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BY JESUS' STRIPES

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Many Christians are trying to believe God for the forgiveness of their sins. But, can YOU believe God for the healing of YOUR body?

John 3:16 says, **“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.”** In John 6:38 Jesus said, **“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”** Hebrews 10:7 says, **“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”** Jesus came to do the will of God the Father.

Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah 53:3 says, **“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”** This is speaking of Jesus, the Son of God. He came into this world to destroy the works of the devil In 1 John 3:8, it says, **“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”** Jesus also came that WE might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Isaiah 53:4 says, **“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”** Another translation says, **“Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering . . .”** (WEB). Yet, another translation says, **“Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains--he hath carried them . . .”** (YLT). By using these other translations we can plainly see that Jesus took upon Himself OUR sicknesses, OUR diseases, OUR pains and OUR sorrows.

Yes, God sent Jesus to take away the sin of the world, and in doing so He also took OUR sicknesses, diseases, pains, and sorrows upon Himself, that WE could be free! Isaiah 53:5 says, **“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.”** Jesus took OUR sins and iniquities upon Himself. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** It's not just OUR sins and iniquities that Jesus took upon Himself, it's also OUR sicknesses and diseases, OUR pains and sorrows.

In Exodus, the LORD said to the children of Israel, **“I am the LORD that healeth thee”** (Ex. 15:26). In Matthew 8:16,17 it says,

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 said, Jesus healed all that were sick, that the prophecy of Isaiah might be fulfilled. It was being fulfilled by what Jesus did that evening. Yet, Isaiah did not limit his prophecy to only

a few people. For that prophecy to be completely fulfilled it had to include YOU and ME also. Isaiah 53:5 included, **“our transgressions, our iniquities.”** Ours means, YOURS and MINE, everyone’s transgressions and iniquities. Then it also says, **“with his stripes we are healed.”** **“WE,”** includes YOU and ME.

Actually, what Isaiah prophesied when he said **“we are healed”** meant “it’s already done.” It’s not something in the future, it’s already done. God already declared it done before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

When Jesus took upon Himself all OUR sins and iniquities, He also took upon Himself all OUR sicknesses and diseases. He did it all on the Cross. Yet, the Word of God declares that the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Isaiah 46:9,10 says,

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

When Isaiah prophesied, he was declaring the end from the beginning. The works were already done. YOU were already healed before YOU were born into this world. It was already done on the Cross for YOU! That was almost two-thousand years ago. It was done for YOU and ME that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

We can see that it was already done from the foundation of the world when we look at Isaiah 43:25. It says, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** If the LORD blotted out their transgressions and would not remember their sins already then, then He did it for YOU and ME also. In 1 John 2:12 it says, **“I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.”** God is not a respecter of persons. What He did for them He also did for YOU and ME.

Look at what Jesus said to a man, sick of the palsy in Luke 5:20 it says, **“And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”** His sins were already forgiven. It’s not a matter of Jesus going to the Cross over and over again for every persons sins. He did it once, for the whole world (1 John 2:2). It was declared done already, before Jesus went to the Cross, and it was already effective for the man with the palsy, before Jesus was crucified.

It was finished already then, and it is still FINISHED for YOU and ME. OUR sins are already forgiven, OUR sicknesses and diseases were already taken by Jesus in His body on the Cross. That was almost two-thousand years ago, and it was a one-time deal that will last for all eternity. WE are already HEALED, by the STRIPES Jesus bore for US!

It’s not a matter of what Jesus is going to do, someday in the future, IT’S ALREADY DONE! He bore them for US, back when He went to the Cross for US. Now, it’s up to US to receive what He has already done for US. Receive forgiveness of sins and healing for OUR bodies. Receive what

belongs to US, for it is a gift from God to those who believe. Healing is a gift, it's not something we have to work for, or earn. It's a free gift, given to everyone who will believe.

We receive it by faith! FAITH, not in what we did or didn't do, but faith in what God did for US in Christ Jesus. When Jesus died on the Cross He died for US, for YOU and ME, that WE could receive forgiveness of sins and healing for OUR bodies. It's A FREE GIFT from God to YOU and ME!

God loves US, and wants US to be free of sin, sickness, and disease. Therefore, He laid all OUR sins, sicknesses, and diseases upon Jesus. He bore them for US that WE could be FREE.

Remember, it is A GIFT from God. Receive it by faith in His Word. Put YOUR faith in what God said in His Word. Be free of sin, sickness, and disease. God is Love (1 John 4:8). God wants His children healthy, no sickness or disease in their bodies, no sin in their lives.

In 1 John 1:7 says, **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** It's so important to God that WE are without sin that He made it possible for us to be cleansed daily of all OUR sins, by walking in the Light of His Word. God knows that we cannot, of our own ability, be cleansed from all sin, therefore He sent Jesus to take away the sin of the world.

How did Jesus take away the sin of the world? By His blood that He shed for US on Calvary. If we walk in the LIGHT of God's Word, the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse US of ALL sin.

This is the same with HEALING for OUR bodies. If WE walk in the LIGHT of God's Word, WE will be FREE of all SICKNESS and DISEASE! WHY? Because in His Word is healing for OUR bodies. In Psalm 107:20 it says, **“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”** When they received His Word, they were healed of ALL their destructions. Destruction means, “anything that would destroy our bodies.” Anyone that had any sickness and disease was healed BY HIS WORD!

Healing comes BY HIS WORD! When WE believe HIS WORD, WE receive healing for OUR bodies. Notice Mark 11:24, which says, **“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”** We must believe, BEFORE WE CAN RECEIVE. No matter what it is, healing, forgiveness of sins, whatsoever WE NEED, WE MUST BELIEVE before WE CAN RECEIVE! If we wait until we see the evidence WE WILL NOT RECEIVE whatsoever we desire.

There are multitudes of Christians living today with sickness and disease in their bodies, not because God doesn't love them, not because what Jesus did on the Cross was not for them! NO! The reason they have sickness and disease in their bodies is because they do not believe BEFORE THEY CAN RECEIVE! FIRST WE MUST BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD, THEN WE WILL RECEIVE whatsoever we believe!

FAITH, is believing WITHOUT any evidence. FAITH itself, is the EVIDENCE of things HOPED for (Heb. 11:1). Without FAITH, it is impossible to please GOD (Heb. 11:6). WE must believe without any physical evidence, then WE WILL RECEIVE whatsoever WE are believing for.

Going back to the man sick with the palsy, Jesus said, **“Man, thy sins are forgiven thee”** (Luke 5:20). Then look at the next thing Jesus said to the man! Jesus said, **“Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house”** (Matt. 9:24). The man believed, and did what Jesus told him to do. It says, **“And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God”** (Luke 5:25). Immediately, the man did what Jesus told him to do! He didn’t wait to let his mind tell him anything differently than what Jesus said he should do. He didn’t let his mind control what he did. He obeyed the Word of God and took up his bed and departed!

But what else did the man do? As he departed, he **“glorified God”** for what the LORD did for him! When WE receive the FREE GIFT of healing for our bodies, WE should **“glorify God!”** TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

If the world would glorify God for all He has done, Satan would be defeated! The more WE GLORIFY GOD the more God does for US! Give all the glory to God, and to His Son, **Jesus Christ**, for all that He has done!

Let’s look at another example. In John 5, there was a man **“which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.”** For thirty-eight years this man was sickly. That’s a long time to live with sickness, when all the time he could have been made whole. Here he was, right outside of the temple, right by the sheep-market, one of the entrances to the temple. For thirty-eight years not one Levite ever went to set that man free!

In John 10, Jesus talked about the thief that came to steal, kill, and destroy. He said, **“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers”** (John 10:8). The Levites did not tell the people that their sins and iniquities were already blotted out. They should have known the Scriptures. In Isaiah 43:25 it said, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** The Levites were like many religious leaders today, more interested in MONEY and their own worldly possessions than healing for those with sickness and disease.

When Jesus came to the man, knowing he was in that condition a long time, He said, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** (John 5:6). Jesus was asking this man, *“Do you want to know the love of God and be healed?”*

Jesus is the express image of the Father (Heb. 1:3). God the Father is LOVE, and desires that EVERYONE would be free from all the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Jesus didn’t say a word to this man about the sin in his life. He simply said, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** When the man came up with an excuse, Jesus overlooked his ignorance and said to

him, **“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”** (John 5:8). What did the man do? He obeyed the LORD. It says, **“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked”** (John 5:9).

If Christians would listen to the WORD of God, and receive their healing by FAITH, they too could take up their bed and walk. They are already healed! They were healed by the stripes Jesus bore for them on the Cross of Calvary. If they would believe, and not doubt, they could also take up their bed and walk.

What about sin? Was there sin in that man’s life? Yes? For it says, **“Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”** (John 5:14). The man was not trusting in the WORD of God! The man was looking for an angel to come down and stir the water (John 5:7).

The greatest sin of all is, NOT BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD! By His Word, WE are already healed! By His Word, WE already have forgiveness of sins!

God is LOVE! It is His desire to GIVE US the Kingdom! (Luke 12:32). The kingdom of God is **“righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** (Rom. 14:17).

It’s not easy to have **“peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** with sin, sickness, and disease in OUR bodies. Righteousness itself, is right-standing with God! Sin, sickness, and disease are of the devil. To have right-standing with God we cannot have fellowship with the devil.

God has already taken ALL OUR sins, sicknesses, and diseases and laid them upon Jesus. He bore them FOR US THAT WE could be free! Romans 8:32 says, **“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?”** How much more would God want to TAKE AWAY ALL YOUR SICKNESSES AND DISEASES? He did it for YOU!

Jesus said, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23). Can YOU BELIEVE THE LOVE OF GOD in Christ Jesus and RECEIVE YOUR HEALING?

Jesus is saying to all who have sin, sickness, or disease, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** YOU can be whole, if YOU will receive by faith, that which God has already done FOR YOU on the Cross of Calvary. Believe and receive, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL!

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

Jesus said, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23). The Scriptures tell us that **“by His stripes we are healed!”** If we will believe the Scriptures we will receive whatsoever we believe.

When Jesus went from city to city, from synagogue to synagogue healing the sick. In most cases Jesus Healed them with His Word. He spoke the Word and they were healed. It was not always the same words. To the man with the palsy, Jesus said, **“Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house”** (Mark 2:11). Then it tells us, **“immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all. . .”** (Mark 2:12). In Mark 3:5, Jesus said to the man with a withered hand, **“Stretch forth thine hand.”** Then it tells us, **“he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”** To the Syrophenician woman in Mark 7:29 it says, **“He said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.”**

In Mark 9:25, Jesus spoke to the spirit in a man’s son, saying, **“Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”** To the nobleman, whose child was sick, Jesus said, **“Go thy way; thy son liveth.”** (John 5:49,50). Over and over we see that all Jesus did was speak words, and devils came out and people were healed.

If we believe when we speak the Word of God it will come to pass, sickness and disease will leave and demons will depart. The words we speak will cause the power of God to manifest. The believing is the most important thing concerning healing.

To the woman with the issue of blood, Jesus said, **“Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague”** (Mark 5:34). To Bartimaeus, a blind man, Jesus said, **“Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole”** (Mark 10:52). To a leper in Luke 17:19, Jesus said, **“Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”**

We cannot have faith without believing. Faith comes by believing the Word of God.

When Jesus was in the wilderness the devil came to Him, tempting Him (Matt. 4 & Luke 4). Jesus said to the devil, **“It is written.”** To the Jews, Jesus said, **“the scripture cannot be broken”** (John 10:35).

As Christians, we should believe the Scriptures. We should never let anyone convince us that anything in the Scriptures is not true. We should insist that the Scriptures cannot be broken. What is clear, should be held to and never let any thought remain in our mind that it doesn’t agree with what it says.

Satan tries to blind our minds to the truth of the glorious gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4). He

uses every available means he has to blind our minds. Especially, those who say they are in the ministry. Satan knows we often listen to those who say they are serving the LORD. Therefore, they become his servants when they teach against HEALING.

Anyone who believes that Jesus bore our sins for us on the Cross, and by His blood we are cleansed from our sins, should also believe He took our sickness and diseases and bore them for us also. If we don't believe that **"by His Stripes We Are Healed,"** we don't believe the Scriptures.

Why don't we believe that **"by His Stripes We Are Healed,"** when two of His disciples agree that Isaiah 53:3-5 says, **"by His Stripes We Are Healed"**? Matthew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Matthew wrote,

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 (Matt. 8:16,17).

Matthew was with Jesus when this happened. Peter was also there when it happened. It was Peter's mother-in-law that was healed that very day. 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). The Holy Spirit inspired Matthew and Peter to write what is written (2 Tim. 3:16). Therefore, we could say "the Holy Spirit and us agree, **By His Stripes We Are Healed!**"

In 1 John 5:8 it tells us that there are three witnesses on earth, **"the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood."** What other witnesses do we have? Are there any other witnesses greater than these three? Not according to the Scriptures. In 1 John 5:9, it says, **"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater . . ."** If we don't believe the Scriptures, how can we say, We Believe God?

If we truly believe the Word of God, then we need to believe everything the Word of God tells us. The Word tells us that Satan uses people in the ministry to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). That doesn't mean we should not listen to those in the ministry. That means we need to study the Word for ourselves, to know the truth. The Word also tells us,

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (1 Peter 5:8,9).

Be sober, be vigilant, means "be awake, and watch." Why? The devil comes looking for those who are not careful. Those who do not continue steadfast in the faith.

There is something about faith that many do not understand. Romans 10:17 says, **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God."** Faith comes by hearing the

rhema of God. The rhema of God comes by a witness of the Holy Spirit with our spirit. This witness comes when we insist that the Word of God means what it says. When we cast down all thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God, and hold fast to that which does agree (1 Thess. 5:21). In Hebrews 10:35, it says, **“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.”** Be confident that the Word of God is true. Do not cast away your confidence. When we do that, the Holy Spirit will give us peace and joy within. Not always before we hold fast to our confidence, but after we do, peace will come from within. Not only will peace come, but we will also see the manifestation of the power of God, bringing to pass that which is written.

Jesus took upon Himself all our sicknesses and diseases. Now it's up to us to insist that the Scriptures cannot be broken, that they are true. God never fails to bring to pass that which we believe.

Sometimes it takes persistence and insistence that the Word is true to obtain the rewards. Hebrews 11:6 says, **“without faith it is impossible to please him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Diligence in persistence and insistence brings great rewards. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We seek God, not in spiritual experiences, but in His Word. We will find God “in His Word.” God and His Word are One (John 1:1).

We should not seek experiences, but rather experience the manifestation of the Word of God when we seek His Word! It is the Word of God that we must seek, and He will honor His Word. Manifestations will come as a result of our standing upon His Word.

Bring Every Thought Captive!

In 2 Corinthians 10:5 it says, **“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”** It tells us we should cast down ALL imaginations and EVERY THOUGHT that does not agree with the Word of God. Thoughts originate in the spirit realm. Many times our thoughts come from the devil.

Peter had a thought one time in Matthew 16:22. Peter spoke to the LORD according to what he thought. Jesus **“turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”** There’s no question, the thought Peter had came directly from the devil.

Sometimes thoughts come from other spirits. John and James had a thought one time when the Samaritans would not receive Jesus. **“They said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?”** (Luke 9:54). Jesus **“turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of”** (Luke 9:55).

In 2 Corinthians 10:5, it tells us to **“bring every thought into captivity.”** What does it mean to bring into captivity? The word “captivity” in the Greek is “aichmalotizo.” This Greek word comes from a primary root word “airo,” meaning “to lift up.” By implication, “airo” means, “to take up or away; figuratively, to raise (the voice), keep in suspense (the mind).” The Hebrew equivalent of this word means “to put away, remove.”

In 2 Corinthians 10:5 it starts off saying, **“Casting down imaginations.”** Another translations says, **“overthrowing reasonings”** (DBY). Reasoning and imaginations are works of the natural mind, these are contrary to the Word of God. These must be cast down and overthrown. We cannot let them remain in our mind.

No matter what thoughts come to your mind that do not agree with the Word of God, cast them down. There are great rewards for those who cast down all thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God. Cast down all imaginations and everything that exalts itself against the written Word of God. God honors His Word. His Word cannot fail!

Jesus quoted the written Word of God against the devil. Jesus said, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”** (Matt. 4:4). If we look at where Jesus was quoting from we can better understand what Jesus meant. Deuteronomy 8:3 says, **“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”**

The LORD humbled them and let them know that the Word of God can supply all their

physical needs. By His Word, He fed them with manna, which they had no part in it's supply. It came down from heaven, simply, because the LORD gave His Word that He would supply them with manna. In other words, it was supernaturally supplied by God, man had nothing to do with it. All man had to do was believe, and the LORD supplied, according to His Word.

In the wilderness, when Jesus was hungry the devil tempted Him. Jesus made it clear to the devil, the Word of God will supply every need, including food for our bodies. God is well able to uphold and manifest His Word in every need. Therefore, it is God's desire that we live by the Word of God above the natural means.

Those who are new creatures in Christ are born of the Spirit. We should also live by the Spirit. The Spirit lives by the Word of God. Therefore, we can safely say, "***The life of the Spirit is in the Word!***" Christians must learn how to live by the Word of God, "**Casting down imaginations,**" "**Putting an end to reasonings,**" that the Word of God can have first place in our lives.

Those who do not cast down reasoning and imaginations usually do not receive THE FREE GIFT OF HEALING for their bodies. We cannot receive what is ours by faith if we permit reasoning and imaginations in our mind to rob us of the Word of God. We must live by the Word of God, not reasoning or imaginations. When we insist that the Word of God is true, and is our source for everything God has promised us, we will receive that which is rightly ours.

Satan has many ways to put thoughts into our minds to make the Word of God of none effect in our lives. I recall one time in the late 80's. For years I had gone to a dentists. He did everything he could to help me keep my teeth. By the late 80's I had a number of teeth that were broken off below the gum level. For years my dentist would put pins in my teeth and build up a crown on them using some type of plastic. This would only last for a while, then they would brake off again.

My teeth were like chalk. They broke off easily. After ten or more years of working on them, I decided to have all my teeth pulled and false teeth made. I went to a hospital to have them pulled. I was in the operating room for about three hours. Every tooth the dentist tried to pull broke off. He had to dig them out. In doing so, a lot of jaw bone broke off also.

After coming out from under the anesthesia, the nurse asked me if I wanted something for pain. I told her I didn't have any pain. The Word of God is true, "**He bore our pain**" (Isa. 53:5). The first time she asked me if I wanted something for pain it was about 1:00 PM in the afternoon. I did not have any pain. Almost every hour she asked me if I wanted something for pain. I kept telling her, I didn't have any pain.

Around 6:00 PM my son picked me up and took me home. The next morning I went to the dentist's office and he checked my mouth, and took out some of the stitches. This was on Friday morning. I went back again on Saturday morning. All that time, from Thursday morning until Saturday evening I had no pain.

On Saturday morning the dentist took out of the some more stitches and checked everything over. Then he said to me, if you want I can give you a prescription for some pain pills. I told him, I don't have any pain. I didn't have any pain at anytime, even from the time I came out of the operating room. He continued to work on taking out the stitches.

Again he asked me, are you sure you don't need me to write you a prescription for pain pills? I said, no, I don't have any pain.

Before I left his office that morning, being Saturday he said, "I could write you a prescription, just in case you do have some pain. You could always go and have it filled if you needed it."

Finally, being the third time he asked me, I agreed to let him write me a prescription, "just in case I needed it" before Monday morning. That evening the pain came. It was terrible! I prayed, but it didn't help. I went to the drugstore and had the prescription filled. I took the pills, pill after pill, and the pain continued. On Monday and Tuesday the dentist could do nothing for me to stop the pain. He could only ease it for a few hours, then it was back, it seemed even worse then before.

I continued to pray but it didn't help. On Monday, I tried to get in contact with my Pastor, but that was his day off, and he didn't answer the phone. On Tuesday I tried to contact other Christians who could pray with me, with no success. On Wednesday, I finally got in contact with a Christian friend who came over to my house that evening. We prayed for a few hours, when inside I knew the pain was going to leave. The pain was still there, but I knew it would leave. So, we just praised the LORD for the victory and he went home.

The next day the pain was getting less and less all day long. On Friday the pain finally left for the first time. That was a long six days of pain I should not have had. Jesus bore my pain for me!

Had I not let the thought of a prescription for pain pills linger in my mind, but continued to reject the thought I would not have had any pain. We do not have to accept pain. If we keep our faith up we will not have any pain. But, if we let the thoughts remain in our mind, Satan has a place where he can manifest.

This is not to put anyone under condemnation for taking medications or going to a doctor. But, God has a better plan than doctors or medication. His Word is healing for all our flesh (Psa. 107:20).

The Word of God is true. But, if we don't do what the Word of God tells us to do, then we will reap the results. Galatians 6:8 says, "**For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**" The flesh includes the unrenewed mind of our soul. If we don't renew our mind on the Word of God to stand against the enemy, it could result in the enemy having a place in our lives. Romans 12:2 says, "**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**" A part of God's perfect

will is no pain, for Jesus bore our pain for us. This is a part of our inheritance.

Children of God have a right to reap the benefits of their inheritance. What Jesus paid for belongs to us. He paid the price for our healing on the Cross. Healing belongs to us, by inheritance. It is ours, purchased for us by Jesus. We must receive it by faith, believing it is ours. Believing the Word of God is true, and God cannot lie. God is our true Father, and He made it possible for us to live in health by putting all our sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus. **By His Stripes We Are Healed!**

The Spirit, the Word, & the Blood

In 1 John 5:8 it tells us that there are three witnesses on earth, the Spirit, the Word, and the Blood. These three agree in One. In the times of the Old Testament, the Law of Moses required that there be two or more witnesses before a person could be condemned, or judgment passed against them. This was a witnesses of men. The Word says, the witness of God is greater than the witness of men (1 John 5:9). The witness of God is **“the Spirit, the Word, and the Blood.”**

God will always bare witness to **“the Spirit, the Word, and the Blood.”** In the New Covenant, God does not accept the witness of men. God only accepts the witness of the Spirit, the Word, and the Blood. Once we understand this, we will be able to walk as Jesus walked and do the works Jesus did.

God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). The gifts and callings of God are without repentance (Rom. 11:29). The anointings are **“as the Spirit wills”** (1 Cor. 12:11). When we understand this, we will receive that which is of God and reject that which is not of God.

In the book of Judges, God used Samson to deliver the children of Israel from the Philistines. There was an anointing upon Samson when he came against the Philistines. Yet, in Samson life there was much evidence of what is called sin, adultery and fornication. How could God use Samson? How can God use Christians whose lives give evidence of sin? **“The gifts and callings of God are without repentance.”** God did not use Samson because Samson was someone great, or important in the eyes of man. What happened in Samson’s personal life is between Samson and God. You and I do not have to give account for what Samson did. But, we will give an account for what we do!

God used Samson to set the children of Israel free of the oppression of the Philistines. The anointing was on Samson for that purpose. God was not raising up Samson. He was only keeping His Word to the children of Israel. When they called upon the name of the LORD, God answered. This is Our LORD God! **“Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered”** (Joel 2:32).

God will deliver His people, all who will call upon the name of the LORD (Acts 2:21, Rom. 10:13). It wasn’t Samson that delivered the children of Israel from the Philistines, it was the LORD, using Samson to deliver them. God will use whosoever He desires to deliver those who call upon the name of the LORD, not according to our understanding, but according to His Word.

We should not put confidence in people, but put all confidence **“in the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the Blood of Jesus.”** Never look to men for a witness from God. That is Old Covenant law. We are not under the Law, but under grace **“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”** (John 1:17).

By grace, God made His Son **“to be the propitiation for our sins”** (1 John 2:2). **“For he**

hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). When God made Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins, He laid our sins upon Him, **“by His Blood”** we were set free! It’s not something we did, or even deserved. It was by the love and grace of God that He put all our sins and iniquities, all our sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus. He did it for us, for You and Me.

If we will believe the Word of God, the Spirit and the Blood will bare witness with the Word and we will be free! It’s believing the Word of God, putting confidence in the Holy Spirit and the Blood that sets us free!

When we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth the LORD JESUS CHRIST, we will be saved (Rom. 10:9,10). Saved, means “delivered and protected.” We will be **“delivered”** that is, set free of all the works of the devil. Also, we will be **“protected”** as long as we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

If we put our trust in people, we will be deceived. If we look for the witness of men we will be deceived. But if we put our trust in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, relying upon **“the Holy Spirit, the Word, and the Blood”** we will live in victory all the days of our lives.

Why Christians Still Have Sickness And Disease

When we were born into this world, sin and death reigned in our bodies. Romans 5:12 says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** This sin and death came in the form of mortality in our flesh and corruption in our souls. These two forms of death passed upon all people from Adam and Eve on down to everyone born of the flesh.

Mortality, is the process of physical death of our bodies. Mortality is called the first death of man. It is that which overtakes the physical body and causes it to die. Because of mortality, our bodies have a natural process of dying residing within us at all times. Satan works in our flesh to speed up this process of death by sickness and disease. This sickness and disease is working in the flesh because of corruption in our souls.

The corruption within our souls is the result of sin. Satan has access to our mind, which is a part of our soul. Before we are born again, our minds are very much under the control of Satan’s forces. Ephesians 2:2 says, **“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”**

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 it says, **“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”** Satan is called the god of this world. He blinds the minds of those who do not believe **“the glorious gospel of Christ.”**

At one time we were all blinded by the god of this world. Our minds were corrupted by the thoughts of this world, the reasoning and imaginations of men. We lived the way the world lives, seeking our own ideas.

In Isaiah 55:8,9 says,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Man’s thoughts were controlled by the prince of the power of the air, the satanic forces that now controls those who do not believe the glorious gospel of Christ. To change this, the Word of God tells us in Romans 12:2, **“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

Again in Proverbs 3:5 it says, **“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto**

thine own understanding.” The LORD knows Satan has power to inject thoughts into our minds. Thoughts that the world accepts as normal, but the LORD knows they are contrary to His Word. Therefore, we are to trust in the WORD of God with all our heart and not to rely upon our own understanding. When our minds are renewed on the Word of God we will have a witness in our spirit knowing what is of God and what is of the world.

Only by the renewing of our mind on the Word of God can we become transformed to believe the Word of God rather than the circumstances, or things that the world accepts as normal. With God, it is not normal to have sickness or disease in our bodies. It is not normal to have sin in our lives. These are works of the devil. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

God has provided a way, by **the Body and Blood** of His Son, for us to be free of sickness and disease, sin and iniquity. God laid all our sins and iniquities, our sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus, before He died on the Cross. Jesus took our sins and iniquities, our sicknesses and diseases upon Himself, that we could be free, and live unto God. That we could renew our minds and be transformed by the Word of God, proving **“what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

Knowing that our thoughts and our ways are not the thoughts and ways of the LORD, we must renew our minds on the Word of God. We must reject all thoughts and all ways that do not agree with the written Word of God. In doing so, we agree with the Word of God, and His righteousness sets us free of all sin. With sin done away with in our lives, we can receive healing for our bodies.

Sin was the cause of death, for death came by sin (Romans 5:12). Sin is corruption of the mind, not thinking the way God thinks. When we think the way God thinks, sin is overcome. When sin is overcome sickness and disease cannot dwell in our bodies.

For this cause it is important that we renew our minds on the Word of God, and become transformed into thinking God’s thoughts, and living God’s way. Not by our minds, but by His Word. Casting down all reasoning and imaginations that exalt themselves against the Word of God (2 Cor. 10:5). When we reject every thought that does not agree with the Word of God, and the glorious gospel of Christ, we will be free of all sickness and disease.

When Satan comes against our bodies with sickness or disease, don’t do as the world does, by going to the doctor or medical system; go to the LORD. **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Rom. 10:13). But, how can they call upon the Name of the LORD if they have not believed He will deliver them? Who can believe if they have not renewed their mind on the Word of God? Who can have faith if they have not been hearing the rhema of God?

It’s time to renew our minds and be transformed by the Word of God. If we are born of the Spirit, then we should walk after the Spirit. If we walk after the Spirit **“the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus will make us free from the law of sin and death”** (Rom. 8:4). The Word already

declares that we are free, but we must believe the Word for it to be effective in our lives. Just like everything else God has done for us, unless we believe the glorious gospel of Christ our minds will still be blinded by the god of this world.

Once our minds are transformed by renewing them on the Word of God, we will experience the glorious liberty we have in Christ. When our minds have been renewed we will believe that **“by His Stripes We Are Healed!”**

If we continue in the Word, the Holy Spirit will help us in time of need. There was a time when I broke my toe on a Saturday afternoon in a downtown apartment building. I drove home, took off my shoe and saw the swelling, the black and blue coloring of my foot. I felt the pain. When this happened my mind began to receive thoughts from the devil. I knew it was broken. I had experienced a broken bone in my body years ago. The pain of a broken bone is different than that of a sprain or torn ligament. The thought came to me, I had better go to the hospital and get it x-rayed, to be sure the bone was in the right place. The second thought that went through my head was, when I do that the doctor will cut out the front of my shoe and put a bandage on my toe, and I will go around like that for about six weeks. Then the Spirit of God rose up within me and said, *“you don't have to do that, by His stripes you are healed, He bore your sickness and infirmities”*. Immediately I said, “Devil get out, I don't need this and you can't put this on me, by His stripes I am healed.” “Jesus Himself took my infirmities and bare my sickness, so you can go take a jump. Thank you Jesus.”

All this time I was alone in the house. I spoke words out loud to the devil and I confessed before God my healing. Then I took a shower, dressed up, and went for lunch. The thought came to me again, to go to the hospital and have an x-ray, but then I said within myself, “why should I spend God's money for something I didn't need. God's Word is true and I am healed.”

That day my foot was very sore but I kept on going. The person I went to lunch with said to me, “Merle, you should have stayed home and not be walking around on that foot.” I just said, “don't worry about it, it's Ok.”

The next day the soreness left. On Monday evening I showed my foot to those at my house who were there for a share group meeting. All we could see was one red spot and a blue stripe mark where the break had been. Praise the Lord for His word! By Tuesday all was back to normal, no red spot, no blue stripe.

On Friday of that week, I showed my foot to a nurse friend of mine. I told her what had happened the Saturday before and how the foot came back to normal in three days. She said, “It had to be God, for in the natural it would take ten days to two weeks before the black and blue would be gone.”

God has given us a way to defeat sin and death, sickness and disease. It has always been that *“by the words we speak, so shall our ways be.”* As we speak the Word of God, the Holy Spirit brings to pass whatsoever we say. By our words we are set free. God honors His Word, every time

we speak the Word in faith.

In the Old Covenant they did not have what we have today. They could only speak the Word in their language, but in the New Covenant we have “tongues.” Speaking in tongues accomplishes two major things for us. First, when we speak in tongues we have the help of the Holy Spirit within us. He gives us the utterance, “the words we speak” (Acts 2:4). They come from our spirit not from our mind where Satan can inject thoughts (1 Cor. 14:15). When we speak in tongues, our understanding has no effect (1 Cor. 14:14). We do not need to understand, for the Holy Spirit only speaks the will of God in our lives (Rom. 8:27). When the will of God is spoken from our mouth, the Holy Spirit is able to bring the will of God to pass in our lives. God’s will for us is, no sin, no iniquity, no sickness, no disease. Therefore, healing can come by speaking in tongues.

There are many who do not know that healing can come by speaking in tongues. Some are like Thomas (John 20:24,25), they do not believe unless they can see it with their own eyes. Yet, the LORD is merciful and even helps those like Thomas. You too, can see the power of God manifest eyes while praying in tongues.

Go to someone with a short arm or short leg. Instead of commanding the arm or leg to come out in the Name of Jesus, just look at the short arm or leg and pray in the Spirit (tongues). In front of your own eyes you will see the power of God bring out the short arm or leg.

It doesn’t make any difference to the LORD if we pray in our own understanding or if we pray in tongues. He still honors His Word and the manifestation will come. Sometimes, we can use a combination of both tongues and our natural language. Sometimes it is better to start by praying in tongues and then switch over to our natural language after the Holy Spirit has given us the utterance. Other times the Holy Spirit will switch us over from tongues to our natural language Himself. This happened to me one day, years ago.

A sister in the LORD had gotten into an automobile accident and the left side of her face was all cut up by flying glass. I met her in the hospital just after she came down from the emergency room. When the doctor came in with the x-rays he examined her face very closely. He then said to her, “There are no broken bones, but there is a lot of damage. Part of your eye-lash is missing, and part of your eye-brow is missing. There is no place on your body where I can get eye-brows or eye-lashes from at this time. All I can do is sew you up and after it is healed somewhat we can send you to another hospital about 100 miles away and they will be able to graft in some eye-lashes and eye-brows.”

After the doctor left the room she said to me, “We are not going to accept that are we?” I said “no, let’s pray!” I began to pray in the Spirit (*unknown* tongues). I must have prayed (in an *unknown* tongue) at least five minutes or more when she said to me, “is that all you are going to do is pray in the Spirit?” I said to her, “Let the Holy Spirit do what He wants to do.” And I continued to pray in the Spirit (*unknown* tongues).

After praying in the Spirit for quite some time, words began to come out of my mouth in English. I began to say, "In the name of Jesus I command the eye-lashes to be there. In the name of Jesus I command the eye-brows to be there. In the name of Jesus I command the tear glands to be whole and working. In the name of Jesus I command the eye muscles to be working properly. In the name of Jesus I command 20 - 20 vision in her eyes." Then, unexpectedly these words came out of my mouth "And she will be in church on Sunday." When I heard myself say that my mind stopped my spirit from praying. I could not believe in my mind that she would be in Church on Sunday. It was about 6:00 PM on Friday at that time.

Following the prayer, they took her up for surgery. About 11:00 PM the doctor came to me and said, "Praise the LORD! The eye-brows and eye-lashes were all there. The tear glands were fine. Everything was there, all I had to do was sew her up."

When we pray "**all supplications and prayer in the Spirit**" we authorize the Holy Spirit to do the will of God in every situation we pray for. The Holy Spirit knows what to do and how to do it. All He needs is our cooperation. When we begin to pray in (*unknown*) tongues our spirit does the praying, and the Holy Spirit helps us (Rom. 8:26,27). Sometimes, while praying in (*unknown*) tongues the Holy Spirit can switch us over to a ministry gift of (*diverse* kinds) of tongues, such as intercession, spiritual warfare, etc., while speaking in tongues. He will give us the words to speak in tongues, or in English.

A second benefit of speaking in tongues is that it helps us to build up our faith (Jude 1:20). The more we speak in tongues, the greater our faith. The greater our faith the more God can do for us in our lives. God rewards us for our faith. God desires that "**the just shall live by faith**" (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38). By the help of the Holy Spirit we speak in tongues and the will of God is done in our lives.

In both instances, speaking in tongues overcomes the work of Satan in our minds. Satan cannot control what we say, for the Holy Spirit is in control instead. When the Holy Spirit is in control of our tongue, the things we speak will benefit us and God. Satan will be defeated by the words we speak, when we speak in tongues.

Now let me relay an experience I had with speaking in tongues. A good Christian friend of mine picked up another friend of his and myself to go to a meeting. At the meeting the power of God was working mightily. Many people were going out in the Spirit as a woman laid her hands upon them. Doubtless, many things were happening in their lives because of the anointing.

When we left the meeting to go home, I was riding in the back seat and his friend was in front of me. His friend said, "*I should have had that woman lay hands upon me.*" My friend said to him, "*Merle could pray for you.*" I said to his friend, "*What's the problem that you need prayer for?*" He said, "*I have a pain in the back of my neck,*" and he went on naming many other parts of his body where he was experiencing pain or discomfort.

As we rode back to my house, I just continued to pray in the Spirit. While I was praying in the Spirit, in my mind (without speaking a word out loud in English), I started saying to the LORD; “LORD, heal his neck, take the pain away, LORD, heal his side, LORD heal his back, LORD, heal this and LORD heal that...” I just spoke to the LORD in my mind, never saying a word out loud in English. Yet, I never stopped praying in the Spirit all the time I was talking to the LORD in my mind.

I had learned something a while ago. Since God knows every thought, then I should be able to talk to God in my mind (1 Cor. 3:20). So, all I did was talk to the LORD in my mind while I was praying in tongues.

My friend told me later that when I got out of his car by my house, his friend said to him something like this, “*I see you brought your armor bearer along with you tonight!*” After my friend answered him, he said, “*that man can ride behind me anytime he wants to. All the time he was praying in the Spirit back there, I could feel the LORD healing my body.*”

The body of Christ needs a much better understanding of the gift of tongues, and all it's benefits. It is one of the most powerful tools we have to defeat the enemy. The more we use this weapon of tongues the greater our victories will be in this life.

CLAIMING OUR INHERITANCE

Healing for Christians is a part of their inheritance. Romans 8:16,17 says,

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

If we are children of God through the new birth, then we are also **“heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.”** This inheritance is automatic, it becomes ours through the new birth. When we become born again of the Spirit (John 3:6), and of the Word (1 Peter 1:23), we automatically become **“children of God.”** That’s what the new birth is all about. We are born again of the Word of God and of the Spirit into the family of God. God the Father becomes our true father, and we become His children.

When we become born again, we become a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Our old spirit is passed away and we have a new spirit (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). We are no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit (Rom. 8:9). We are no longer in Adam, but in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 15:22). We are delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s Son (Col. 1:13). In Christ, we are children of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16,17).

If we believe the Word of God concerning our being joint-heirs with Christ, then we should **“claim our inheritance.”** Our inheritance includes all the Jesus did for us on the cross and in His resurrection from the dead.

In Luke 16:8 in a parable, Jesus said, **“the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”** When it comes to our inheritance it seems that way also. The children of this world, when they find out they are an heir to someone’s possessions they make sure they get all they have coming. They go to court before a judge and demand their inheritance.

Why don’t Christians do the same as the world? Why don’t Christians go before the righteous Judge of this world and claim their inheritance? Why don’t they command the devil to release their inheritance to them? Satan is stealing their inheritance right in front of them. He is taking away that which is rightly theirs by inheritance.

Jesus paid for healing for our bodies “before He died on the cross.” By the stripes that Jesus bore, He paid for our healing. What Jesus bought and paid for belonged to Him before He died. When Jesus died, all that belonged to Jesus is now ours “by inheritance.”

Christians must claim their inheritance. Christians must go before the Judge of all creation and receive their inheritance. Christians must command Satan to release their inheritance. Satan has no right to our inheritance. He is a liar, a thief, and robber. He is out to kill, steal, and destroy. Christians should take back from Satan all that he has stolen from their inheritance.

When Christians go before the righteous Judge of all creation, we should go like the world goes before a judge. That is, take an advocate (attorney) with you, don't go on your own. When those of the world go before a judge they have an attorney represent them, one who knows the law. Their attorney advises them of their rights to their inheritance. Sometimes, when someone of this world cannot afford an attorney, the court appoints one for them.

We already have an attorney (an advocate) appointed for us by the Father, **“Jesus Christ the righteous”** (1 John 2:1). Hebrews 2:18 tells us, **“in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour (help) them that are tempted.”** Not only is He able to help us, but He is also the One who already paid the price for our healing. When Jesus stands before the Father on our behalf, He pleads our case, based upon our inheritance, what He has already paid for, for us.

Jesus is the creator of this universe (John 1:3, Col. 1:16). The devil has nothing on Jesus. Jesus is our righteousness. All that Jesus did on the cross, He did it for us. Why? So that we could be free of all sickness and disease **“by the stripes He bore for us”** (1 Peter 2:24).

When we understand how decisions are made by a judge in a court of justice, we can also understand how that Jesus, our advocate pleads our case before the Father. Many cases in the lower courts are ruled upon according to how a similar case was ruled upon previously in the higher court. The ruling that was made in the higher court becomes the ruling for the lower court.

For us, God the Father is the righteous Judge over all creation. God the Father has already ruled that His Son, Jesus, has payed the price for all sickness, disease, sin, and iniquity. This was declared right from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Now, we have this ruling recorded in the Bible.

Christians can take the ruling of the Father (the Righteous Judge), which is written in the Bible and go before the devil, stating *“it is written,”* **“Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses”** (Matt. 8:17). Even though our inheritance is automatically added to our account when we are born again, we still must claim it ourselves. No one else can claim our inheritance for us. We must claim it ourselves. We must go before the highest court in this creation and claim our inheritance.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR INHERITANCE

How do we go before the righteous Judge of all creation and claim our inheritance? When we claim our inheritance we must go before the Father “in faith.” God only rewards those who come to Him in faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, **“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.”**

If God is not pleased with us, we will not be rewarded our inheritance, even though it is ours. Even though it belongs to us by inheritance. God only rewards those “who come by faith.” Abel offered to the LORD by faith, Cain did not. Abel’s offering was accepted but Cain was not.

How do we come before God by faith? First we must have faith. Those who have no faith will not receive from God. Yet, all Christians do have faith. The problem is they don’t know how to exercise their faith.

When a person is born again into the family of God they receive a gift of faith in the form of “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22). Romans 12:3 tell us God deals to everyone of His children a measure of faith. But those who are not born again do not have faith (2 Thes. 3:2).

Christians have faith. But most Christians do not use their faith. Most Christians do not know how to use their faith. They are like the disciples of Jesus’ time. When they should be using their faith they are looking for someone else to do it for them. The disciples were on the sea of Galilee in Luke 8:22-25). Jesus was asleep in the ship when a storm arose with great winds. It looked to them that they might perish in the storm. The awake Jesus, that He would do something about the situation. Jesus rebuked the wind and it become calm. Then Jesus said to His disciple **“Where is your faith?”** They had faith, but they didn’t use it. They awoke Jesus, that He would use His faith to calm the winds.

Jesus said to His disciples, **“where is your faith?”** The reason most Christians are not receiving healing for their bodies is that they are not using their faith. Too many Christians are looking for someone else to come and use their faith to set them free. God is asking Christians everywhere, “where is your faith?” Why are Christians not using their faith? They have faith. God knows they have faith. But, they are not using it to claim their inheritance.

Many Christians do not understand how faith works, therefore they do not receive by faith. First of all, **“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”** (Heb. 11:1). Many Christians are looking for some manifestation before they will believe. The manifestation will not come unless you first believe when there is no manifestation. The only evidence you will have is your faith, for your faith is the evidence of things hoped for.

You don’t need faith to receive what you can already see. You need faith to bring into sight

(or manifestation) that which you hope for. Faith come when we believe without any evidence in the natural, only an inward witness that God's Word is true. God will not fail if we will only believe. Then Faith works when we believe without any manifestation.

Faith does not work without patience. Patience is the ability to continue to believe against all opposition. No matter how great the wind on the sea, no matter how great the storm, faith works with patience. We speak the Word of God and they we stand in patience against all opposition until the manifestation comes.

It's the believing that causes faith to operate. If we believe God will reward us for speaking the Word of God, then faith will cause the manifestation. Jesus believed when He spoke to the wind that it would obey His command, therefore, faith caused the wind to cease.