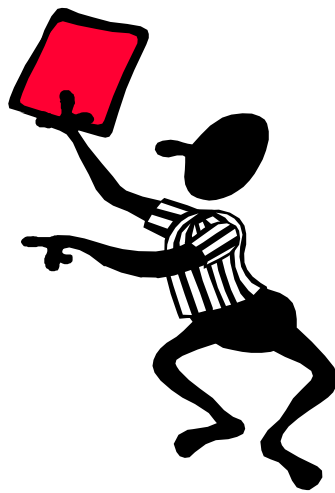


It's time to give



ALL-HEALTH

The Red Card!

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Introduction

The purpose of this wee publication is to share with you a truth that may shock and amaze you. It may indeed even mess up your whole lifetime's theology. Are you sitting comfortably? Here it is! ...

God Wants You Well! God wants you to enjoy good health!

That may surprise some people, especially if you were brought up to believe that everything that happens to you must be God's will. You get run over by a bus ... it must be God's will. The doctor tells you that you've got three days to live ... it must be God's will.

I was once at a football match, many years ago, when there was a bit of local difficulty between the rival supporters and – as often happened in those days of yore – beer cans rained down upon us.

I suggested we moved, pronto, only to be told : “No point worrying, son, if your name's on it, you'll cop it”. This didn't bless an old worthy beside me, who, with a few exotic expletives, pointed out that his name was McEwan! [*For teetotallers : that's the name of a brewery!*]

This peculiarly Scottish fatalism : “if your name's on it, you'll cop it ; what's for you won't go past you” : routine is disturbingly common, even among church folk. However, it is a sure formula for failure, for unnecessary suffering, for premature death. It has to go!

Some people go overboard and chuck a mangled bit of scripture into the sorry mix. You fall and break your leg, you lose your job, your washing machine breaks down and floods the floor, one of your kids totals the car, your cat drowns in the fish tank ... but, of course, as the Bible says, *all things work together for good*.

What a load of religious rubbish that is! It's dangerous to take a dodgy translation of half of Romans 8.28 out of context and build a whole belief out of it. It's like the guy who got into bother, didn't know what to do, opened his Bible at random, shut his eyes, and stuck a pin in the page. He opened his eyes to see that he'd found : *And Judas went and hanged himself* [Matthew 27.5]. Oops! Try again. This time he found : *Go and do thou likewise* [Luke 10.37]!

This booklet aims to show you from the Word of God that Father God is totally committed to the wellbeing of his children in every way – and that, through what Jesus did on the cross, he has put in place everything that’s necessary to allow YOU to walk in victory and give disease the red card!

Why do bad things happen to good people?

How often do we hear – or even ask – this question, especially if someone dear to us is struck by a life-threatening illness. It seems so unfair. Where is God in all this? Why does he allow that precious person to suffer? Our faith takes a battering, or even disappears altogether. Whether we would dare to say such an awful thing out loud, inwardly we blame God for the situation.

Yet this could not be further from the truth. Yes, there is too much disease and suffering around, but I can categorically assure you it’s NEVER God’s will. So how did it get there?

One way or another, it’s a consequence of the fall of the human race. Whether you take the Adam & Eve narrative as pure literal history, or as brilliant parable, and that’s not a debate I’m going to waste any time on, the message is the same, and it’s crystal-clear.

The story in Genesis 2 & 3, as you know, tells how God gave Adam and Eve complete freedom to enjoy the beauty of His creation, to prosper in it and take care of it, but to do so under the protective umbrella of His instruction. *Just don’t touch that one tree there*, God urged them, *that’s the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*.

That’s too much information for you guys. That will blow your head away. That much knowledge will kill you. Leave that to me, said the Lord. But no! What is it about us humans that when we’re told not to do something, it just whets our appetite to do that very thing?

Don’t touch that quiche, says Alexis, *it’s for the work*. Now I don’t even *like* quiche, but I end up eyeing it from ten different angles, saliva trickling down my chin as I anticipate sinking my teeth into it. Why? Precisely because I can’t have it! Fallen human nature!

Genesis tells how Eve chose to listen to a talking snake rather than to God, which was pretty stupid, and then Adam compounded the felony by choosing to listen to his wife rather than to God, and that, in the circumstances [sorry, ladies] was pretty stupid too!

Please take careful note. The fall of man was NOT essentially about one piece of fruit. The fall of man was over a rebellious attitude to God, a refusal to submit to and respect the authority of the Creator over His creation. Nothing changes. Our biggest problem today is still God's children refusing to obey Our Father – and disease came in the package deal along with sin. Essentially, we voted for it.

Every difficulty facing mankind now stems, one way or another, from that original sin, and a twist in the tale is that it's not always the bad guys that suffer. *Hey, you complain, that's not fair!* True, but then again, the devil is never fair, and he brokered the deal.

To explain this to the school-children, I tell the following tale of woe. One morning, a woman got out the wrong side of bed and, without warning, blasted her husband for leaving his socks on the bathroom floor. He stormed off in a huff, jumped into his car, roared off up the road like Lewis Hamilton, was so upset that he forgot the *Give Way* sign, and smacked straight into the side of a brand-new BMW.

The BMW driver went ballistic, ranting and raving, before calling a taxi to work where he was late for an important meeting. In his rage he blasted his secretary for not having his *café latte* on his desk waiting for him. She stormed out in floods of tears, only to bump into the photocopier repair man, so she let him have it, both barrels, because the lousy machine wasn't working. That put him in a tizzy!

He downed tools and took an early lunch, or would have done if the bakers' shop across the road had any pies left, which they hadn't. So he bawled at the lady behind the counter, who promptly flounced out of the shop and headed for the bus stop.

The bus was five minutes late, so the driver got an earful from the bakery assistant. That set him in a crusty mood, just in time for the school run! As the kids got on, he growled dire warnings what would happen if anyone *dared* make a noise.

Inevitably, the ensuing nervous silence was punctuated, in the middle of nowhere, by a particularly irritating cell-phone ring-tone. The driver stepped hard on the brakes and ordered the girl who owned the phone to get off and walk. By now it was bucketing with rain, and she got soaked to the skin walking the two miles home.

Not ideal preparation for going out with her boyfriend that night ... which was bad news for her wee brother, who was illicitly using his sister's computer when she squelched in the door.

She promptly thumped him one. He ran away and drop-kicked the family dog, which yelped in pained surprise. [At this point the kids at school usually get quite indignant!] Here's my question. What had the dog done wrong to deserve that? Yes, it's a fallen world.

And that's the bad news. But the good news is that God loved the world so much that he sent his Son to save the world, to remove the curse [Galatians 3.13] of human disobedience – which, we see in Deuteronomy 28, includes illness. Jesus came to destroy ALL the works of the devil [1 John 3.8] – and set God's people free.

God Wants You Well!

The good news is that God wants you well, and the Bible proves it. For God to inflict disease, or stand idly by, twiddling his thumbs and sipping his Starbucks, while we suffer disease, would run totally counter to what the Bible teaches about His character.

In the Old Testament, right after delivering Israel from their slavery in Egypt, God says [Exodus 15.26] : *I am the Lord who heals you*. I'm no Hebrew scholar, but I believe a better translation of this is : *I am your Lord-Healer*. What a tremendous revelation! Healing isn't just what God does, it's who God is. It's central to his very being.

John, the beloved disciple, therefore a man who knew the mind of Jesus inside out, writes to the church : *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and that your body may keep well, even as I know your soul keeps well and prospers*. [3 John 2].

But the real clincher comes from Jesus Himself in the Amplified Bible reading of John 10.10 : *The thief – that is, the devil – comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came, said Jesus, that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows.* Now, think about this.

Do you agree that disease steals and destroys your quality of life, and if it's not dealt with, can even kill you? Yes? So who must be behind it then? You're right, it's the devil!

And do you agree that good health helps you to enjoy your life and enables you to minister and witness to others? Yes? So surely we can say that Jesus is on the side of health and healing?

If we're still not sure, look at the evidence of his life and ministry. Throughout the gospels we find Jesus perform one healing miracle after another as a sign of who he was, and what he intended to do – destroy all the works of the devil [1 John 3.8].

Those works of the devil include disease. Acts 10.38 teaches that *Jesus went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed by the devil.* Disease comes from the devil, healing from the Lord. There is no other honest conclusion you can draw from the Bible.

God is the one who wants us well, so that we can do the things he has called us to do. The devil wants to make us ill – disabled, discouraged, too caught up in our own misery to be of use to anyone else. What we need to do is to receive and welcome that revelation of the Word that God not only wants to heal us, but has already provided for our healing. It's all bought and paid for.

The question we need to start asking is not : *Why do bad things happen to good people?* It's this : *Why do bad things happen to people when Jesus the Son of God has already paid the full price to set them free from bad things?*

This is the crucial issue that we now turn to and examine in detail. Please take time to read and re-read the next section and the Bible verses it refers to. These few pages could change your life!

Your Healing : Already Bought and Paid in Full!

One of the greatest passages in all of scripture is Isaiah 53, where the prophet catches a glimpse, 600 years ahead of time, of the coming Messiah and his salvation, but if we're not careful we can miss some of the life-changing power of that chapter. We think of salvation in too narrow a way – a transfer deal that takes effect when we die, a get-out-of-hell-free card. It's much more than that.

The old Hebrew idea of salvation, *shalom*, encompasses every aspect of God's blessing – good health, good relationships, material prosperity, the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. These blessings are all part of the salvation package that many of us have never got round to unwrapping and enjoying here and now. It's time we did!

Bruce Wilkinson, author of the famous book on the Prayer of Jabez, tells of an ordinary rank-and-file churchman. In our paraphrase of this story we'll call him Jimmy MacTavish. In due time, Jimmy died and went upstairs. On his introductory tour of heaven with St Peter, Jimmy was impressed by the beautiful architecture of the Father's house and the lovely gardens and fountains in the grounds.

Jimmy then noticed a building that looked rather out of place. It was for all the world like a massive warehouse, standing in a corner, almost but not quite hidden behind some mature trees. So Jimmy asked Peter what that building was for. Peter looked a bit embarrassed. *Oh, don't bother about that place, there's nothing there that'll be of much interest to you.*

Jimmy, the archetypal Scot, was not so easily dissuaded, and eventually badgered Peter to take him to see this mysterious building. And it was precisely what it appeared to be – a huge warehouse. *What's in there?* : Jimmy enquired.

By now a bit flustered, Peter replied : *Never mind about that, come on, there's lot's more to see.* Jimmy stood his ground, so Peter sighed and took him inside. There were thousands upon thousands of shelves, stacked high with boxes of various shapes and sizes, all neatly wrapped. *What's all this about?* : asked Jimmy, bemused.

Through clenched teeth, Peter explained that this was the repository of unclaimed blessings ; good things that God wanted to pour out on his people, but that his people had never bothered to ask for, and so had not received.

By now, Peter was talking to himself. Jimmy had shot off as fast as his new legs could carry him to the section marked *Mac*, and had by now discovered the disappointing truth that there were a huge pile of unopened boxes of blessing, with his name on them, sent with love from Father God, but never, ever received.

Like so many others, Jimmy had never truly believed that God was interested in him as an individual, had never understood that the Father takes such great delight in pouring out love-gifts on his children. Like so many others, Jimmy's faith in God was basically a fire-insurance policy against the day when he ran out of earthly breath, with no concept of the opportunities for a living, loving relationship with the Lord in life before death, as well as after it.

What a tragic waste! Let's go to that warehouse, march boldly and gladly up to the shelf where our parcels are, and receive all that Jesus died to give us! Which, the Word teaches, includes healing!

Isaiah 53.5 says : He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

These thoughts are carried forward into the New Testament. Matthew 8.17 relates : *Jesus drove out the evil spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. He did this to make what the prophet Isaiah had said come true – He himself took our sickness and carried away our diseases.*

But even more amazing is 1 Peter 2.24 : *Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed.*

I don't want to give you an English grammar lesson – sounds of snoring heard all around the land – but did you notice that Peter wrote that verse in the perfect tense? *It is by his wounds that you have been healed.* Stay with me – this is vitally important.

At what point in history is the healing power of Jesus released? Answer – at Easter! Through the cross and resurrection, it's done and dusted, bought and paid for.

This means that when we approach Jesus for healing, we're not shooting in the dark and begging for something new and revolutionary. We're only asking for our spiritual birthright as sons and daughters of God by grace.

Just as Easter made forgiveness freely available for all human sin, past, present and future, to anyone who will just receive it in faith, so it is with healing. That's not some nutty idea I've dreamt up, it's right there, in the Book!

There is no need to waste time asking silly questions as to whether or not it's God's will to heal us. The Bible tells us not only that it is his will, but that it is his *accomplished* will through the death and resurrection of Jesus. *By his wounds you HAVE BEEN healed.*

Please do not insult or demean what Jesus went through for you by questioning whether it is his will for you to enjoy the fruit of his sacrifice. The Word gives you the answer. What we need to do is to stop doubting and faffing about, and just believe from the heart.

In the letter of James, good old shoot-from-the-hip James, we read that we are to believe and not doubt, for the person who can't make up his mind will never stay in one place long enough for the blessing of God to touch him.

I'd like you to say out loud : *I believe that Jesus died for me and that by his wounds I have been healed.* Don't worry if the healing takes a bit of time to work through into your body.

Sometimes it's instant, but much more often it's a process. Especially if we're new to healing, we may need to hold on, for a few hours or a few days, in faith and patience. Don't let the time lag put you off – the healing power of Jesus has been "posted" from heaven and will be through the letterbox of your life very soon!

Isn't salvation more important than healing?

Absolutely! The foundation-stone of all our faith, all our hope, is that Jesus paid the price for all sin, for all people, for all time, thus bringing forgiveness and transferring us eternally from Satan's kingdom of darkness and death to God's kingdom of light and life.

Without that glorious truth, we would be sunk without trace, and our physical wellbeing here and now would be neither here nor there. It would be a huge mistake for anyone to hope to receive a healing without wanting above and beyond that to receive the Healer.

It is true that 200 years from now, it will not matter 2p whether or not you ever received healing for your physical disease, but it will matter immensely and eternally whether or not you received healing for spiritual disease. *But who says you have to choose?*

Who says you can't have healing now as a free gift of love in the present from the God who saves you for eternity?

Alexis and I used to go to a Chinese restaurant whose speciality was a buffet lunch. You could eat as much as you liked – starters, main courses, desserts, going up for just as many refills as you could cram down your throat. [Can you see why we liked it?!]

I suppose you *could* just go up and take *one* single plateful of *one* main course, but what a wasted opportunity that would be when all the other goodies were included in the price. How much more so if someone else had already paid that price in full for you!

That's how it is with the atonement of Jesus. Healing, in the Bible, is an integral part of the feast of salvation, bought and paid for by the blood of Christ and freely offered to each and every one of us, by grace, through faith in Jesus.

Indeed, both the Hebrew and the Greek words translated into English in our Bible as salvation carry the notion of wholeness, completeness, restoration to original mint condition. The full impact of salvation has, literally, been lost in translation!

The truth is that, when Jesus went to the cross, he not only took all our wrong deeds and wrong words and wrong thoughts to be forgiven, he also took all our cancers, all our diabetes, all our high blood pressure, all our arthritis, to be healed. Jesus did this at a single historical moment, 2,000 years ago.

The radical thing about the atonement is that is complete in itself. As we said earlier, the moment when our sins were forgiven was not the moment when we recognised them, but at Easter.

The price for all our sin was paid in full 2,000 years ago – that is, 2,000 years before we got the chance to commit them! Receiving forgiveness isn't something we have to beg and plead with God for. Being saved isn't like trying to shove a fully-laden double-deck bus up a steep hill. If truth be told, it's something God is far more ready to give us than most of us, most of the time, are to receive it!

The same is true of the healing of our diseases. We don't have to jump through hoops and work up a frenzy to twist God's arm to release a bit of magic healing power. All we need to do is believe God's Word. Psalm 107.20 says : *God sends his Word to heal us.*

What the Bible teaches – and you will find in this wee book a whole collection of scriptures to this effect – is that, just as Jesus suffered at Easter to forgive all our sins, so too his suffering has purchased healing for all our diseases. Now let's stop right there for a moment.

If that sticks in your throat, if you can't bring yourself to believe God loves you so much that he sent His Son to forgive your every sin and heal your every disease, and this is a historically accomplished reality, what you're effectively doing is refusing an important part of the salvation freely offered by God in Jesus.

You'd be setting yourself against the clear teaching of scripture, against the revealed will of God for your life. What an insult to the Saviour who suffered so much for you! Trust me when I tell you that you do not want to be in that position, where God has already freely provided everything you need to enjoy life in abundance, to the full, till it overflows, as a gift by grace, but pride or prejudice stops you from receiving it, as the Bible tells you, in faith, just like a little child.

My wife tells of the time when our son was quite young and had an outbreak of warts. She asked if he believed Jesus could heal him, he said yes, went to bed quite happy – and, in the morning, not a wart to be seen! Child-like faith, without unbelief, gets the job done!

If you do not accept the message you're reading here, I'm sorry to be so blunt, it's not the message that's wrong! If our thinking is out of line with the Word of God, it's not God who'll have to adapt his Word to fit our opinions, it's us who will miss out on the blessings that are promised to believers, including a life of good health.

How to Receive your Healing

Now that we've established the principle that God's settled will is for us to live in good health, and that the atonement of Jesus Christ has fully provided for that healing, the big question is – how do we get access to what God in Christ has already done?

This is where the rubber of our faith in Jesus, and all that he has done for us, hits the road of our circumstances ; where the eternal TRUTH of God's promises confronts the temporary FACT of that physical ailment that has come our way.

The key is to remember WHO we are – children of God, redeemed by the blood of Christ ; and WHAT we are – more than conquerors through Him who saved us [Romans 8.37]. How different from the old Presbyterian image of Christians as miserable sinners, putty in the hands of an angry God, dangling by a fingernail over the abyss. Rubbish! We are God's family! Our pictures are on his fridge door!!!

God is delighted when His children, by FAITH in His WORD, receive the POWER of His LOVE, to change the FACTS so that they line up with His TRUTH!

You Got the Power!

In Ephesians 1, Paul gives us a heavy-duty industrial sized clue to the source of our power and authority to receive healing :

May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

Did you catch the punch-line there? The power for us who believe is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead! That power comes to those who put their faith in what God has done in Christ!

Is that us? Yes!!! And so, we have power and authority to give illness and its author, the devil, the proverbial red card. As we see in James 4.7 : *Submit to God [and to his Word], resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* As born-again believers, we enjoy power and authority delegated by God to deal with disease. Let's use it.

Prepare for Battle!

It all sounds so simple, but it will be a battle. The devil will not just lie down, roll over and scuttle away, with his forked tail between his legs and his germs back in his briefcase. We need to be ready to fight for our spiritual birthright, and the primary weapon is what Paul calls in Ephesians 6 the "Sword of the Spirit" – the Word of God.

In the scriptures – and a number of valuable texts are listed in this wee book – we find the promises of God, which are for *all* believers. But we also need perseverance and determination to receive what God has promised. It's one thing to say, when we're feeling on top of the world, that we trust God's healing power in Christ.

It's quite another to wake up in the morning feeling like a discarded fish supper and, in that situation, sit by ourselves, with a Bible, and actually put our trust in the authority of that Word that we *have* been healed, when every part of our body is screaming the reverse.

It is true that, as we go on and mature in our walk with the Lord, we'll become more and more able to do that, and deal with disease at the first signs. But in the beginning, when it's all new to us, the devil will do his worst to try to steal away the promises.

We read the words and believe we're healed, but the devil will ratchet up the symptoms of the headache, the backache, whatever it is, trying to bully us into thinking – all this healing stuff, all this word of faith, might work for everyone else, but it's not working for me. And after a couple of hours, a couple of days, we give up, disillusioned, and reach for the paracetamol.

The battle for healing, as for everything else, is fought in our minds. Listen – we've got years and years of unbelief to counteract. Let's at least give the Lord a bit of time to plant seeds of His Word in our hearts so that they can bear fruit. How can we do this?

I suggest that we invest time *now*, while we're healthy, getting to know some of these healing scriptures off by heart, so that at the first sign of trouble, wherever we are, at work, in the car, whether there's a Bible handy or not, we can call upon the authority of the Word we have committed to memory and so planted in our heart.

Don't get Hung by your Tongue!

A very important weapon in the battle against disease is the power of positive confession – that is, watching what we say!

In Proverbs 18.21 we read that : *death and life are in the power of the tongue*. It has now, apparently, been scientifically proved that the words we speak exercise a real influence over the way our life turns out! Now there's a surprise! The Bible has taught that forever!

It's not hard to see how this works. If we spend two minutes reading 1 Peter 2.24 : *by his wounds we have been healed*, but the next hour-and-a-half on the phone bleating about how lousy we feel, giving all and sundry a sneeze-by-sneeze account of the onset of our symptoms, which one are we empowering – illness or healing?

Romans 10.10 : *It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved* - which could also be translated *healed*. If you want to be ill, think ill, talk ill, act ill. If you want to be healed, think healed, talk healed, act healed. Some people may write that off as just name-it claim-it holy psychobabble. Whatever. On your own head be it.

If you're in a battle for your health, you're much more likely to win if you keep your mind, and your mouth, busy with healing scriptures, rather than negative thoughts and conversations. If flu starts to bite, forget the soap operas and the quiz shows – daytime TV would sap the will to live at the best of times! – and get into your Bible.

Don't get suckered into all the coffee-break prophecies of doom about the next nasty virus due to arrive in your office in precisely three minutes' time! Don't get into conversations comparing aches and pains, like so many kids with Pokemon cards, and arguing whether it's bird flu or bubonic plague that you're about to catch!

Remember what the Bible says about the power of your words, for life or death! Instead of parroting all the negative stuff, read your healing verses out loud, and keep doing it until you've heard them so often you're convinced – and your body will finally take the hint!!

The Power of Agreement

One important area where we can minister to one another as the church, as the fellowship of believers, is the power of agreement.

In Matthew 18.19 we read the words of Jesus : *if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven*. In effect, Jesus promises that if just two people can believe, and agree, on something that is in keeping with his will and purpose for you – which, as we have seen, absolutely includes healing your body, he'll back you all the way.

Husbands and wives, parents and children, if we accept the Bible teaching about what Jesus has done for us, we should be routinely standing in this God-given authority to overcome Satan's attacks.

If all who believe the Biblical message about healing would stand together in that power of agreement in Jesus' name, to release his gift of healing, to command diseases to depart from our midst, and to speak restoration of full health and repair of any damage done – all of which we, as blood-bought children of the Most High God, are perfectly entitled to do – can you imagine how this release of the awesome love of Jesus would transform our community for good?

And remember – the devil will try to make the power of agreement work in reverse too. Remember to stay away from the merchants of misery who delight in regaling you with lurid tales of what epidemics are going to wreak havoc this winter, and how that niggly itch in your skin is the forerunner of a deadly and agonising new illness which will cause bits of you to turn green and fall off before teatime!

When Jesus was called upon to raise the daughter of Jairus from the dead – now that's healing with attitude! – we see [Mark 5.40] that he insisted on kicking out all the dismal jimmies before he even tried to bring the wee girl back to life. It's best to body-swerve those who would "agree" in the devil's purpose to steal, kill and destroy, rather than God's purpose to heal, restore, deliver and prosper!

Move Those Mountains!

Kenneth Copeland famously says : *don't talk to God about your problem, talk to your problem about God.* What does that mean?

In Mark 11.22-23, Jesus says : *Have faith in God constantly. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain – be lifted up and thrown in the sea! – and does not doubt at all in his heart, but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.*

This is not an invitation to order Ruberslaw to take a bath in the Solway Firth, but an encouragement to walk in the authority God has given you. If a runny nose, a scratchy throat, a throbbing head start to assail you, remember that you have the authority of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit within you, to command those symptoms to stop and that cold to go, and never come back, in the name of Jesus, by whose wounds you have been healed.

Remember this – when God gives you and me authority, he expects us to use it! There’s no point praying 16 hours a day to God for Him to intervene in your life and heal you, when already He’s done all He can possibly do by allowing His Son to carry your diseases so that by His wounds your healing is already bought and paid for.

YOU have the power! YOU – if you are a Christ-follower, that is – enjoy the power and authority that Jesus cascaded on to the church at Pentecost. Ephesians states that YOU have within you the same power that Father God used to raise Jesus from the dead.

Anyone agree that winter bugs, sore backs and piles are no match for the raising-from-the-dead power of Jesus? Then why not USE your authority, and in the Name of Jesus, claiming the wonderful promise of Mark 11, boldly COMMAND these unwanted invaders to get out of your life and NEVER return. Every illness has a name – but Jesus is the Name above all names. All must bow before Him!

Then remember to complete the job as you thank the Lord for the gift of good health, according to His purpose in 3 John 2, from the top of your head to the soles of your feet, and re-dedicate in humble grateful service your now-healed body to Him as the temple of the Holy Spirit that the Bible says it is [1 Corinthians 6.19].

Being Healthy is better than being Healed

Don’t forget that it’s always easier to hang on to what you have than to fight to regain something that’s got away from you. It’s easier to stay healthy than it is to let illness get in and then have to fight it off.

I don’t want to lecture you about not smoking, cutting down the drink, staying out of the chippie, laying off the cream cakes, taking more exercise and getting enough sleep. But there’s no denying that these are all good things to do so we can give God something to work with!

Creflo Dollar says that supernatural is God putting his super- on our -natural ... but it helps a great deal if we do the -natural bit! There are many simple, practical ways we can help God to help us. It’s a bit daft battering down the doors of heaven for a cure to bronchitis while we’re puffing our way through 40 Capstan Full Strength a day!

Nor is there much sense weeping and wailing about needing God's miraculous intervention to lose weight and lower blood pressure if we Hoover up half-a-pound of triple chocolate cheesecake covered with double cream every morning coffee break!

More seriously, many ailments have been medically shown to be directly related to stress, and no amount of symptomatic relief will solve the problem if we're not prepared to address the source of the stress and do something about it. Healing is not just about the body, but about the whole person, and we mustn't lose sight of that.

However, there are some battles we have to fight with supernatural weapons. It's good practice to get our spiritual defences in place every day against the tricks of the enemy. Launch a pre-emptive strike on the devil from the Word. I don't like to set foot out of the front door in the morning without claiming afresh the promises of Psalm 91, building up my faith in God's promised protection.

Again, some of us come from a family history of sufferers from a particular condition, and the devil would love to trick us into meekly accepting that our turn will come, just as night follows day. Rubbish. Remember – as a Christ-follower, your true identity is derived from Him, and so your human genetic code is not the final authority.

As a Christ-follower, you take after your Heavenly Father, first and foremost, and what you inherit from Him is nothing but the very best – life in abundance, to the full, till it overflows [John 10.10].

This is where you need to stand firm on your God-given authority over the devil and all his diabolical spin-doctoring. Speak out loud that, as a precious and dearly-loved child of Your Father, you are no longer subject to the enemy's interference. Declare that, through the blood of Christ shed for you, you have been redeemed from the curse and now stand under God's blessing. [Galatians 3.13-14].

Declare in Jesus' Name that whatever that family weakness may be – alcohol abuse, cancer, diabetes, heart disease etc – it **STOPS** right here and right now, and will not be transmitted to the next generation. The fulfilment of God's promises in Christ Jesus – including healing – are for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call [Acts 2.39].

The next step – healing others

It's great that God has given His church, over the past 50 years or so, people like Oral Roberts, Kathryn Kuhlman, John Wimber, Reinhard Bonnke, Benny Hinn, and so on.

The Lord has used these saints to wake up His church around the world to the truth that New Testament Christianity is meant to be the norm here and now. God's nature and purpose have not changed.

But if we were to wait for one of these big names to come and conduct a crusade in the Scottish Borders before we received the healing God wants us to have, we would have a long wait. The real revelation that comes through all these ministries is that we, as ordinary believers, are intended to lay hold by faith of what God has promised and provided by grace, as a witness to the love of Jesus.

According to the Word, healing ministry is to be exercised as part of the normal life of the church. James 5.14 puts healing firmly on the agenda for Kirk Session meetings! This is why, at our occasional evening healing services, the duty elder participates in the anointing with oil and laying on of hands. It goes with the territory!

Within Ale & Teviot, healing ministry is also available within our Tuesday and Thursday night meetings in the manse. In addition, Alexis and I are only too happy to come and pray with you at home to help you receive the healing Christ has purchased for you.

None of these are "superstar" ministries. They are not about special anointing on individual mega-Christians. It's purely and simply an act of obedience to the command of Jesus to His followers to "heal the sick". Please note, not just pray for the sick, but HEAL the sick.

When Jesus sent out the 72 in Luke 10, it is abundantly plain that he told them to authenticate the words they spoke by the deeds they did. *Heal the sick who are there and tell them : the Kingdom of God is near you* [Luke 10.9]. We don't often hear Mark's version of the Great Commission read in church [Mark 16], but try this for size.

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation ... And these signs will accompany those who believe – in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak in new tongues ... they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well.

What Jesus is saying is so clear, you would need to twist words in knots to avoid the truth. A mark of the true believer is that he or she will be out there healing the sick! Jesus intended, from Day 1 of the church, that those who bore His name would go about His business the way He did it. Preaching could not be separated from miracles!

Nowhere does God's Word tell us that *these signs will accompany those who believe – impressive church buildings, dignified liturgies, ministers trying to be social workers or comedians, robed choirs, big congregational rolls, big bank accounts, busy organisations, packed social calendars ... empty Bible Study and Prayer meetings ...*

If we expect the risen Lord to bless the church, the church – as His body – needs to do what He wants, His way. Including healing, as a practical expression of His love for His people. After all, we're called to love our neighbour as we love ourselves ... and once we've got into the practice of receiving healing in our own lives, praying for the healing of people dear to us will be a [super]natural development.

And if at this point you're not so terrified that you feel like shredding this booklet and heading for Patagonia, read on ...

A Beginners' Guide to Healing Others

Now that you've stopped hyper-ventilating and have made yourself a strong coffee to face this next section ... basically, you just want to apply the principles we've looked at already, the principles you apply to your own healing, and offer them to someone else.

In the first place, you would probably be dealing with someone you know well enough to have conversations with beyond the weather and the rugby scores. I *have* walked up to a complete stranger in a shop in Jedburgh and spoken healing over that person, but I'm not saying I necessarily recommend that course of action!

You might want to say : *Look, I don't believe God wants you to feel sore and miserable. He loves you and wants you to get better, and I would be only too happy to pray with you. Would that be all right?*

If your friend doesn't collapse in a heap in shock, he will probably let you pray, at least out of courtesy. This is a good time to tell, in as simple and unfussy way as you can, how God has healed you.

Then you might want to pray something like :

Father, I thank you for your love for X, your precious child. Thank you for loving X so much that Jesus carried X's mistakes and X's diseases in his own body to the cross so that X might die to the sins of the past and live forever in your way of love and life. Thank you, Father, that by the wounds Jesus suffered X has been healed.

In the name of Jesus, I command [whatever the disease is] to leave X alone and never to return, and I thank you, Father, that by the power of Jesus' Name, X is now healed from head to foot. Amen.

Now, as regards the laying on of hands, if you're both comfortable with that, great, but exercise wisdom as to how and where to do so. There are certain areas of the human body that it's clearly not very clever to lay hands on! This is especially true with the opposite sex, and good advice for healing, as with many other types of ministry, is that men should pray for men, and women should pray for women.

And if the thought of making that prayer terrifies the life out of you, Alexis and I understand! We remember our first healing prayers!

I was just back from a *Power Healing* conference with John Wimber in Edinburgh and was all fired up to go and empty every hospital in town. At a church meeting, a friend of mine was complaining about a sore shoulder. Motormouth here volunteered to pray for healing, and to my astonishment [and apprehension] my friend agreed.

We held an impromptu prayer meeting out in the corridor, with the laying on of hands – causing no small stir, as such things were NOT done in this respectable and thriving suburban congregation. A few days later, my friend came to my door and blurted out that his shoulder and arm had not given him one more minute's trouble ...

That was the good news ... but the bad news was that his wife had pain in her legs and could I please come over and pray for her too? Bearing in mind what I've written a few paragraphs ago, I thought it best to sit at one end of the settee, with the lady at the other end and the husband in the middle. I laid my hand on his shoulder and had an impression that he should place his hand on her back.

To my delight, and considerable relief, God graciously stopped laughing long enough to honour my mumbling, stumbling prayers and, as far as I know, neither set of symptoms returned.

Over the years, we haven't seen a huge number of healings, partly due to our own personal lack of understanding of Biblical teaching on healing, partly due to the corporate unbelief of our nation today [more of which later] but let me outline a few that *have* happened.

The wee boy born so premature that he could have been legally aborted – and that's a whole other story – and his parents were told that he was unlikely to live, and even if he did he'd be a vegetable. We, with other believers prayed hard. Fast forward 16 years, and although there are still some medical issues, he's playing rugby and a real whiz on the computers. Thank you Jesus!

A friend who visited our house one evening unexpectedly and, in the course of conversation, she shared with Alexis the news of a cancer diagnosis. Alexis prayed for her full restoration to health. At that time we didn't know to pray for complete and instant healing, but she went through the treatment. Now, I suspect to the surprise of the doctors, 15 years later she's as right as rain. Thank you Jesus!

A dear friend who took suddenly and gravely ill, so that the family were called to the hospital. We were honoured to be invited to pray at the bedside and, although again we didn't know at that time to pray for total healing, we claimed a further 10 years of life for our friend. God has been faithful to honour that, and more. Thank you Jesus!

A young man, who received a serious head injury in a road accident down south, was prayed for faithfully at the Thursday night meetings and, whenever possible, in hospital. To the amazement of the medics whose prognosis had been starkly negative, and the family, he made such a good recovery that it made the local press. Thank you Jesus!

Roadblocks to Healing

Why are some not healed? That's a big question, but what we can say, for sure, is that an absence of healing is *never, ever*, because God stamped his feet in a temper and refused to grant healing.

The Bible tells us that Jesus invariably healed *everyone* who asked him, and that, in His own words [John 5.19], He only did what He saw His Father doing. If Jesus heals, it's God's will to heal. Finito. Let us get it firmly fixed in our minds that the revealed will of God, in His Word, is that He heals. And why wouldn't He? He is Our Father!

As Jesus strikingly puts it : *Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?* [Matthew 7.9ff]

Not only that, but He has commanded and empowered His church to heal. Jesus again, on the eve of His crucifixion, as recorded in John 14.12-14 : *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

All of this means that the will of God is NEVER an issue. As a loving Dad, He hates to see His kids struck with the "snake" of cancer, the "stone" of a stroke. So – if healing is not received, yet we know from the Bible that healing is *always* God's will, what went wrong?

The Problem of Unbelief

Non-receipt of healing could be down to a combination of a number of things but, I'm sorry to have to say this, the most common by far is that people simply don't believe God *can* heal them, or that God *wants* to heal them. Which, given the reluctance of the church to preach the healing message for so long, is no great surprise.

In Hosea 4.6, God laments : *my people are destroyed through lack of knowledge*. How true is this in the area of illness and healing! People die years before their time because they've never been told that they have authority in Christ to rebuke illness and receive their healing. That's nothing short of tragic, and it *has* to change.

The essential answer to the problem of unbelief is sound teaching of the truth from the Word of God. It is submission to God, and to His Word, that enables us to overcome the devil's lies. When God raised Jesus from the dead, the devil was defeated, humiliated, and hung out to dry. The only club left in his bag is deception!

Let's stop the rot as we remind ourselves what the Bible teaches – by the wounds of Jesus we **HAVE BEEN** healed. Not – you **MIGHT** be healed. Not even – you **WILL** be healed. What the Bible says is [1 Peter 2.24] you **HAVE BEEN** healed, 2,000 years ago at Calvary. Done and dusted! Bought and paid for! Game, set and match!

I keep stressing the completed work of the atonement because, even for those who may have realised there is “something in all this healing stuff”, many are stuck at the stage of accepting that there **IS** power in the Name of Jesus to heal, in principle, but without any great confidence that **WE** would receive that power.

At this stage we think of healing as possible, but not certain ; something that God dispenses according to how he was feeling at the time, or how well we're behaving. We take a deep breath and ask God to heal us, or to heal a person we care for, but deep down we don't really expect a result. We might even tack on to our prayers a get-out clause to save God's face : *if it be thy will, Lord*.

And so, if what we pray for doesn't happen, we're not too disappointed. It's not our turn in the great healing lottery. It couldn't have been God's will for us this time. There's no easy way of saying this, but that approach to prayer for healing [and, yes, I've done it too] is unlikely to bring the best results, because it's not Biblical.

It's not a true prayer in the name of Jesus. Why? Because a prayer can only truly be in the name of Jesus if it takes full account of what Jesus did, what Jesus taught. If we knew our Bible well enough, we would know healing is **ALWAYS** God's best purpose for His people.

God's will isn't the problem. Our unbelief is! We need to get verses like 1 Peter 2.24 off by heart. In James 1.6ff, we see that when we pray, *we must believe and not doubt, because if we doubt we are like waves on the sea, tossed and blown about by the storm*. Praying *if it be thy will* is a doubt-filled prayer. It's unlikely to deliver.

Actually, even the "doubt-prayers" I've just decried as unbiblical *do* sometimes produce the desired result, by God's grace. Praise God that, in his love and mercy He so wants to bless us that even our unbelief isn't a total barrier. God isn't a Philadelphia lawyer, sifting through our prayers, word by word, trying to find a loophole to get him off the hook. But better to co-operate with him by binning doubt!

I'm ever so 'umble ...

Another common problem is a false humility that sounds very noble but is actually just unbelief wearing its Sunday best. In Matthew 20, Jesus asked two blind men : *What do you want me to do for you?* It seems, if you'll forgive the expression, blindingly obvious.

But the point was that Jesus had to know how much these men were prepared to allow themselves to be blessed. Jesus asks us the same question : *What do you want me to do for you? O Lord, I just want patience to endure my pain and suffering with fortitude.*

Fair enough. That's all you want, that's all you'll get. But you'll limit the scope of Jesus to work in you, and that's just plain daft. Think of it like this. If I offer you a choice of two cheques, one for £1, one for £1000, which would you prefer to stick in the bank? Point taken?

If you ask God to release in you the complete healing that Jesus has already won for you, there's no need to panic in case the power surge fuses all the lights in heaven! Let your faith release His grace! Get to the cashpoint of divine love and draw on the healing that the suffering of Jesus has already credited to your account!

You can't have one without the other!

By far the most serious impediment to receiving the healing of Jesus is a refusal to receive the Healer. Again, there is no easy way of saying this, but I have been left with the distinct impression, in conversations with some people in dire straits health-wise, that they would dance through every medical hoop, and dabble with all sorts of occultish hogwash, but if the price of health is to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord [which, for avoidance of doubt, it is!] forget it!

Tragically, I have watched some people suffer and die before their time because the prospect of vacating of the driving seat of their lives, and handing the wheel to Jesus Christ, with all that implies in terms of lifestyle, priorities and relationships, was worse than the prospect of surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, debility, death.

I cannot even begin to understand that mentality, but if there was ever any shadow of a doubt that the devil is playing with people's minds, it is the sorry truth that there are those out there who are more afraid of eternal life in all its glorious fullness with Jesus than they are of a dark lonely eternity without Him.

There is even a modified form of this folly among people who have some sort of church connection, but on their terms. If the price of being healed was to let Christ, in all His loving power, into their life, that would never do. It might threaten their respectable Sunday-best stuffed-shirt religiosity! They might end up all happy-clappy or some such abomination! Thanks but no thanks, pass me the medicine.

In the Acts of the Apostles, believers had a big choice to make, and so has the church today. Stick with the comfortable, the familiar, the easily digestible – or take the risk of being open to the Holy Spirit, that fresh wind of change who blows wherever he wills, accepting that the price of seeing hearts changed, souls saved, bodies healed and lives transformed will almost certainly be that some will find the change threatening and bale out, protesting noisily.

Whether we like it or not, God's blessing comes as an all-inclusive package deal, and although it's free and unconditional, it is strictly all-or-nothing. You can't receive the healing without also receiving the Healer. As the song says, in Christ alone, our hope is found.

If, deep down, you just don't want to entrust your whole life, in every part, 24/7, into the hands of Jesus, it's hypocrisy of the most cynical order to ask for healing of your body so you can get back to keeping your flesh happy and ignoring Him again till the next time you end up in a scrape, probably of your own stupid making. That's pathetic.

If you've read this far and think – *sorry, but I have my beliefs and I'm not going to change* – can I, with all humility, urge you to ask yourself this question with honesty. If you went to the doctor and he took off his stethoscope, shook his head sadly, and said you had only six months to live, what good would those beliefs do you?

Can your beliefs, whatever they might be – and if they don't focus on Jesus as Lord, crucified to pay the price for your wrongdoing and risen from the dead to enable you to enjoy life in abundance, to the full, till it overflows, then it doesn't matter what they are, they're all equally a complete and utter waste of time – offer you any hope for the rest of your time in this life, or indeed for when this life is over?

If you have the guts to ask those questions, and you don't much like the answers, now is a very good time to accept Jesus into your life as Lord and Saviour. I promise you it will be the best decision and the wisest investment you'll ever make. Do it now.

Deal with the Dross

OK, so you believe, you've taken the scriptures to heart, and you've prayed expecting to receive healing ... but three weeks later, you still feel like a wet rag. What's wrong?

Could it be that there's an unresolved issue in your life that's acting as a blessing-blocker? Have you "stuffed" out of sight, out of mind, in the deepest darkest recesses of your soul, some unhealed hurt, some unrequited love, some unavenged grudge?

Are you sitting reading this, wondering why you've not been healed, but right now you're holding on to a bad attitude toward somebody? Be honest – for all your profession of faith, are you still essentially a selfish person who expects others to dance attendance on you?

These things may very well be the obstacles to your healing. If we are truly Christ-followers, we need to take seriously the command of the scripture to “kill the flesh” [Colossians 3.5] – to change our ways of thinking, speaking, relating to others ; to crucify our own opinions, feelings and desires ; to take up the cross of unselfishness daily ; to commit ourselves to minister rather than be ministered to.

And if we stubbornly refuse to address these discipleship issues, there are consequences. So let’s deal with reality. What sins have we quietly shoved into the stair cupboards of our being and no longer face? What’s festering away within you? Who are the people you have issues with, the people you have it in for, the people who hurt you and never even said sorry? Any names and faces come to mind? You don’t need to tell me, but you do need to tell God.

Next, you need to confess to God the sin of unforgiveness. In the name of Jesus, who carried *your* sins in his body to the cross, so that *you* might die to sin and live for righteousness, let all those hurts and grudges go NOW! No excuses, no wait-and-see-how-I-feel-in-the-morning, do it right now, in obedience to the Lord Jesus and as an act of gratitude and worship for all he has done for you.

The minute you do that, as you release the forgiving mercy of Jesus Christ, you in turn experience release from bondage to the devil. Two things I’d like to say about that. One, the devil will come back and try to offer you back those rotten feelings and attitudes you had until two minutes ago. You can bet on it. Don’t listen to him!

2 Corinthians 10.5 tells us to cast down vain imaginations and take every thought captive to Jesus Christ. You tell the devil he’s a liar and to get lost. You are free, in Jesus’ name. Don’t *feel* your way back into spiritual prison.

Second point. Once you obey Jesus and release forgiveness and mercy, you may very well find that the physical problem you need healed of, is gone. It is a medically recognised fact that many of our diseases are psychosomatic – that is, the problem starts in the head. Get our head right, our body will catch on.

I am not saying that a person who holds on to unforgiveness, bitterness, grudges, self-pity, and all the spiritual poison the devil spews in our direction at any opportunity, cannot receive healing. Nothing is impossible for God, and healing is, of course, one of the signs and wonders accompanying the preaching of the Word that on numerous occasions kick-starts someone being born again.

But if you consider yourself to be a Christian, choosing to ignore the unforgiveness problem is just downright daft. It's like trying to run the 100 metres carrying a sack of coal around with you. You pile pressure and tension and anxiety on yourself, which is a breeding-ground for many kinds of physical illness, including ulcers, irritable bowel and high blood pressure. Let go and let God.

Well, that's easy for you to say. You don't know what I've been through. No, but I do know what Jesus has been through for you, and why he went through it. Don't insult him, and in so doing destroy your life, by grimly hanging on to rubbish that his agony on the cross has power and authority to release you from.

Watch the company you keep

One of the strangest comments made about Jesus is in Mark 6.6, where He is doing "pulpit supply" in his home town of Nazareth, and we learn that *he could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.* Hold the bus ... COULD NOT do any miracles there?

This is Jesus we're talking about, right? Son of God, in whom is to be found the fullness of Almighty God, right? So what's this patter about COULD NOT? A principle we see through the entire life and ministry is that he meets people at the level of their faith. He doesn't kick down the door of anyone's life and burst in uninvited. The Risen Lord [Revelation 3.20] says : *Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.*

Jesus waits to be invited! If people don't want saved, he respects their choice, even though their stupidity breaks his heart of love. Likewise, if people don't want healed, he won't force healing upon them – and the people of Nazareth didn't want healed.

Jesus encountered this rejection time and time again, and where human freewill chose to resist the love of God, then, with the utmost sorrow and reluctance, salvation and healing did not happen. Jesus had a few strong things to say about towns where unbelief reigned supreme – see Matthew 11.20-24. Why was this such a big issue?

Because the dominant unbelief was so contagious! We noted that when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, he put all the weepers and wailers out before he could perform the miracle.

Let's be very aware that in this touchy-feely politically-correct age, there is a demon of collective unbelief that makes our task to heal the sick all the more difficult.

If we need healing, we really do have to ensure that those family members, friends and colleagues who reject our belief in a loving healing Christ [including those who are “religious” in the traditional, formal, dead sense of the word!] don't get to infect our heads with their wrong, unbiblical thinking.

Likewise, we need to be very careful what we read in the papers, what we watch on TV. If we want God's best, we can't afford the luxury of being open to Satan's worst!

Footnote – what about medicine?

One point that's often asked is whether it's wrong for Christians to go to the doctors or to use medicine. My personal view? Absolutely not! Medicine has its origins in the mission of the church, and your doctor is on your side in the fight against disease.

Likewise, no reputable minister of healing would ever advise you, on receiving healing, to stop taking your prescribed medicine until you've been to the doctor, been checked out .. and shared with him what happened to you and why your condition has suddenly cleared up!

Be blessed, be healthy, in Jesus' Name!

Frank Campbell, Editor

God Wants You Well : the Scriptures

God didn't just give us His Word, the Bible, to fill a space on the bookshelf or the bedside cabinet! In the Bible we find promises to equip and encourage us for the journey of faith through life. In the Bible we find weapons to overcome the enemy and turn round difficult situations that come our way. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to speak these promises out loud to confirm them in your heart!

*Quotations, throughout this booklet, are from variously :
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The Amplified Bible © The Lockman Foundation.*

Scripture for Protection : Psalm 91

I live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful. Then I will say to the LORD : "You are my fortress, my place of safety ; you are my God, and I trust you."

The Lord will keep me safe from secret traps and deadly diseases. He will spread his wings over me and keep me secure.

His faithfulness is like a shield or a city wall. I won't need to worry about dangers at night or arrows during the day. And I won't fear diseases that strike in the dark or sudden disaster at noon.

I will not be harmed, though thousands fall all around me. And with my own eyes I will see the punishment of the wicked.

The LORD Most High is my fortress. I run to him for safety, and no terrible disasters will strike me or my home.

God has commanded his angels to protect me wherever I go. They will carry me in their arms, and I won't hurt my feet on the stones. I will overpower the strongest lions and the most deadly snakes.

The Lord has promised me that if I love him and truly know who he is, he will rescue me and keep me safe. When I am in trouble, I call out to him. He will answer and be there to protect and honour me. I will live a long life and see his saving power.

God's Purpose to Bless and Heal

Exodus 15.26 : I the Lord am your healer

Psalm 30.2 : Lord my God, I cried to you, and you healed me.

Psalm 103.1-3 : Bless the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me, praise his holy Name. Bless the Lord, my soul, and forget none of his benefits. He pardons all my wrongdoing and heals all my ills.

Psalm 107.20 : God sends his word to heal us.

Proverbs 3.7f : I will not be wise in my own estimation. I will fear the Lord and turn from evil. Let that be medicine to keep me in health, liniment for my limbs.

Proverbs 4.20f : I attend to your words. I pay heed to your sayings, for they are life to those who find them, and health to our whole being

Isaiah 53.4f : He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

Jeremiah 17.14 : Heal me, Lord, and I shall be healed. Save me, Lord, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

Matthew 8.17 : Jesus drove out evil spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. He did this to make what the prophet Isaiah had said come true : *He took our sickness and carried away our diseases.*

Matthew 11.2ff : Now when John in prison heard about the activities of Christ, he sent a message by his disciples and asked Him : *Are You the One Who was to come, or should we keep on expecting a different one?* And Jesus replied : *Go and report to John what you hear and see : the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed (by healing) and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have good news (the Gospel) preached to them*

John 10.10 : The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows.

Acts 10.38 : God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good, and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

1 Peter 2.24 : Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed.

3 John 2 : I pray that you may prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers.

The Believer's Authority

Mathew 28.18-20 : All authority on heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you, to the very end of the age.

Mark 11.22-23 : Have faith in God constantly. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain – be lifted up and thrown in the sea! – and does not doubt at all in his heart, but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.

Luke 10.19 : I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall in any way harm you.

John 14.13f : I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory may be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it

Ephesians 3.16-19 : Out of his glorious riches may the Father strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. May we, being rooted and established in love, have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 1.17-20 : May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know him better. May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age, but also in the one to come.

James 4.7 : Submit to God [and to his Word], resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Revelation 1.6 : Jesus loves us and by his sacrificial death he has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father. To Jesus Christ be the glory and the praise forever and ever. Amen!

Healings in the Gospels & Acts

Matthew : 4.23f, 8.2-17, 8.28-34, 9.1-7, 9.18-35, 10.1,8*, 12.15,22, 15.21-28, 17.14-18, 20.29-34

Mark : 1.21-34, 1.40-42, 2.1-12, 3.1-5, 3.10f, 5.1-13, 5.21-42, 6.5, 6.13*, 6.55f, 7.25-37, 8.22-25, 9.17-29, 10.46-52, 16.18*

Luke : 4.33-41, 5.12f, 5.17-26, 6.6-10, 6.17-19, 7.1-17, 8.1-3, 8.26-33, 8.40-55, 9.1,6*, 9.11, 9.37-43, 10.1,9*, 11.14, 13.10-13, 14.1-4, 17.11-19, 18.35-43, 22.49-51!!!

John : 4.46-53, 5.1-15, 9.1-7, 11.1-44

Acts : 3.1-8, 5.15f, 8.7, 9.17f, 9.33-42, 14.8-10, 19.11f, 20.9-12, 28.7-9

This list does NOT include “miracles” or “signs and wonders” unless a healing is specified. It is also quite possible that I have missed some. Those marked * are commands of Jesus to His followers to heal.

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A number of events and publications have marked milestones in my own thinking about the whole healing ministry :

When the Spirit Comes : Colin Urquhart

A true story of how spiritual renewal, including healing, came to an ordinary parish church in an ordinary British town.

Power Evangelism / Power Healing : John Wimber

The theme of which is that healing is not for superstars, but that it's time for ordinary believers to "do the stuff in the book".

You've Already Got it! : Andrew Wommack

Containing the essential revelation that all that's required for healing has already been done, completely, by Jesus 2,000 years ago

Florida Healing Outpouring on God-TV

During the summer of 2008, a spectacular confirmation that God has called his entire worldwide church to share the fullness of His love, His power, with everyone – especially through healing

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