will for her intense suffering and death, they could not accept this kind of a God. They would have lived the rest of their lives in bitterness and hate. Now they hate only Satan and evil, which caused this sickness, and they love God as never before.

Let us not blame God for Satan's acts and deeds, but see our God as a loving Father who lets life run its course and only intervenes when the prayer of faith is offered. This is the need of the church, not to think of God as the cause of sickness and affliction, but to recognize that sickness emanates from the devil, and then to fight him with all the faith we can possibly have. Remember, wherever Jesus went during His earthly ministry, He healed every sickness and disease among the people. "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching among the people" (Matthew 9:35). This was His indisputable commission to the disciples. "He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:2). His unequivocal promise to us was: "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" (John 14:12).

THE TEMPLES OF THE LIVING GOD

We are the temple of the Living God. In 1 Corinthians 6:19 we read, "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?" Since our bodies constitute the temple of the Holy Spirit, I believe He will keep us well and healthy if we truly believe it is His will that we be well and if we exercise faith for it. God dwells in His temple and keeps it healthy.

Yet, our earthly experience has forced all of us to realize that we are human, and for some reason or other we are not always able to exercise the faith to utilize God's promises to overcome the power of sickness, affliction, and disease of the devil. Let us not condemn ourselves but seek more earnestly the power of an endless life and strength to continue in the Word. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9). Have faith! Trust and believe in a righteous, healing, loving God.

How do we go about doing the will of God? We are to be like our Master. As He went about doing the will of His Father, so we must go about doing the will of His Son, our Lord and Savior.

DIVINE HEALING FOR THE MIND

In my early ministry a father came to me with a request for his boy who was retarded and slow in learning. The boy was unable to pass his second or third grade classes. The man asked, "Brother Hinkle, do you believe that it would be God's will to heal my child?" I said: "Sir, it is God's will to heal all people. And I believe God is willing to heal your boy providing you have faith that He will do it. I believe I have the faith, do you?" After visiting a short time and reading from the Scripture, he said to me, "I believe my faith is to the place where I can have confidence in God to heal." I said, "All right, I think it's time to pray for the boy."

We read some more encouragement and teaching on healing from God's Word, then we anointed this boy and presented him to God for healing. We left him in God's hands as we closed the prayer. We said, "Lord, He's Your child, and we just trust You to do with him what You will." We had asked the Lord to heal him and make him a natural, normal child, able to learn as other children.

His father sent him back to school, and he was able eventually to pass the eighth grade examinations. He went on to high school and passed and graduated from high school. At the present time he is a contractor, doing a commendable job and has taken some courses in college. Without question he has a normal mind of an average person.

Now this is God's will to heal. God is not limited because we say it is impossible to man. God is willing and able to grant unto us through faith the desire of our hearts. We think of a manufacturer who makes dolls, and he certainly could repair and replace any part that was broken. Well, God has made us in the first place, so surely He can repair and replace that which is diseased or broken in our lives. We find that God wills to heal. Do not try to bring God down to your thinking and your ideas, but try to lift your thoughts and ideas up to God's realm of thinking. What a difference it will make. It will take away melancholy, sorrow, and anxiety, and replace them with peace, joy, happiness, and expectancy.

IN HIS NAME

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake (John 14:8-11).

You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you (John 15:16).

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father (John 16:23-28).

It was related by Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman that during the Civil War a young man was passing over a battlefield and saw a young friend lying among the wounded, shot almost to pieces. It was evident that he had only a short time to live. The young man stooped down and straightened out the shattered limbs of his friend and took water from his canteen and gave him a drink. He wiped the blood from the man's face, and he said, "Charlie, is there anything more I can do for you?"

The suffering and dying boy knew his end was at hand and thinking of his loved ones at home, he said: "Yes, there is. If you have a piece of paper in your pocket, will you write a letter to my Father? I think I have enough strength left to sign it. My Father is a prominent judge in a northern state, and if you take him this letter, he will help you." This was the letter he dictated: "Dear Father, I am dying on the battlefield, and one of my friends is helping me. If he ever comes to you, be kind to him for Charlie's sake." With stiffening fingers he signed his name and then died.

The Civil War with all its horror and suffering came to an end, and the soldiers returned to their homes. One of them in a tattered uniform made his way to the home of this Judge. The soldier looked like a tramp, and the servants would not admit him. He waited until the Judge returned, then he stepped before him and held up the soiled piece of paper. The Judge, thinking it was a plea for assistance, pushed him to one side, but the soldier stepped back again and called the gentleman's attention to the signature. The great Judge threw his arms around the soldier, took him into his home, and with tears streaming from his eyes said, "You can have anything that my money and my influence can buy." The name did it. Surely there is something in a name.

Great indeed is the name of Jesus. He has more than written His name for you; He has gone to Heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). His name stands for all that our blessed Redeemer is—The Great I Am!

*O the precious name of Jesus!
How it thrills our souls with joy,
When His loving arms receive us,
And His songs our tongues employ!
Lydia Baxter*

The Father has given to Jesus a name that is above every name that is named, either in this world or in the world to come. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). The blessed Jesus says, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). There is no greater promise in the Word of God than these words of the Master: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do."

If you will see Christ in God's plan, the beloved Son on whom was laid the iniquity of us all, if only you will see that Jesus paid the price for our redemption that we might be free, you can enter into your purchased inheritance of salvation and life and power. Now poor Peter and John had no money, but they had faith. They had the power of the Holy Ghost; they had God. You can have God even though you have nothing else. Even though you have lost everything, you can have God. I have seen the worst men saved by the power of God in Jesus' name.

The name of Jesus is so marvelous. Peter and John had no conception of all that was in that name. Neither did the man lame from his mother's womb who was laid daily at the gate. But Peter and John had faith to say: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6-8).

God wants to see more of this sort of thing done. How can it be done? Through His name. It is done through faith in His name, through faith which is by Him. Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ we can do all things. All things can be brought about by Him.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

Sometime ago in a divine healing service, an elderly man of about sixty-five came to the altar for prayer. A blood vein had broken in his arm, and it was swollen very large and black and blue all over. It was so painful that he could not touch it and he could not move it. As we prayed for him we said, "Sir, raise your hand in the name of Jesus." But he said: "I can't. It's impossible." I said, "I know you can't, but I know Jesus can do it for you if you will pray and believe in Jesus' name." I said, "In Jesus' name, lift your arm!" He looked up and he said, "In Jesus' name I'll do it." And he did. The Lord healed him completely.

Oh the power of Jesus' name! It is beyond the comprehension of man when we think that the Lord was able to still the waves, open the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, and cause the lame to run and to leap like an hart. The Christ was able to say, "Take thy bed and walk"; He was able to heal the one who had been sick and afflicted for twelve long years. This Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He authorizes us to pray in His name, and He said, "Greater works than these shall ye do because I go to my father."

ASK IN MY NAME

There in the upper room facing Gethsemane, Jesus gave to His disciples, and through them to all mankind, one of the richest and most encouraging promises in the Bible. "Whatsoever ye shall ask" has no limits. It embraces all that God has. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). There is one condition: "Whatsoever ye ask in my name." Blessed is the name of the Great I Am.

*Sweetest note in seraph song
Sweetest name on mortal tongue;
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.
William Hunter*

Here is a name that unlocks Heaven and gives access to all its riches. Turn your eyes and faith to the star-studded heavens, and think of all that is stored there; then remember that all belongs to our blessed Redeemer. He has an inexhaustible supply of riches, power, wisdom, and holiness for His children. He is able and willing to supply all our needs. Everyone who asks in faith receives; Christ's name is His character. It is what He is. All who come to him in faith, regarding no iniquity in their hearts, will receive according to His promise. Yet we must do more than ask in his name; we must take the blessings from His storehouse.

The story is told of an old woman who lived in the utmost poverty, depending largely on the charity of others for a living. One day while conversing with some friends, she told them of her son who frequently wrote her letters from a distant state. She said, "And he sends in his letters some strange pieces of paper." Then from the letters she drew forth these "strange pieces of paper." They proved to be drafts on the bank. She was living in poverty, yet had plenty at hand! Her name was unknown at the bank but the name of her son, a man of wealth, was known. In the name of her son, she could have drawn on the bank for all her needs.

Often we, like the poor woman, live in spiritual poverty when, through the abundant promises of our Savior, great riches are within our reach. Jesus has promised to "supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). His name is signed in blood on the checks payable at the bank of Heaven. All we need to do is to fill in the amount we need, and cash them at Heaven's bank. His name stands for all that is the eternal domain, and we are assured that our every need will be supplied.

*Behold the throne of grace
The promise calls me near
There Jesus shows a smiling face
And waits my prayer to hear.*

*That rich atoning blood,
Which sprinkled round I see
Provides for those who come to God
An all-prevailing peace.*

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

In 1968 a lady came to our congregation to worship with us. She had been with us possibly a month, when one morning during the service she had a seizure. Of course there was great confusion. I was preaching at the time. I stopped speaking, walked down the aisle, went over to where she was, laid my hands on her, and said, "In Jesus' name arise, be healed, and be normal." Immediately she opened her eyes and sat up. There is all power in Jesus' name to take care of every need in our lives. This lady was healed in Jesus' name and testified afterwards that this was the first time she had had a seizure without being ill for two days afterward. What power is manifested in the name of Jesus when we believe.

DOUBLE CURE FOR A DOUBLE CURSE

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 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. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God (John 3:14-21).

When Satan entered the purity of the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent, two angels of darkness followed hard on his trail—Satan's coming brought the double curse of sin and sickness. When Christ came into the dying world to redeem it from the curse, there came in His blessed footsteps two angels of light and hope—His coming brought the double cure of salvation and healing.

In the beginning the world emerged from under the hand of God—good, pure, and perfect. In the Garden of Eden, the most perfect spot in a perfect world, He placed the perfect man and woman, Adam and Eve, whom He had formed from the dust of the ground and into whose nostrils He had breathed the breath of life. In innocence and purity they dwelled. In the tranquil beauty of this garden, which His own loving hands had planted, God walked in the cool of the day, communing with man whom He had made after His own image and had filled with His breath divine. How peaceful their abode! How blessed their communion! How blissful their freedom of body, soul, and spirit. All that was required of them was faith in the Word of the Father and obedience to His command.

But alas! The gleaming, malevolent, calculating eyes of Satan were watching from the distance. Here in this blissful Garden of Eden—with its stately trees, hanging flowers, luscious fruitage, and its dancing, sparkling brooks and rivers where God had placed the children of His own dear handiwork—Satan found the place for his hate and revenge.

With fiendish cunning Satan took upon himself the form of a flashing, scintillating serpent, which was said at that time to be the most beautiful and subtle beast of the field. In shimmering graceful strides and his most captivating manner, he drew near unto the woman and began to sow the fateful seeds of unbelief within her heart. Satan told Eve, "God has said that in the day you eat of the tree in the middle of the garden, you will surely die, but God does not mean that which He said; you will not surely die." Old Satan certainly deceives! This first lie that the devil told the human family, the first seed of doubt he sowed in their hearts, was that of doubting the veracity and absolute, unchangeable truth of God's Word. He has been engaged with the same task ever since.

Behind the devil as he enters the garden stand two fearsome demons of night. Our hearts are repulsed, and we shudder as we gaze on each cruel face. Oh Mother Eve! Could you not see them? Why were your eyes so blind? On each shield with which they cover themselves is the form of a venomous serpent with a panting, darting, poisonous tongue. Yes, there they are, hand in hand, an invincible, inseparable pair of two angels of darkness, agents of despair, both relentless and cruel. Their names are written on their shields—Sin and Sickness. But the eyes of Eve were riveted in fascination on the shimmering serpent form. Her ears hearkened to that smooth deceiver's voice. Thus Eve was deceived, and in obeying the word of Satan, she disobeyed her Lord. She ate of the forbidden fruit and gave Adam to eat also. Thus, hand in hand came Sin and Sickness into the Garden of Life.

But instead of leaving His children in the hands of the devil to suffer the double curse they had brought upon themselves through disobedience, the great loving heart of God began even then to lay plans for their redemption: a double cure for a double curse. God gave His first prophetic promise that through the seed of woman should come He that should bruise the head of the serpent. All down through the coming years, through the days of Abel, Seth, Noah, Abraham, and David—even down to the Cross of Christ—this promise was reiterated through the prophets and sages. Thus it was that as far back as the days of Moses, it was an understood fact that salvation and healing were provided in the atonement through the Lamb as though slain from the foundation of the world.

When Moses brought the children of Israel from Egypt and turned their faces toward the Promised Land, God spake to them, saying, "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). Clearly the Father signified that with disobedience and sin would come sickness and disease.

Later, when disobedience and sin laid the Israelites low, a fiery serpent of brass, signifying judgment, was lifted up in the wilderness, even as Christ was later to pass through the judgment for us and be lifted up on the Cross of Calvary. Those who looked upon the serpent that was lifted up in the wilderness received life for a look. They found therein the double cure, forgiveness for the soul and healing for the body. When Miriam, through the sin of criticism and backbiting, fell ill of leprosy and was white as snow, Moses besought God for the double cure. After pleading for mercy and pardon of the Lord, he cried, "Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee" (Numbers 12:13).

The Psalmist spake clearly of the double cure for the double curse saying, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3). Notice that the first two benefits David mentioned are those of forgiveness and salvation, which is to overthrow the power of sin, and divine healing for the body to overthrow sickness and disease. So it has always been a double cure for a double curse.

Isaiah, catching sight of the great Redeemer through the lifted veil, beheld Christ as the "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). He sees in His glorious coming the double cure for the double curse and declares of His work of atonement: "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). Notice the word, *bruised*; God had said of them that He would bruise the head that bruised His heel. You may ask, "Does not this promise refer to spiritual health only?" Matthew described Christ healing the sick, casting out demons, causing the blind to see and the lame to walk, and then he told us that this physical healing is the literal interpretation of Isaiah, Chapter 53. Note that this was done "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17).

The coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the seed of woman, was the coming of the Great Deliverer to redeem a stricken world from the curse. Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19). Salvation declares, "Thy sins be all forgiven thee." Healing cries, "Be thou made whole; take up thy bed and walk."

Wherever Jesus trod He brought with Him this double cure—salvation and healing. "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?" (Matthew 9:4-5). Which is easier? Who among us can say? For this Heaven-born, Heaven-sent pair stand hand in hand, shield to shield—a double cure for a double curse! In God's plan they should never be divided.

In Christ's short years of service, He went about destroying the work of the devil, namely forgiving sin and healing the sick. But has not modern teaching separated these till only salvation remains? If this is so, then His stripes were borne in vain. Harken to the words of the Master when He said, ". . . the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

"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" (Matthew 28:18-20).

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8).

"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" (Mark 16:17-18).

"Jesus the same yesterday, to day, and for ever," still brings the double cure for soul and body. There is still life for a look at the crucified One, and they who touch the hem of His garment still may be healed and made whole. In Chapter 5 of James, the elders of the church are given instructions to anoint the sick with oil and pray the prayer of faith, having the promise of the double cure. "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).

What a sweet relationship exists between salvation and healing. Too long we have wandered in weakness and poverty, when we might have had His strength and riches. Too long we have lain starving, when we might have been feasting in Father's banquet hall.

GOD HEALS A MALIGNANCY

In our next to the last pastorate, we were very fortunate, and God was blessing. Real revival broke out, and there were six families who came over to worship with us from another church. These families were seeking light, truth, and help, but they were heavy cigarette smokers and living inconsistently as far as the Christian life was concerned. But they believed they were Christian. I invited them to our home for Bible study and to help them see the way of God more perfectly. They came every Thursday night, and one Thursday night I was teaching them about divine healing. They all seemed very interested, open hearted, and receptive. On the following Monday I received a telephone call from one of the ladies who attended the Bible study series, and she asked me if I would come to her home in about thirty minutes. I told her I would be glad to.

Upon my arrival she sat down and told me how she had a malignancy, and the doctor had told her if she ever hemorrhaged again, there would be only one possible solution—she would have to be operated on immediately. She went to another doctor who was a specialist, and he told her that if she would be operated on, she would never be alive after the operation, so it would be foolhardy

to be operated on. Now she was in complete confusion, not knowing what to do.

She said, "Reverend Hinkle, I heard you teaching on the subject of divine healing, and I wish you would instruct me." "First," I said, "without question you have to receive the entire healing qualities of Jesus Christ. Jesus does not only heal the body, but He heals the soul. What you need is a definite touch from God for your soul as well as for your body. You need to be saved." But she said: "This is impossible for me to accept all that you propose and all that you teach, because I am very much of a cigarette fiend. I can't quit them. The pastor where I have been going to church even helped me to get some pills to help me to quit smoking and to sleep at night. And it just doesn't work."

I said: "Do you really want to be a Christian? Do you really want to be healed?" And she said, "Yes." "Then I can tell you why you are unable to quit your cigarettes. Would you like to know?" She said, "Yes." And I said: "Because you don't want to. You just pretend you do, and try to make people think you do, but in your own heart you don't want to quit."

She broke down and cried very, very hard. Finally she looked up and said, "Yes, you are right." I said, "Now do you really want to be saved and to quit this habit?" And she said, "Yes."

We prayed for her there and she prayed for herself and God graciously saved her. After He saved her, peace came into her face and into her heart. I told her, "Now God will heal you if you will let Him." So we anointed her with oil, prayed the prayer of faith, and God richly and abundantly healed her of this malignancy.

God has a double cure for a double curse. He saves and He heals. This woman is living today, rejoicing in good health and salvation. Oh the blessed riches, the wonders of God! He did not only want to save and heal her, but He wants to save and heal all who come unto Him. May the richness of His grace abound upon every soul!

THE ATONEMENT

Before they led Jesus up Calvary's mountain, something of great importance had to first take place. They lay bare our Savior's back, tied Him to the whipping post, and flogged Him with the cruel lash. Did you ever wonder why? Blow upon blow fell on the tender, quivering flesh of the gentle Jesus. Why did they whip Him so? Was He whipped that my sins might be washed away? No, my friend, the blood on the Cross was sufficient for that. Then why did they beat Him with cruel staves? Was that for the cleansing of sin? No, my friend, the blood was sufficient for that. Then why, tell me, why did they torture our Savior so? Was God merely permitting the vindictive, fiendish wrath of an angry mob to be wreaked upon the head of His blessed Son? If His stripes did not cleanse me from sin, then why did they whip Him?

Do you not know the meaning of that lashing? It was thus He bore your suffering, and by His stripes you are healed! Not a meaningless blow, not a meaningless pain did that precious body bear. At the whipping post He purchased your healing and bore your suffering and pain. On the Cross He purchased your pardon, forgiveness, and cleansing from sin—healed by His stripes and cleansed by His blood! Oh, blessed double cure for a double curse for all who will look and live!

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

The other day I was called by a minister friend to go visit his brother who was in the hospital, sick with double pneumonia. I asked another minister to go with me. This sick man was seventy years old and had never been saved. Yet, his father had been a minister, and he had two brothers and two brothers-in-law in the ministry. He had been raised around a Church of God family altar. Now, here he was—seventy years old, having never been saved, living in sin, sick with double pneumonia, and facing death. We visited with him a few moments, and I said to him, "John, wouldn't you like to be a Christian?" He said, "I don't know whether I can be or not." I said: "John, you've been running from God a long time, and God has been running after you. You'd better let Him catch you and talk to your heart and soul." He said, "Well, He's doing that now." I said, "John, really wouldn't you like to be a Christian?" He said, "Yes, if I could." I said: "You can be if you will just be honest with God, confess your sins, and tell Him you'll straighten up your life, making restitution where it is necessary. Now, wouldn't you like to do that?" And he said, "I would."

We prayed with this man, and God blessed his heart. He prayed, and the Lord saved him right there in his bed. I said: "Now, John, God saved you. Are you willing to pay the price for your healing?" He said, "Yes." I said: "All right. I'm willing to anoint you with oil and pray for you and let God heal you. If you'll have agreement with me, these other brethren that are here will be agreed with me, and we'll pray and God will heal you." So we anointed him with oil, and we prayed for him. God was gracious to him and healed him. Now this is the way God does things. He gives us a double cure for a double curse. He saves as well as heals. Wouldn't you like to have the healing quality of God's love within you to save and to sanctify and heal you? Trust Him, believe in Him, and He will give it to you.

EVERLASTING SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL HEALING

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour (Matthew 15:21-28).

The Apostles, Peter and John, in the Word of God told us (1 Peter 2:24 and 3 John 1:2) that the Gospel is twofold. Christ's body suffered and bled by the stripes from the whip for our physical healing, and He shed His blood on the Cross for our spiritual healing. The awful sins of men can be forgiven through the atonement, and sickness, affliction, and disease can be rebuked and healed through the plan of redemption, which is in the atonement.

John said, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2). This Scripture promises physical healing. Peter wrote: "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). Let us note: "Who his own self [Christ] bare our sins in his own body on the tree [to give spiritual healing] . . . by whose stripes ye were healed [giving physical healing]."

Here is a great truth and a great fact. The blood of Jesus Christ in His death for our atonement was shed for our sins. But the body of Christ was bruised (whipped) and suffered especially, yea broken, for all our afflictions, diseases, and infirmities. Many do not teach or believe this. In fact they teach against it, thus making the Word of God of none effect through their traditions. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). "Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not, and do ye not remember?" (Mark 8:17-18).

The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed to take away man's sins. Therefore, it is the power of the shed blood, not His body or His life that gives us everlasting spiritual life. But it was the living body of Jesus Christ that was bruised and broken, yea lacerated by a whip, for the purpose of giving physical healing to man.

Take note of this: Christ's blood was for our spiritual healing. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9). "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for your soul" (Leviticus 17:11). "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:12). "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19). ". . . and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

The Bible clearly points out that it was the body of Jesus Christ that was bruised and broken; and in suffering in His body, He bore the sickness, affliction, diseases, and infirmities of mankind that by His vicarious suffering we could be healed. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4). Most scholars admit the words *griefs and sorrows* literally mean "sickness and pain." What a tremendous promise there is in this prophecy! Literally we may say, "Surely he hath borne our sickness and carried our pains."

The prophecy was fulfilled in the Gospels. "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).

Now since we know Christ made arrangements for our physical healing as well as for the forgiveness of our sins, let us put in for healing, making our request known to God with the same faith that brings salvation. When man deliberately and intelligently believes in Christ in the sense of receiving Him and surrendering unto Him, he can then safely trust God to fulfill His promise to give a new heart and a new body—health. Healing comes by just believing God's promises. ". . . and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15).

Some time ago while pastoring one of our fine congregations, a young lady became offended, embittered, dissatisfied, and critical regarding my administration and preaching. While in this state, she became quite ill and did not improve. Her doctor diagnosed her trouble as a large tumor. He said the hemorrhaging that had started some time before would continue until she could be operated on and have the tumor removed. The young lady did not know which way to turn or what to do. The church and Sister Hinkle suggested several times that I go and pray for her healing, but I said, "No, whenever she calls, I'll be glad to go, for the Bible says to call on the elders of the church and let them anoint with oil and lay on hands and pray the prayer of faith."

About two weeks after the doctor's diagnosis, our telephone rang, and because the Lord had been talking to me, I immediately knew the call was from this young lady. Sure enough it was her husband, requesting that I come and pray for his wife.

Immediately I went to their home. Upon entering the room I found her to be a very sick girl. She had become so weak she could not be on her feet, but had to lie very quietly in bed. I talked to her frankly about her spiritual need. She broke down and confessed her attitudes, her bitterness, her cynical feelings, her faultfinding, and how she had spoken against me. I instructed her to ask for God's forgiveness. As we prayed, God answered and the shed blood of Jesus Christ was applied by faith, washing her whiter than snow. Then I said: "Jesus has restored you back into His kingdom and given you love and fellowship. I believe He will heal you if you will trust Him for healing." Her answer was, "I believe He will too." We anointed her with oil, laid on hands, and prayed the prayer of faith; and God in His mercy touched her and healed her. "By his stripes ye are healed" so vividly rang in our ears. Almost immediately she rose from the bed. The hemorrhage stopped; the flow ceased. God, through His Holy Spirit, had healed her. Now, my good friends, the same God who saves is the God who heals. So you and I have the privilege of receiving both blessings.

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. . . . This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:35, 50-51).

Jesus came to earth that He might distribute this life-giving bread, which is for "the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2), or for all who believe on Him. This bread is a life-giving, health-producing food from Heaven. "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever" (John 6:57-58). This bread is to be received by faith, as the manna was in the wilderness. In our daily prayer we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), so we can eat a slice at a time until the loaf is consumed. Christ wants His kingdom to come to earth as it is in Heaven.

Several years ago, I had a sore in the roof of my mouth right near the edge of the gum that would not heal. I went to the dentist. After examining my mouth he said: "Reverend, I'm sorry to tell you but you have a very serious thing here. I'm afraid it is malignant. It could be just a cyst, but from all indications, it appears to be malignant, and I will not touch it. I would like to have you examined by some other doctor." I asked, "What caused this, Doctor?" He said I had a loosened tooth that had irritated the gum like a sticker, and he thought that was the cause. I told him to pull it. He said he could not; if it were malignant, it could spread all over my system. I told him if this is the cause, he should pull it. He refused. We argued. I told him I would sign an affidavit that he would not be held responsible and would be under no obligation. It was a baby tooth and pulled easily, but he did it reluctantly and asked me to wait a week and then be examined by the medical doctors.

I went to one in our town. He said, "I'm sure it is malignant and very serious, and I think you should go to a specialist." He recommended one in a larger city. My father went with me. After a thorough examination the doctor asked to speak to my father alone. He told him it was a serious case of malignancy, and unless removed at once, it would go through my system, and I would be a dead man. My father was very frightened and excited. He said: "Son, you are going to die. You've got to be operated on. I will pay for it." I said: "No, Dad. I'm going to trust God. I will have the brethren pray for me at the Young People's Convention. I believe God will heal me."

I went to the Trenton Convention and told the brethren what the doctors had said. I asked them to anoint me and pray that God would heal me. I did not feel any different after they prayed for me. I had no witness of healing, but I said, "I'm taking God at His Word and believing He is my healer." Now I want you to get one point. Sometimes healing, which is the children's bread, cannot be eaten all at once. I was eating it bite by bite, one slice at a time, gaining faith and confidence. It seemed like all the doctors, specialists, and everyone around me were trying to destroy my faith. Each morning after returning home from the convention, I would open my mouth before a mirror. I could not see that it was diminishing. The place where the tooth had been was healed, but the original sore looked the same. It was neither larger nor smaller. I kept on praying.

We received a letter from a couple who had been praying for us. They said they felt that possibly God was permitting me to be tested because He wanted me to be used in the work of healing. I took this with grace and was thankful for their interest in us. In answering the letter, Sister Hinkle said, "Yes, we have been going through real trials, and no doubt will go through worse." When I read that statement, my faith disappeared from me completely. All that I had eaten before at God's table seemed like it meant nothing. The sore spread over the top of my mouth until I could not eat. One morning in a little gully in our pasture, I got down on my knees before God, and I prayed for Him to touch me and help me to get a good bite from the bread of life, to eat and be healed. Then a thought came to me so vividly. It seemed so ridiculous that I did not know what to do. I must apologize to Sister Hinkle for letting my faith be destroyed over a little statement like that. I must have unconsciously held something against her without realizing it. When I committed myself thus to the Lord, I looked up to Him and said, "I believe." I started eating from God's Word again.

The next morning the area over which the cancer had spread was all healed except the original spot. I said, "Lord, I believe," and I continued to eat from His Word as I called to mind His promises. I refused to check my progress with the looking glass. I said,

"Lord, it's in Your hand, and I believe." Soon I had eaten the whole loaf. One morning I woke up conscious of the fact that the affliction was gone. God had healed me completely. According to your faith, it is done unto you. We are not always healed instantly; sometimes it is gradually. God does not make it different, but our faith does. This is the bread of life; you can eat a bite, a slice, or a whole loaf. Healing is the children's bread, so eat and eat well; eat fully. If you cannot consume it all at once, do not destroy faith by saying it is not done, but continue to eat. God will bless you.

Your healing is already purchased and provided for you, just waiting for you to claim it, to appropriate it for your need here on earth.

HIS BODY BROKEN FOR US

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus clearly taught that the bread was symbolic of His body broken for us, broken for the healing of our sickness, disease, and affliction. The cup symbolized His blood, which was shed for the remission of our sins. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-27).

Here Christ was saying that the bread is His body. Symbolically, He implied that His body was broken for the physical healing of all mankind and for everlasting physical health. He also said the cup is symbolic of His blood, shed for the remission of sins, offered for the everlasting spiritual health of all mankind. What spiritual impact there is in taking the communion with a twofold purpose. We drink the cup symbolically for our spiritual health, and we eat the bread symbolically for our physical health. This is a wonderful truth!

SICKNESS AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

Why are many Christians sickly? "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (1 Corinthians 11:23-30).

This properly explains why there is so much sickness among God's own people. Paul did not tell the Corinthians that they were to continue on in their weak and sickly state or that God would heal them in His own good time. He told them in strong words that they should not be sick and then told them why they were. They were not discerning the meaning of the breaking of the Lord's body. "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and sleep." The reason—they did not discern that the Lord's body was bruised and broken for mankind's physical healing. Pilate scourged Christ before He was crucified. The stripes made by the lashes of the whip upon His back broke His body for our physical healing. "With his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Our God is truly the One "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3).

Realization that Christ suffered for our physical welfare as well as for our redemption produces faith. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

UNBELIEF AND FEAR

There are two things that keep many people from receiving healing. The first is unbelief. Christ could do no miracles in Nazareth, his hometown, because of unbelief. Unbelief is the opposite of faith and is always disastrous. Fear is the second element, which brings distrust. It destroys faith and produces unbelief.

One morning recently I explained to the congregation that every person has the privilege of receiving both spiritual and physical health. As we were partaking of the Lord's Supper that morning, I told them everyone who partook of it could do it in remembrance of the saving power of Christ's blood but also in remembrance of the fact that by Jesus' stripes we are healed.

I will never forget one lady who came to the altar. After we finished, she arose and said: "Pastor, I would like to testify. I have never realized this privilege before. What a beautiful, beautiful message it is. Now when we partake of the Lord's Supper, we have the privilege of commemorating not only the forgiveness of our sins, but also the healing of our bodies." She said, "I am so thankful today; I came not only to commemorate and receive spiritual blessings but also to commemorate and receive physical blessings." This is the privilege of every child of God. Accept the fact that Jesus Christ not only gave His blood for your spiritual healing, but that He is the broken bread of life for your physical healing. God bless you.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God (Mark 11:22).

Faith is especially needed at the present hour, since it seems so many people have lost their way. It seems they have cast their faith away. They have lost faith in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. They have lost faith in the church, God's Word, and His people. They have lost faith in the courts—even the supreme court—and the government, national and state; most of all they have lost faith in themselves.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

"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). Faith, you see, is the union of our hearts and will with God's will and purpose. Where this unity is lacking, there is no answer to prayer. This is a very important spiritual law, to which we have been woefully blind.

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4). These promises are to the obedient: "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 . . ." (Exodus 15:26); "The LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee" (Deuteronomy 7:15). Faith always implies obedience. Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). Naaman's surrender and obedience to the Word of God were complete before he was healed.

The faith that saves, according to John's Gospel, is not only reception of Christ and surrender to Him, but also involves obedience. "He that believeth on the son hath eternal life, but he that obeyeth not the son shall not see life" (John 3:36, RSV). Obedience is not only a vital element in true faith, but is necessary for a correct knowledge and understanding of spiritual truth. "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teachings, whether it is of God or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17, RSV).

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones" (Proverbs 14:30). It has been said, an unsound heart is worse than an unsound stomach; a diseased soul worse than a diseased body; a diseased will worse than a disordered liver. Paul said, "The body, for the Lord," before he said, "the Lord for the body." "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). "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" (Romans 12:1). Therefore, present your body to Him if you want it healed. It is not until after it becomes His property that He promises to repair it.

THE FAITH WE NEED

We need a firm belief, assurance, and confidence in God. We need a strong belief in His Word and work and the purpose of His Son and the Holy Spirit. To gain a historical faith, we must read the Bible and know the will, plan, and purpose as well as the promise of God. We must next gain a saving and receiving faith. As we see our own limitations, then we see God's possibilities and way.

Some time ago, the wife of one of our associate pastors, who lived north of our city about twenty-four miles, took seriously ill. She was pregnant and became unable to eat or drink or retain anything on her stomach. They tried to give her intravenous feeding, but this would not work. She continued to grow worse and worse until the doctors despaired for her life. They decided that she had gotten so weak that they could not safely take the child to save her. So it was a perplexing problem. One day as I was out praying, God laid it upon my heart to go visit with her and to take the Gospel message and show her that God would heal her. So I asked Brother Doty, a young worker in the church at that time, to go with me. We drove up to the parsonage.

As we entered, her first request was, "Brother Hinkle, will you pray for me and ask God to take me home?" I asked, "Well, why?" She replied, "I have suffered so intensely, and I am so miserable that I would like to go home." I said, "My good girl, I want to ask you a few questions before I pray this kind of a prayer." She asked, "What is it?" I said, "Are you ready to go home?" She answered, "Yes." I said: "Are you sure you are ready to die? Can you so assure your heart before Him?" She said, "Yes." Again I said, "My good sister, are you sure that you are ready for Heaven?" She broke down, cried, wept, and said, "I am, Brother Hinkle."

I replied to her: "My good lady, if you are assured that you are ready for Heaven, then let's assure your heart before Him concerning life. The same assurance that would take you to Heaven could heal you. God is your Physician as well as your Savior. You are too young to go home yet. You have a great work to do. I believe my Lord is ready, willing, and able to heal. Now, if you will agree with me, the Lord will heal you."

After reading about the assurance we can have in God, the confidence that if we ask anything in His name, He will grant it unto us, we anointed her with oil, laid hands upon her, and prayed the prayer of faith. God healed her. Immediately it seemed strength began to come to her body. It was not long until she was up and around, and later gave birth to a fine boy who is now 6'4" tall! God

wrought a miracle. They had said she could never have a child, but He gave her a child through His healing. You see, the thing that we need to grasp is that if we take God's Word and believe it, there is no limit to what God can do. All things are possible in Him when we have faith. So it is faith that we need, and through faith we can take hold of the promises of God.

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

The Word of God is our foundation. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Note the characteristics of God. He is all wise—omniscient. He is everywhere—omnipresent. He is all powerful—omnipotent. He is unchangeable—immutable. He is eternal, full of righteousness, justice, and love. He sent His son to redeem the world from sin and sickness and to restore what man had lost.

Let us note His redemptive names, which are seven in number, perfect and complete. We must see God as Creator and Redeemer of soul and body. And we must see Him as the Physician of both before we have reason to expect healing. His seven redemptive names reveal what our redemption includes. He has many other names, but only seven referring to redemption; his redemption covers the whole scope of human need. The blessings revealed by each of these names are all in the atonement. Let us examine their meanings:

1. Jehovah **SHAMMAH**, which means, "The Lord is present," made nigh by the blood of the Cross. "And the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there" (Ezekiel 48:35).

2. Jehovah **SHALOM**, which is translated, "The Lord is our peace" (Judges 6:24). We see new meaning then in "the chastisement of our peace was upon him" (Isaiah 53:5).

3. Jehovah **RAAH**, which is translated, "The LORD is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). He gives His life for the sheep. One can see this promise in the atonement.

4. Jehovah **JIREH**, meaning, "The Lord will provide an offering." Christ Himself being the offering provided on Calvary (taken from Genesis 22:14).

5. Jehovah **NISSI**, meaning, "The Lord is our banner or victory" (Exodus 17:15), by spoiling principalities and powers on the Cross. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

6. Jehovah **TSEDKENU**, meaning, "He bore our sins" and became the Lord our righteousness. He opened the way for every sinner to receive the gift of righteousness.

7. Jehovah **RAPHA**, translated, "I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). I am the Lord thy physician, your doctor. "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness" (Matthew 8:17).

Jesus says to all who come to Him for any or all of these seven blessings of redemption, ". . . him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). What a foundation for faith we have in studying the miracles God has wrought through His Son and His people. His wonders are in all of life and our surroundings. As we become obedient and submissive to His commands, we become established upon a firm foundation.

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

God's promises are only to those who believe; we must believe not only that He is, but also that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him. "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). Chapter 11 of Hebrews shows that it is faith that pleases Him. Through faith and patience we inherit the promises. "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12).

Faith alone gives access to God for salvation, sanctification, and healing. It is necessary to become a child of God and to adhere to His promises. When man deliberately and intelligently believes in Christ, in the sense of receiving Him and surrendering to Him, he can then safely trust God to fulfill His promise and give a new heart or a new body.

"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). It is evident from this passage that the receiving of Christ is synonymous with believing on His name. The belief in Christ, which results in a new birth and spiritual sonship, is an intelligent, deliberate reception of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior and a surrender of one's life to Him. In like manner, we must present our bodies and surrender ourselves unto Him.

The act may be illustrated with the marriage relationship in which a woman takes deliberately a certain man to be her husband and gives herself to him as long as she lives. The faith in Christ, which brings salvation and healing, involves not only the reception of Him, but also the surrender of one's self to Him.

What is the plain meaning of faith? It is the reception of Christ and the act of surrender and obedience to His will. The sin of unbelief, which according to this Gospel is the sin which here and hereafter condemns the sinner, is just the opposite of faith. It is the failure to receive Christ, to commit one's self to Him, and to yield one's life in obedience to His will and to the will of God.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FAITH

1. We live by faith. "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7).
2. We walk by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).
3. We stand by faith. "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith" (Romans 11:20).
4. We are saved by faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).
5. We are sanctified by faith. ". . . that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:18).
6. We are comforted by faith. "That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me" (Romans 1:12).
7. We are healed by faith. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15).

DEGREES OF FAITH

Weak faith: "And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26).

Strong faith: "And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost . . ." (Acts 6:5).

Mustard seed faith: "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20).

Some time ago I received a telephone call from my neighboring pastor, stating that his wife was seriously ill; in fact, she was near death. The doctor said there was very little hope for her. The pastor wondered if I would come at once and pray for her. I told him I certainly would be there, on the very quickest conveyance that I could get, that I would either be on the train or bus, whichever would arrive in his town first. The train was to leave in about twenty minutes, so I hurriedly prepared and got ready to go. As I sat down in the train, I began to pray and ask God for faith and confidence that I would be able to help. All that would come to my mind was love, faith, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, and faith. In my mind I knew that was not what I wanted.

It was about a two-hour trip. Riding the train I repeatedly prayed and each time after studying, thinking, meditating and reading the Bible, the same thought came to me—that of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, and faith. Again I would turn to the Bible, read, and pray, asking God for a message, for wisdom and direction. Again the same thought would come to me. I looked up and said, "Lord, I'm not trying to get a message for Sunday, I'm trying to get a message to help our good sister." Then I would study and pray and read some more asking God for wisdom.

Then all at once I became embarrassed before God and ashamed. He revealed what He was trying to tell me when He said, "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, etc." I asked myself: "What is love? What is joy? What is faith, peace, etc.?" Then I began to grasp love. I could not explain it, but it was a spiritual substance. Then joy, that jubilant feeling, I could not explain it, but it was something that was radiant and glowing in the heart of man, and it was given when the man was saved and the Lord came in. Peace, therefore, and faith were likewise analyzed. Faith was seen to be something we could not explain in its entirety but was a spiritual substance that was given to us because Jesus Christ was the author and finisher of faith.

I looked up to Him and said: "Thank You, Lord. I have this faith in my heart. I am exercising it. As I would give more love, I must exercise myself in love. As I received more joy, I must exercise myself in joy. If I would have more peace, I must exercise in giving and being at peace. O Lord, I thank You that if I want more faith, I must exercise what I have, must depend on God, believe His Word, and I would receive it." In just a few minutes I arrived at my destination.

The pastor met me and took me to his home. I went in, read the Bible, and said to his wife, "Sister, God wants to come into your life." She said: "But I have no faith. I have been praying and praying but faith doesn't come." I stated, "Sister, you have it." I explained to her the message God gave to me of love, joy, peace, long suffering, faith, gentleness, kindness, etc. I explained that all this was a spiritual substance which she had in her heart, and all she had to do was to exercise it, to believe God, to believe His Word. I showed her that Jesus said where any two agree upon anything, it would be done unto them. I said, "I believe the Word, do you?" She said, "Yes." We anointed her, and the Lord healed her.

She had large sores, bigger than a man's hand, over two-thirds of her body. The doctor had said she was smothering to death because her skin could not breathe. Immediately these sores began to dry up, and within two hours she was out of bed. She regained strength. The sores were simply disappearing. So she thought she would take a bath. She went into the bathroom to get into the tub. All at once the devil, in a spirit of doubt, came upon her and said, "You are not healed." Seemingly her faith wavered and went down, and she called her husband in who agreed again with her in prayer. She took hold of the fact that faith was hers, because God had given it to her, and that she could exercise it and believe in Him. Victory was given her right then and there. She took her bath. Later she reported that by the time she was through bathing the sores were entirely healed, and she was completely well. Jesus is the author of your faith. He is the accomplishment of it too. Believe Him, give no place to doubt, and you will receive.

FAITH CAN BE STIMULATED AND STRENGTHENED

In the New Testament we find the following suggestions for building up our faith:

1. By reading God's Word: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4); "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).
2. By obeying God's Word and will: "For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 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" (1 John 3:20-22).
3. Through prayer and fasting: "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21).
4. By drawing close to God: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8).
5. By believing what we see: "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake" (John 14:11).

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

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! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:13-17).

A careful study of the subject of faith leaves one without a single cause for unbelief. Rev. O. L. Yerty once said that anyone can have faith if he will apply himself to the wisdom of the Word of God through study. It is possible that every one of us will discover some lack or weakness in our faith before this message is concluded.

Although Paul complimented the church at Thessalonica for their faith, because "from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad" (1 Thessalonians 1:8), still he expressed his desire to see them and to perfect that which was still lacking in their faith (1 Thessalonians 3:10). That is my aim at this time.

RATIONAL FAITH

There is no such thing as blind faith. Faith considered from every viewpoint is rational and reasonable. Doubt is irrational! It is intelligent to trust God to do what He has promised in His Word, because we know Him to be holy, just, competent, reasonable, and fair. God could not expect His children to utilize their intelligence without His first making known His will. Accordingly, Paul admonished in Ephesians 5:17, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Yet, it is impossible to exercise perfect faith by praying "if it be Thy will." Nor is it scriptural. Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray in the Lord's prayer: ". . . for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:8-10). You first must perceive His will, and then ask that it be done.

Divine faith does not come naturally to anyone, but supernaturally. "For by grace are ye saved thru faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Faith is listed third in the category of the gifts of the Spirit. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:8-9). And above all, Christ is "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

Every need is supplied in Heaven: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). But this applies equally well to our needs on earth. The faith that brings this about is not a human trait or characteristic, so it cannot be acquired by human efforts. It is a gift of God. Covet earnestly this gift, and God will give it unto you. It will come by hearing and reading the Word of God.

Some time ago there was a lady in our congregation who was a registered nurse. She had had several gallstone attacks. It seemed that she would have faith for temporary relief, but not for permanent healing. Her doctor told her: "Mrs. Lark, unless you decide to have an operation the next time, don't call me because it is a hopeless situation. Now if you get another attack, call me and we will operate and eliminate all this suffering."

A short time later she had another severe attack. She said to her husband, who was crippled but able to walk: "I want you to go get either the doctor or Brother Hinkle. I'm either going to be operated on or God is going to heal me." So he left the house. It was three blocks to walk to a telephone to contact the doctor and nine blocks to our house.

As he stood on the corner praying, he said: "Lord, help me to believe. Help me to have the faith that I ought to have." All at once he felt that God would give him the faith he needed, so he walked to my place. I went immediately. On the way we picked up Brother Doty. When we arrived at his home, his wife was crying; she was suffering so intensely it seemed she was hardly able to breathe. We visited just a moment with her. I realized it was not necessary to read the Bible because her mind was not able to grasp it in her condition. Our faith reached up and took hold of the promise of God. We reached over, anointed her with oil, laid on hands, and prayed. God richly and wonderfully rewarded our little faith and healed her. The fact is she got up and went to the polls and voted that evening. Her healing was permanent this time. God healed her because faith was exercised and we believed God, not just for temporary relief but for permanent healing. God is so rich to all of us!

FAITH AND DIVINE LOVE

Faith is always accompanied by divine love. They are inseparable. Like Siamese twins, to destroy one is to destroy both. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6).

(Moffatt's translation: "faith active in love.") Love is the element without which faith will die like a fish taken out of water. Love is not only the atmosphere in which faith thrives, but it is the impelling force behind it. Love will always find a way, while faith removes all obstacles in the way.

Faith is also invariably accompanied by works. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). It is as impossible for faith to be exercised without works following as it is for a stone to be released in the air without it falling toward the earth. When we pray the prayer of faith, we must act upon it. We literally walk out on the promises of God. As the lepers walked away, they were cleansed: "And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed" (Luke 17:14). Faith, love, unity, and works all join hands in the power of triumphant Christian living.

FIGHTING FAITH

Faith is characterized by fighting unbelief. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). We are to fight the good fight of faith, not with carnal weapons, but with the power and might of our being, with every spiritual weapon we possess. Those who possess faith are steadfast in their determination. "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies" (Psalm 112:7-8). "They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever" (Psalm 125:1).

The sick man had stayed a long time waiting beside the pool before Jesus finally came and healed him. "For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:4-6).

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Colossians 1:23). Is there anything in life worth having that we do not have to fight for—love, money, self-respect, etc.? We all have to fight for salvation, sanctification, keeping grace, healing, prosperity, and to save the lost. But like Paul, we must stay grounded and settled in our faith.

How then shall we fight? We must fight with enthusiasm and determination, using our spiritual weapons—the Word and promises of God, truth and prayer. Completely surrender yourself into Jesus' hands and fight with God-given power. Fight calmly, not panicking, but confidently. This is the hope of the Gospel.

Some time ago one of our sons became ill. The doctor was called. He told us he had diphtheria. He gave each member of the family a shot and quarantined the home. That night the boy began to get worse. He could scarcely breathe. It was so hard and difficult. We prayed earnestly and held onto God for some time. It seemed we were getting nowhere. But Sister Hinkle would not give up. She stayed on her knees until late that night, into the morning. Around one o'clock she prayed through. The victory came. She had put up a fight. There was no retreating. She fought the power of Satan, and in fighting, God gave her the victory. Sometimes we have to fight the devil. He tries to hinder us from exercising faith. Believe in God and fight that good fight of faith.

VICTORIOUS FAITH

Faith is always characterized by victory. "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). "Our faith is the conquest which conquers the world" (Moffatt's translation). Faith is always manifested by praise in advance, in anticipation of certain victory. Faith always causes one to act as though his prayer is already answered.

One day I went to the pulpit and was just beginning to preach when the church door opened. A gentleman who lived about a block from the church stepped in and lifted up his hand. I asked what he wanted. He said: "Wife and I started to church, and you know how icy and slippery it is outside. She fell and was severely hurt. We finally got her into the house and called the doctor over who lives just across the alley. She has a broken arm and has broken a lower vertebrae in her back. We would like to have you come and pray for her."

I turned the service over to Brother Niedt and asked Brother Doty to go with me. The doctor walked out the back door as we came in the front. I asked the lady if she could believe God would heal her. She said: "I don't know. I'm pretty groggy at this time. They gave me a shot." The doctor had explained that this vertebra was broken, and they could not move her at this time. In the morning they would come and move her to the hospital.

As I began to pray and look to the Lord, Scripture after Scripture came to my mind. I quoted them and said, "My good sister, before you go to sleep I want you to agree with me that the Lord will heal you." I asked her good husband and Brother Doty to agree with me in faith. We laid hands on her and God miraculously healed her. The next morning she got up and took her arm out of the

sling and did her washing. The doctor was amazed and could not believe what had happened. This is the way God does things. He wants to heal His people.

A great thing happened after we returned to the church. We were rejoicing, and I will never forget what Brother Doty said. He said, "Brother Hinkle, I know you have recently gone through a terrific lot of hardships, grief and trials, and I had come to the conclusion that you must not be living right and that God was trying to straighten you out." (He was referring to various things. Our thirteen-month-old baby had died. Our daughter was struck by a car on her way to kindergarten, breaking her leg just below the hip socket. Herman was kicked by a colt, which caused internal bleeding, although the Lord healed him. He also ran a sticker the size of a wooden toothpick under his toenail that required the assistance of a doctor to remove. Glenn was pushed from a playground slide, resulting in a broken arm. He then jumped into a bin of sand a week after the cast was removed and broke it again in the same place. Billie almost choked to death from a piece of sucker candy that got caught in his throat, although through prayer God dislodged it and set him free.)

Brother Doty continued: "I saw something that helped me change my mind. This evening you went into this home with confidence and assurance, for you expected God to heal. I can see that the testing, trials, and heartaches you have gone through were preparatory to your being able to help others. I want to ask your forgiveness and the forgiveness of the church too." You know, this did something for the whole church. Faith, my friend, is something that gives us victory. Not only in our physical life but in our spiritual lives also.

Other notable characteristics of victorious faith are seen in the Bible where men were under testing:

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment" (Hebrews 11:30-36).

The characteristics of victorious faith are as follows:

1. **Anticipation:** The woman with the issue of blood said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:28).

2. **Importunity:** The widow continually pestered the unjust judge until she got her request.

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8).

3. **Tenacity:** The angel wrestled with Jacob. "And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed" (Genesis 32:26-28).

One evening I received a call concerning a young girl, thirteen or fourteen years of age, who had been in our congregation and who had just been seriously burned. They asked if I would come at once and have prayer. Brother Doty and I drove out. The burn was terrible. Her hands actually looked like burned bacon. We told them we would pray. She was in such pain she could not stand the sound of our praying. So we went to the barn and continued to pray. She got relief, but as soon as we stopped praying the pain would return; so we kept on praying. If we stopped to rest, they would come out and ask us to please pray again. This continued until six or seven in the morning. We finally prayed through and reached the throne of God. We believed and He healed.

We came out of the barn, washed, and were preparing to go home as their doctor drove in. He walked in. Seeing she was awake, he said, "How are you, young lady?" She answered, "Thank God, Jesus has healed me." He became angry, picked up his medical case and started to leave. He went out to his car. I met him there and said, "Now, Sir, why?" He said: "I don't believe in this kind of stuff at all. I don't want anything to do with it. I'll not come back until you are gone." He left; then we left. He came back within an hour and found she really had been touched by the healing power of God. He had not expected her to live, for he said, "She had been burned over two-thirds of the body, hands, and face."

But Jesus has a way of doing things in a manner we do not always understand. I have thought many times of the persistence and real tenacity with which we held onto the promise of God for this girl. This is necessary sometimes. We need to get a really vehement attitude toward sickness and affliction in our mind until we pray with confidence and assurance. We need to be vehement against the powers of hell and darkness. May God bless you and give you this tenacity and persistency to trust Him.

4. **Persistence:** The Syrophenician woman came to Jesus.

"And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour" (Matthew 15:22-28).

5. **Stoicism:** Stoical faith is seen when one is completely yielded, surrendered, and resigned to God. It does not take account of circumstances or the outcome whether it be of pleasure or pain. The three Hebrew children said: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:17-18). They would have rather trusted God and died than to have compromised with their consciences.

6. **Rest:** We who have believed do enter into rest. "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world" (Hebrews 4:2-3).

Faith is oblivious to doubt and discouragement! Faith is blind to impossibilities! Faith knows nothing but success. Faith lifts its hands up through threatening clouds and lays hold of Him who has all power in Heaven and on earth. Faith makes the up-look good, the outlook bright, the in-look a reality, and the future look glorious.

FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." We need to come to God with confidence, with boldness, fully assured, knowing healing is His will and that He wants to answer the prayers of His children and give them health, having "full assurance of faith."

Does it not give courage to know we can have full assurance of faith. What could be more precious? And it is for you, if you want it. You must believe, trust, love, and obey. For observe carefully, it is not the full assurance of an emotional experience, nor the full assurance of a carefully reasoned-out system of philosophy. It is the full assurance of faith!

Faith is taking God at His Word. This seems to be the real meaning of that wonderful definition given by inspiration in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance [confidence] of things hoped for, the evidence [realization] of things not seen." God tells us some things are beyond human wisdom or knowledge. Faith gives substance to our belief. It makes unseen things even more real than things that the eye beholds. It relies with unquestioning certainty upon what God has declared to be true. When there is this complete reliance upon the promise of God, the Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth (Word) so that the believer has the full assurance of faith.

In the summer of 1969 I was privileged to be a speaker at one of our camp meetings. A gentleman, one of our retired ministers, was there. He had asked his pastor to bring him from Missouri to Oklahoma for the meeting, stating that he had a vital need, and he knew God would answer prayer if he would come and be anointed. This man had been successfully operated on for two cataracts and was able to see quite well, but all at once a blood vein broke within his eye and blinded him. Therefore, he definitely expected something from God as he came to the camp meeting. That afternoon, not knowing the gentleman was there, I preached on the subject of divine healing. He came to the altar to be anointed and prayed for. As we were ready to pray, he told us the story of what had happened. We anointed him and prayed. We felt definitely, and so did he, that the Lord would heal him and graciously did our Lord answer prayer.

The next morning he tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Brother Hinkle, I want you to see I can read this now!" He had a songbook in his hand and read from it. He loved to sing, so in that morning service he sang a special for us to testify how God had touched him. About four months later, his pastor was telling me how the Lord completely healed him and that he was able to go about his work without any difficulty.

I want you to notice one thing: the full assurance of faith. He had full assurance that God would answer his prayer. He came there expecting something. If people would come with undoubting expectation in their hearts, they would have full assurance of faith, the confidence that God would hear and answer prayer. And as this man received, they would receive.

Faith is not, however, mere intellectual acceptance of certain facts. It involves trust and confidence in those facts. And this results in the work of faith. Faith in Christ is not therefore simply accrediting the historical statements revealed concerning our blessed Lord. It is to trust one's self wholly to Him in reliance upon His redemptive work—Jehovah RAPHA. To believe is to trust! To trust is to have faith! To have faith in Christ is to have full assurance of salvation and healing!

Because this is so, faith must have something tangible to lay hold on, some definite, worthwhile message to rest on. For instance, we are told four times in the Word, "The just shall live by faith." It is not simply that we live in a spirit of optimism, or in a faith or hope that everything will come out all right at last. Faith is not the Savior! Faith is the hand that lays hold of Him who does save and heal.

Some time ago I had one of my fine parishioners come to me with a very serious ailment. After instructing him in the Word of God and giving him the promise of the Word, we agreed in prayer for direction. Then we anointed him and laid on hands. As we prayed, God was so rich and kind to give us a witness of his healing. I do not know why, but I was prompted to tell him, "Sir, when you go home you'll likely feel worse till morning, but in the morning you will be completely well and healed." He left under those instructions, and sure enough this happened. The next morning he was completely healed and all right.

Some time after that he came and said: "Brother Hinkle, I have another affliction and am seriously in need of help. Would you agree in prayer for me?" We read the Bible and took the instructions from God's Word. I anointed him with oil and prayed the prayer of faith. We believed God had answered. Then he said: "Well, now Brother Hinkle, I'm sure I'll be all right in the morning. No doubt, I'll feel worse now, but I'll be healed in the morning." I replied: "This is no time to rely upon past experiences, Sir. You can't base your healing upon what happened yesterday or last year or last month. You have to base your healing on the promises of God. Do not look at past evidence or past experience, but look within the Word and put your faith on the Word. Then you will have full assurance of faith." Then he realized what he had done. We had prayer again, and the Lord healed him right then.

Do not base your whole future on what somebody else says. In other words, do not doctrinalize details of an experience, but just trust God and His Word and believe it.

When we are bidden to draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith, the meaning is that we are to rest implicitly on what God has revealed concerning His Son and His glorious work for our redemption. We can assure our hearts before God when we love in deed and in truth.

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 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" (1 John 3:17-22).

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6). "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). This is the full assurance of faith!

"For faith means we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, Moffatt). We are convinced of course, because God, who cannot lie, has spoken. The Apostle James said, "I will show you by my actions what faith is" (James 2:18, Moffatt). Faith is therefore being so convinced of the declarations of God, which are recorded in the Bible that we act on them. Faith receives the written promise of God as His direct message to us. His promises mean the same as if He appeared and said to us, "I have heard your prayer." The Word of God is made life to our bodies in exactly the same way that it is made life to our souls. Just try believing His promises!

HOW TO GET FAITH

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life [abundant] through his name" (John 20:31). John wrote his Gospel that men might believe. Believe! Believe! And keep on believing!

". . . as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things [promise of healing]! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:15-17).

Do you really want to know how to get faith? It is by getting acquainted with God. Jehovah says, "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace" (Job 22:21). You cannot find a man or woman who is well acquainted with God who has not great faith in Him.

The New Testament is the law of faith: "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 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" (Romans 10:4-8).

The written Word of God is the foundation of faith. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). Let us listen to the affirmations of another Apostle.

"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" (2 Peter 1:1-10).

It is by knowledge of God and His Son that the Holy Spirit can give unto us the faith that we need as, He is "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

FAITH IS THE ANSWER

Faith is the hope and answer to divine healing. Matthew 6:10 teaches that your healing is already accomplished as well as your

salvation and is waiting for your acceptance, but you must agree it is done in earth (your body) as it is in Heaven. In other words, it is already brought about, purchased, accomplished, and is in Heaven waiting for your agreement that it be done in you. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

Please do not try to understand God in all His magnitude, but by faith "believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek [and believe] him" (Hebrews 11:6). Do not try to bring God down to our level, to our limited sights and thinking, but grow up in Him so each of us might by faith understand His plan, will, and purpose, and by simple trust and faith accept Him and all His Word and promises. Healing is not necessarily scientific knowledge, nor is it always according to humanly understood laws and orders. Healing is a fact, a principle, and a privilege. And we must accept it by faith.

Considering the promises, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and the miracles of our age, is it not odd that there is such a lack of faith? Jesus questioned whether He would find faith when He came again, but we who believe should increase and develop that which we have, because faith is the gift of God, and Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

Let us here emphasize one fact: faith is the essence of agreement of our minds with the mind of Christ. It is the union of our hearts and wills with God's will and purpose. And where this unity is lacking, results are impossible. We have been woefully blind to this spiritual law, which is so important in our times.

JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME TODAY

Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages) (Hebrews 13:8, Amplified).

When God created mankind, He made provision for their spiritual and physical welfare. For their spiritual food, God walked and talked with them. For their physical food, He provided all kinds of fruits and vegetables. He placed a tree of life there in the Garden—a tree which was the healing balm.

When Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, they were cast out of the Garden of Eden; and consequently, they were not able to partake of the tree of life. So sickness came upon the human race as the result of sin and disobedience. This tree of life was a type of Christ, our life and healer. It was prophesied thus in Isaiah, and Christ fulfilled this prophesy in Matthew.

"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" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

"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).

FAITH OF YESTERDAY

Our text says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Let us look into the yesterday and read the healings of the Old Testament. The first healing took place when God operated on Adam and took out part of his rib to make Eve. The second was the opening of Sarah's womb so she could bear a son, Isaac. "And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed: and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and his seed after him" (Genesis 17:19). This promise and healing came as Abraham communed with God.

Abimelech and his house became afflicted because Abimelech took Sarah for his wife, but he was healed when he repented. "Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. . . . and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children" (Genesis 20:7 and 17).

Miriam's leprosy was healed because of obedience and prayer of Moses. "And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. . . . And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again" (Numbers 12:13 and 15).

Naaman also was healed of his leprosy through obedience. "Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean" (2 Kings 5:14).

Hezekiah was healed through his own prayer, and fifteen years were added unto his life. "Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee" (2 Kings 20:5).

Elijah raised the widow's son through prayer. "And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived" (1 Kings 17:21-22).

Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and the Lord hearkened to his cry, and the son of a Shunammite woman was healed, yea even raised from the dead. "Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes" (2 Kings 4:35).

Jeremiah cried out unto the Lord, "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise" (Jeremiah 17:14). Oh that everyone should cry unto the Lord likewise, because the Lord hath said, "I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). Yes, as David said: "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:1-3). Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, wrote, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth . . ." (Malachi 4:2).

HEALING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

We have studied the healings of the Old Testament, which was the yesterday of our promise. Now let us study the healings of the New Testament, which was the today of Paul's time. The first record of healing in the New Testament is in Matthew:

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all

manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them" (Matthew 4:23-24).

Christ sent His disciples forth to teach and preach His Word. "And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city. And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them" (Mark 6:7-13).

Christ sent seventy more to do likewise: "And into whatsoever city ye enter, . . . heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you" (Luke 10:8-9). Other ministers such as Stephen received the wonderful gift of healing. It was written of him: "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8).

Thus also Philip preached Christ unto the people and "the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:6-8). So we see that healing is in the message when we preach Christ.

It was said of Peter that as he walked down the street, people brought those who were sick and afflicted unto him that the shadow from him might fall upon them and they would be healed. Without question, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever; we are living in the "forever" time of the text. Healing is just as prevalent today, without question, as it was back in the apostolic time. Possibly even more so, for the simple reason that we find there are far, far more people practicing this wonderful gift. Now God has commissioned us to go forth to lay hands on the sick, and He said they would recover.

I look back over my own ministry for forty years of preaching. We have seen almost every kind of healing imaginable. We have seen blinded eyes opened, we have seen the deaf ear unstopped. We have seen those who were lame made to walk in a natural, normal way. We have seen cancer fade away and disappear. We have seen almost every kind of malignancy healed by the power of Christ. Now this is not of man. It is of God. The only thing is that God commissioned us to go preach the truth, to practice and be obedient to His Word, and to encourage others to have faith, to believe. If we obey, they will be healed.

A young boy, who was in our congregation for a long time as a child, on one occasion had croup. This croup developed into a very serious malady. They called the doctor who tried every way to help him but seemingly there was no hope for the boy. So the family earnestly prayed and sincerely trusted the Lord. However, for some reason, they could not get complete healing. This boy sank to the place where they did not even know if there was life in his body. They called in Rev. Jackson and Brother Doty to pray. The Lord seemingly touched the boy for a while.

Three days later they called me in and asked me if I would come and pray for him. I traveled the seventy miles to the place. As I went into the home, they were praying very earnestly. This boy was still in a very serious condition. Seemingly, he would get into the croup condition and just could not stop. He would just gasp for breath. He was unable to eat anything. We anointed the boy and prayed for him, and the Lord graciously healed him until he had no more trouble. All the doctor could say was, "Something happened; I do not know what." But I know what! The Lord answered the prayer of those who believed and stood on His promise.

Back to biblical examples, Ananias laid hands on Paul, and he was healed of blindness. "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized" (Acts 9:18). Paul himself was later instrumental in the healing of the impotent man at Lystra. "And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked" (Acts 14:8-10).

Paul on another occasion cast out the evil spirit of divination. "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour" (Acts 16:16-18).

Eutychus was raised to life by Paul. "And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted" (Acts 20:9-12).

When Paul was on the island of Melita, Publius' father was healed of bloody flux. ". . . others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed" (Acts 28:9).

Some years ago, when our boy Billy was a small child, he took pneumonia. He was in a very serious condition. The little fellow lay there with a burning fever and could hardly breathe. He suffered intensely. One evening we felt we just had to pray through. Our sixth child had just been born. Sister Hinkle was in bed praying for little Billy. I remember going over to the window and looking out at God's great handiwork. Somehow my heart was moved. I looked up praying, "I know, Lord, it's Your will to heal all people, and I'm submitting the child, myself, its mother, and all into your hands." As I looked up, I believed and knew that my Lord had answered prayer.

Just as I got to my feet, I heard cars driving into the yard and people quickly jumping out of them, running up to the house. On the door came a knock. The church had been down to the chapel praying. They had prayed through and, believing God had heard them, came rejoicing to our house. I invited them in. As I did, Sister Hinkle said she just prayed through. Little Billy sat up in bed and said, "Mommy, may I have a drink?"

God heals now. God touches us today. This is God's wonderful promise to the children of men. He said if you will pray, I will lift them up. This promise is for all of us to believe and receive.

We can all surely see in these cases that healing was exercised in the morning church and continues to be exercised yet today.

HEALING FOREVER

We have studied about that which makes up the healing of "yesterday" and "to day" of the text, but what about the "for ever"? If Christ is always the same, do you not think He would heal you just the same today as He did in the Old Testament and early New Testament times? The Bible was to be perpetual; likewise the church and its gifts are for all times and not for just one hundred years. Christ told His disciples: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. . . . And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; . . . and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:15, 17-18).

Matthew tells us of the promise Jesus made to all who will take the Gospel message to others: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). Mark stated that "they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:20). Divine gifts have been made perpetual in the church and among the gifts are the gift of healing and the gift of working of miracles. "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles" (1 Corinthians 12:9-10).

The logic of this fact of healing is indisputable; so long as God has a church, He will have in it divine gifts for the benefit of His people. Jude said, ". . . it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Thus, I beg of you to contend for this faith delivered unto the saints and be healed today.

James positively wrote: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith 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 5:13-16).

I would like to bring another incident to your attention. Sister Hinkle and I were privileged to go on a short vacation. I think we have had only three vacations in our ministry of forty years. But we left the boys at home. We felt that they were old enough to take care of themselves, since the older children were with them. While we were gone, Nelson, our next to the youngest boy, began to complain that his ankles, and especially his elbows, hurt. They thought possibly he had fallen and hurt them. He did not want to eat, and was in such pain he could not walk without help. Upon returning home we found him a very sick boy. We called a doctor who said, "Your boy has rheumatic fever." He said, "Without question this boy will have to stay in bed for at least two months, and possibly then he'll only have partial mobile powers." We thanked him for his information.

Sister Hinkle and I humbled our hearts before God and went to prayer. We prayed and believed that God would and did heal. A couple of days later, Nelson wanted to get out of bed. Sister Hinkle said, "No, you will have to stay in bed." He replied: "No, not if Jesus healed me. Why should I have to stay in bed?" She said, "All right, if you want to get up and walk on the promises of God, that is fine with us." And he did. You know, it was not but a few days until he was back in school. God had healed him. They had said he would never be able to take part in athletics again. But he was on the football and basketball teams in junior high, and he became an outstanding athlete in high school and college. He was never bothered with rheumatic fever again. The Lord healed him.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the Great Physician. So may God's richest and tenderest blessings rest upon every heart to believe and receive an answer to prayer.

GREATER WORKS

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; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:12-17).

Some say this chapter belongs between Chapters 16 and 17. If so, it means that here we have Jesus' final and perhaps most important instructions to His disciples just before His death on the Cross. If this were so, immediately following would be Chapter 17 containing His priestly prayer. The burden of both His instructions and prayer was (1) the unity and preservation of His disciples; (2) the reception of the Holy Spirit who was to endue them with power so that they might perpetuate the work He had begun; (3) the importance of keeping the faith. "He that believeth on me"—not just the preachers, but everyone was to keep believing so he might be saved.

HE WHO BELIEVES

In these six verses we have some of the most vital truths concerning the church found in the whole Bible. Yet, it is quite obvious that many in the church today are either ignorant of them or else willingly negligent of them. Any congregation or individual who will lay to heart the truth of this message can be set aflame for God. Let us review some great truths of this Scripture reading.

"He who believes in me" (Moffatt). The entire program of God for His church is God living and working in us the same life and works He lived and wrought through Christ. This is possible only by means of faith, as with Christ whose whole life and ministry was actuated by faith in the Heavenly Father. The condition for God-given faith is perfect obedience: "Keep my commandments!" The incentive is—"If ye love me."

Let us recognize the continuity of thought in these connected truths as an aid in grasping their full force and import: As loving, obedient children have faith in God and His Word, we become channels through which God works out His program for our own lives and the salvation of lost souls by the Holy Spirit.

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." Christ's means of accomplishing all this is by prayer. "Ask anything in my name," and His promise is "I will do it." To the one who lets God have absolute sway, Jesus then gives the glorious promise: "The works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do."

GREATER WORKS

After reviewing the main truths of our text, let us consider just one of them—"greater works." If it had not been for the early church's departure from her first love, resulting in the loss of faith and evangelistic zeal and the stagnation into orthodoxy, church history would be replete with spiritual growth, progress, and victories from which Pentecost would be a mere starting point. Instead of the church looking back to Pentecost for a criterion of success and power, she could instead have gloried in the continuous blessing of a spiritual state and victories far surpassing Pentecost.

Notwithstanding, since Pentecost God has sent outpourings of His Spirit upon His people at different places and on various occasions when the churches were ready for them. For example, consider the Welsh and Irish revivals and the Finny and Wesley revivals. Even the early church had greater success after Pentecost at which time 5,000 were converted when Peter took the lame man's healing as his text for a great sermon. "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand" (Acts 4:4).

Christ, speaking directly to the disciples, said, "Greater works shall ye do," but He also said, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26). His words are definitely directed to us today. Instead of being so lukewarm, we should be a greater spiritual force accomplishing more than at any time in the church's history. The ones to whom Christ spoke these words fulfilled them at Pentecost and continued to do so.

Some may doubt whether they did greater works than Christ, but let me give you some examples. There is no record of Christ converting 3,000 or 5,000 in a day. The very shadow of Peter healed the sick. They cast out demons and healed the sick through the application of handkerchiefs. God's judgments struck people dead, as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. There were many miracles of new birth, and the miracle-working Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands. The entire church was at work.

HOLY SPIRIT'S DISPENSATION

Pentecost is the reason for these greater works being done. The fact that we are living in the Holy Spirit's dispensation is the reason. The key word is "because"—"Because I go unto my Father. . . . he shall give you another Comforter . . . Even the spirit of Truth; . . . And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do" (John 14:12, 16, 17, 13). "The intercessory ministry of the Holy Ghost (the Spirit) assists in our weakness: for we do not know how to pray aright, but the Spirit pleads for us with sighs that are beyond word" (Romans 8:26, Moffatt). The Lord also has an intercessory ministry in our behalf. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Some time ago I received a letter from one of our friends. This person had been in our home and worked with us in the wonderful Gospel for many years but had gone back to her hometown. She wrote, asking me if I would go to the hospital and visit a friend of hers. This friend had been found in his cabin out in the sand hills. Being in a very serious condition physically, they had rushed him to the hospital in the town where I lived.

Upon reception of the letter, I immediately went to the hospital and talked with the doctor. He informed me that without question the man had lain in his cabin from five to seven days. Gangrene had set in. His appendix had ruptured, and he was in a very serious condition. He said that cleaning the man up and operating was hard enough, but afterwards a clot had settled in his leg. He was given one chance in ten thousand of getting out of the hospital alive. "But," he said, "go ahead and pray for him, Sir, if you want to."

I went to the room. Upon entering I found his sister and another woman already there. The other woman had been living with her husband half of the time and the other half with this man. You can see I was faced with a very unfavorable circumstance. The man was unconscious; his leg was up on high pillows, black as could be; death seemed very near. I looked upon this man with compassion and said to his sister, "Would you mind if I prayed for him and asked God to give him a chance to get saved and to get right with Him and be healed?" She said, "We would be happy to have you do it."

I knelt by his bed and anointed him with oil and prayed for him. I prayed, "Lord, here is a man that is living in sin without God, but I'm going to ask You to give him another chance and heal him." When I got through praying, I arose and said, "Friends, I'm committing him into God's hands because God knows what is best, and I will see you tomorrow morning at ten o'clock."

The next morning upon returning to the hospital, I myself was greatly astonished. The gentleman was sitting up in bed. His leg was off the pillow and all the swelling had gone down. The doctor said that the blood clot had passed. His improvement was something the doctor could not understand. He said, "Surely Somebody greater than I has been here."

I then said to the patient: "Now is your chance. God has given you one more chance to get right with Him. You had better take it." He replied: "Reverend, when I get out of this hospital, I'll be at your church. I'm going to give God my life."

Well, in five days he was out of the hospital. But do you know, he forgot God. He went back on everything he promised. You may say, "Then why did God heal him?" I answer that God gave him a chance, but He also gave me something. Jesus said, "Greater works than these shall ye do because I go to the Father," and I believe Him. I have looked back many times with confidence and said, "Lord, if You heard my prayers for somebody that was unsaved, how much more will You hear my prayers for somebody that is a real Christian?" God commissions us to go into His world and to preach His Gospel. He said, "Greater works than these shall you do, if you only believe." I believe Him. I hope you will too.

Christ is both our advocate and mediator. "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15). God is eager to give all that is contained in the new covenant. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). We do actually pray for God's glory.

When we meet the conditions as Christ did, we are of the class of which Isaiah spoke, "And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isaiah 64:7-8). Have we obeyed the Scripture in Ephesians: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:18-21)?

Are we zealous about our Father's business as was Christ? Do we have the anointing of God's Spirit upon our life and works as Jesus did? "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

John the Baptist was a zealous worker with the Spirit of God upon his life and works, and we have the privilege of becoming greater even than he in the Kingdom of God. "For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet

than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" (Luke 7:28). Indeed the promise is true—"Greater works than these shall ye do."

I was holding a revival meeting about 120 miles away from our home. One night about 9 or 10 o'clock, I awoke with a great impression upon my heart. I felt that I should go home immediately. Although the meeting was not finished, I felt I should go. So I got dressed, went out to the car and started home. I arrived at an early hour in the morning, possibly around four o'clock.

I inquired of Sister Hinkle: "What is wrong? The Lord awakened me and spoke to me that I should come home." She said the baby had fallen off the bed, causing his head to cave in on one side. The depression was about the size of the bowl of a spoon. When she picked him up, he looked like he was deathly sick. She prayed and Herman brightened right up and seemed to be perfectly normal after that. She was looking directly to the Lord for help. She did not call the doctor; she called on God, and God heard her prayer, awakened me, and showed me that something was wrong. I prayed at once and after arriving home, we agreed in prayer together, and God in His goodness answered so graciously. Our five-month-old baby was healed. It has never caused him any trouble at any time since then.

We visited throughout the morning. Sister Hinkle and the children accompanied me that afternoon back to finish the revival. And what a revival God gave us! We had a testimony of God's working power. Through the revelation of His love, He had strengthened us to do even greater works, even unto this day.

SIGNS FOLLOWING

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:31-33).

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 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 2:1-4).

Man has sought proof of the fact that the gifts of the church, such as healing and working of miracles, are a reality, and they have asked for signs and evidence of healing. But Jesus, through His Word, teaches that signs follow the Gospel message and the actual healing and miracles are brought about by faith. When Jesus was upon earth, many would not believe on Him. Therefore, He said, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake" (John 14:11). The need of the present generation is to be able to comprehend and visualize the plan and purpose and works of Christ as Peter declared: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22).

It is the works of Jesus, His miracles and wonders and signs, which continue to convince the people today, as they did in the early church. There is a need within the church today to manifest and produce these signs as Jesus did. Therefore, our lives must have the approval and sanction of the Holy Spirit, just as Christ had the approval and sanction of the Spirit of God upon His life. "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" (John 14:12).

Jesus did not say that He hoped we would do them, but that we would do them. "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 Peter and John were threatened for preaching Christ, we find them putting this Scripture into practice:

"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:24, 29-30).

By the hands of the Apostles many signs and wonders were wrought among the people. "Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (Acts 5:15-16). John, in writing about Christ's life, said, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

That we might believe, God is still doing miracles and inspiring the saints to testify to His healing power. The following is the written testimony of Dorothy Grimes:

"About four years ago, my optometrist found that I had glaucoma. My vision had been weakening so fast that he suspected something serious might be the cause. The test showed that I did have glaucoma, and that the pressure was unusually high. This was such shocking news to me that I asked for a second test, hoping there might have been a mistake. The second test proved glaucoma present; and my doctor referred me to a specialist. He said I must lose no time in beginning treatment.

"I was frightened, at first. However, the next day was Sunday, and we had precious, faith-inspiring services both morning and evening. I asked Brother Hinkle to anoint me and pray for my healing at the close of the evening service. God's presence was there, and I felt sure that God did heal me at that moment. From that time on, I considered the glaucoma gone, and didn't worry nor use any medication. I'm a teacher and I use my eyes a lot; yet they gave me no more trouble. Nearly a year later, I was tested again. The test showed no glaucoma present. I'll never cease to praise God for this miracle, which saved me from possible blindness."

Let us believe these signs of Jesus and of His disciples and realize they are perpetual in the church. Yet, in order for them to be perpetual in the church, we must believe in them and put to use those gifts God has given to His children. When Christ commissioned His disciples, He said, "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" (Mark 16:15-18). Certainly this was to be a perpetual Gospel, and if repentance is perpetual, so are all the signs. Praise God!

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:41-44).

Look at the work of Philip, the evangelist: "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (Acts 8:13). Look at Stephen and Paul and Barnabas. They also, were not of the twelve, but they believed and performed mighty miracles. "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8). Of Paul and Barnabas it is recorded: "Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands" (Acts 14:3). The Lord will grant the same unto us if we will get the same anointing as they had; the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Paul spoke of this experience when he said that the Gospel was preached to the Gentiles, "through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God" (Romans 15:19). In writing to the Corinthians, he said, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds" (2 Corinthians 12:12).

Signs truly followed Jesus' ministry and that of the Apostles, and they will follow today all who believe. Paul wrote of "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 2:4). Certainly, by this Scripture we see it is the will of God to work in and through His believing children; to perform signs and wonders. As God bore them witness, He will also bear us witness: this is His will. For Christ said that greater things than these shall you do. I urge you to be a witness to God's mighty power, but that cannot be done until the Spirit takes possession of you. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses" (Acts 1:8). I challenge you; wherever you go, whatever you do, and whatever you say, become living epistles, known and read of men.

*You are writing a Gospel
A chapter each day
By deeds that you do
By words that you say.*

*Men read what you write
Whether faultless or true
Say! What is the Gospel
According to you?
—Selected*

The church needs every gift to be manifested in her midst. I believe if we live close to Him, we will see signs, wonders, and miracles following our work. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1).

A young lady in our congregation had had some severe afflictions in the past. After moving to our town, she seemed to be healthy but soon began showing signs of having seizures. This grew upon her until sometimes she would have four or five and up to seven seizures a day. Her parents came to me and said, "Do you believe that God can heal someone of this type of affliction?" I answered: "Why not? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and is able to do all things. If He were here on earth and being filled with compassion as He was, if He had seen this young lady, He would have touched her and healed her." They said, "Well, will you come up to our home and have prayer?" I replied that I would be happy to. So we went to the home, visited and read Scriptures, and showed them the promises of God. We anointed her; laid hands upon her; prayed the prayer of faith, and the Lord Jesus Christ healed her. This happened at least two years ago, and as far as I know, this young lady has never had a seizure since. This is the way God does things. Signs follow those that believe. But we need to believe.

We were in a revival meeting. Brother Harrison Smith was our evangelist, and some people with whom we had been acquainted for some time came to our revival. They had driven about seventy miles. Since it was the Lord's Day, they came over for the whole day and were having an enjoyable, pleasant time. In the afternoon service, one of the group, a young lady (possibly sixteen or seventeen years old) and her sister, got up and left the service. I could tell that she was in extreme pain. I motioned for Sister Hinkle to follow them outside. She came back to the door and motioned to me to come out. We did not want to disrupt the service, but this young lady had examined herself and found out that the place where she had been operated on for appendicitis had returned. She was sick and suffering intensely. I asked Sister Hinkle and the other young lady to bring her into the church. I went in and got Brother Smith's attention and said: "There's a young lady here that is severely sick and suffering. Will you stop and have prayer? We anointed her and laying hands on her, prayed the prayer of faith. The Lord healed her. I never saw anyone so happy. She jumped and ran around and shouted. The mighty presence of God was there. There was a minister present who said that he did not believe in this kind of stuff; it just was not what he wanted. No, it may not have been what he wanted, but this young lady wanted it. The grace of God to heal her and make her well was what she wanted. God wants all of us to believe, and these signs will follow us if we will believe. We need to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONQUEST OF FEAR

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. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him (Psalm 34:1-8).

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).

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows (Matthew 10:31).

Away then with fear! We have searched for years to find the reason for most of the troubles people have, and the search has led to one definite conclusion. The culprit in people's lives is fear—fear, fear, and more fear. Their habits of negative thinking along with the suggestions of the devil have built up and magnified a host of horrors until many are afraid of their own shadows. Many times men, because of fear, will destroy everything around them, even the holy and good. Preachers destroy other preachers and saints destroy other saints because fear has become a driving force in their lives.

The conquest of fear is one of the sublime pursuits of life, and the prospect of defeating this agent of terror is fascinating to all who have the desire to overcome. Fortunately, it is never too late to overcome this enemy.

THE FEAR OF GOD

It has been said that the fear of God delivers from all other fears, but the odd fact is that many leaders and educators have taught people not to fear God. As a result of this teaching, we have a generation, which although remarkably free from the fear of God, seems to suffer from nearly every other kind of fear men have ever known. Few tremble at the thunders of judgment slumbering in a dust-covered Bible, but they fear the various political philosophies of our time.

They fear famine, unemployment, drought, pests, and intercontinental ballistic missiles. People who can scoff at what the preacher says still fear burglars, hold-up men, and robbers. They fear the loss of their jobs, poor business, and loss of investments. Many who are free from these fears are afraid of germs, infections, social ostracism, scandal, and family breakup. They are afflicted with all kinds of nervous diseases arising from hidden fears.

An older generation of godly believers did indeed feel the weight of the fear of God; but strange as it seems to us, however, they were thereby freed from a thousand of the phobias and fears tormenting a generation today which has no fear of God before its eyes. A "perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18).

THINGS WE FEAR

As we set forth the fears of mankind, it should cause us to see our need of Christ. I hope to be able to paint a vivid background against which to visualize our need of Christ's deliverance.

First, we fear things. It is useless to fear things, and yet we do it all the time. We are afraid of the darkness and germs and drafts and rain and cold and dust and lightning. Our lives are constantly full of a fear of things—physical things.

Second, we fear people. It has been said that "everybody is afraid of somebody, and most of us are afraid of 'many bodies'." We fear that they will hurt us professionally or personally. We fear that they will do something or say something to injure our reputations. We have certain specific human beings whom we call our enemies. These are people whom we particularly fear. We fear certain persons who have money and influence over us or those who are our business competitors or social rivals. Needless to say, this fear of things and people is decidedly harmful to the human soul.

Third, we fear insecurity. Insecurity is one of the most vicious of all fears. Yet, you encourage this fear to prey upon you as you worry about your job or where the family will get food, shelter, and clothing. Such thoughts as, "What if I lose my home?" or "What if I lose my wife and family?" are always troubling you. You may feel that people look down on you and your boss does not appreciate you—"In fact, he just bawled me out." On and on these thoughts keep coming. Doubt boils in your soul; fear nags at your mind always. You become nervous, sleepless, cranky, and self-centered. Why? Fear is the reason.

Fourth, we fear sickness and illness. Hardly anyone has perfect health, and everyone could improve his health. Accidents happen to the most careful; thus you fear what sickness could do to you. But millions of people bring on sickness by their fear of sickness. Many people actually fear themselves into sickness. They dread every known malady, some fearing they will get cancer until finally they do. They have their pet diseases that they expect and invite, yes encourage, because they fear these diseases. They fear an hereditary disease, living in constant dread of it, and many times saying they will get it. Indeed fear is the culprit.

Fifth, we fear loneliness. In the midst of many, one may know fear of loneliness—even in the crowd, loneliness follows us. This fear gets hold of people who have never learned to take an interest in others, and realizing their innate selfishness, they anticipate being rejected. Experience has proven them right, so as they get older, they fold up within themselves, and by doing so greater fear comes upon them. People try to escape this loneliness by making money, pursuing pleasures, and indulging in sin to a greater degree; yet they are lonely and fear nags and torments them.

Sixth, we fear old age and death. In old age we fear we will be left without friends or family or means of support. We fear the family will not want us, and we will have to go to a nursing home. We fear approaching death that will end our lives. One writer recently said that as we grow older we become more vulnerable to the fear of death, and the more children we have, the more vulnerable we are. Each child adds an additional fear of death. We are not always afraid of death for ourselves, but we fear it for those we love. Fear like this is a subtle thing; it gets to all of us at times.

And lastly, we fear nations and groups of people. Every nation fears some other nation. Every race fears some other race or races. Every nation has within its boundaries groups that fear each other: capitalists who fear labor; owners who fear renters; whites who fear blacks and vice versa; students who fear teachers; parents who fear children; classes who fear each other. This is deadly to the human culture and spiritual living. We could go on and on, naming fears. People fear for their neighbors, their friends, the church and its doctrines, its colleges, and seminaries. But to what end all this waste of vital energies? I say away with fear because fear torments and destroys faith, confidence, friendships, salvation, joy, peace, and health. I had a gentleman in my congregation for many years who thought he was going to die every time he became ill. If he had stomach trouble, he feared a cancerous condition of the stomach. One day, he actually became seriously ill. They took him to the hospital. He said, "Doc, do you think that I will die of cancer?" The doctor said, "Well, sir, you might die of canceritis, but you'll not die of cancer that I know of." This man feared sicknesses, and he feared himself into sickness. Continually fearful of what might be, always so afraid, a hypochondriac we call it: one who imagines he is sick or afflicted or dying. This is the type of fear.

Now the only way to overcome this is to put yourself in the hands of God, because this kind of person is not only hurting himself but everybody around him. You are destroying that which is whole and upright, because you are destroying your peace of mind and heart. Away with fear. There is always a reason why fear dominates and controls the heart. The person feels that by faking a disease, he can get attention from people. And fear, of course, is the culprit. Many fear they are not accepted. They fear that they cannot fill their place in life, and this fear is a driving force for the destroying of their very lives. Then away with fear. Away with this thing. Let Jesus Christ give you complete healing. He will make you a mighty power and force in His kingdom.

CONQUER FEAR

The Gospel says away then with fear; destroy fear or it will destroy you. First, we may conquer fear through the general process of growth. As a child grows up, he will lose a fear of the dark. As one grows up spiritually, he will lose a fear of many things that hurt and harm the soul. You have power over fear; therefore, you can say, "Away then with fear." The Bible teaches that everything is to grow upward and Godward. His plans are not to be easily thwarted by such tiny things as those we ordinarily fear. Man is God's pet of all His creation, and God is with us forever. "If God be for us, who [or what] can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Development in spiritual things gives knowledge and power so we can say, "Away then with fear!"

Second, we may conquer fear through a consciousness of God and His revelation in the world. Look about you and see God and His handiwork in the flowers, the trees, the mountains, and the sea; in winter and summer, in rain and snow, in orchard and field; in brook, rain, waterfall, and ocean; in clouds and sky and stars—in solar and stellar universe—yes, in all God's creation! What place has fear of the puny things that we usually fear in the face of God's revelation of Himself through nature, through men, through the Bible, and through Jesus Christ our Lord? None! Away with fear!

Third, we may do away with fear through the consciousness that we are necessary to God. We are co-workers with God; we are His partners; He needs us as much as we need Him. To me this is the most thrilling of all thoughts! Think it through. Analyze it and pray about it. Then away with fear, for our trust is in God! A little girl was practicing her piano lesson in a hotel lobby, and it caused considerable consternation. Then a little old man came and sat beside her and played too. A master hand was now playing with her and what a difference it made! We, too, have the Master Hand playing with us, so why be afraid?

Fourth, we may do away with fear by faith in the knowledge of the Word of God. The Psalmist said, "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). Jesus said that He would be with us always. Where can we hide from God, for He is always there? The only way we can hide from God is through disbelief. Hebrews 11:6 says that we "must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." All the way through the Bible, from its beginning to the end, it says to fear not—fear not little children; "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

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