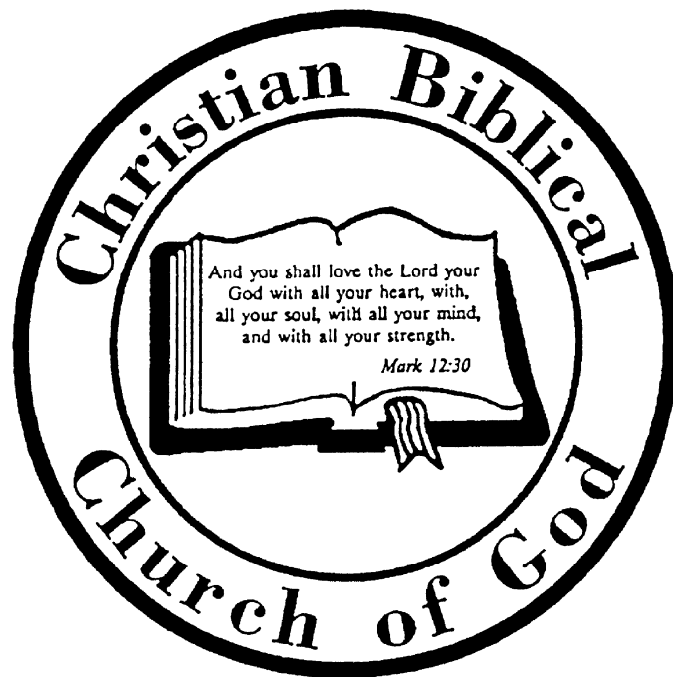


God's Healing



Transcript Book

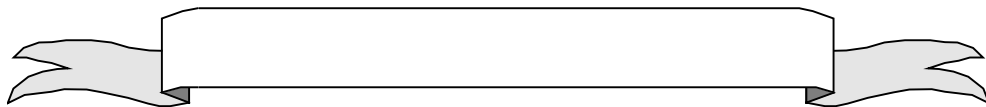
By Fred R. Coulter

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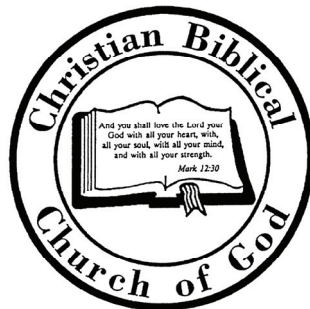
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Healing

Series of 8 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

- ☐ God's Will—Healing, Anointing & Death Date completed _____
- ☐ Demons, Trouble and Emotions Date completed _____
- ☐ If You Love Me Keep My Commands Date completed _____
- ☐ Spiritual Attitudes and Healing Date completed _____
- ☐ Conversion, Obedience & Health Date completed _____
- ☐ Emotions & Healing I Date completed _____
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- ☐ Conscience & Guilt Date completed _____

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God's Healing

Foreword

The Scriptures reveal that God sometimes allows sickness to afflict individuals for a special purpose. With this exception, the sickness that we suffer is the result of physical or spiritual sins. Divine healing is God's forgiveness of those sins. God the Father personally intervenes when He extends healing to those who call upon Him in times of sickness or injury. This divine intervention can be directed toward anyone at any time, as God wills, because Jesus Christ paid the price for healing from every sickness with the stripes of scourging that He received before His crucifixion. When God heals us, our sins are forgiven through the stripes of the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Miracles of healing are often granted. The Scriptures teach that one who desires to be healed by God should call for the elders of the church to anoint him or her with oil in the name of Jesus Christ and to pray for God's healing and intervention. Trusting God in faith for healing is a personal matter between each individual and God.

What is God's will concerning healing? When we read the accounts in the New Testament, we find that Jesus did a lot of healing. We also find that the Apostles performed a lot of miracles. It is important to grow in grace and knowledge, because God is giving us greater riches; a great calling. That's why it's so important to keep our minds focused on the goal: to be in the Kingdom of God having to attain to the resurrection of the dead. If a person is at the point of death but is faithful and believing in the promises of Christ, we have to understand that it is *God's will* that we die in the faith

Health trials can ***draw us closer to God, and increase our faith, love, and belief in God*** regardless of what the circumstances may be. Sometimes it's very difficult. That's why we need to pray for each other and ask God to intervene. Philippians 2:1: "Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of *the* Spirit, if any *deep* inner affections and compassions, fulfill my joy, that you be of the same mind..." (vs 1-2). Out of all these tragedies and difficulties that come along, this is what God wants us to do. "...Having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing. *Let* nothing *be* done through contention or vainglory, but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not *only* after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others" (vs 2-4).

A special thanks goes to Bonnie Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

God's Will Concerning Healing, Anointing, and Death

Fred R. Coulter

What is God's will concerning healing? When we read the accounts in the New Testament, we find that Jesus did a lot of healing. We also find that the Apostles performed a lot of miracles. Let's come to Acts the 5th chapter and let's see that.

Let me just say this: *In the years of my ministry, we have seen people healed of cancer—terminal cancer!* I remember a woman who had breast cancer, and she was really getting low. It was right at the point that when I walked into the house—we had the whole church fasting about it and praying about it; this was back in probably 1966 or 1967—you could smell the smell of death. I know that when I anointed her she was so thin, weak and emaciated that the only thing I could say was, 'God, You know! If it is your will to heal her, please do so. If it is not your will to heal her, end the pain and take her quickly.' She did a lot of things with herbs, cleansings, and teas. The women from the church were there helping her; and ***within 10 days she was totally healed!***

I've seen others where we've anointed them, and they weren't healed. It's not a matter that the anointing is one time good and another time not good. I think that it is that we place everything in God's hands, looking to Him to do His will. I think that today we have so many things wrong with the food supply, with the water we drink and with the air we breathe, that we are really confounded with a lot of difficulties and problems.

Acts 5:12: "And many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch; and none of the others dared to join them, but the people magnified them; and believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.) inasmuch *that the people were* bringing out the sick into the streets and putting *them* on beds and stretchers, so that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. And a multitude from the cities round about also came together to Jerusalem, bringing sick ones and those beset by unclean spirits; *and they were all healed*" (vs 12-16).

We know that the Apostle Paul performed miracles. We know that there were those who were raised up by the hand of the Apostle Paul. We also know that miracles, the kind we have read about here in Acts 5, are for the purpose of a witness to people, especially at that time in the Jewish society. However, they did not have these miracles all the way through the apostolic era. Even the Apostle Paul

had a 'difficulty,' and God did not heal him. God did not intervene, and we'll see why.

What we have to do is, hopefully, look at the whole picture. Let me just encourage all of you. I'm sure that we have an awful lot to do to take care of our bodies. *That is a very important thing!* We have so many things in the food supply, to say nothing of the genetic engineering; you have all the additives, you have the chemicals, you have all of those things. Plus, we're living in a time when we are susceptible to parasites like no other society has been in a long, long time. A lot of sickness and disease is caused by parasites. That's why God doesn't want us to eat the unclean foods; but there's more to health than just clean and unclean foods.

There was a time when there weren't miracles; the Apostle Paul was writing here in Philippians 2:19: "Now I trust in *the* Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon that I may also be encouraged when I know your state of affairs; for I have no one who is likeminded, who has genuine concern for you. For all are seeking their own things, not the things of Christ Jesus. But you know the proof of him, that as a child with a father, he served with me in the Gospel. Therefore, I hope to send him to you as soon as I see how my situation *turns out*" (vs 19-23).

"Now I have confidence in *the* Lord that I myself also shall come soon; but I felt *it* necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and soldier, but your messenger and minister for my need, since he was longing after all of you, and *was* deeply depressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick, *and* close to death... [*No miracle!* I imagine that Paul prayed for him several times.] ...but God had mercy on him; and not on him alone, but also on me, so that I might not have sorrow upon sorrow" (vs 24-27).

We have a situation where here was a person sick unto death whom God raised up in a merciful way. **So, when we're confronted with situations like that, the only thing we can do is put it in God's hands,** and say:

- God, You know!
- You understand!
- You have the power to do everything!

We can't come to God and be mad.

- We come to God and ask for His mercy.
- We come to God and ask for His healing.

That's how we need to approach these things.

Verse 28: "Therefore, I have sent him with great care so that you might rejoice when you see him again and I might be less sorrowful. So then, receive him in *the* Lord with all joy, and hold such in honor; because for the sake of the work of Christ he came near to death, having disregarded *his own* life, so that he might fill up the deficiency of your service toward me" (vs 28-30).

2-Corinthians 12:6: "But even if I choose to boast, I shall not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. However, I will forbear, lest anyone think of me above what he sees me *to be*, or what he hears from me." Paul didn't want to get people following him, looking him up, and the whole thing of the *respector of persons*.

Verse 7: "But in order that I might not be exalted by the abundance of the revelations, *there* was given to me a thorn in the flesh... [we don't know exactly what this 'thorn in the flesh' was] ...an angel of Satan to buffet me, so that I might not be exalted. I besought the Lord three times for this, that it might depart from me; but He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you; for My power is made perfect in weakness'" (vs 7-9). If a person is at the point of death but is faithful and believing in the promises of Christ, we have to understand that it is *God's will* that we die in the faith. Is that not true? *Some sooner! Some later!* God knows all these things anyway, and if a person dies in the faith, then they have nothing to look forward to except:

- great glory
- the resurrection
- being with Christ
- being with all the saints

That's what's important, brethren. Some of us are going to live longer than others. I know of a person up in Waco whose mother died at 93. She lived a long life. Every circumstance is different. ***God knows what He's doing!***

We also have to say that it's not God's will to come down and heal everybody of everything. We've seen that, too. We would all like to have more healings; we would all like to have more miracles; but all of that is totally in God's hands. I've seen some spectacular healings. I've seen where there wasn't healing; but, nevertheless, it's all in God's hands.

I've seen where God intervenes and helps people who need the assistance of a doctor. As in my case with my hips; I was the cause of the problem with my hips. I had a lower back problem and I didn't get a chiropractor to help keep it in. He never told me that if I exercised properly that the muscles would hold my lower back in. So, I did my own

home remedy. I put on an elastic, lower-back brace and it restricted the blood supply to my hips. Then over a period of years—because I wore it for years—it restricted the blood supply to my hips. I've had the operations for them. God has seen me through it; I'm thankful that He has. I've learned a lesson from it; which is this: Fred, you better take care of your body. You better realize that God has allowed this for discipline so that you are going to take care of yourself. I accept it at that level. Different people have different things.

When we're in a situation like this, or like the Apostle Paul here in 2-Corinthians 12:9—God said: **"...My power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore, most gladly will I boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ may dwell in me. For this reason, **I take pleasure in weaknesses...** [The Apostle Paul had to really be converted and filled with the Spirit of God to say: '...I take pleasure in weaknesses...' Most of us complain—don't we?] ...in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (vs 9-10). *Because if you're weak physically but you're strong in the Lord, there can be nothing greater than that; because that's what God wants!*

The only thing I can say in these situations is—and I wish that we did have a good report of the lady referred to earlier, and I do hope and pray that God will intervene, raise her up at the last minute, if it's His will—that in her situation, if she passes on in the faith, then she's got it made. The rest of us have to stay here and work. When we look at Paul's situation here, sometimes God lets these things come upon us so that we'll *learn to trust God!* Especially when we're in situations where we have suffering and we have pain, we *learn to trust God*; and God intervenes and helps us, and sees us through to the end. Then that's a good thing.

Remember, Israel got old and blind. Paul had his problems. Every one of us have our problems. Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints".

When someone dies, we personally have a loss. It makes it very difficult. I know when one of the brethren's wife died, a year ago in January, it was a great loss. They were married 45 years. She was in the hospital and she entered into her rest on the Sabbath. The doctors were coming in and getting everybody out because they wanted to check on her, and she said, 'Well, he can stay. This is my sweetheart.' Then she just turned, looked away, and died. She died in the faith. God says *that's precious!*

How many people are alive and apparently well but giving up on God? You have a *whole different situation* that way—don't you? In cases

like that I pray for those people; that they will live and not die in a situation where they may forsake God. So, if we look at this way:

- for healing
- for living
- for dying

Romans 14—this is what we have to resolve in our minds. None of us, except through the broad outline of prophecy, know exactly, specifically, what is going to happen—do we? I think that 9/11 really proved that—didn't it? What we have to resolve in our minds and:

- this is all a part of conversion
- this is all a part of loving God
- this is all a part of the determination that we make

We don't follow God when the times are just good. We have to follow God even when the times are not good. We know the time is coming when this nation is going to go through literal hell! You know it's coming because we're all big, fat, and sassy—aren't we? For us living in this society, we don't want to get caught up in that. We have to determine in our mind this thing:

Romans 14:7: "For no one among us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we should live unto the Lord; and if we die, we should die unto the Lord. So then, **whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's**" (vs 7-8). ***That's the resolve we have to have!*** Within that, then, we have the things concerning healing. I hope and pray, and it's my prayer every day, that God would intervene and help those, and heal those who are sick. He's raised up a great many people, others He hasn't.

We just found out about a minister down in Meridian, Mississippi, 61-years-old. They were driving home, he had a heart attack; died. You always ask: If he took better care of himself, could this, perhaps, have been avoided? *We don't know!* We've also had other ministers from Worldwide who have died: Bill McDowell, Raymond Cole, Hugh Mark, Herbert Armstrong. There will be others who will die! All of that is in God's provision; in God's Plan. We don't know when it may befall any of us. I do a lot of flying on the plane and I ask God to put His angels about the plane; I appreciate that. The plane has always landed with both wings and the wheels. I appreciate that and thankful God can work it out that way.

There are other things that situations like this do. They help us to share the burden with each other and pray for each other; that we're not all-consumed in ourselves, in our problems, and the

things that we're afflicted with. It's like the story: *I was complaining because I didn't have shoes until I saw a man who didn't have feet!*

What we have to do with this is that we also have to have the mind of Christ, and look at it the way God looks at it. What did God do for us but die—correct? *Yes!* He didn't deserve one bit of it—did He? ***He did not sin!*** He did it because *He loved us!* The Father sent Him because *the Father loves us!* Through the whole process of everything that we go through, here's what God wants out of it: not to focus on the suffering, not to focus on the things that don't go the way that we may think, but to use every one of these things as an opportunity to grow in grace, and knowledge, and love; even though there may be sorrow along the way.

Philippians 2:1: "Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of *the* Spirit, if any *deep* inner affections and compassions, fulfill my joy, that you be of the same mind..." (vs 1-2). Out of all these tragedies and difficulties that come along, this is what God wants us to do.

"...having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing. *Let* nothing *be* done through contention or vainglory, but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not *only* after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others" (vs 2-4).

This is what God wants us to do when we have difficulties and problems like that! There are always going to be people who are in pain and suffering. They are there so they can grow in faith, in spite of the pain and suffering; that we can pray for them, and not look to our own things. Because too many times, when we pray, it's all: me, myself and I. So, that's why we have it.

Verse 5: "Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus." All of these things are to let the mind of Christ come into us through the power of the Holy Spirit; rather than question God. It's not wrong to question God and say, 'Why, God?' But don't let it come to the point like Job did, that he accused God. Let the mind of Christ be in you so that you can understand, as these things come, so that we can grow in grace and knowledge, and have faith. That's what it's all for, ***if*** we can keep that in the mind.

Look what Christ gave up, v 6: "Who, although He existed in *the* form of God...[Existing *as God!* He *was God!*] ...did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. But emptied Himself, *and* was made in *the* likeness of men, *and* took the form of a servant; and being found in *the* manner of man, He

humbled Himself, *and* became obedient unto death... [that's what we need to do] ...even *the* death of *the* cross" (vs 6-8). I hope this gives us a little better understanding.

Many times God lets us stay sick so we figure out what we've done that's wrong. Other times He'll be merciful and heal us and raise us up immediately. We have the full range of everything. I also know this, that if all of a sudden everyone who had a terminal sickness within the Church of God was healed, there'd be so many people running to us to be healed. Like the 5,000 who were fed. They wanted to make Christ king so that they could have free food. Likewise, there will be people who will just come to be healed. Whether they will follow God after that or not is another thing. I hope this helps us keep all of these things in perspective.

One other thing. You look around on all of us, and I include myself in it, God has called a pretty motley crew—hasn't He? *Well, that's true!* So, in calling us, God has already had mercy on us to begin with—right? God does things the opposite of what human beings do. We've just seen the Olympics. They want:

- the strongest
- the toughest
- the most precise
- the most daring
- the most handsome
- the most beautiful

That doesn't apply to any of us—does it?

1-Corinthians 1:26: "For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh..." That's another reason why we have so many problems, because we're not very smart, and I include myself in there. I know this, that everything I have has come from God, whether it's physical or whether it's spiritual. If we always keep that in mind then we're not going to be lifted up and exalted that we're some great thing. Always remember, 'He who exalts himself shall be abased.' With this kind of calling, we can't get too high on ourselves—can we?

"...not many who are powerful... [no, we're weak] ...not many who are high-born... [aristocrats or important people in the society] ...*among you*. Rather, **God has chosen the foolish things of the world...**" (vs 26-27). That's why we make so many mistakes. Sometimes we make dumb decisions—don't we? Well, that's because He's chosen the foolish, so that we can learn. He's done this for a purpose. He has done this to **confound the wise!** That is the wise, the rich, and the important of the world. They wouldn't look upon us; we're just riff-raff. That's why God has called us. That's why it's

so important to grow in grace and knowledge, because God is giving us greater riches, a greater calling. That's why it's so important to keep our minds focused on the goal: to be in the Kingdom of God, to attain to the resurrection of the dead.

"...so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things. And the low-born of the world, and the despised... [that's us, brethren] ...has God chosen—*even* the things that are counted as nothing—... [He's going to do something through us] ...in order that He might **bring to nothing the things that are**" (vs 27-28).

I'm sure that with George W. Bush, that if he saw any of us he would think that we're certainly *unqualified* to rule the world. At this point, in the flesh, we are. When we are made spirit beings, *we will be well qualified*; for God will give us the ability.

Here's the whole purpose of all of it, v 29: **"So that no flesh should glory in His presence."** Job tried that. Remember that? Job tried that—didn't he? We'll look at that in just a minute and see what God told him.

Here's a key, v 30: "But you are of Him in Christ Jesus, Who was made to us wisdom from God—even righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." Those are all the things God is doing—working with us so that we will always look to God and trust in Christ—so that no flesh glories in His presence. ***He that glories let him glory in the Lord!***

There was a time in his discussion with his friends and his arguments with them that Job said—because he looked at himself as being so righteous—'I wish there were an umpire between me and God; that he could put his hand on both of our shoulders and settle this issue.' God let him know even in all of the suffering and affliction that he went through, that he still exalted himself—didn't he? *Yes, he did!*

Job 40:1: "And the LORD answered Job and said, 'Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct *Him*? He who reproves God, let him answer it'" (vs 1-2). We always end up somewhere or other in our lives that it's very easy to say that God's not fair. That's literally what Job was doing. 'God's not fair to bring this upon me. After all, I don't deserve it.' He was correcting God. So God says, 'You answer it.'

Verse 3: "And Job answered the LORD and said, 'Behold, I am vile!... [now he's getting the point] ...What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth.... [Oops! I'm going to shut up!] ...Once I have spoken; but I will not answer, yea,

twice, but I will proceed no further” (vs 3-5). It's about time!

Verse 6: “And the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ‘Gird up your loins now like a man. I will demand you, and you declare unto Me. Will you even annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me so that you may be righteous?’” (vs 6-8). Those are pretty powerful words—aren't they?

Verse 9: “And *have* you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?.... [He says, ‘Okay, Job, I'll give you a proposition.’] ...Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency...” (vs 9-10). That is ‘let's see your glory.’ You think you're greater than God—show us.

“...and array yourself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of your wrath; and behold everyone who is proud, and abase him. Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in darkness. Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you” (vs 10-14).

And, yes, Job repented. He said, ‘I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye see You. Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes’

All of these things, brethren—when we combine it together and put it together is ***to draw us closer to God, and to increase our faith, love, and belief in God***, regardless of what the circumstances may be. Sometimes it's very difficult. That's why we need to pray for each other and just ask God to intervene. That's about the best I can do.

Speaking of Paul when God said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you,’ how did God talk to Paul? *Probably through the power of the Holy Spirit He let it be known!* After all, he was an apostle! I can't say God has spoken to me. A lot of ministers say, ‘God spoke to me.’ ***Read the Bible!*** God doesn't speak to everyone. He's spoken to very few people in the whole history of the world!

When Christ was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and He was praying so fervently and in agony that His sweat was like great drops of blood falling to the ground, He accepted the death that He was going to go through.

Whatever comes, that's all we can say. We would wish and hope:

- that everything would be fine and smooth and no problems
- that every sickness and every disease would be healed instantly
- that God would perform miracles whenever we needed it

All of those are physical things and God wants our spiritual perfection! If we go through things like this and we are ***spiritually perfected***, *that's a greater glory! That's a greater accomplishment!* That's what God wants us to have in those things.

(go to the next track)

Look what Christ had to go through. Whenever we get to feeling sorry for ourselves and we get that ‘picked-on’ feeling; I've had that; you have probably all had that. Why Lord? I'll tell you what, Christ didn't deserve any of it—did He? He did it willingly.

Hebrews 5:7: “Who, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was able to save Him from death... [Christ's life in the flesh was difficult] ...and was heard because *He* feared *God*. Although He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience from the things that He suffered” (vs 7-8). When we have suffering, we need to learn. *Christ learned!* As a matter of fact, through becoming a human being, God was perfected—not that God was not ever perfect; but through what He did, He was perfected even more.

Verse 9: “And having been perfected... [through all that He went through] ...He became *the* Author of eternal salvation **to all those who obey Him.**” I hope this will:

- help us
- encourage us
- let us know that we're doing what God wants

Let the things come the way that they come; then the only thing we can say is, ***‘Your will be done, God!’***

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1). Acts 5:12-16
- 2). Philippians 2:19-30
- 3). 2-Corinthians 12:6-10
- 4). Psalms 116:15
- 5). Romans 14:7-8
- 6). Philippians 2:1-8
- 7). 1-Corinthians 1:26-30
- 8). Job 40:1-14
- 9). Hebrews 5:7-9

Demons, Trouble and Emotions

Fred R. Coulter

This morning what I want to do is review a little bit concerning the things of casting out demons and add a little bit to the episode yesterday. Remember the first time they went and spent five hours and laid hands on this woman and prayed for her. They got into a shouting match with the demons and they were not able to successfully cast them out the first time. However, the demons were under command and authority to leave. What was missing and what is important whenever you're dealing with anyone who has demons is this: You must get through to the person and find out whether that person—not the demon speaking, but that individual—wants the demons out. When they want them out, they will leave. You don't have to spend a lot of time with it.

In the first instance, the woman did not want them out. When she was finally confronted with the fact that she could no longer attend church, that her baptism was not valid, and that she had to desire from the innermost part of her being to get rid of these demons, that's when they left—even though she had counseling and even though it took place before they came back. Even though the demons left at that time, I believe it was because of what the elders did the first time in expelling them and commanding them to go; but the woman had to make the decision that she wanted them out herself. When she came to that decision, they had to go. Always keep that in mind when you're dealing with demons.

Another thing to add on to that, we don't have to back down to anybody. We have lived under abuse of power. We have to be meek, we have to be humble, we have to be yielded to God—which we do; but we don't have to back down to any enemy. Let's put it that way. ***We give no quarter to any enemy at all—period!*** Part of the thing that we need to do as elders is that ***we need to have the faith and the conviction!*** *That's what's important!* That cannot come by saying, 'Oh, we've got a demon to cast out. We better fast and pray and get up with God.' ***No!*** That comes

- day-by-day
- day in and day out
- week in and week out
- month in and month out
- year in and year out

It's always a battle that we are in, one way or the other.

In Matthew 28, we can claim this whenever we're dealing in confrontations. With people, we can

be long-suffering, but whenever there are contentious confrontations you do not have to back down at all.

- you can be nice
- you can be kind if you need to
- you can be bold
- you can be authoritative in the cases that you need to

Some people will not listen to a reasonable answer. So, you have to lay it straight out. No apologies. Don't say, 'Well, I'm sorry I've got to tell you this.' ***No! You're not sorry! Christ commands you to do it!***

Here's what Jesus said, Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came *and* spoke to them, saying, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'" ***That's how we defeat the prince of the power of the air—all authority!*** The most important thing for any elder—or anybody also involved with you in casting out demons—is their continuous relationship with God. That's more important than anything else. Another thing that you also need to remember: ***Never take someone with you in a case of casting out demons who is a very timid, fearful, shy person.*** They will be overwhelmed and they will give strength to the demon. You can't do that. You don't have to take any lip. You don't have to take any guff. ***Christ will cast them out, and He will continue to do so!*** We need to really keep that in mind and understand that.

One of the brethren made the comment that on his website people are e-mailing in about demon problems that they have in their homes with their young children. Let me tell you this: The public schools teach demonism to kids beginning in grade school, that you can talk to your 'helper.' That's why I think it's very important that anyone who has small kids and you really love them, you better figure out what you can do budget-wise so you can home school your kids. There's a lot of good stuff that you can get on home schooling and you will keep them away from that influence. You will keep them away from the demonic music and everything that goes with it. The absolute worse thing you can do for little kids is to let them watch cartoons and Harry Potter.

Back to the thing concerning demons with little kids, and the other one was haunted houses or demons in houses. One experience I had with casting demons out of a house was with a 12,000-mile phone call to Australia. This woman was living in a house where they had demons. I said, 'Okay. What

you do is you take this phone, you go from room to room, you lay hands on every wall—one wall in every room—and I will pray in the name of Christ that they be expelled from the house,’ and they were. There are cases of haunted houses. There are cases of haunted places, too; such as globes and things outdoors.

Why they go out and sit in the desert and sit some place in the woods until they have whatever they’re going to have—a vision, or a thought, or whatever—is because there are places where demons congregate. One thing—very important: **A demon cannot deal with authority in love**—remember that! They cannot handle that. That’s why it’s so very important that in teaching the brethren, we really teach them the love of God. *The love of God has the greatest power of all, because that is the greatest characteristic of God—when it says that God is love.* They can’t stick around where there is love. That goes against their grain of hatred, envy, strife, jealousy, and false doctrine. When you have love, then you have Truth—the Truth of God.

What you have whenever they take down these churches is that they come in and they start twisting the doctrine ever so slightly and that begins to give the opening. They know the principle: *a little leaven leavens the whole lump*. They know that if you start down the road of false doctrine, sooner or later the friends behind them will come; not right at once, but all you have to do is witness the history of what we have been through.

Audience member: There was this fellow we knew in the Worldwide Church of God who was a minister and elder for several years. He left the Worldwide Church of God when they had the split-up. He went off on his own. He went to another group and learned many things. He was arrested by the police for having sex with a teenage boy in the woods. He was a minister for more than 20 years in the Worldwide Church of God. He learned how to speak in tongues during the time he was leaving the Worldwide Church of God. There were several other people who did the same thing who had some problems.

Ministerial staff: Demons cannot stand the presence of the Holy Spirit, so the stronger you are and the closer you are to God. It’s a situation of oil and water, they don’t mix. They can’t stay around. They hate Christ. They hate God. They will not stay around *the stronger you are spiritually*.

Secondly, I’ve noticed that the Harry Potter movies are shown over and over again, at 2, 3, 4 o’clock in the morning.

They’re not really directed at all just to kids. At that time of the night you should be asleep. Your mind is almost in a dream mode and you’re very susceptible to this influence. Many, many adults of all ages who have trouble sleeping—that’s their work schedule—are being exposed to this over and over again

I might mention concerning TV, if you watch a lot of murder mysteries, something like Matlock, you really don’t see the violence; you’re more into unraveling how the crime occurred. Something like that, I would say, is not bad. But when you get into:

- where there is violence
- where there is blood
- where there is the slow motion tearing apart the head and opening the body
- where there is bondage
- where there is demonism

—where there are all these things, and if you fill your mind with that, you are going to *weaken the Holy Spirit in you!* I’m not saying you’re going to become demon possessed, but you are going to *weaken the Holy Spirit in you!* That is not something that we need to be putting our minds to; just remember that. If you’re watching a lot of that—even some of these police reports that they have and so forth—it gets too much, it’s too demonic, and we can’t let our minds dwell on it. We can take it as a point of fact that such and such happened, but let’s not get all involved in the demonism of it.

Comparing that you have 10,000 times 10,000 angels and thousands and thousands that are still righteous and Satan took a third of the angels with him (Rev. 5)—we’ll just say 200-million are left—that gives you about 100-million demons. But God is merciful and a lot of them are still in the abyss yet to be let out (Rev. 9).

The worst of them are still there, but as a society progressively goes down, **down** into demonism—which Harry Potter and all these movies are doing worldwide—then demons have more power and more activity because people relate to it. Part of the thing that’s very important is that we do not be afraid.

Here’s what we need to teach the brethren and here’s what we need to teach the young people. This is so profound and so important. I might mention that we are getting more young people and young families starting to attend now. There’s a reason why all these old gray heads are here. Maybe we can help them. A lot of them really don’t know what to do. A lot of them really don’t know anything about proper childrearing.

But one thing all of us can do and teach our children to do is, Proverbs 4:23: “Above all guard the door of your mind with diligence, for out of it *are* the issues of life.” We’re dealing with eternal life. ***God made man to receive His Spirit! That’s the whole purpose that He made man!*** We need to ***guard the door of our mind!***

Today we have a lot of people that haven’t been guarding the door of their mind and they are called Laodiceans. What did Christ say, ‘I’m going to spew you out of My mouth’ and then He said, ‘Behold, I am at the door and knock.’ That doesn’t mean the imminent return, necessarily. That means He’s standing with those that He has spewed out of His mouth and knocking on the door of their mind that they better wake up and let Christ in. He said that if you ‘open the door, I will come in to you and sup with you and you with Me.’ We also need to teach that to the brethren.

Verse 24: “Put away from you a deceitful mouth... [that’s vanity; Satan uses vanity] ...and devious lips put far from you... [those are things that the demons would follow in and inspire on] ...Let your eyes look right on... [***keep your eye on Christ***] ...and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established.... [obviously, established in God’s way] ...Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil” (vs 24-27).

That’s how you guard the door of your mind. You need to take this thing step-by-step. Therefore, many of the things that are just out there—you can go through the check stand—and who is Satan after first? *All the Eve’s coming through the checkout stand at the supermarket—right?* How many semi-nude images of men do you see on the front covers of magazines? *None! They’re all women!* Why? *Because women compare themselves with other women!* This is how they get into jealousy. This is how they get into taking the step into compromising any standard of sexual morality. Out in California they have these sex clubs and guess who are the ones who are the leaders in it? *The women!* There are also a lot of things that come in these magazines that don’t necessarily have to do with sex, but have to do with destroying marriages, in many cases. Once in a while you may find an article on how to improve your marriage. But Satan is up to the same old thing he has always done, because if he can get Eve then he can get Adam. Let’s keep that in mind. This is important. ***We need to guard the door of our minds, not let any of these things in!***

That’s why it is imperative that when we teach, when we preach, *we know the Word of God—*

that we have proven the Word of God! Not like some minister was reported to have said to the people he teaches: ‘You don’t need a concordance. You don’t need a dictionary. You don’t need any of these things. I will do that for you. Just listen to me.’ You know what’s going to happen to him and the people. It won’t happen all a once. That’s the same approach as a seducing spirit. Another thing: The command is by Paul, ***‘Preach the Word!’*** (2-Tim. 4). That’s what to preach. That is the witness of the Apostles that goes to the end of the earth. So, we preach the Word. We let Christ in us, Who is The Word:

- we believe it
- we love it
- we know it
- we have conviction

That’s what needs to be if there is going to be any grace with the things that we do. We’re not going to go out on a growth pattern and say, ‘Okay, let’s go. How many more can we get?’ *No!* That’s totally the wrong approach. We stick with the Word of God. We stick with the Truth of God and we preach to the remnant. When we preach to the remnant it’s a witness to everybody else, because *many are called but few are chosen!* The few that are chosen are the remnant—are they not? The remnant are those who want the Truth, who want the righteousness, who want to do what is right.

- Who is giving them the inspiration to do so? *God is!*
- Who leads them to repentance? *God does!*
- Who works with them to open their minds to begin with? *God does!*

We are merely a tool in the work that God is doing!

Here’s what’s important, Isaiah 1:9: “Except the LORD of hosts had left us a **very small remnant**, we would have been as Sodom; we would have become like Gomorrah.”

{interruption in subject matter}

Spiritual Aspect Of Healing:

I want to cover some things concerning healing, the spiritual aspects of healing. An important place to begin is Luke 18, because a lot of people feel safe and trust in commandment-keeping. Commandment-keeping is required, but our trust should be in God and in Christ. Therefore, because

- you attend church
- you keep the Sabbath
- you keep the Holy Days

- you tithe
- you don't eat unclean foods

—and everything like this—there are still some aspects of healing that go beyond the physical. We've already talked about demons. I'm not talking about demonism in this case. I'm talking about the personal heart and the personal attitude.

Luke 18:10^[transcriber's correction]: "Two men went up into the temple to pray..." We can say today, two baptized members pray to God and their prayer goes up to God in heaven. We can use the same analogy here.

Verse 9: "And to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others, He also spoke this parable" Notice what we have here first of all; not only a comparison, but we also have an attitude of despising. You can put any kind of attitude in there you want—unforgiving, anger, hatred—all 'the works of the flesh' (Gal. 5:19^[transcriber's correction])

It is possible for people to keep the letter of the law, attend church, keep the Sabbath, not eat unclean foods, etc., and still not be right with God because of whatever it may be. They are trusting in their righteousness, or they are not, depending upon Christ's righteousness, which would be a better way of saying it. A lot of people carry a lot of things with them because they don't trust in Christ, yet, they profess that they do.

I'm going to say right up front that 85% of all my anointing is with women. Not to say that women are at fault or worse than men, but the Bible says that they are the weaker vessels. Women are more prone, emotionally, to some of the things we're going to talk about than men, but men are not exempt. We just have to understand that and lay the table out where it is, clearly, so we understand that when we're dealing with people, sickness, anointing, and things like that, we don't just come to the physical aspect of it; we must also deal with the attitude. The attitude becomes the important thing.

Verse 11: "The Pharisee stood and prayed with himself in this manner... [People pray; people study—don't they? *Yes, indeed!*] ...'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—extortioners...'" Comparing himself with others, or especially the unforgiving spirit.

I think that's very prevalent in the Church, the unforgiving spirit. The unforgiving spirit is based in hatred. If you have hate in your heart, don't for one minute think you're serving God even though you attend church. You're not serving God, because **God is love! God is not hate!** A lot of the

sicknesses that people bear are because of that same kind of attitude.

He rattles off everything he does: Not an adulterer or even as this publican, this dirty, scum of a tax collector. 'You know, I'm so righteous, I fast twice in the week, hooray for me.' It also comes to a comparative attitude. What we're doing is not only an inner attitude but also a comparative attitude: 'Oh, I know I'm a sinner but I'm not as bad as so-and-so'—lot of people do that. You know the rest of the story. The tax collector repented and he was right with God because of repentance (vs 12-14).

- What did he have to repent of? *Everything!*
- What do we have to repent of? *Everything!*

With some people it goes clear back to when they're little kids. They hold resentment, they hold grudges against fathers or mothers—the unforgiving attitude accompanies that.

- you have resentment
- you have anger
- you have hostility

You have all of these things accompanying an unforgiving attitude. That is one of the greatest blocks to helping and to healing. I'm going to modify the letter I send out for anointing. I'm going to put in there the things that need to be repented of *spiritually*.

Let's look at the unforgiving attitude first of all. Christ spends a lot of time with the unforgiving attitude. *It's so important!* Let's get this straight once and for all, by the example of Jesus Christ: ***You must for your part forgive the other person even if they have not come to you and said, 'Forgive me'!*** You, in your heart before God, must forgive that other person; just as Jesus did when He was on the cross. He said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' Did they ask for forgiveness before He forgave them? *No!* Now then, you say, 'Well, that's outrageous!' No, it isn't; because if Christ is in you, what would Christ do? ***You have to do it yourself, first!*** Sometimes things are so estranged that obviously you can't get together with them. Let's see how Jesus covers this a little later.

He says here in Matthew 5:21: "You have heard that it was said to those *in ancient times*, 'You shall not commit murder; but whoever commits murder shall be subject to judgment' but I say to you, everyone who is angry with his brother without cause shall be subject to judgment..." (vs 21-22). That is Gehenna fire.

You can have a cause of anger, but what are you to do with the anger? You're to sin not, and

you're not to let the sun go down on your wrath. In other words, by the time you go to bed at night, you better get this thing resolved between you and God. You might not be able to get it resolved immediately with the person. For example: If you've had something that your father and mother did to you when you were young and they are dead, obviously you can't reconcile with them; but you can reconcile with God.

- Why should you carry guilt?
- Why should you carry hatred?
- Why should you carry envy?
- Why should you carry jealousy?

All of the things I named there are spiritual sins which destroy your health and keep you from being healed.

Verse 22: "...Now *you have heard it said*, 'Whoever shall say to his brother, "Raca," shall be subject to *the judgment of the council*.' But *I say to you*, whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be subject to the fire of Gehenna." Why is this? *Because Jesus is teaching the love of God*—isn't He? That's what He's teaching. That follows right after all of the beatitudes. All the beatitudes show the attitudes that we need to have. The opposite of these attitudes is what we ought not have.

Verse 23: "For this reason, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar..." (vs 23-24). God doesn't even want to hear your prayer because your prayer is going to be exactly like the Pharisee—*right*? How far did it go? With himself? *Didn't go to God!* Oh, he used God's name. Yes, he was at the temple. But of what benefit was it, *because he despised others!*

"...and go *your way*; first be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (v 24).

If you tend to hold grudges, have resentment, and remember things that people have done that have not been right, how do you know that they haven't repented of that? How much does that attitude of resentment toward the individual, whomever it may be, cut you off from God? They know absolutely for sure that it affects your body and it affects your immune system. They are finding that more and more people with these kinds of diseases do not have physical ailments, they have *spiritual* maladies that bring upon the physical ailments. Granted there are things that happen with food, that's true.

How is it that you have someone like Art Linkletter at 90 years and 6 months old on Larry

King? Larry King, with his lizard eyes, looked through his glasses at Art Linkletter and said, 'How old are you?' Linkletter said, 'I'm 90 and 6 months.' Larry King said, 'Well, how do you do it?'

It's a Biblical truth: Linkletter said, 'Everyone lives between their ears.' That's why God is concerned with your heart. Linkletter said, 'I do not dwell on anything negative.' All the things that we just mentioned are all negative and those are spiritual sins. Linkletter said another thing, 'I exercise every day.'

We're not into exercise here but that's a good example. I'll just say this: Exercise at any age helps you. Even if you're 90-years-old, and the only thing you can do is sit in the chair and lift 2-lb. dumbbells. By the way, if you are house-bound and you need exercise, get one of those little bicycle peddlers that you put on the floor right in front of your chair. Just sit there in your chair and use it. They have found that it benefits people. I thought, 'Look at this! Here's a man in the world, and he's better off than a lot of people 50 years younger in the Church!' What does he do? He's applying the principles that we also covered earlier: ***Guard the door of your mind!*** That means: ***Control your attitude!***

A lot of people, especially women, are subject to this because they are much more emotional, they have more feelings, and they feel that their feelings are sacred when they are not. Their feelings are no more sacred than anything else. Anybody's feelings can be sin.

Verse 43 is another important thing that you need to understand.

(go to the next track)

This is the hardest one to do but God said that you must do it. If you believe that what Jesus said is the Word of God and you transgress what He says, are you not sinners? Though you are not breaking a commandment law, as defined in the Ten Commandments, is this not what we're going to read here just as much? *or* A greater commandment—as any commandment that we could read in the law?

Verse 43: "You have heard that is was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love your enemies...**" (vs 43-44). That's how you do it. Especially someone who's offended you. Especially if you have a cantankerous neighbor.

All of you in the Appalachia area know the resentment of the Hatfields and McCoys. They've carried this on from generation to generation. Look at today. Where is Islam going with its hatred but to

the Battle of Armageddon to be absolutely wiped off the face of the earth! Love your enemy. We're also told 'if he's hungry, feed him, if he's naked, clothe him.' Then you'll be 'heaping coals of fire upon his head,' because God said, 'vengeance is Mine.' How do you love your enemy? *You ask God for a right attitude; that you hold*

- no resentment
- no grudge
- no anger
- no bitterness

toward your neighbor or your enemy. *None whatsoever!*

I can tell you this: If you read the history of the biography of William Tyndale, that's exactly what he did to the very end. He was not concerned that he was going to be burned at the stake. He asked God to open the eyes of the king of England, which God did. Likewise, if we hate our enemies we're to hate evil and distinguish between the person and the action; if we hurt our neighbors—because we're to love our neighbors as ourselves—then you know what happens. When you don't love God and you don't love your neighbor, then you don't love yourself and you hate yourself. Then you go around with a guilt attitude, feelings of remorse and pity; — all of this stuff. When you do, ***you are sinning against God!*** Those are the things that need to be repented of, not only just the physical things.

People in the world who eat all the unclean foods and do all these things, how is it that they are in better health than we are? *Probably it's because a lot of them don't carry around the mental baggage and attitude that we have had.* How many of us have been through so many circumstances with Worldwide Church of God that we can never get over it? We can't even view it as history without resentment, hatred and things stirring up in us! As I said some time ago—all those years in the Worldwide Church of God—*be healed!* Also, all of those who have had a bad childhood, bad marriages—*be healed! Repent! Repent of those things; that's what God wants!*

Verse:44: "...bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you... [so that you're not wrapped up in the hatred that they're wrapped up in] ...and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, so that you yourselves **may be** the children of your Father Who *is* in heaven" (vs 44-45). It's saying that if you **don't** do this you're not the children of God. If you have:

- hate in your heart
- jealousy in your heart

- resentment
- anger
- bitterness

who are you serving? Whose child are you? *You're not the child of God!*

He wants you to understand something. God has all power. God can destroy the wicked anytime He wants to—which He did with the Flood of Noah—completely. But He wants you to understand something: since He is love, He also does the same thing, *He is slow to anger*. He will take vengeance when it is time for Him to do so, but He says, 'I don't delight in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn.' If we carry these things in our heart, we follow in the same way, we need to turn.

Verse 45: "...for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *on the* good, and sends rain on *the* just and *on the* unjust." He's saying very clearly, that if you want to be the child of God, you cannot have these things in your heart, mind and attitude. There's no room for them.

Verse 46: "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not the tax collectors practice the same *thing*? And if you salute your brethren only, what have you done *that is* extraordinary? Do not the tax collectors practice the same *thing*? Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect" (vs 46-48). Of course, that's an attitude.

Let's talk a little bit more about the unforgiving spirit. Matthew 18 has to do with it. There are many other verses that we can read but we don't want to get this all bogged down. Matthew 18:10: "Take heed *that* you do not despise one of these little ones..."

- Does that just apply to those who are in the Church?
- What if you despise people and every time you see them you have hatred for them?
- Does that not affect you?
- Does that not affect your attitude?
- Does that not affect your health?

Yes, it does!

- Why do you want to carry all this baggage around with you?

When we [ministry] go to anoint those who have sickness and it is repeated and repeated, then we just need to really level with them and say: 'You need to go to God and pour out your heart to God. You need to search your life, your heart and your mind. You know what is in there.' We're not

psychologists we're not mind readers or anything like that. They have to get these things out.

It shows the process on how we handle things in the Church. You go to the person, and so forth—two or three—then you go to the Church. What you agree on *you're bound*. Whatever you agree on regarding any situation, whatsoever you agree on earth, *it's bound*.

Verse 21: "Then Peter came to Him *and* said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Until seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you until seven times, but until seventy times seven'" (vs 21-22). This is your interpersonal relationship.

This is not how you handle people who preach false doctrine. That's in a whole different category. The way you love them is to separate yourself from them. Let them go their way. Hold no resentment. Hold no bitterness. This especially applies to husband and wife relations. Husbands and wives are very keen on seeing the faults of each other—aren't they? After all, you sleep with each other all the time. You know them—don't you? Sometimes you can even predict them—can't you? *Yes!* Therefore, you are less inclined to forgive. Is that not true? *Especially if they do it over and over again*—is that not true? Is that not the source of a lot of husband and wife problems within the Church? *Yes! It is an unforgiving spirit!*

Maybe you said, 'Well, I forgive,' but you still remember and grind it in. You may with the mouth say, 'I forgive,' but with the heart you say, 'I hate.' You can't have that. We're not only talking about spiritual growth, but we're also talking about those things that affect the state of your health, too.

Then you know the story here. The one who owed 10,000 talents was forgiven. He didn't remember that. The long and the short of it is this: If you expect Christ to forgive you, and if the person coming to be anointed wants to be well, then they better ***get rid of an unforgiving spirit***. How can we kneel down and lay hands on that person, anoint that person and pray for healing, when that person is not being honest before God. You know the story: When he went out and got his fellow servant with 100-pence and threw him in jail, the servants came and told the lord what happened.

If you don't forgive, what kind of person are you before God? Verse 32: "Then his lord called him *and* said to him, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt, because you implored me.'"

- How can you go to God every day and ask God to forgive your sins, and you're unwilling to forgive someone else's sin?

- How can you go to God and ask Him to straighten up your attitude when you get up with hate in your heart toward the person that offended you?
- *Never work!*

Verse 33: "Were you not also obligated to have compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had compassion on you?" And in anger, his lord delivered him up to the tormentors, until he should pay all that he owed to him."

Here is the whole key and the spiritual sin concerning anointing and forgiving, v 34: "Likewise shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not ***forgive his brother's offenses from the heart***" (vs 34-35)—'seventy times seven,' a day.

Some may say that they'll forgive but never forget. If you forgive and don't forget, then God is going to remember your sins. Notice what He says! What is God going to do? The moral of the story is this: He put him into jail until he could pay all.

- Who bears the sin when you don't repent?

You do!

- Are you Christ?
- Can you bear the sin?
- What does it do to you?

It destroys:

- your life
- your mind
- your heart
- your body

Being called, God wants us to learn and to understand that. Once you come to that point, we'll see what's so profoundly important in Eph. 4.

We are talking about people who are converted, who are in the Church, and who have their problems and difficulties. Remember this: ***All of your feelings that you keep inside, that you hold in, that are pent up, and all the guilt going clear back***—however far in your life; whoever did what to you—***that person cannot ease your mind!*** You are bringing these things before God and you are causing yourself the problems that you are in; ***because you have not repented of these things to God!***

- You are trusting in your commandment-keeping.
- You're trusting in your Sabbath-keeping. ***You're trusting in all of these things and not Christ!***
- You're making the same, exact mistake that the Jews did!

We need to understand that. That's what the Pharisees said, 'I kept all these things.'

God is interested in the heart! Out of the heart come the issues of life—correct? *Yes!* If we are going to have the mind of Christ are we not going to have to come to the point of developing the same kind of love and understanding? You can also add into that, *fear*.

Love:

We'll talk about love for just a little bit. Concerning the 'great commandment' Matthew 22:37: "And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" If you love Christ that way and if you love God the Father that way, what room is there for things that we have covered: hatred bitterness, strife, envy, resentment, guilt? If you go around with a guilty conscience, you have not repented. To have your conscience prick you is to lead you to repentance. ***When you put it on Christ, He takes it all!***

Too many people immediately get up from praying and say, 'Wow! I've got to keep this guilt feeling.' You're doing no more than the pagans that yell and flagellate their bodies with whips—to bleed, to suffer—to show God how much they're willing to suffer for Him; but *you're doing it mentally!*

- Those things impact you!
- Those things impact relations!
- Those things cut you off from God!
- ***Those are sin!***

If we're going to "...love *the* LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is *the* first and greatest commandment and the second *one* is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (vs 37-39). What happens if you don't love your neighbor is that you also end up hating yourself. If you have an attitude of hate toward someone, sooner or later you're going to end up hating yourself. Then in your actions—in your heart and in your mind—you are going to deny

- that God has made you to receive His Holy Spirit
- that God has called you
 - ✓ to grow
 - ✓ to change
 - ✓ to overcome
 - ✓ to be like Him

Profound! This is very important! Verse 40: "On these two commandments hang all the Law..."—

unless you're on the foundation of the love of God, and the love of God is the most important thing that there is! Yes, it is keeping God's commandments. You don't need to get into that elementary, beginning situation.

Let's see what is so profound and what is so important and why this is necessary in our relationship with God. I think this: If the brethren begin practicing some of these things and repenting of the sins that they have all bottled up inside of them

- that are making them sick
- that are tearing them down
- that are ruling their emotions
- that are destroying relationships

You're going to have 80% less anointing! When we anoint then, it will be for sickness. ***It won't be for spiritual sin!*** What we're talking about here, in all these things, is spiritual sin.

1-John 4:10: "In this act is the love—not that we loved God; rather, that He loved us..." When did He love us? *While we were still yet sinners!* So much so that Christ died for us. The One Who created us came and was destroyed in the body by His own creation. You can't have any greater love than that.

...and sent His Son *to be the* propitiation for our sins" (v 10)—the *continual anointing!* Why carry these things around? Why carry bitterness, hatred, resentment, and guilt and all of these things of the flesh, also inspired of Satan the devil? Christ is the 'propitiation.'

Verse 11: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also are duty-bound to love one another." That's another thing concerning the brethren. As I've mentioned time and time again, we're all a work in progress. God has called us. We have things we need to overcome. Do not be judging; *be forbearing!* Do not be condemning; *be loving!* That's what needs to be with the brethren. We've all been through the meat grinder so much, it's so natural for people within the Church of God to have those kinds of feelings. We're not realizing it, but we're serving Satan and not God when we have those feelings welling up in us and we continually feed on them, and we continually live on them.

Listen! If you as husband or wife are holding anything against your husband or your wife that goes back however far—and sometimes it goes back years.... Husbands and wives do not confront the fact that they are unforgiving to each other. That's why they can't have the marriages they ought to. That's why they don't have the love that they

ought to. Then they blame God, and say, ‘Well, maybe we weren’t meant for each other.’ *I’ll tell you what, if two people hate each other long enough, God is never going to be there!* That has nothing to do with whether you were ever meant for each other or not. You’ve destroyed whatever is there. You were probably meant for each other; but you’ve so blinded yourself in your own carnality, guilt, and problems that you are not willing to repent, and come to God to get all of these things resolved.

When we’re counseling brethren, and when we’re talking to them about anointing, we need to make them be aware of this. We need to in sermons. We’re not going to sit down and say to them, ‘Before I anoint you will you please confess your sins to me.’ *NO!* That’s the Catholic approach. What we do is we teach them the Word of God and show them what they have to do. It’s their responsibility.

Verse 13: “By this *standard* we know that we are dwelling in Him, and He *is dwelling* in us, because of His own Spirit, *which* He has given to us and we have seen *for* ourselves and bear witness that the Father sent the Son *as the* Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he in God and we have known and have believed the love that God has toward us. God is love...” (vs 13-16). ***That’s the solution to all these things!***

- let your heart be changed
- let your attitude be changed
- let there be love
- let it be there

If you find it very hard to do, then you better get on a program of:

- *praying* every day
- *repenting* every day

you better ask God

- to cleanse your mind
- to cleanse your heart
- to cleanse your emotions
- to get rid of all of those things

That is what is destroying:

- your mind
- your body
- your health
- your relationship with God
- your relationship with each other

Verse 17: “By this *spiritual indwelling*, the love of God is perfected within us, so that we may

have confidence in the day of judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world... [Are we as Christ was?]. There is no fear in the love of God; rather, perfect love casts out fear...” (vs 17-18). There is no jealousy in love. *Perfect love casts out jealousy!* There is no bitterness and resentment in love. *Perfect love casts out bitterness and resentment!* Put any word you want in there. There is no guilt in love because there is forgiveness.

“... because fear has torment...” (vs 18) That’s why a lot of the sicknesses are there. Let me tell you, we’re going to be dealing with this. God is going to send us people that are going to need to be healed of these things. If we don’t know how to teach them how to do it, and show them the right way, how are they ever going to be healed? What are we going to do. Allow the world into the Church with all their problems and difficulties? They will come into the Church like when Worldwide was in its last days, and some people said, ‘How can this be the Church of God?’

“...and the one who fears has not been made perfect in the love of God” (v 18).

- the one who has resentment
- the one who has continual anger
- the one who has bitterness
- the one who has hatred

—is not made perfect in love because you need to repent of those! These are the sins that we are talking about:

- not whether you keep the Sabbath, or no—*because you do*
- not whether you tithe or not—*because you do*
- not whether you eat unclean meat or not—*because you don’t*

—but the sins of the heart and the mind that must be cleansed by the love of God and the Spirit of God. You have your action and you have the things that you need to do. You are required by God to do that. Do you think God is going to give you eternal life:

- if you hold hatred in your heart?
- if you hold resentment and bitterness in your heart?
- if you constantly judge and criticize your husband, your wife, and other people all the time?

I tell you, no! We need to get that message to the brethren, because like I said before, those who have been in Worldwide need to be healed; but they don’t understand what they need to be healed of. What I’m

talking about right here is what they need to be healed of.

Here's what they need to do, 1-John 1:7: "However, if we **walk in the light**... [not just commandment-keeping] ...as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from **all** sin."

- Yes, we've just gone through the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- Yes, we've labeled sin for what it is.
- Yes, we've stood in the pulpit and condemned it.
- Yes, we've put leaven out of our homes, and so forth.

But these things I'm talking about—how many people drag those spiritual sins through the Days of Unleavened Bread, never got rid of them, and carried them—this leaven—on in their lives? With some people it goes on for years and years, and years

Do you believe that Christ can cleanse you from bitterness, anger, hatred, resentment, and all of these sins that destroy the mind, that destroy the relationship with God, that destroy the body? I talked to a man just the other day whose wife died of cancer. He said she had anger to her deathbed. All the anointing and everything in the world to help her could not help her, because she wasn't willing to release the anger. I hope she did it on the last day; whatever she could do.

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin... [if we say that we don't have these things to overcome.] ...we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us." What is the Holy Spirit of God called? *The Spirit of Truth!* What is Jesus called? *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!* It's saying that if we hold these things in us, **Christ is not in us**. He may be there a little bit, because He's merciful, kind, and doesn't want to see you destroyed; but **He does expect that there be repentance in recognition of these things!**

Verse 9: "If we confess our own sins... [*This is where it starts!* You have to go to God and say, 'God, before You, in my heart of hearts, I have hatred, bitterness, resentment, and anger. Forgive me! Show me how to overcome! Lead me with Your Spirit!'] ...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Process of Cleansing:

Then there's the program of cleansing that goes on after that. These things have been harbored for years in the back of the mind. Now you have the process of cleansing, which is the 'washing of the water by the Word.'

- Do you pray and study to be cleansed and healed of these things?

or

- Do you hold resentment and anger, and don't go pray and study to be healed of these things?

We're talking about major, big things!

Don't think that the people in the Church of God that we were affiliated with are the only ones in the world that have these problems. You are going to be confronted with Baptists, Lutherans and Catholics that have the same things; especially in those churches where they preach fear, hellfire, and brimstone. Their consciences have just been absolutely crushed. The load of guilt has been laid upon them, and in their repentance they have got to be released of that.

They have to do this. There is nothing we can do for them. This is something where each individual, before God, has to get on his or her knees and cry out to God. You have to confess and repent of them [sins]. Then what does God say? *He 'removes them from us as far as the east is from the west.'* I've often wondered: How is it that He says 'He will heal all of our sicknesses, all of our diseases, and remove all of our sins as far as the east is from the west'—yet people still stay sick. ***It is because they have not had these spiritual sins forgiven!*** I say that we as elders in the Church have been derelict in really keeping this the way that it should be. So ***we better confess our sins!***

Let's see the cleansing process:

- there has to be repentance
 - there has to be reconciliation
- getting right with God*
- there has to be renewing

The renewing is the cleansing program so that you can get this out of your heart and your mind!

You may have to pray and say, 'Oh, God! I have had such a hard time forgetting. Please give me the spirit of not only forgiveness but also forgetfulness:

- that I don't remember
- that I don't hold a grudge
- that I don't have resentment

If someone has done something to you years ago, and you still have it bottled up inside, you are truly the victim; not the one who perpetrated upon you, because they don't even know how you feel. Here's what you do:

Ephesians 4:22: "That concerning your former conduct, you put off... [that's mentally inside—spiritually inside] ...the old man... [the old self] ...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts." Those who carry all of those things we talked about have been deceiving themselves that they are right with God, and they are not.

Verse 23: "And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Remember Jesus said that He came to heal the brokenhearted. That means to be healed in the spirit of your mind. *Be renewed*; it's a constant process. You have to do this day-by-day. What is the daily prayer? *'Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'* **You do this daily!**

- That's how you're renewed!
- That's how you are cleansed!

Not only do you ask God to forgive you for your sins, but you also ask God to give you a forgiving spirit for anyone who has sinned against you. If you're still carrying baggage—10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago—do you not believe Christ, that He can carry it for you? That He can remove it from you?

Verse 24: "And that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in righteousness... [It's the Spirit of God, the love of God, and not just the commandments of God. It's that right standing with God, that closeness with God, and that relationship with God in righteousness.] ...and Holiness of the Truth."

This is Paul's prayer, Ephesians 3:14: "For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man" (vs 14-16). With this cleansing process that is going on—the changing of these things, the repentance of these things—you ask God for His Spirit; that you're strengthened in the inner man—in your inner heart of hearts—because that's what God is dealing with.

Verse 17: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: *and* that being rooted and grounded

in love..." (vs 17-18)—instead of the hatred, bitterness, anger, and resentment and all of the emotional baggage, that whatever it is that is carried in any one particular life.

- Go to God!
- Lay it before Him!
- Confess these things!

Why should you be burdened down any longer with them? Why should you try and do the work of Christ, which you cannot do? *Let Christ dwell in you, by faith; be rooted and grounded in love!*

Let's come back to Ephesians 4:25, it shows the whole process. "Therefore, let each one put away lies *and* speak the truth with his neighbor because we are members of one another. *When* you become angry, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (vs 25-26). Never, *never*, **never** go to bed with an unforgiving, resentful, hateful, bitter, guilt-ridden attitude. I guarantee you're not going to sleep. I guarantee that sleeplessness is going to destroy your health.

Verse 27: "Neither give place to the devil." When you don't repent of these things and you keep these things, you're not doing the work of God. God cannot do His work in you. You, in the name of God, are deceiving yourself that you're serving God; but you're really giving place to Satan.

Verse 30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption. Let **all** bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking..." (vs 30-31)—which is not only the outward words that you may say to someone but also the evil speaking in your mind that you retain; all of these spiritual sins in your mind that you relish and you enjoy. Then you blame God because you're not healed. You blame God because He won't bless you. *No!*

Verse 31: "Let **all**...[that has to come through Christ] ...bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice; and be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you" (vs 31-32).

Here's what you need to focus on. Here's how it is done, Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything... [Of course, a lot of these things start out with worry—don't they?] ...but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything." What is the greatest request? *Oh God, give me Your Spirit and let me have the mind of Christ!*

Verse 7: “And the peace of God...” All the things I have talked about, you have no peace of mind—do you? As long as you retain those things, you’ll never have any peace of mind—will you? *No!*

“...which surpasses all understanding... [you can’t figure it out, God can] ...shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.... [then He shows some more of the cleansing process] ...Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever *things* are just...” (vs 7-8). Notice that every one of these are the opposite of anger, bitterness, hatred, resentment, guilt.

If you want to overcome those things that you have been practicing for years, you have got to do this: “...whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report...” (vs 8).

- Look to the good!
- Have forbearance!
- Have the love of God!

“...if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. Whatever thing you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, you do also; and the God of peace shall be with you” (vs 6-9). We can put there: The things that we have seen that Christ does, let those be in us.

This is a vital key to understanding about healing! These are more important to have forgiven than just the physical sin of something you would do to cause you to get sick. If we can help the brethren that way, that’s the most important thing that we can do.

I wanted to add this to the things we talked about with the problems with demons and the problems with healing. I think this is one of the biggest things that are not only in the Church, but also in people’s lives everywhere. Let’s see what we can do to focus in on this and teach this to the brethren, to help them in their lives, and help them to see. We need to get down to the real point: ***Ask God to give you the spirit of love and conviction to help them.*** That’s what needs to be.

- 6). Matthew 18:10, 21-22, 32-35
- 7). Matthew 22:37-40
- 8). 1-John 4:10-11, 13-18
- 9). 1-John 1:7-9
- 10). Ephesians 4:22-24
- 11). Ephesians 3:14-18
- 12). Ephesians 4:25-27, 30-32
- 13). Philippians 4:6-9

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 5: 9
- 2-Timothy 4
- Galatians 5:19
- Luke 8:11-14
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All Scriptures are from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1). Matthew 28:18
- 2). Proverbs 4:23-27
- 3). Isaiah 1:9
- 4). Luke 18:10, 9, 11
- 5). Matthew 5:21-24, 43-48

“If You Love Me Keep My Commandments”

Fred R. Coulter

This topic is somewhat of an expansion on what I covered in the previous article concerning healing. Jesus said, ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’ We all know that has to do with the Ten Commandments and the other commandments of God. Let’s look at this in just a little bit different way. Let’s ask ourselves: Are we doing very similar to what we find in Luke 18? It’s important and essential and there’s no way anyone’s going to get in the Kingdom of God without keeping the commandments of God—that’s absolutely true.

We have a situation in Luke 18:18: “And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’.... [After all, that’s why we’re here— isn’t it? We’re all here because we want eternal life.] ...Then Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good except one— God. You know the commandments...” (vs 18-20).

If there is any group that knows the commandments, we know the commandments— don’t we? People always say, ‘He doesn’t mention the Sabbath here.’ He mentions it in other places, so let’s not get all out of sorts.

“...“You shall not commit adultery. You shall not commit murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and your mother”” (v 20).

- How many hundreds of million—if not billions—of people in the world keep those commandments in love?
- Have they been called? *No!*
- Are they going to receive eternal life? *Not at the first resurrection!*

Maybe they will be in the second resurrection and be able to have an opportunity for salvation.

Even in the letter of the Law, God expected Israel to keep the first four—didn’t He? *Yes!* There are a lot of people in the world who don’t have the right God; but:

- How many do not have idols and statues? *Lots of them!*
- How many do not take God’s name in vain? *There are a lot of people who don’t swear and curse!*
- How many are out there keeping the Sabbath? *Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, and 400 denominations of the Church of God!*

Someone made the comment, ‘There are as many denominations of the Church of God now as there

are Protestants.’ That’s just the nature of the way things go.

Are we doing like this man here said? Verse 21: “And he said, ‘I have kept all these *commandments* from my youth.” In other words: Boy! Hey! I’m almost there—aren’t I? What he was doing was relying on the things that he had done. How many people can say, ‘I grew up in the Church of God?’ That’s exactly the same thing.

We need to understand something that’s very important and very profound. This is something that Protestants use to say that there’s no need keeping the commandments. Like I told one Protestant recently, ‘Do not accuse us—those who keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days—of trying to seek salvation or justification by commandment-keeping. We understand what the Law is. We understand what the commandments are. *We are to keep them!*’

Galatians 3:21: “*Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? MAY IT NEVER BE!* For if a law had been given that had the power to give life... [Commandments and laws do not give life, they define right and wrong. They define good and evil. That’s the function of law.] ...*then* righteousness would indeed have been by law.” So, in keeping the commandments you cannot say, ‘God *must* give me eternal life because I keep the commandments.’ The truth is, God expects everybody in the world to keep the commandments. *He expects us to keep them in a special and a different way!*

Romans 7:6: “But now we have been released from the law... [the penalty of the law— or sin] ...because we have died *to that* in which we were held so that we might serve in newness of the spirit and not in *the* oldness of *the* letter. What then shall we say? *Is the law sin? MAY IT NEVER BE!...*” (vs 6-7).

Someone gave me an article that people are now saying that the Bible is ‘hate literature.’ We knew that was coming. This is what Paul was saying here.

“...But I had not known sin, except through the law....” (v 7). That’s what the Law does. It tells you what sin is. It tells you what is the unacceptable behavior. The way that it is listed, it is in such a way that you have to make a choice. That’s why the Ten Commandments are written the way that they are written.

Let’s see what Jesus said, Luke 18:22: “And after hearing those things, Jesus said to him, ‘You

still lack one thing; sell everything that you have, and distribute to *the* poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come *and* follow Me.” There is the key. ***That is the spiritual key!*** We’ll touch on this a little bit later, which is: You have to give up everything that you have. What has to happen to you individually we’ll also cover. He wasn’t willing to do that

Verse 23: “But when he heard these things, he became very sorrowful, for he was quite rich.” Here’s a man, like so many people, that has *just enough* religion that they’re happy with it. They’re comfortable with it. They get along with it. They’re good, they’re law-abiding, they’re sincere; but when the real crunch of what comes that is *spiritually required*, which requires a lot of work and effort—as a matter of fact, we’re going to see that it requires conversion—they aren’t willing to do that.

Verse 24: “Now, when Jesus saw him become so sorrowful, He said, ‘How difficult *it is* for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! For it is easier *for* a camel to go through an eye of a needle than *for* a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.’ And those who heard *this* said, ‘Who then is able to be saved?’ But He said, ‘The things *that* are impossible with men are possible with God’” (vs 24-27).

That’s the important thing. God is doing the impossible with human nature through His Holy Spirit. We know that God hasn’t called many rich. We know that God hasn’t called many mighty and all of that sort of thing, we know that. One of the main, important things, which is one of the commandments that God and Christ have given is this: ***You shall forgive!***

Luke 17:3: “Watch yourselves; and if your brother commits a sin against you, rebuke him... [yes, you can work the situation out, no problem] ...and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him” (vs 3-4)

Verse 5: “Then the apostles... [since they understood that they had to have faith] ...said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ But the Lord said, ‘If you had faith as a *tiny* mustard seed, you might say to this sycamine tree, ‘Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you’” (vs 5-6).

Then He gives another parable, which is very important. This is something that we need to realize. We’re going to look at the commandment again, ‘If you love Me keep My commandments.’ Then we’re going to look at some of the commandments in addition to the Ten Commandments.

Verse 7: “But which of you having a servant plowing or shepherding will immediately say *to him* when he comes in from the field, ‘Come and sit down *and* eat’? Rather, will he not say to him, ‘Prepare what I may eat, and gird yourself, *and* serve me while I eat and drink; and afterwards you may eat and drink’?” (vs 7-8).

In today’s world of freedom and unions, this seems like a very unreasonable request—doesn’t it? The master of the house has been there all day in the house, doing whatever he is going to do. He’s had his servant, or slave, out there working in the field. He comes in and tells the servant, ‘Look. You clean yourself up. You get ready and you come and fix me something to eat. When I’m done eating, then you can eat.’ That seems very unreasonable—doesn’t it? Notice what He says here:

Verse 9: “Is he thankful to that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.” All of those things were expected. This is where Protestantism just falls right off the end of the cliff. They don’t understand that God expects the commandments to be kept. In their self-righteousness, if you corner them and say:

- Should you murder? *No!*
- Should you steal? *No!*
- Should you lie? *No!*
- Should you covet? *No!*

The one thing they are against is the Sabbath commandment and somewhat against idols, because they like to have their little cross. He asks: ‘Does he thank him because he’s done the things which were commanded of him?’ He says, ‘I think not.’ ***Those are required!***

Verse 10: “Likewise, you also, when you have done all *the* things that are commanded you, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants, because we have done that which we were **obligated to do.**’”

How do we look at this? They are required! He didn’t tell the servant, ‘You shouldn’t do those.’ He was making the apostles know that to do the commandments like the rich man was doing was not all that God required. God wants something greater than that. I think there are just too many people in the Church of God who are relying upon commandment-keeping as their ticket to eternal life. Something greater has to happen than commandment-keeping. I would have to say this: If people just rely on commandment-keeping alone—which is all required—and not look at the other commandments that Jesus gave, then I’m afraid that they’re doing the bare minimum. Remember: ***No law can give you eternal life! Law-keeping is required.*** Jesus said that it is required!

I’m going to give you the in-depth translation of this Scripture. John 14:15 (*KJV*): Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” The Greek is such:

(FV): “If you love Me, keep **the commandments**—namely, **My commandments**.” That has a much greater impact and a much greater force—doesn’t it? What are some of the commandments that Jesus has given? How do we do this? God expects us to go above and beyond commandment-keeping. The Protestants say that since no one can keep the commandments, don’t even bother, just rely upon the grace of God and you have it made. So, they enter into the realm of lawlessness. But Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.”

You might do this for a private Bible study: take *A Harmony of the Gospels* and go through and see if you can pick out all the commandments that Jesus gave. He gave many, many more than what I’m going to cover here. This is just going to give you an understanding of what Christ requires for us.

He made it clear in Matthew 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled” (vs 17-18).

You can read in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, Appendix H: *How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?* It explains it very thoroughly. We have very well established that the Law—we can say the Ten Commandments and all the other laws that are not the ceremonial, ritual, or sacrificial laws—is still in force.

We also have to understand that Jesus was the Creator and Lawgiver in the Old Testament and He’s the One Who gave the Ten Commandments, the statutes, the judgments, and all of those things—wasn’t He? *Yes!*

Verse 19: “Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven...” Now He goes beyond even the Ten Commandments and He’s talking about the least commandments—isn’t He? Every one of us have to ask the question in our minds: In viewing the laws of God—the commandments of God—which ones do we consider—or which *one* do we consider the least? If we ‘teach men so,’ to break them, “...shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“...but whoever shall practice and teach *them*...” (v 19). Christ is leaving it up to the

individual choice. You have to make a judgment in your life. Only you know what goes on in you life, in your mind, in your heart and in your relationship to the Word of God, the commandments of God. Jesus makes it very clear:

“...whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven” (v 19). This shows the value of keeping the commandments of God and it also shows that *even though the commandments will not give you eternal life, you’re not going to get it unless you keep them, because you’re not going to be there!*

God the Father\] has something greater for you! He has something better for you! He has the commandments that Jesus gave in addition, how He gave them, and how we are to keep those commandments, which then become **a way of life and a way of thinking**. That’s very important. Many times we have emphasized **a way of life**, which is true, *it is! It has to also be a way of thinking, that’s what’s important!*

Verse 20: “For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” That’s a very profound statement—isn’t it?

- Did the Pharisees, outwardly, have the right God? *Yes!*
- Did they have any idols? *No!*
- Were they taking God’s name in vein? *No!*

They didn’t even want to pronounce it, so they wouldn’t want to take it in vein.

- Did they keep the Sabbath? *Yes!*

With a jillion other laws added to it

- Did they keep the Holy Days? *Yes!*
- Did they ever eat unclean meat? *Of course not!*

Like Peter said when the vision came down (Acts 10) he said, ‘Lord, I’ve never eaten anything common or unclean,’ and Peter was not even a Pharisee. *Here’s a Pharisee!*

The Pharisee, trusting in his law-keeping, began to despise other people. *We’re going to see, that is a very key; because he trusted in his exterior law-giving, but he wasn’t changing the interior!* That’s what the Scripture: ‘If you love Me keep My commandments—namely, My commandments,’ Jesus says it has to do with changing the *interior*. You have to come to a point of conversion and understanding to do that which the rich man was just not able to do. He was just not able to follow through on it.

What He’s getting at in every one of these things, He’s getting to your attitude of what you’re thinking in your mind, regardless of what is on the outside. *That’s what Christ is getting to!*

In Matthew 23 is the Pharisee who prayed and despised everybody. Here’s Jesus saying, ‘Unless your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you’re not going to enter into the Kingdom of God,’ because you have to have that righteousness that comes from God alone. Christ shows how that is done. That also involves:

- conversion
- God’s Spirit
- a lot of effort
- a total change within
- a total change of thought

Here’s the whole key in it! Scribes and Pharisees were righteous on the outside. So righteous that they had all kinds of other rules and regulations to make them more righteous—right? *Yes!*

Matthew 23:25: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!....” Hypocrite means *sanctimonious pretenders*. That’s actually what they called actors, *hypocrites*. In *A Harmony of the Gospels*, I translated it with the paraphrase translation: ‘sanctimonious pretenders.’ Why were they hypocrites? Why were they sanctimonious pretenders? Remember, even Peter got caught up in hypocritical actions (Gal. 2). He had to repent, too. *Yes, he did!*

“...For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but within you are full of extortion and excess”—or whatever it may be—

- within, you’re full of hatred
- within, you’re full of contempt
- within, you judge and criticize others

—but outside, you’re just like a Pharisee: nice and clean, fine, friendly, good, up-lifting, and all that sort of thing. We’ve often wondered down through the years:

- Lot of people came to church—didn’t they?
- Lot of them attended church over the years—didn’t they?
- They seemed like right, nice, fine people—didn’t they?

Yes! They seemed like they were really convinced of what they were doing. They appeared on the surface to be converted, but, lo and behold, over a period of time, guess what?

Someone gave me a report and said that child molestation is not restricted to Catholic priests,

and they appear clean, good, authoritative, and all this. *No!* Try the Jehovah Witnesses! There was a whole report of a man who had been indicted on hundreds of counts of child molestation. On the outside: fine father, dedicated church man, deacon, elder—the whole thing. Everybody thought, ‘Whoa! This is a nice guy!’ Then what happened? *Same thing as the Pharisees!*

Verse 26: “Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup and the dish...”

- **Change the inside!**
- **Change the heart!**
- **Be converted!**

Keeping the commandments of God does not give you license to break the commandments of Jesus Christ and to do the things that He says *not to do*. This is very important to understand.

Just like with the Pharisees, Christ was dealing with them. For Him to expose this—guess what? *They didn’t like that!* They thought He was picking on them; ‘you’re sanctimonious in bringing this out.’ *No!*

“...First cleanse the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside may also become clean” (v 26). God judges the heart. God doesn’t judge the exterior. God judges not only our actions of what we do, but He also judges what we think. That’s important! We covered that during the Days of Unleavened Bread—**‘to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ’**—that’s true!

Verse 27: “Woe to you, scribes, and Pharisees, hypocrites!.... [sanctimonious pretenders] ...For you are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful *on the* outside, but within are full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness. Likewise, you also outwardly appear to men *to be* righteous, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (vs 27-28). Christ is interested with what’s within.

Let’s see what is naturally within our human nature *that seems right, that seems good, that seems natural*. That’s why the Words of Christ cut deep.

Mark 7:21^[transcriber’s correction]: “For from within, out of the hearts of men, go forth evil thoughts...” That’s all manifest in the way that we think, do, speak and act. Today when we have so many things:

- television
- e-mail
- Internet
- printing
- radio
- music

- CDs

and on and on and on. It is magnified millions of times greater than what Christ was talking about here. This means that our inward battle is even greater today than it was during Jesus' time.

Evil thoughts generally are right to the individual who is thinking them. God made man and woman in such a way, that everything we think and do we justify in our own minds as right. It might even seem right. Was it not right for them to kill Christ, in their own eyes? Was it not a clever thing to not get caught 'red handed' themselves, but let the Romans do it? That way we can say we didn't do it. You can take this thing—evil thoughts—and you can expand that out and out and cover many different things. **Basically, the carnal mind is evil!** Scripture says 'its desperately wicked and deceitful above all things.' Of course, then, it's going to justify that, 'What I'm doing is right, because *I have cause*'.

“...adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness” (vs 21-22). In writing commentary, I've been using some sections from *Langer's Encyclopedia of World History*. I tell you what, the whole summary of world history is right there in vs 21 and 22. *There it is!* You can go back and verify that—going clear back to Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and on up through the days of Noah—that **'men's thoughts were only evil and wicked, continuously.'** That's the whole history of human endeavor and it also is an indictment on the way that we think.

Verse 23: **“All these evils go forth from within, and these defile a man.”** Let each of us put our name right there. Are these not the things that defile us? *Yes, they are!* ***This is the source and basis of why we need to be converted and why there is a struggle to overcoming this! It is a very part of our nature and we need to have that changed!*** We'll see that that is what conversion is all about.

Likewise, Jesus addresses the same problems in Matt. 5 that He was addressing in Mark 7:21-23. He shows the solution. He also shows the effort and the difficulty in doing it.

Matthew 5:27: “You have heard that it was said to those *in ancient times*, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you... [Not only does He give a higher standard but He gives a very difficult proposition indeed—doesn't he?] ...everyone who looks upon a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (vs 27-28). This is especially true for those who have been adulterers and adulteresses, because their minds have been so wrapped up in that activity. It is a

really difficult problem for them to overcome, very difficult indeed.

Christ knows it's difficult. This is something that He requires. This is a commandment of Jesus: *‘If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.’* Is this not one of His commandments? *Yes, it is!* Is this beyond just the letter of the law—adultery? *Yes, it is!* There are millions of people in the world who keep the letter of the Law. Some of them do not even have the Scriptures of God. So, He shows how difficult it is.

Verse 29: “So then, if your right eye shall cause you to offend, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is better for you that one of your members should perish than *that* your whole body be cast into Gehenna.” You have to make the effort. Of course, the truth is, without God's Spirit, even cutting off your right hand or taking out your right eye is not going to stop the lust; because that's within—that's within the mind. ***The solution is going to be conversion!*** What we have to understand is that this is a commandment of Jesus Christ: *‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’*

Then, He says the same thing of the right hand, v 30: “And if your right hand shall cause you to offend, cut it off and cast it from you, for it is better for you that one of your members should perish than *that* your whole body be cast into Gehenna. It was also said *in ancient times*, ‘Whoever shall divorce his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement’” (vs 30-31). Today, all we have to do is just go file a ‘no fault’ thing for \$75 and it's over. It's even easier today than back then. That avoids the whole problem. *When two are married, they are to become one flesh!* So, He gives the only cause for divorce.

Verse 32: “But I say to you... [Is that a command of Christ? *Yes, it is!* Is this the voice of God? *Yes, it is!*] ...whoever shall divorce his wife, except for the cause of sexual immorality...” Today there's so much of it that it is rampant. The reason this is the cause for divorce is because it breaks the marriage bond of becoming *one flesh*. We could put it as it says in the Old Testament: ‘Strange flesh has entered in.’ That's not only adultery but it includes all kinds of sexual activities, which we don't need to name here, you're very well aware of all of those. That's a cause of divorce. The only other one we find in 1-Cor. 7 in which Paul said that what he wrote was the commandment of the Lord: ‘If there is a non-believer who adamantly refuses to stay in the marriage, then one who is the believer is no longer bound in that marriage.’ ***Those are the only two causes for divorce,*** but that is a command of Christ: “...I say to you...” He also says the same thing in v 33 about swearing.

Verse 34: “But I say to you, do not swear at all... [here in America, you can ‘affirm’ if you’re called to court] ...neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne.” The reason that He said this is because: How many people have sworn to ‘tell the truth, the whole, truth, and nothing but the truth’ even with their hand on the Bible—right or left hand makes no difference—and immediately stand up and lie? *and* Are justified in doing so because ‘my attorney told me to’? If you swear by:

- heaven
- God’s throne
- the earth
- Jerusalem
- your head
- your hair
- your mother or father
- your mother’s or father’s grave

The Mafia swear to each other over ‘my mother’s grave,’ and then turn around and kill each other. Those things are meaningless because the heart hasn’t changed.

Verse 37: “But let your word be *good*, your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no; for anything that is added to these is from the evil one”—or out of the evil of the mind, or out of the evil of our own nature

Right here, in the very first part of the Gospel, we’re finding that *the requirements for eternal life are far, far more than just commandment-keeping; far more than an exterior way of life, but an interior change of the mind and the heart to overcome the evil!* That has a lot to do with healing and health.

Verse 38: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’” Boy! That’s what they’re doing over here in Modesto with this Scott Peterson! He may have done it. He may not have done it. They even had people right down there around the courthouse ready, and if the lynch laws were still available, they would have taken him out and lynched him. That seems right and good—doesn’t it? *Yes, it does!* The way that it is in the society, that’s the way it works— isn’t it? If you want to know the ultimate extreme of this kind of thing, look at any of the Islamic nations with their hateful religion. *It is a bloody, death-dealing religion, hands down!* Has all of the retaliation, and retaliation against the retaliation times 50 years changed one Jew or one Palestinian? There’s been:

- a lot that have suffered
- a lot of sadness
- a lot of ruined lives
- losses of father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife

- ✓ blown apart
- ✓ killed
- ✓ shot
- ✓ hacked

What does it solve? That’s why Christ has to return to the earth. Christ gives us a little different way.

Verse 39: “But I say to you, do not resist evil...” Don’t get out there in the middle and fight it. If it comes upon you, then ‘a soft answer turns away wrath.’

(go to the next track)

“...rather, *if* anyone shall strike you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And *if* anyone shall sue you before the law and take your garment, give him *your* coat also” (vs 39-40). In other words, settle the issue before you go to court, if at all possible. Sometimes we can’t do that; but, if at all possible, settle it before you go to court. What happens? I’ve seen it so many times, the lawyers get hold of it, they string it out, they just use up all the money, make the people broke, and all this sort of thing.

Verse 41: “And *if* anyone shall compel you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks of you; and do not turn away from the one who wishes to borrow from you.... [those that need help, *you help*] ...You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies...” (vs 41-44)

That’s a high, hard standard— isn’t it? *Yes, it is!* The reason being is that *vengeance belongs to God*. He will take care of it.

What happens when you love your enemy? *Who knows, they may be converted!* It’s even reported that it’s very possible that the jailer and his family—the jailer who was taking care of William Tyndale in Vilvorde Prison—were converted because of William Tyndale’s conduct. That’s what God is interested in. This is difficult: ‘Love your enemies.’ The world has its wars, it’s battles, and it’s fights. Let them do the fighting, if there’s something to be done. That’s what they are there for.

“...bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you” (v 44). That is hard to do. Why does God want us to do that? *Because it clears our minds of hatred, bitterness, strife, and murder, and all of those things—wishing evil on someone!* You’re always going to have someone come along that’s going to be in this category. *You pray for them! Maybe they’ll repent! Maybe they’ll change!* If they don’t, continue to pray for them and stay away from them. I’ve experienced all of that.

I can look back on those I looked at as enemies and I feel sorry for them, and I have prayed for them. I've prayed for them many different ways. 'God, You take care of them. God, they're in Your hands.' I've also had to fight through the hatred of it, because it is. What does that do to your life? *It messes you up!* It's not that you are doing this for the sake of the enemy alone. ***Christ is having you do this for your own sake!*** That's why!

For example: What are we going to do about the problems and difficulties that we find that are in the world concerning government and the way the world is going, commonly known as *a conspiracy*? To be angry? To be upset about it?

- What is it going to do?
- Is it going to change them? *No!*
- Is it going change their goal? *No!*
- Is it going to make them converted at this particular time? *No!*
- What is it doing to you as an individual?

I know a lot of these things that go on. I've read about them. I understand them, but I don't dwell on them. Why? *Because I better have my mind and my heart on what Christ wants me to do*, that's why! Then we also need to understand.

Verse 45: “So that you yourselves may be *the* children of your Father Who *is* in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *on* the good, and sends rain on *the* just and *on* the unjust.”

God doesn't look down and all of a sudden say, 'I'm going to blot out the sun today because this city has been evil.' Remember what Abraham did when God said He was going to destroy Sodom. He said He would spare it for ten people—five people. He also said He would spare Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah if there was one man. This gives us a greater understanding of how God looks at things.

Let's understand this: Who has the final judgment on this? *God does!* Is His judgment better than ours? *Yes!*

Let's use an obtuse example here: What if the church members who were persecuted by Saul, said, 'This guy is really ruining the Church. Let's set a trap for him and get rid of him.' They suffered persecution, many were killed, but they left it in God's hands. What did God do? He called him—didn't He? ***God's judgment is best!*** Likewise, if you have a great problem or difficult problem with a neighbor or an enemy, put it in God's hands. Let God help, intervene; ask Him to work His judgment, His blessing, or whatever His determination is. Leave it in His hands and then you have ***peace of mind so that Christ can work in your mind!*** That's the whole purpose of all this!

Verse 46: “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not the tax collectors practice the same *thing*? And if you salute your brethren only, what have you done *that is* extraordinary? Do not the tax collectors practice *the* same *thing*?” (vs 46-47). This is evidenced in all of the associations, clubs and different things that people have. They've got clubs for everything. They all like their own and love their own.

The same way in sports; you have a sports team, you love this team, and hate the other team. That's all part of carnality. If you're a fan of this club, then you salute them. If they're wearing their logo on their shirt, or they have their logo on the back of their car, or up on the windshield of their motorcycle, you toot the horn, and go: Rah! Rah! Rah! everything's great. Even down to motorcycle riding, there's a saying among Harley riders: 'If you don't ride a 'Hog' then you're riding a pig.' It's the same thing.

Look at it this way: Here's a man who owns a Rolls Royce and he's justified that he's got the best car around—'I got enough money to do it. All these other poor slob's they can't buy.' Here comes a guy in this little old 'pip squeak' car. One of these little economy cars, and he says in his mind, looking at the Rolls Royce, 'Look at that guy over there. Boy! I'm glad I got this it's cheap on gas and this is a good car.' ***All of those things are nothing more than carnal comparisons to justify your self, and are sin!*** That is just the way that we as human beings think.

This is the whole purpose of conversion, v 48: ***“Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect.”*** That's a tough duty. In other words, Christ is telling us very clearly that ***the process of conversion***, and changing our hearts and minds through the power of the Holy Spirit, ***is a life-time thing***, taken on day-by-day, hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute. That way we don't have things welling up in us that would cut us off from God, because they do. That's why He gave that.

Matthew 6:22: “The light of the body is the eye....” As a matter of fact you can tell an awful lot about the health of a person just by looking into the eyes. But He's talking *spiritually* here.

Here is a very, very good Scripture that ties into it. I'll be talking a little bit more about this later on concerning the spirit of man, the Holy Spirit, conversion and so forth.

Proverbs 20:27: “The spirit of man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.” In other words, all the inward parts of the heart and the mind.

That’s what He’s referring to in Matthew 6:22: “The light of the body is the eye. Therefore, if your eye be sound, your whole body shall be *full of light*.” That’s referring to being single-minded in God’s ways.

Verse 23: “But if your eye be evil, your whole body shall be *full of darkness*...” How is the eye evil? It’s because of the evil in the mind that we read of there in Mark 7; that’s simple. Have you ever seen a picture of someone, or a movie, or even met someone that you knew when you looked at that person, you were looking in evil eyes? That’s even discernable.

“...Therefore, if the light that *is* in you be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!” (v 23). Of course, who’s the author of darkness? *Satan, the devil!* The ultimate of this darkness mentioned would be those who are Satan worshippers. That would be the ultimate of it. *Yes, indeed!*

This is the key, v 24: “No one is able to serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to *the* one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**” Let’s put this also in other terms. *You cannot serve two masters by being double-minded!* What do I mean by that? You cannot serve God and serve yourself. You cannot claim God by exteriorly keeping His commandments, like the man who wanted eternal life, but wasn’t willing to go the rest of the way.

Let’s see something that affects a lot of people who are within the Church of God. They haven’t realized that you can’t serve God and self. You can’t say, ‘God, I want this much of You, but I’m reserving this for me. I’ve got to have my carnal nature that I want to retain, but I still want you, God! I don’t want to love my neighbor, don’t want to love my enemies. I want to judge and condemn everyone else, but I want You! *That won’t happen! No!*’

James 1:8: “*He is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” What happened? That goes back and ties in with faith and prayer and everything.

It says here, very interestingly, v 7: “Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (vs 7-8). That’s why Christ said you have to be single-minded; you have to be single-hearted. You love God. You take those commandments of Christ, and you let those with the power of the Holy Spirit **change you**.

- Don’t you want to get rid of human nature?

- Don’t you want to overcome the faults, difficulties, and problems that you have as an individual?
- *Sure!*

As we’ll see, that only comes about with repentance and yielding to God. I think part of it is not really understanding that Christ really means what He says. ***He really means these things!***

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ but not this neighbor. In doing that, you’re serving two masters—trying to serve God and serving self. You become double-minded and what happens? *Inwardly, you’re a hypocrite*—aren’t you? That’s not the thing of overcoming sin or trying to fight sin. ‘You cannot serve God and mammon,’ or you can put anything else you want there: money, position, power, lust, adultery, thievery, lying, any of those things. That’s why we have to repent of them when they come along. We have human nature and it does come along—right?

Matthew 6:25: “Because of this **I say to you...** [Here’s a command of Christ. You might go through Matt. 5, 6 and 7, and look at all of the places where Jesus says, ‘*I say to you*.’ If we do, understand that’s a command of Christ.] ...do not be anxious about your life... [because you’re totally dependant upon Christ] ...*as to* what you shall eat and what you shall drink; not about your body *as to* what you shall wear. Is not life more than food, and the body *more* than clothing?” *Yes, indeed!*

You don’t have to be anxious about it. You don’t have to worry about it. In other words, anything above that we shouldn’t be worried about. In worrying, what has worry ever changed? Don’t shake you head that it didn’t change anything. Yeah, it did! *It changes the one who worries!* There’s a time to be concerned. The difference between worry and concern is this: If you see something where there is a problem, there is a concern, and it’s something that you can do and change, then do it. But if you’re worrying about someone else—their life, their behavior and their things—you can only worry so much and so long. Whoever you’re worrying about, that individual has to make the choices they need to make. You’re better off praying about it. Put it in God’s hands and let God work it out. All the worry in the world will never, ***never***, change a thing, except you. Those things cut you off from God. He reassures you that it’s so simple, He wants you to understand how simple that it is.

Verse 26: “Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?”

- If God loves you, is He not going to take care of you? *Yes, indeed!*
- If you love God and you pray in faith, will He not hear your prayers? *Yes, He will!* He'll hear your prayers.
- When it involves someone else who has their own choice involved in it, can you live their lives for them? *No, you cannot!*
- Can you change them? *No, you cannot!*

Maybe if it's someone close to you, you can advise them; but they still have to choose—don't they? *Yes, they do!*

Verse 27: “But who among you, by taking careful thought, is able to add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: They do not labor nor do they spin; but I say to you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these” (vs 27-29). All the worry in the world isn't going to solve a thing, isn't going to change a thing.

Verse 30: “Now if God so arrays the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall* He not much rather clothe you, O *you* of little faith?” What He's saying here, very clearly, if you worry and have anxiety beyond just concern, then what is that? *That's little faith*—right? Doesn't say you don't have any, just that you have a little. ***Put it all in God's hands! Lay it before Him!***

Verse 31: “Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we be clothed?’ For the nations seek after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things” (vs 31-32). Let's stop and ask this: Does God know that you have need of all of these other things, too? *Yes, indeed!* Does God not know of the whole situation that:

- you are confronted with
- you are tormented about
- you are worried about
- you are anxious about

Yes, He does!

If you know there's an enemy out there, does God also know there's an enemy out there? I'll just have to say, God has fought off all our enemies. They've been able to do some things to us down through the years, that is true, but God has fought them off. Where are they today? *It would take me too long to tell you!* What has happened to them in their lives, in their anger, hostility, and bitterness? What's happened to them? Where are they? I hope they repent. Even to this day, I hope they repent. God knows you have need of all those things. He

tells you the primary, important thing to do day-by-day.

Verse 33: “But *as for* you, seek first the Kingdom of God... [That's what we're to do. ***That's the primary thing in our lives!*** The Kingdom of God has to do with keeping the commandments of Christ: ‘*If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.*’] ...and His righteousness...”

- which comes through Christ and repentance
- which comes through study and prayer
- which comes through having, literally, the ‘washing of water by the Word’.

That's why study is so important. If we don't put in the Word of God to cleanse our minds, to cleanse our hearts, coupled with prayer, then we end up being like the rich man and just trust in the outward things that we do.

“...and all these things shall be added to you.” (v 33). God will take care of it in time. He will do it in His way. If there's an extended period of trials and difficulties you're going through, *lay it before God!* Don't come and accuse God, get mad at God. Maybe the things that we get mad at God and accuse God of doing, God's not responsible for; God hasn't done it. In many cases it's our own attitude, ideas, thoughts, and difficulties, and we're just letting carnality rule. ***We know for sure that if we let carnality rule, Christ isn't going to rule in you!*** Will He let you do that? *Of course He will!* We have to choose.

Verse 34: “Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow...”—or the next day. We have to have the right kind of concern for it, but don't be anxious over it. You're not going to make the sun rise any quicker tomorrow, or make it set any quicker tomorrow. God is the One Who has created the time. God will also be able to take care of you.

“...for tomorrow shall take care of *the things* of itself...” (v 34). There are many things that you don't know what you're going to do until tomorrow comes.

I know I've done this, especially in writing, especially referring back to the one I just did on *What Do You Mean, Born Again?* I was going to sit down and I was going to whip that out in about three or four days, I figured for sure. I started approaching it from the way we've always approached it—and guess what? That's not the way that it was. I had to rewrite and change it, then rewrite; and low and behold, I got more information, added that to it and rewrite it and change it. I've probably rewritten and

changed that one particular commentary more than anything else I have written in a long, long time.

Why? Because my mind was set to do it one way, but it had to be done a different way. God just put the road blocks there until He got my attention. Look what came out of it. I'm happy about that. Whatever comes for tomorrow, it'll take care of itself.

- *if you're praying about it first*
- *if you're looking to God to intervene*
- *if your asking God for help, guidance and understanding*

God will be there!

- ✓ He'll open the door
- ✓ He'll open the way
- ✓ He'll provide the way for you

and it will be done!

Sometimes we have to come to the point of total and complete—which we all have to many, many times—surrender and yieldedness to God and His Word.

- You can't be asking God to help you and bless you if you're fighting God.
- You can't be asking God to help you and bless you if you are double-minded

—*not going to happen!* That's why it's so important. The commandments that Christ has given are those commandments that deal with the conversion of the mind, the attitude and the heart, which can only come from the Spirit of God. The carnal-minded are impossible to do, but ***with the Spirit of God, they are possible to do.*** That's just the way that we have to look at it.

Matthew 7:1: “Do not condemn *others*...” This means *judging unto condemnation* in your mind. We have to make righteous judgment. I did a whole series on that. Matter of fact, I have a sermon series and booklet on it.

“...so that you yourself will not be condemned; for with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged...” (vs 1-2). We need to think about that. Jesus said, ‘Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.’ You can put it the other way around: ***cursed are the unmerciful for they shall not receive any mercy.*** That's just the way it works.

This is one of the biggest faults that all human beings do, every one of us. Let's be honest, it's true—isn't it? *Yes!* The way that human nature makes itself feel good is to look at someone else and judge and criticize that person, to put them down so that you feel better! Isn't that what happens? I've done it, you've done it; everybody does it. Next time you find yourself in the middle of doing that, ask yourself this: Do I want this same kind of judgment

that I'm now rattling around in my brain? *No!* You don't want that. Again, put them in God's hands. Don't judge to criticize. That also ties in with other things that we'll talk about a little later on.

It generally works this way, v 3^[transcriber's correction]: “Now why do you look at the sliver that *is* in your brother's eye...” Isn't it something how we get fixated on little things and get them blown out of proportion? Oh, I've done that! Sometimes you feel so right about it, that you just ride that thing down and just grind it into the ground—don't you? Until there's absolutely nothing left of it and you? Right in the middle of doing it, at that point, if someone says, ‘Hey, you're wrong.’ you just explode! You don't want to admit that. *No!* I've done that; you've done that. What Christ is giving us is the layout on how we grow and change and overcome. He says, “...look at that sliver...”

“...but you do not perceive the beam in your own eye?” (vs 3). What is the ‘beam in your own eye’? *Your hypercriticism and judgment of that individual for the little problem!* Your hypercriticism and judgment is a great, huge beam in your own eye, which the other person cannot see, but God knows. ***The ‘spirit in man is the lamp of the Lord.’ God knows!***

Verse 4: “Or how will you say to your brother, ‘Allow *me* to remove the sliver from your eye’; and behold, the beam *is* in your own eye?” We had a classic case of that, just here recently on the news: William Bennett, who wrote the book on the seven virtues—didn't he? He lost millions and millions gambling—didn't he? He was held up as righteous and he would condemn everybody else. Did God expose him and judge him? *Maybe God didn't do it directly with His hand, but you know that God had to have His hand in it somewhere for that to come out!*

That's just a classic example. He was telling everyone how to live their lives, run their politics, run the nation, how to be virtuous and righteous, and here he was going to Los Vegas and gambling millions and millions of dollars. You should have heard the justification that was given by all of the media friends: ‘Well, we ought to not look down on him,’ and all this sort of thing. All we do is just say, ‘Uncle Bill, you're in God's hands. May you repent, may this be a lesson for everybody.’ ***Human nature is hypocritical!*** That's the way that it is. That's what Christ is saying here.

Verse 5: “*You hypocrite, first cast out the beam from you own eye...*” In other words, go to God; get your life squared around. Let God do the beam-pulling. Just like a logjam on a river, get it out.

“...and then you shall see clearly to remove the sliver from your brother's eye” (v 5). What

we’ve covered here today are those commandments that Jesus said, ‘*You have heard it said of old.*’ He then quotes the commandments in the letter—correct? *Yes!* Then He says, ‘*I say to you...*’

The reason He says it is because ***He wants the change here in the mind and in the heart! He wants us to become ‘perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect’!*** Boy, has He started out with an imperfect thing to work with—and that’s us!

All Scriptures are from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1). Luke 18:18-21
- 2). Galatians 3:21
- 3). Romans 7:6-7
- 4). Luke 18:22-27
- 5). Luke 17:3-10
- 6). John 14:15
- 7). Matthew 5:17-20
- 8). Matthew 23:25-28
- 9). Mark 7:21-23
- 10). Matthew 5:27-32, 34, 37-48
- 11). Matthew 6:22
- 12). Proverbs 20:27
- 13). Matthew 6:22-24
- 14). James 1:8, 7-8
- 15). Matthew 6:25-34
- 16). Matthew 7:1-5

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 10
- Galatians 2
- 1-Corinthians 7
- Matthew 5:33

Also referenced:

Books:

- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
- Encyclopedia of World History (Langer’s)

Commentary from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix H: *How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?*
- Appendix P: *What Does It Mean to be “Born Again?”*

Sermon Series/Booklet:

- *Judge Righteous Judgment* by Fred R. Coulter

Spiritual Attitudes and Healing

Fred R. Coulter

I want to cover some things concerning the various aspects of healing and the various things we need to look to. Sickness comes because it's:

1. physical
 - you catch a virus
 - you catch the flu
 - you have an inherited weakness of the body
2. emotional

That's well known even in psychology today.

3. unresolved spiritual problems
 - personal spiritual problems
 - unresolved spiritual problems between one another
4. accidental

Nancy fell and hurt her hand and it's in a cast. It comes by accident.

For the physical things, we have various physical things we can do, that's why God gave herbs for the service of man. Some people say that if you use herbs you're into demonism—not true.

When it comes by accident, you need the help of someone—don't you? *Yes, you do!* If you break a leg you have to have it set. If you cut yourself, you may have to have it stitched. Certain accidents are irretrievable, because they cause your death. All of those are factors in sickness, illness and so forth.

Jesus said that those who are sick need a physician. Jesus is not against physicians. Most of the those who would be called *physicians* in the days of Jesus would be those we would put in the category of chiropractics, which some people think that they are 'quacks.' Massage—there's a 'quack-buster' group out there that really is not scientific at all and they even say that massage is demonic.

There are certain physical things you can do when you have a physical illness; that's fine, you can do those. They also now know that the body is a chemical/electrical creation. What they've discovered concerning the cells is almost fantastic in their knowledge and understanding of it. They still don't know everything about it. The long and the short of it is that there are many things they are discovering with the cells and electromagnetic system of the body.

There are also certain physical things that you can do to help restore the electrical flow in your body. That's a physical thing that you can do. Some

of those things, because they are newer therapies, are on the cutting edge of alternative medicine today. Because it's so new and many people are not familiar with it, they also label some of those things as demonism, too.

Let's understand something concerning demonism. *You can have demonism anywhere!* You can have it in

- the medical profession
- chiropractics
- massage
- herbs

You can have it in lots of different things. In these things that you do physically, you have to have discernment and understanding that whatever is being done is based upon scientific fact and not on a demonic level. That you have to discern and judge for yourself.

I'm not talking about any of the things that cause sickness either by accident, which is obvious, or those which are physical, which are more obvious. There are certain health things that you can do with the physical that are just necessary. Even with this SARS virus that they've come up with, they've found out that if you have good hygiene, you never would have had it! Some things you can take care of with cleanliness and things like that.

I want to get into the things that are *spiritual*, that are *emotional*, which then cause us to have many chronic illnesses. Many of those chronic illnesses cause a lot of problems. Sometimes with that we don't recognize it because we don't understand what we're doing or not doing.

Before we get into that, this question was asked: When we ask a blessing on a meal, is it just thanksgiving or are we also asking God to intervene for us? *Both!* In today's world there are so many physical things out there—genetic engineering and things like this—we need to ask God to intervene and take care of the things that we cannot change.

God gives this promise, Mark 16:17: "And these signs shall follow those who believe: in My name they shall cast out demons..." We are seeing that more and more people need demons cast out. *Yes, they can be cast out!* {Note #2 this series} We need not fear anything concerning demons at all. They are totally subject to the name of Christ. Even those who use the name of Christ to cast them out, who are not going to be in the Kingdom of God, they still cast them out. ***It's the power of the name of Jesus Christ that does it!***

Verse 17: "...they shall speak with new languages; they shall remove serpents..." (vs 17-18). Not take them up like they do in certain Protestant churches where they have the challenge of picking up poisonous snakes and handling them and so forth.

Verse 18: "...and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them in any way... [Today we can't avoid all the chemicals in food. You can't avoid all genetically engineered food. You can do your best to avoid it but you would virtually have to grow everything your own self. That's a very difficult proposition, indeed. I think the blessing covers that, when we ask the blessing on the food.] ...they shall lay hands on *the* sick, and they shall recover." *All those things are active and alive today and Christ does those!*

In asking the blessing, God is not going to make white bread into whole wheat all of a sudden, and He's not going to make pork into beef, in spite of the rabbi's blessing, etc. We need to understand that, too. We need to use common sense in the foods that we buy and do the best that we can. I think that there are more and more organic foods that you can get even in regular markets. In asking the blessing on the meal, you also have to give thanks, and ask God to purge it of those things that you cannot handle.

We can use the example of Jesus feeding the 4,000 and 5,000. That blessing, with the power of Christ behind it, certainly was greater than just thankfulness for the fish and the loaves. We can leave it at that. You have to exercise your own judgment concerning it. We need to do the best we can along the physical lines, but then, on the other hand, you cannot get so fanatical that you use bad judgment in that either. There has to be a proper discernment in it.

There are some people whose immune systems are so low, for whatever reason—some are physical, some are emotional, some are spiritual—that they can hardly walk into a room without having some sort of reaction. In those cases, and in many cases, that is not just a physical thing. It is a physical reaction, but it gets down into some of the spiritual and emotional difficulties concerning healing that people have.

Let's look at the things that Christ wants us to come to. These become the **spiritual and emotional attitudes that we need to have**. You will notice that every one of these things follows along and backs up all of the commandments of Jesus that was covered in the sermon *If You Love Me Keep My Commandments* (Healing Series #3).

When He begins this, here's what He says, Matthew 5:3: "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit..." Not

haughty or exalted, that takes an effort. The spirit of man is the lamp of God—into your heart, your mind and your life (Prov. 20:27). Being poor in spirit then, is **a great and a humble attitude**, a little different than meekness. This is the opposite of haughtiness.

"...for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (vs 3-4). The right kind of mourning and in some cases, *mourning coupled with repentance*. There's a right kind of mourning. This mourning obviously has to do with a right attitude to God; mourning because people are living their lives incorrectly.

"...they shall be comforted" (vs 4). Along with this kind of mourning is repentance and an understanding. Unless you 'leave it all on Christ,' which He 'bore all our sins and iniquities' and everything, then we will be comforted.

Verse 5: "Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." That's a little different. Meek is a little different than being poor in spirit. Meekness means:

- you don't put yourself forward in an unseemly way
- you listen, hear the Word of God and you do it
- you don't argue back at God
- you don't accuse God

It says, "...they shall inherit the earth"

Verse 6: "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." *That's important!* How then, do you come to have the spiritual attitudes that Christ wants you to have? *They're not funneled in!* We're not robots nor are we automations where God changes a computer chip in us so that we can be one way one time and one way another time.

- It comes by *hungering and thirsting* after God's Word!
- It comes through *continuous yielding* to God and repentance!

{note two sermons: *Love of God—Second Calling and To Return to God*}

If you are filled with the Word of God, obviously, with the Spirit of God you are going to **grow in the grace, knowledge and attitude** that you need! But you cannot have those things:

- unless you pray
- unless you study
- unless you draw close to God

Verse 7: “Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall find mercy.” This ties right in with some of the things that we’ve covered about forgiveness. Always remember this, and I always remind myself when I get into a hickity-snicker attitude that I’m looking down on someone and unmerciful: **I stop and say, do you want mercy?** *But of course!* ‘Well, get off your stinking high-horse! Sometimes you have to talk to yourself, especially if only you are around and no one else is going to talk to you. With God’s Spirit you’ve got to talk to yourself. **If you want mercy** then you know that **you have to be merciful!**’

In Psalms 136, there are 26 verses and each verse ends the same way. Psalms 136:1 “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.”

When I first looked at this Psalm I had in my mind, ‘Don’t do as the heathen do and have vain repetitions.’ I looked at this and I thought: is this a vain repetition? Obviously, not because it’s in the Scriptures—right? This shows you how **‘His mercy endures forever and how great it is!’** If you want mercy, do you not want others to have mercy? *Yes, indeed!* If you don’t want others to have mercy, then you’re unmerciful. You’re not glorifying God for His goodness and mercy, because that comes in the way of denying that God can and will heal you!

Psalms 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not **all** His benefits” (vs 1-2). When we get in an unmerciful attitude, isn’t that what we’re forgetting? Isn’t that what we’re forgetting that God has done to us? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 3: “Who forgives **all** your iniquities, Who heals **all** your diseases.” It says **all** of them—not to give you eternal life in the flesh. Getting old is not a disease; it is a rest stop. It talks about it there in Ecc. 11 and 12. Solomon talks to the young people and he says in modern English, ‘Now look, while you’re young and you have your youth and your figure, don’t wait to turn to God when your ‘choppers’ are all worn down, your eyes are dim and your joints hurt and ache, and then you call out to God. Do it while you’re young.’

Likewise, God will forgive all of our iniquities. Some people in sinning, ask God to forgive them but never forget it. Obviously, we’re to learn lessons from our past experience even as the Apostle Paul did. He never forgot that he persecuted the Church, but he didn’t keep that in remembrance in a way of a guilty conscience. He kept that in remembrance in a way of how great God was and how that he needed to humble himself to God. Because if God is so merciful in calling such a

sinner and such an enemy of God, that God has got to be fantastic and great—right? We need to keep all those things in mind.

A little later I’ll also cover what applies not to just people in our church experiences that we have been in contact with, but it also applies to many people who attend churches in this world that are so-called Christian, which is church wars and battle fatigue. Those can also kill you—can’t they? Some of the things we’ll cover as we go through this, we will see that that has been absolutely true; because as we go along, and part of what provoked going through this is: You look on any prayer request online concerning the Churches of God and what do you see? *Sickness and cancer, cancer, cancer!* Why? Could it be the result of battle fatigue and shock from the Church wars coupled with bitterness and unforgiveness?

I’ll just mention this: Herbert Armstrong is dead. If you still harbor feelings against him, and anger and anxiety, are you correcting a problem? *or* Are you not retaining a problem? If God has forgiven him, and we could put it to anyone, any church leader in the world, any person—and we don’t forgive them in our own hearts and minds, and let go and end the church war, you’re always going to have:

- spiritual difficulties
- probably physical problems
- sickness
- illness

What we need to realize is that we look at all of the sins and baggage that are cluttering our lives and that we still carry with us. I have not forgotten any of the lessons in Worldwide; I remember all of those. I have not forgotten any of the lessons that we have learned in Biblical Church of God. I haven’t forgotten learning those lessons. But I hold nothing against any, and I pray that they all repent. **If** they will yield to God and do what they need to do, that’s what God desires in the long run—isn’t it? *Yes, it is!* All you have to do is look at the example of Ahab. There’s a very good example.

The attitudes that Christ wants us to have through His Spirit, through the love of God, has to be in faith, active and working. God is doing an impossible task to convert us—isn’t He? *Yes, He is!* When you fight your own nature, you need to understand that you need God’s help and God’s Spirit. I do, you do, everyone does. Otherwise we end up being like Job, trying to do it ourselves.

Matthew 5:7: “Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall find mercy. Blessed *are* the **pure in**

heart, for they shall see God” (vs 7-8). How does a pure heart come? **By repentance!**

Never, *never* lay yourself open with these attitudes that you have toward God and toward each other that evil people can come in and slay you. When we’re dealing with the world you have to be ‘wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.’ Don’t let them come in and slay you by looking at your converted attitude in heart and mind. They look at you as a ‘chump’ and a ‘sucker’ and then they come after you.

If that does happen, then God is going to take care of them; but you have to be ‘wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove’ so that other people cannot take advantage of you that way. You don’t have to be fighting and warring against them, but you have to be wise in

- what you say
- what you do
- how you present yourself

In the long run, if you have the attitudes that we’re talking about here in Matt. 5, who’s going to be against that? Like Paul said concerning the fruits of the Spirit, ‘against that there is no law.’ Ultimately then, the way you have a ‘clean heart’ or ‘pure heart’ is by doing as David did with his sin.

Psalms 51:1: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions.” He had some **big** ones here—didn’t he? *Yes!* This is the affair with Bathsheba, and this is the affair where he killed Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah, the Hittite. That’s big time stuff—isn’t it? *Yes, it is!*

Verse 2: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity...” Of course, you have to have the ‘washing of the water by the Word’ and you have to have your mind renewed and regenerated. That’s why

- we have the Holy Spirit of God
- we study the Word of God
- we yield to God

God has us in training to become perfect. **God has us in training to become God!** This takes constant effort, diligence and education. Is there enough time in any one single life to really teach you everything you need to know to become a son of God? *No! That’s why we do it our whole life long!* We learn all the time—don’t we? *Yes!* I learn! You learn!

“...and cleanse me from my sin... [We have a sinful nature, too—don’t we?] ...for I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me” (vs 2-3). You have to go to God. You have to confess your sins. He is faithful and just to forgive you your

sins (1-John 1:6-10). When you confess them and He forgives you, then you also have to do the same thing that God does for you. What does He do for you? *He removes them ‘as far as the east is from the west’ and He forgets.* He doesn’t remember your trespasses.

Verse 4: “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight...” Even though he killed Uriah the Hittite, even though he committed adultery with Bathsheba, **the sin was against God!** Were those people hurt? *Yes, indeed!* Uriah was killed and the child that was conceived, *died!* So, it was against God.

“...that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge” (vs 4) In other words, **God is never wrong!** If we have an opinion concerning God that He is not right, then our opinion coincides with what Satan the devil, believes. That’s not the right attitude—is it?

Verse 5: “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity... [we all have human nature—‘from within come evil thoughts’] ...and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You desire Truth in the **inward** parts...” (vs 5-6). This is how you have a pure heart. You let the Truth of God come into your heart and into your mind; and you have a pure heart and a pure mind before God! This is a continuous on-going project.

Maybe this will help us understand a little bit more why we have to repent of our sins daily. God is doing the impossible work of taking something that is diametrically opposite of His nature and converting it to His. That’s why only God can do it because it’s an impossible task for a human being to do it. That’s why it says, ‘salvation is of grace, by faith and not of works,’ though we have our works we need to do—plenty of them—which God lays out for us to do.

Verse 7: “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness that the bones which You have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart, O God...** [pure-hearted] **...and renew a steadfast spirit within me**” (vs 7-10).

Sometimes we may have so many sins and attitudes cluttering that we have to start at that place. Sometimes we have to come to the point that we have to ask God to show us our *secret, inner* sins, because no one else knows those but God and you. This is the result of everything that Christ goes on to say later in Matt. 5-7.

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

for **they shall be called *the sons of God***" (vs 8-9). *Especially within the Church*, that's important! God has called us all together.

- We all have our own problems, hang-ups and difficulties—don't we?
- We all have our own peculiarities—don't we?
- *Yes, we do!*

Then we need to have peace among ourselves by having a *loving, kind, merciful and forgiving* attitude. That's what needs to be. That's the only way you can have peace with God.

Jesus said that if you have something against your brother and you come to offer your gift, that's the same as praying. When you go to Rev. 5:8^[transcriber's correction], it talks about the altar of incense. The smoke comes up from the altar of incense before God and it says 'these are the prayers of the saints.' Just make sure that in your prayer, that your prayer is a sweet incense, not seasoned with garlic—if I can put it that way. We have to have peace, **"...for they shall be called *the sons of God*."**

Verse 10: "Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness..." So, you know that you're going to have people not like you. You're going to know that people are going to say things against you. What do you do? Retaliate? Take the same attitude? *No!* You can pray for them. You can forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.

Always remember this: ***When you come to the point that you're not willing to forgive, remember Christ on the Cross!***

- We're to become like Him—aren't we?
- We're to become as perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect—aren't we?

Impossible things to do without the Spirit of God! If you don't have the Spirit of God and you try to do these things, you're never going to accomplish them. It can only be done with the Spirit of God! Persecution will come! I've had everything said of me under the sun. A lot of people have accused me of a lot of things down through the years. I claim the promise here:

"...and shall persecute you, and shall falsely say every wicked thing against you, for My sake. Rejoice and be filled with joy... [rather than sad and mad] ...for great *is* your reward in heaven; for in this same manner they persecuted the prophets who *were* before you" (vs 11-12).

This tells us an awful lot about what we need to do—doesn't it? *Yes, indeed!* These are the

things that will help free us from the *spiritual difficulties* and the *spiritual blocks that keep us from being healed*; that destroys relationships between us. I'm sure that every one of us has some sort of peculiarity that someone doesn't like. I'm sure that you look upon others that have some peculiarity that you don't particularly care for either. What do you do? *You grow in grace and knowledge and you grow in love and understanding!*

If God has accepted me—which He has; and God has accepted you—which He has; should we not accept each other? *Yes, indeed!* That doesn't mean that we compromise doctrine or Truth. That means that we have love and forbearance toward each other. If we do, then we are also obligated—because each one of us knows our own peculiarities—

- to work on those
- to repent of those
- to ask God to help you overcome them

We're all a work in progress—are we not? Who is perfect? Job got defeated.

This is not to put a 'guilt trip' on anyone. This is not to put anybody down. You have to judge yourself before God in your own attitude and your own heart! That's all a part of Christianity. *This is all a part of growing up in Christ!* This is what is so profound and so important!

We find in Luke 6 some of the same things put just a little bit differently. Some of these things are tied in with what Jesus says afterward. Luke 6:17: "And after descending with them, He stood on the level place with a crowd of His disciples; and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and *from* the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, came to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases." Jesus said on several occasions, 'go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.' We can apply that in many different ways.

Verse 18: "And those who were tormented by unclean spirits *also came*; and they were healed, and all the crowd sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed all" (vs 18-19). That was Christ's duty to do. That was His work to do. We can see that there is still work that has to be done today. There are probably many more millions of people in these categories than there was clear back then.

Luke 4:18—Jesus reads a place in Isaiah: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal those who are broken-hearted, to proclaim pardon to the captives and*

recovery of sight to *the* blind, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to proclaim *the* acceptable year of *the* Lord” (vs 18-19).

(go to the next track)

Here are the *woes*; we’ve seen the blessings, Luke 6:24: “But **woe** to you, the rich, for you are receiving your consolation!”—especially if you’re like the rich man who wouldn’t sell all that he had.

Christ requires a total, absolute commitment to Him! (Luke 14). We can’t have one foot in the world and one foot in the church. We can, but we’re creating for ourselves a great deal of problems. We cannot be like a millipede and have 500 feet in the world and 500 feet in the Church. ***He wants a whole commitment!***

Verse 25: “**Woe** to you who have been filled, for you shall hunger! **Woe** to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep!” I’m sure all of this has to do with the fact that you look down and *despise* other people. That’s why the *woe* comes.

Verse 26: “**Woe** to you when all men shall speak well of you! For their fathers did these same things to the false prophets. But I say **to you who hear...** [we’ve got to *hear*] ...love your enemies, *and* do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who despitely use you” (vs 26-28).

Verse 35: “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again...” I talked to a man recently who said that he loaned a man several thousand dollars. He was in the Church. This went on for about two years because the man ended up where he couldn’t pay him back. He said every Sabbath when he came to church he’d see the man and this would come to his mind. He would go ‘bug’ the man about it—‘are you going to pay me, I gave it to you, blah, blah, blah.’

After a period of time, he finally came to the same conclusion as here in v 35. He said that one Sabbath he walked up to the man and said, ‘Look, you don’t owe me a thing.’ The other man said, ‘Are you kidding?’ He said, ‘No, you don’t owe me a thing!’ He told me after that, he felt so much better because he was not looking at that individual and expecting the money back.

“...and your reward shall be great... [The man did not expect it. You don’t earn forgiveness. It’s given from the heart and it comes from God.] ...and you shall be *the* children of the Highest; for He is good to the unthankful and *the* wicked. Therefore, you also be compassionate, *even* as your Father is compassionate” (vs 35-36).

We have high standards to go by again—don’t we? In order to become a true Christian you have before you an impossible task unless you ***let the Holy Spirit of God lead you, guide you and you develop the mind of Christ!***

As we started out: ***The things that are impossible with men are possible with God!*** That’s what we need to keep in mind in dealing with each other. Here is:

- jealousy
- envy
- hatred
- bitterness

—everything all combined. Isn’t it interesting that this comes before the ‘sermon on the mount’?

Verse 6: “Now it also came to pass on another Sabbath *that* He went into the synagogue and taught, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against Him” (vs 6-7). What is this?

- judging
- condemning
- hatefulness
- bitterness

Verse 8: “But He knew their thoughts...” There’s something we need to understand: ***God knows our thoughts***—doesn’t He? *Yes, He does!* Especially since we have the Spirit of God, He knows them—doesn’t He? Especially when we understand that the spirit of man is the candle or the lamp of the Lord. ***God knows!***

There’s another thing, too, with our thoughts. Somewhere between the two ears in the cranium we’ve got some of this gray matter, which is a tremendous and unique creation—isn’t it? Can you imagine what God has done in creating us after His own image and likeness? Nevertheless, somewhere within the brain and the mind is recorded everything that we have done. That’s why we need forgiveness ***and forgetfulness*** and have our minds clean, to have those things erased. ***Only God can do that because He knows your thoughts!***

“...and said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Arise and stand in the midst.’ and he arose *and stood in their midst*. Then Jesus said to them, ‘I will ask you *one* thing...’” (vs 8-9). Since people get all picky concerning laws and being the Lord of the Sabbath, can He not change the rules of the Sabbath? *Yes, He can!* Did He change the rules of the Sabbath? *Yes, He did!* Go back and read Exo. 16; He told them to stay in their tents on the

Sabbath—didn't He? That means that if you strictly followed Exo. 16 you couldn't come to church—could you?

We need to understand that God is interested in mercy and not sacrifice. He is interested in teaching us to become the very sons of God:

- which outweighs the effort of driving
- which outweighs the effort of the things we need to do to gather together to learn on the Sabbath Day

*That's what He's talking about, **the same way with healing!***

"...Is it lawful to do good or to do evil on the Sabbaths? to save life or to destroy *it*?" (v 9). Today the Jews in Jerusalem—the Orthodox Jews, not in Jerusalem but in their suburbs—will stone a car to death if someone dares to drive it through their neighborhood. So, they break the Sabbath by actually stoning the car to death. I use that as a little cynicism. They've actually stoned and burned cars, chased the people away who were driving them through their neighborhood on the Sabbath. Is it lawful to drive a car on the Sabbath?

- If you're coming to assemble together—*yes!*
- If you're going to some place where you can pray and meditate—*yes!*
- If you're doing your business and shopping—*no!*

Those are judgments you have to make!

Verse 10: "And after looking around on them all, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he did so, and his hand was restored *as* the other. But they were filled with rage, and considered with one another *as to* what they should do with Jesus" (vs 10-11).

Obviously, they were having the attitude of Satan the devil—right? *Right!* Were they healed? *No!* Even everything that Jesus did, did not convince them! Some repented. But even to the point of destroying the temple in Jerusalem. I truly believe that the final judgment was made against Jerusalem when they stoned Stephen to death. That was their last opportunity to repent. When Stephen was being stoned, he said, 'I see the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.' That was their last chance. They sealed their doom from that day forward.

God is always interested in repentance! If there would really be repentance, would God change His mind? *Of course, He would! Absolutely, He would!* This attitude that they had been seeking to

destroy Him and so forth, carried on through to the fact that He did it.

In John 6 we understand what it is that God wants to do. There are many different lessons we can learn because we have 'precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little, and there a little.' That's what we're going to do.

I. God's work within us

John 6:26: "Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly I say to you... [when they finally found Jesus and this is after He fed the 5,000] ...you do not seek Me because you saw *the* miracles, but because you ate the bread and were satisfied.'" Of course, He knows their thoughts—right? So, He's accurate in what He's saying.

Verse 27: "'Do not labor *for* the food that perishes, but *for* the food that endures unto eternal life... [We are to labor for that spiritual food—are we not? *Yes, indeed!*] ...which the Son of man shall give to you; for Him has God the Father sealed.' Therefore, they said to Him, 'What shall we do, in order that we ourselves may do the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, '**This is the work of God: that you believe in Him Whom He has sent**'" (vs 27-29). You believe on Jesus, which means:

- You believe Who He was
 - ✓ the Son of God
 - ✓ the Son of Man
- You believe what He taught
- You live by what He taught

When you do this, ***God is doing a work in you!***
That's what God wants to do!

Too many times we end up fighting God, and we prevent Him from doing the work within us that He really wants to do. I include myself the same way. It's like this ad on television. It shows a whole bunch of old Vikings rowing! rowing! rowing! And there's the taskmaster at the end beating the drum—BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! They're rowing! They're working! Then it shows the picture on the horizon and here comes a boat with the sail up and the wind is driving it!

If I could use that as an analogy, because the Holy Spirit is likened to wind on several occasions— isn't it? *Yes, it is!* If you try and do the work of God by your rowing and rowing and you are doing the work, you're going to end up like all of those old Vikings. If you don't let God's Spirit lead you, your work is going to be in vain and exacerbated! Not totally in vain, but a great deal of it in vain, because *you are doing it!*

- Can people keep the Sabbath in the letter of the Law? *Absolutely!*
- Can they keep honoring mother and father in the letter of the Law? *Yes, indeed!*
- Can they keep the commandment, ‘You shall not commit murder’? *Yes, indeed!*

—and all of the commandments in the letter. For you to do them in the spirit and then to do the commandments of Jesus Christ in addition to that, ***you have got let Christ do it. It is a spiritual work!*** How many times have we said: ***You cannot accomplish spiritual things by physical means?*** We have the work that we are to do but *Christ in us* is to do it! That’s what it means: “...**you believe in Him Whom He has sent.**”

Here is the long and the short of the whole thing, v 57: “As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me.” That means ***all the words*** of Christ! That’s how we are to live. That has to be with the Holy Spirit of God. Maybe with the Spirit of God working ***with us*** and maybe with the attitude that we want Christ to do the work ***in us*** through the power of His Holy Spirit, then we’ll be able to be in right standing with God, because of His Spirit, because of His grace.

Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith...” We all want to be saved—don’t we? You wouldn’t be sitting here today on the Sabbath if you didn’t want to be saved—would you? *Of course not!* That’s why God has called us. It’s by God’s grace, through His Spirit. Are we going to allow the Spirit of God to work in us as fully and effectively as possible? *or* Are we going to be double-minded?

“...and this *especially* is not of your own selves; *it is* the gift of God... [obviously, you cannot give yourself eternal life] ...not of works... [that you do, or something you decide to do that you think is good] ...so that no one may boast. **For we are His workmanship...**” (vs 8-10). ***God is creating in us!*** He needs our cooperation—doesn’t He? *Yes!* God is the Potter and we are the clay. If every time God tries to form something in us, we let our sins and our carnality and all of the things that choke off the Spirit of God come up, He’s got to crunch it up and start again—doesn’t He?

“...**created...**” (vs 10). That’s the important thing we need to understand and grasp; ***God is creating His children individually, in each one of us!*** That’s what He’s doing. Our own carnality and our own lack of spiritual growth affect such things as

- healing
- understanding of the Word of God

- loving each other
- how we grow and overcome

By grace, we need to let God work in us to create us in His image! That’s the whole purpose in life!

“...in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works...” (vs 10). What are the good works? *We’ve been covering them*—haven’t we? *Yes!* Keeping ***all*** of

- the ‘beatitudes’
- the commandments of God in the spirit
- the commandments of Jesus Christ, with the Spirit of God, which perfects us

That’s what He wants!

“...that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (vs 10). If you want a good study, take *A Harmony of the Gospels*, go through and see all the commands of God that Christ has given. Those are the things that He has given that we are to ***walk in them, living by every Word of God!*** That’s what it means. That’s what becomes so important. That’s how we *grow up* into Christ! That’s what He wants!

As Paul said we have to lay aside the weight and the ‘sin that so easily besets us.’ ***We do that through Christ! We are His workmanship! Absolutely!***

II. Things that block God’s work in us

Let’s see the things that block that workmanship. Again, they have to do with our relations with other people and our relationship with God. You cannot have a hostile relationship with husband/wife or with brethren in the Church and maintain a proper loving relationship with God. Can’t be done! James points that out. God inspired him to really make it clear here:

James 3:1: “My brethren, do not many of you become teachers, knowing that we will receive more severe judgment”—condemnation and judgment. For all of those who want to be teachers and we have 100s and 100s of them—don’t we? They never lack for followers—do they? Some of the kookiest doctrinal ideas that you would think no one would be stupid enough to follow those. But they have people to follow them! They do not want the Truth, as Paul said, and they heap to themselves teachers, because they have ‘itching ears’ and they want to hear what they want to hear. So, anyone who sets himself up as a teacher, beware! God is going to judge you!

He brings a reality of life, v 2: “Because we frequently offend, every one of us...” Isn’t that true? I know I’ve offended people. I may have even offended some of you here. If I have, I’m sorry;

forgive me. Just like you, you offend people and don't know it.

"...If anyone does not offend in what he says, this one *is* a perfect man *and is* able also to hold in check the whole body.... [a life-long task] ...Remember... ['I want to show you something here.'] ...we put bits into horses' mouths in order that they may obey us, and we direct their entire bodies" (vs 2-3).

Sometimes even without the bit you have it so well-trained that you can say, 'Go right, go left.' You can even get them to obey by clicking your tongue. I've even seen that on documentaries on how they train horses. You can lean to the left and the horse will go to the left. You can lean to the right and it'll go to the right. That's a tremendous training—isn't it? *Yes!*

Verse 4: "Consider also *that* ships, being so large... [big aircraft carriers recently still has a rudder] ...and being driven by strong winds, are turned about by a very small rudder, wherever the will of the one who is steering may decide. In the same way also, the tongue is a little member..." (vs 4-5). This is where all the difficulties come. There is the *inner voice*. Most of what we're talking about takes place before it comes to the tongue.

"...but it boasts great things. See how large a forest is set ablaze by a little fire" (v 5)—same thing—"a little leaven leavens the whole lump." How many fights and arguments between husbands and wives, children and parents, and brethren started out to be a little, little thing? *Just a little spark and look what happens!*

Verse 6: "And **the tongue is a fire**, a world of unrighteousness. So has the tongue been set among our members—*the one member that* defiles the whole body..." Not only just the body of the person that does it—and you could apply this to sickness, and to emotional and spiritual sicknesses—and also to the Church. What happened to the Church when they weren't preaching Christ? *They had an underground, roaring, gossip link that never stopped—right? Yes!* Part of it was that the only way you could get Truth because from the pulpit was coming lies—right? *Yes!*

"...and sets on fire the course of life, and is set on fire by Gehenna" (vs 6). ***In the tongue is life and death!*** With the tongue we're all going to be judged, and the inner thoughts of the mind before it reaches the tongue also; because we have the Spirit of God, we're held accountable for it—aren't we? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 7: "Now then, every species of animals and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the

sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But the tongue no human being is able to tame; *it is* an unrestrainable evil, full of death-dealing poison" (vs 7-8). How many times have you seen this: Someone is nice and kind and sweet and then something happens and—BOOM! You can't believe the vitriol that comes out of that mouth and the hatefulness that spews out of the tongue! As Paul said, 'the bitterness; it's an unruly evil.'

Here is the problem we're confronted with, v 9: "With it we bless God *the* Father, and with it we ourselves curse people who are made in *the* likeness of God." There's the contradiction of human nature—isn't it? ***This is what we all need to overcome spiritually***—isn't it? *Yes!* If you feel like I'm crunching on you a little bit, I'm crunching on myself. If you feel as though I'm kind of pricking your conscience a little bit, good, maybe the Holy Spirit is working. If you see things you need to change, fine; I see things I need to change and with the help of grace and the Spirit of God, they can be. That's what it's all about. That's where we are with this.

What set this whole thing off concerning healing was that someone asked, 'Why does God heal some and not others? Why did God heal this person of cancer and not that person of cancer?' Maybe this will help us understand. Let's understand that ***it's not the fault of God!*** It can be the fault of the ministry, and it can be the fault of the person—both. There are many factors involved:

- faith
- love
- hope
- forgiveness

—all of those things.

I never will forget the Feast of Tabernacles one year. I came into Tulsa and one of the first things that they announced was this: 'Please pray for this infant—has a brain tumor—18-months-old.' I about came unglued. Not at them, but at the tragedy of the circumstances that the Church was in. I think that that was kind of an epitome of how God looks at the Church: like a poor, little infant with a brain tumor.

I think maybe if we come before God and ask Him to take out the *spiritual* tumors from us, that God will bless us with more of:

- His grace
 - His love
 - His Truth
- and hopefully*
- His healing

Verse 10: “From the same mouth comes out blessing and cursing...” Bless God out of one side of our mouth and curse people out of the other side of our mouth. I would say probably a perfect example of this would be leaving Church all inspired to do the things that God wants you to do and you get on the freeway and the first thing you do is

- blow your cool
- have road-rage
- shake your fist at someone because he cut in front of you

—or whatever. I just use that as an example. I’ve done that, haven’t you done that? You drive along and you have a good attitude, someone cuts in front of you and you just come unglued. I know that I’m not talking to people who have not done that, or who have not experienced that.

Likewise, in going through this I also need to apply the Scripture that the Apostle Paul wrote, “You that teach others, do you not teach yourselves?” If I don’t teach myself and if I don’t learn and change and repent, then all the preaching I do to tell you to change and repent is hypocritical—is it not? *Yes, indeed!* We’re all in this together.

“...My brethren, these things ought not to be so!” (vs 10). We understand that—don’t we? What do we do? *We chide ourselves and say this ought not be so. That’s a time for repentance!*

Verse 11: “Does a fountain pour out of the same opening sweet *water* and bitter *water*? My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or a vine produce figs? In the same way, no fountain *can* produce salt water and fresh *water*” (vs 11-12). Using these as clear, apparent things we need to learn.

Verse 13: “Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him demonstrate his works through good conduct in *the* meekness of wisdom. **But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast... [you’ve got to have a heart change] ...and lie against the Truth. This wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual and demonic**” (vs 13-15).

Of all people that need not be doing the work of the devil are those that have the Spirit of God!

Verse 16: “**Because where bitter envying and selfish ambition are, there is dissension and every evil thing.**” Can that not affect individual lives and also whole churches? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 17: “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and without

hypocrisy. **Now *the* fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace**” (vs 17-18). Quite a chapter—isn’t it? Sometimes it’s good if we go through and see everything that James said, rather than putting different Scriptures together.

All Scriptures are from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order*, A faithful Version by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1). Mark 16:17-18
- 2). Matthew 5:3-7
- 3). Psalms 136:1
- 4). Psalms 103:1-3
- 5). Matthew 5:7-8
- 6). Psalms 51:1-10
- 7). Matthew 5:8-12
- 8). Luke 6:17-19
- 9). Luke 4:18-19
- 10). Luke 6: 24-28,35-36,6-11
- 11). John 6:26-29,57
- 12). Ephesians 2:8-10
- 13). James 3:1-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Proverbs 20:27
- Ecclesiastes 11, 12
- 1-John 1:6-10
- Matthew 6; 7
- Revelation 5:8
- Luke 14
- Exodus 16

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- Healing Series #3—*If You Love Me Keep My Commandments*
- Love Series #7—*Love of God—Second Calling*
- Study Pack #1—*To Return to God* [cbcg.org]

Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

Conversion, Obedience and Health

Fred R. Coulter

We're going to cover a little bit more concerning health and healing. Someone has already complained about what I'm covering: 'Does this mean that we're not going to be anointing?' *No!* This does not mean that we are not going to be anointing—quite the opposite! When we anoint, we're going to anoint for sicknesses, plus we're also going to understand that there may be some things that we need to take care of spiritually as well as physically.

Some of the things that I'm covering are in the spiritual/emotional situations that we come across, which if not resolved when they come can, over a period of time, cause the body to have weaknesses, sicknesses and things like this.

Let's go to John 5 and see what Jesus told the man who had an infirmity for 38 years. We don't know what it was, but because he was slow coming down into the pool whenever the angel came and agitated the water, we would have to say that since it is something that he has had for 38 years that we could liken unto—we don't know but we can give a guess—something like rheumatoid arthritis to where he could hardly move.

After he was healed, then he finally finds Jesus in the temple. John 5:14: "After these things, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'Behold, you have been made whole. Sin no more, so that something worse does not happen to you.'" What was his sin? *We're not told!* The implication is that this infirmity that he had for 38 years had something to do with an on-going sin—didn't it?

Since he was a Jew living in Jerusalem, chances are he wasn't eating unclean meats—was he? Since at that time there were no McDonalds, we can't blame it on Big Mac. We can't blame it on genetically engineered foods—can we? *No!* So, we can conclude that it is *likely* that it could be some of the things that we have been talking about that cause—and they know today and they also knew back then—sickness. I'm talking about avoiding chronic things.

I just had a situation with a man, and in discussing things with him there were some things that were somewhat corrective to him. What we need to understand is that when something comes along where it is corrective, whether it is something out of God's Word or something that someone is giving you some counselor advice concerning something that is going to be helpful to you, sometimes it's very hard to take. In order for it to

come to the point that we repent and turn to God, sometimes the Word of God has to act.

That's why Paul writes in Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living... [Jesus said, 'The Words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life.'] ...and powerful..."—meaning there is no way that you are going to go against the Word of God in any manner whatsoever and not have some kind of result, whether it is of actual overt, outward transgression of a commandment, or whether it is one hidden in the inner, covert sin of the heart. It's going to have an action/reaction somewhere along the line.

"...and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit... [You can't get it any finer than that—can you?] ...and of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern... [or judge] ...*the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart" (v 12). Paul was writing this because our battles and the things that we're doing—once we understand the commandments of God and we're keeping the commandments of God in the letter—then it becomes the process of:

- growing
- overcoming
- keeping them in the spirit

God is no longer dealing with just the *external* things that we do. If we have the Spirit of God, God is dealing with the *thoughts and the intents of the heart*. There are some thoughts, because we are evil by nature, which tend to put us in *attitudes, emotional states and thoughts that can also affect our well being* and can also bring upon us very difficult things indeed.

Verse 13: "And **there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight...**" We can fool ourselves; we can fool other people—some of the time, not all the time—but *we can never fool God!* We are always *manifest in His sight!*

Let's look at it this way: How does God handle it when we have His Spirit and we're fighting these inner battles to overcome sin, because God knows them—right? *Yes, indeed!* That's why ***with repentance you are covered by grace!***

- Does God know that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked? *Yes, indeed!*
- Does He know that we have the law of sin and death in us? *Yes, indeed!*

He gave it to us.

- Does He know that we're well-intentioned as human beings and want to do good but can't find the real, true way to do it? *Yes, indeed!*

What He wants you to understand, though all of these things are true, He does not want you to:

- get despaired
- have a guilt complex
- get down so low that you are ready to abandon God

He doesn't want that at all! He just wants you to understand "...but **all things are naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account**" (v 13).

What do we do in this case? Do we say, 'I'm so ashamed that I don't even want to pray?' Do we say, 'How can God put up with me as a sinner this way?' Which is a little different than the one who has one foot in the world and one foot in the Church; or double-minded, thinking half the time *the way of the world* and half the time *the way of God*. No! *This is different!* This is so that each one of us can ***come to the true knowledge of self before God*** and realize that

- God has called us
- God has forgiven us
- God will continue to do so

That's why He is exposing these things so that you will come to Christ!

Verse 14: "Having therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*." In the light of everything concerning:

- what our human nature is
- what the world is
- everything around us

regardless of the circumstances.

Verse 15: "For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses..." Christ knows—doesn't He? *Yes, He does!* If Christ be in us, which He is, then He knows—doesn't He? That's the key as to why ***He has only given us an 'earnest' of the Holy Spirit!***

I just got done writing the commentaries and I'm essentially done writing the detailed commentaries:

- Appendix R: *What is Meant by "the Works of the Law"?*
- Appendix Q: *What Does it Mean to be "Born of God"*—which means: *begotten* of God.

You're not *born again*, yet, but you are *begotten*. The reason that God has only given the *begettal* is because, just like a newly begotten infant in the womb, it must grow and develop and come to the point in time of being ready for birth.

Our process of overcoming has to do with growing in grace, knowledge, understanding and coming to have the mind of Christ. We are still fighting this human nature—and it is a friction and thing that we have to fight—Paul said that only Christ could save him from it. Therefore, God has only given the begettal of the Holy Spirit so that you can grow in grace and knowledge; so that you can understand the depths of human nature so you can repent of it, etc.

God is merciful and kind and doesn't show all of this to us all at once, in the beginning. If He did, no one could handle it! As I mentioned before, what God is doing with us is to His glory, to His honor, because He's doing the impossibility that no man can do; that *only God can do*, and that is, ***to make you perfect for the resurrection!*** God can do that, but He does want our cooperation and He does want our willingness. *The truth is, we can do them!* The truth is we can, because we have a great High Priest! When we ask forgiveness we are forgiven.

Here's the reason why, v 15: "...but *one Who* was tempted in all things according to *the likeness of our own temptations*; yet, *He* was without sin." He knows—doesn't He? The hardest thing for human nature to admit, when there are inner sins, is to admit them to God. You don't have to admit them to anyone else—to *God*. He knows already—doesn't He? If God brings it to your attention through the spirit that is *in you*, then God is also working *with you*. That's part of the work that God is *creating in you*! He creates in you by putting in:

- His Spirit
- His Word
- His laws
- His commandments
- His attitude
- the mind of Christ

That means there has to be a constant working against human nature, and that's on a daily basis.

That's why when we come before God there is no condemnation (Rom 8:1-3). Since God gave you only a portion of His Holy Spirit for a begettal, and since God has not removed human nature but He is converting it—meaning *changing it*—therefore, there is no condemnation to you before God. When you come along and find these different things, the inward, hidden sins of the heart and mind, and God is revealing those, you need to pray and ask God for forgiveness. *I do, you do,*

everyone does! That's the battle that's constantly going on—isn't it? Didn't the Apostle Paul have to? *Yes, indeed!* We need to understand that relationship to what we are doing.

Verse 16: "Therefore, we should come with boldness... [through Christ, obviously with repentance] ...to the throne of grace, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help in time of need." That's what God wants us to do. This is a daily thing that we go through.

Let's review something in Matt. 19 just to make sure that we understand and realize it. We need to spiritually graduate as it were from just the external obedience in the letter, which, many people can do. We need to graduate from that to the internal. That's why it came up this way in Matt. 19. For those who only look to the external, this is going to be hard for them to understand. That's why it was hard for the disciples to understand it.

Matthew 19:16: "Now, at that time, one came to Him *and* said, 'Good Master, what good *thing* shall I do, that I may have eternal life?' And He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good except one—God...'”(vs 16-17). The reason Jesus said that at the time was because: He was God in the flesh and He had human nature. He could not be called 'good' of Himself because of bearing human nature. He still had yet to finish unto the end and not sin.

A lot of people point to this and say, 'See, He was not God before He was human because if He was God, then He would include Himself in this.' At the time He was saying this, the only God there was was God the Father in heaven above. Christ was God manifest in the flesh, but He certainly did not have all the glory of God shining forth while He was in the flesh.

"...But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.' Then he said to Him, 'Which?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not commit murder'..." (vs 17-18). A lot of Protestants turn here and say, 'See! See! See! He did not mention the Sabbath. Therefore, since He didn't mention the Sabbath, we don't have to keep it. Well, He mentioned it in several other places, Mark 2, Matt. 15, etc. and inspired it in Heb. 4, 'There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God.' Remember what kind of society were they living in? They were living in a society

- that kept the Sabbath
- that kept the Holy Days
- that had the temple of God

There was no need mentioning those because He lived in an environment where those were

automatic. Therefore, the ones that He covered were these:

"...you shall not commit murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness honor your father and your mother; and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (vs 18-19). The last one, we will see, the young man didn't do.

Verse 20: "The young man said to Him, 'I have kept all these things from my youth. What do I yet lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you desire to be perfect...'” (vs 20-21). This is going on the spiritual track—isn't it? Didn't we read where Jesus said that we're to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect? Of course, that is an impossible thing that only God can accomplish.

"...go *and* sell your property, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come *and* follow Me.'.... [that was a pretty hefty thing to do] ...But after hearing this word, the young man went away grieving, because he had many possessions" (vs 21-22). The whole story is physical obedience to the letter of the law and physical things—you can say we found the Laodicean in the Gospels—***do not meet the requirements for eternal life!*** You have to do them in the spirit.

God wants something from each one of us that is greater than the external commandment-keeping.

- How many millions of people honor their fathers and mothers?
- How many millions of people do not murder?
- How many millions of people, though getting less and less, do not commit adultery or sexual perversion?
- How many millions of people do not steal?
- How many millions of people are willing to tell the truth in the letter?

So, it's possible for carnal, unconverted people—which this rich man was—to keep the commandments of God in the letter. The truth is, God requires that of *all* human beings—did you know that? ***The letter of the law is not going to produce eternal life!*** If it were by the letter of the law then you would have works that would compel God to give you eternal life. *Eternal life is a gift from God and no law can give eternal life* though you are to keep the commandments of God not only in the letter, but also in the spirit.

- What is it that God wants?
- What is it that He is going to provide?
- How is it possible to please God?

Let's come to Luke 14 because this is the rest of the story of Matt. 19. You can read the whole chapter and read what comes up to this. First of all, He talks about the Pharisees and the lawyers and what they have done.

Luke 14:11: "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted." If you had works that you could do, you could boast. Then He gives the example: Don't just invite your friends, relatives and kinfolks for dinner, invite those who have nothing. He's asking people to do the opposite of what carnality normally thinks—correct? *Yes, indeed!* Then He talks about the wedding supper, how it was made ready and everyone gave an excuse and didn't come.

Verse 23: "Then the lord said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, not one of those men who were invited shall taste of my supper.' And great multitudes were going with Him..." (vs 23-25) What does it talk about 'the way of the multitudes' *vs the way of God?* 'Broad is the gate and wide is the way that leads to destruction.' That's why Satan has to have broad religions covering every facet of different societies, so that he can keep them deceived.

"...and He turned *and* said to them..." (v 25). This is what people don't like to hear, but this is what we have to come to when we come to God; In answering the call to God, this is what we have to come to in everything that we do:

Verse 26: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife..." That means that when you look at the account in Matt. 10 it means to *love God more than any of these*. They may even take it as hate toward them, but treat them in as a loving way as you can. That is before God. He is saying here that this is the requirement

"...and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (vs 26-27).

What is it that God wants? *He wants all of you!* That's what He wants! He does not want a portion of you on Sabbath or Sunday, as the Protestants would put it. You put on your Sunday or Sabbath best, and you get all 'gussied up' and you go to church; you're nice, friendly, shake hands and everything is good, lovely and fine—that's okay, God expects that. He doesn't expect you to come in your worst clothing and come in blazing, shooting and all that sort of stuff. He doesn't expect that.

He wants all of you: *heart, mind, soul and being!* This is why God hates hierarchy that leverages that to itself. In the things that God wants us to do, we are to be completely whole-hearted to God. Part of the reason why, as I mentioned last time about the church wars that people get so disillusioned in church wars is because they have not made this commitment to God *but have given it to a man!* When the man goes bad or sins, which all men do to a greater or lesser degree, then they become disillusioned because they haven't given this commitment to God. Hence, you have anger, bitterness, frustration, and *all* of these things that come along with it. Of course, we have all gone down that road—haven't we? *Yes, indeed! God wants all of you!*

In order for God to have all of you, *you have to forsake everything*. That's what it's talking about. You may have possessions; you may have different things, that's fine. God has probably blessed you with them, that's good. *Don't make an idol of them!* Don't put any of those things before God. This is the spiritual commitment that we make to God. What commitment did Jesus Christ make for you? What did He do? In going over some of these things, I'm not covering something that is beyond being able to do. What did God do for you? *Christ gave up being God to become a human being!* To come down here and

- live a perfect life
- be taught of God the Father
- called His disciples and the apostles
- set the things in motion for the Church

Then gave His life in perfect love in a *sacrifice so great* that when we come to God, what He asks us to give up and sacrifice—even to our own physical life compared to what He did—is really very small; though it is great to us because the only life we have is this. That's what God desires. That's why God hates religion because religion comes *between God and the individual!*

Here's what God wants and there's going to be a fight against religion here, Matthew 10:34: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth... [You can individually have peace with God through repentance and so forth, but not on the earth.] ...I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man at variance against his father... [Doesn't that tie in with Luke 14? *Yes!*] ...and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's enemies *shall be those of his own household*" (vs 34-36).

When you have that, what is one of the things that you want to do? *We'd like to have peace rather than a family feud*—correct? Mother and

father come to you and say, 'If you'd just give up this 'kooky' religion of yours'—because they can't understand it in any other terms than religious terms—'then we could get along,' or 'You've quit coming to church on Sunday with me and you have just hurt my feelings.' In this case here: 'You've quit coming to synagogue and now you're going with that group over there.' Either way, the same principle applies. The ones that you will want to make peace with, are those of your own family—aren't they? *Yes!* That's the hardest thing. That's why He puts it this way.

Verse 37: "The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me" (vs 37-38). We're now talking about spiritual things. If God did this for us and then, in turn, gives us His Holy Spirit. Since He died for us and was resurrected for our justification, ***when we repent and received the Holy Spirit of God, we belong to Him and Him alone!***

Though we are married, husband and wife, though we have children, ***eternal life is worth it*** and the momentary strife that occurs because you

- choose God instead of your family
- choose God instead of your work
- choose God instead of whatever

God will be able to compensate you for that and much more, as He says, 'not only in this life but also in the Kingdom of God.' He's offering you eternal life. All these other little hurts and things that come along and the problems and difficulties, God is going to solve in His way, in His time and in His plan. In the long run, He's going to take care of it, ***because He's Creator!***

Verse 39: "The one who has found his life shall lose it... [in this world] ...and the one who has lost his life for My sake shall find it." This is the exact opposite of the world and this is why *it's impossible for physical things and 'letter of the law' obedience to give you eternal life!* In doing those things, you *are not required* to give yourself wholly to God; but when you repent, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God, *that's what He requires!* God will bless you for it. Maybe some of the blessing will be a trial.

William Tyndale had one little part that was good. He said, 'It's better to be poor and have Christ than to have riches, which God gives to His enemies.' What did Satan say when he was tempting Christ? He said, 'All of this will be Yours if You worship me.' This is why God has called us and why we're doing the things that we do.

Notice, there are some blessings, v 41: "The one who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive *the* reward of a prophet... [God is fair and kind and understanding—isn't He?] ...and the one who receives a righteous *man* in *the* name of a righteous *man* shall receive the reward of a righteous *man*. And *if* anyone shall in *the* name of a disciple give to one of these little ones... [that is, of Christ] ...to drink a cup of cold *water* only, truly I say to you, he shall in no way lose his reward" (vs 41-42).

What are all of these things here? *These are, obviously, receiving and doing from the heart!* God is not asking you to give up something that you should not be willing to give up! We'll cover some of that in just a minute. I think what we're going to cover is going to help us:

1. understand more of the grace and love of God
2. realize, comprehend and understand even more the work that God is doing in us
3. learn how to yield to God and grow in grace and knowledge
4. overcome these inner, covert, unseen sins

That God's blessing, wisdom, understanding and grace will be on us that much more.

Once we receive the Holy Spirit, this is what is to happen: I mentioned that we are to be wholly God's, that is: ***we are wholly belonging to Him!***

- we love God
- we worship God
- we serve God
- we keep His commandments

With His Holy Spirit and His Word, He then exposes our human nature to us; our thoughts and our minds are changed over a period of time.

Romans 12:1 "I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice... [it belongs to God] ...Holy and well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service." That reasonable or spiritual service, not only are the things that are outward, but more particularly the things that are *inward*.

Verse 2: "Do not conform yourselves to this world... [not only in the way of living, but also in the way of thinking, acting and doing] ...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." God has given us a mind and created it in such a way that with the power of His Holy Spirit, He is able to renew—to regenerate, from a degenerate mind—and to change it. ***That is the process of conversion!***

"...in order that you may prove..." (v 2). It's an active thing that happens. Not just to say

BING! I got an idea, that's fine and you toddle on your own way without acting upon it.

"...that you may prove what *is* well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God" (v 2). That's why we're going over these Scriptures, so we know that that's what God wants us to do.

Let's come to Titus 3 and see that the greatest majority of this work is what Christ is doing in us. Paul makes it very clear that it's not the outward works of righteousness, which we could do, but the inner changing that takes place.

(go to the next track)

Titus 3:3: "For we also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving all kinds of lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful *and* hating one another... [listing all those things a sin] ...But when the graciousness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared not by works of righteousness which we practiced..." (vs 3-5). The Pharisees and scribes and all different religions have their own works.

"...but according to His mercy He saved us... ['by grace are you saved'] ...through *the* washing of regeneration..." (v 5) That's not baptism and that is not a new birth, or re-birth; it is regeneration. I've done a study on the word *washing*. The word *washing* here is not the same word that refers to baptism. They're two different words.

"...and *the* renewing of *the* Holy Spirit, which He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior; so that, having been **justified by His grace**, we would become heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life" (vs 5-7). That's what we're dealing with. We're not dealing with just being good and sincere people. The world should view us as that. That's true because that's all they can see of us—right? Just like you can't read anybody's mind, no one in the world can read your mind either. If we have our mind renewed with Christ, then that's what's important. Let's look at this *washing*.

Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify it, having cleansed *it* with **the washing of water by the Word**" (vs 25-26). That's what the washing of regeneration is referring to. What does that mean? *That does not mean that there is a spiritual bottle of water that you pour on yourself!*

Because the Word of God is Spirit and is life, it is the action of cleaning up our mind. What is the term that they coined during the Korean War when the Americans were captured and they were forced upon to think differently? It's called *brain-washing*! Spiritually, that's what we need. ***We need our brains washed and our minds cleansed but it***

takes the Word of God! We can liken it unto a computer program where you take out certain digits and you put in certain new ones. It's done bit-by-bit!

John 15:1: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one that bears fruit... [in an analogy with a plant, you trim off the extra things that aren't necessary] ...in order that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you" (vs 1-3). ***The washing of the water by the Word comes from studying the Word of God.***

What happens when you study the Word of God? What happens when you don't study the Word of God? *Pretty soon it begins to fade*—doesn't it? Soon your mind gets all cluttered up with other things. In other words, ***it becomes spiritually more unclean!*** His Word does something when we study it in the process of '*the washing of water by the Word*' and cleansing our minds. We've read what David did in repenting He said, 'Wash me thoroughly from my sins' (Psa. 51). Here's what happens when we:

- study the Word of God
- let it apply to ourselves
- let it apply to us spiritually
- ask God to help us to overcome

All of these things are important for spiritual and physical health! That's what I'm trying to cover.

How can we as Christians, living in this world with so many things going on in the world, and so many of the devices of Satan all around us—that no other society has had like we have today—keep our spiritual bearing, keep our spiritual perspective and not become part of the world again? That's what I'm trying to bring out. This will be for ***your spiritual health, for your physical health***, etc.

Hebrews 10:16: "'This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,' says *the* Lord: 'I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.'" How is that going to be done? Since you are not a robot and you can't receive a new chip in the head; since you don't have a funnel hole so you can put it in there! The only way it's going to come is: ***you study!*** It's like Paul told Timothy, 'Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the Word of God.' The way that people can fall into error so quickly is this; do like the Protestants:

- you open the Bible up on Sunday
- you have a good time at church
- you meet all your friends
- you close it up

- you go home
- you live your life in the world

There's nothing being written in the heart and in the mind. That's why it has to be done daily. That's why you have to **let the Holy Spirit work in your mind**. That's how it is *written in your mind*. That's how you are *clean through the words* which He has spoken, because He's inspired all these things—hasn't He? *Yes, He has! That is how the washing of regeneration takes place!*

Obviously, when you read the Bible you're not being sprinkled in the face. The *water* means **the action of God's Holy Spirit!** I've mentioned this before, so I'll just mentioned it again. Jesus said, 'The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are life.' It is the **spiritual cleansing** and the **spiritual cutting** that takes place when you study the Word of God!

I would have to say that our human nature is much like unto an onion; it has layers. We're very willing to give up some of the exterior things. You take an onion and you cut it and it's got the hard skin on the outside. You cut both ends of it, then you peel away the hard skin and you also take, most often, the first layer of the onion when you do that. That's kind of like people who are willing to—as long as they can be counted *good*—go ahead and take off a layer or two. But when it gets right down into the heart/mind, and the real conversion that God wants us to have, it's going to take some work; it's going to take some changing; **it's going to take God's Spirit—the washing of water by the Word—to change us!**

So that we know that it is possible and you do not feel that your battle in overcoming is hopeless. By you, yourself alone, it's worse than hopeless; *it's impossible! But with God, it is possible!* As Jesus said, 'That which is impossible with men is possible with God.' He wanted everyone to understand how important it was so He told his disciples, 'It is easier for a camel to pass through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.' He meant a literal needle and he meant a literal camel. Then He said, 'That which is not possible for men is possible with God.'

How could you pass a camel through the eye of a needle? *A man can't do it!* God could do it; He could do it many ways. He could go ahead and reduce the camel small enough to make it go through. After all, when it was first conceived, how big was it? Or he could change it so much that He could string out all the DNA in one line, pass it through and reconstitute it on the other side. I suppose you could liken that to the resurrection. Nevertheless, God could do it. **There is nothing impossible with God!**

It's also possible for us to do the spiritual things that we have been covering here, and how we need to do it; instead of saying this is wrong, that's wrong, and I better go home, repent, get over it and come back next week perfect. That's not going to happen! First of all you have the tools—don't you? You have to have the knowledge—don't you? You have to realize that it can be done with the help of the Spirit of God. That's what we all need to understand.

1-John 3:18: "My little children, we should not love in word, nor with *our* tongues..." This is the outward—isn't it? We can be nice, we can be friendly, we can be sociable, we can shake hands, hug each other and so forth.

Since I've had my operation, though I'm doing fine, it is still hard for me to bend over and cut my toenails. Of course, since they grow, that's futile. Otherwise, I'll wear out all my socks and I'll have ingrown toenails and so forth. I know that as I become more limber, I'll be able to cut my nails in the future. I went to this nail clipping shop in Hollister. The door was open and I looked in. There was a whole group of teenage girls getting their fingernails all gussied up. I guess they had some prom or something they were going to. There were about half a dozen of them.

There were a couple of Vietnamese women who were doing the painting. This was the third time I've had my toenails done there. I looked in and said, 'Oh! You're too busy to do toenails.' She said, 'No, no! I'm almost done here; wait a few minutes.' I went and sat down and I watched the girls. I tell you what, women are women and girls are girls; that's just the way that it is! It was obvious that certain ones didn't like certain ones of the other, but they were putting up with each other because they were in the group. I imagine that there was a certain amount of competition as to who would be the leader, who would most gorgeous, etc.

I'm just sitting there watching how they do and I thought: they are really nice to each other face-to-face, but I wonder what they are like behind the back; and how they may cut each other down and say, 'Well, I was with So-and-So when she had her nails done and you know I wouldn't have that color if my life depended upon it.'

Whenever you watch sports events the two coaches come up and say nice things to each other, but they really don't mean it. You don't mean to congratulate him, you wish you could be congratulated. You can tell it when you watch that moment when the coaches talk to each other.

God doesn't want us to be that way; John says, "...rather, *we should love* in deed and in truth" (v 18). Not only just the deed but the truth from within. Whatever the deed is, you truly desire to do it because

you love that individual. That's what He's talking about. This gives you hope that you can do it.

Verse 19: "And in this way we know that we are of the Truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." That's where you go—as we said with the 'washing of water by the Word'; then, coupled with prayer to God to 'assure your hearts before Him.'

Verse 20: "That if our hearts condemn us..." What does that mean? *This has to do with a guilty conscience!* A lot of people put guilt trips on themselves all the time. Do not have a guilt trip over anything. **Repent of the sin and put it away!** If your heart condemns you because you have sinned, which it probably should because God's Holy Spirit is there to bring that to your awareness and prick your conscience and heart, then we have to know that:

"...God is greater than our hearts and knows all things" (vs 20). God is there willing to forgive. So, don't go around and put a guilt trip on yourself.

A lot of guilt trips are inadvertently laid upon a lot of people via the television. They don't even know it. Just an example: Everyone's been exposed to the Scott and Lacy Peterson case. What happened? *They play on the emotions of everybody everyday* as to how horrible that this was. Those who get emotionally involved carry a guilt feeling that it happened to this individual. It goes beyond just sorrow. This is intended to bring it upon people, because you can control people when you put guilt trips on them. That's why God doesn't want guilt trips put on them. **If Christ puts a guilt trip on you because of His Spirit in you, repent! That's fine!** That's what it's talking about here.

They also said, and we'll get into stress a little bit later, that the reason people are more stressed out today than ever before, is because there is news 24/7. You hear all this news, but they haven't told you that since the time that Lacy Peterson was killed until today (May, 2003), there were 3,000 murders in the United States.

Don't let exterior things and the influences of the world put a guilt trip on you. If you're so easily influenced with those things that you get a guilt trip and you feel bad and you just kind of re-live what was Lacy's last moment like? or Kind of re-live in your mind and emotions what was the little baby boy's life was like right at the end; all you're going to do is be dwelling on

- something that you cannot solve
- something you cannot change
- something you cannot work out

You put a guilt trip upon yourself and you feel bad and down. What you need to do is put it all in God's hands. After all, He knew the minute she died—didn't He?

You have to praise God for the second resurrection that He's going to undo *all* of these things. It's a sin that she died. It's a sin that she died the way that she did. You can take any other situation—be it your father, mother, brother, sister, as we've already covered—and if they die and if things happen to them, maybe your own children, that's all a part of life and you, with a guilty conscience, cannot live their lives for them or change them one iota, *except through prayer and your example!* That's all you can do. So, *don't put a guilt trip on yourself for anything!* If there is some sin that you have committed, **repent!** Don't go around with a 'guilt trip.' Don't let your heart condemn you. If it does, *God is greater than your heart—is He not?*

What is really happening when you are getting a guilt trip and you're not willing to give it up? Not only are you hurting yourself physically, mentally and spiritually, but you're really saying that God can't handle it. *You're telling yourself, 'I'm going to handle it'*—which then puts you in the seat of God! **Only God can take care of a 'guilt trip,' a guilty conscience or a condemnation** where your heart condemns you. Take it to God! That's why He says, 'God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.'

Verse 21: "Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us... [there are times when we're not sinning] ...then we have confidence toward God. And whatever we may ask we receive from Him because we **keep His commandments and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight**" (vs 21-22). The things that we do that are pleasing in His sight:

- love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- love our neighbor as ourselves
- love the brethren as Christ has loved us
- love our enemies
- work on overcoming the sin within through the power of God's Holy Spirit
- be transformed, regenerated and renewed in the spirit of your mind

That's what'll be pleasing to Him!

Verse 23: "And this is His commandment: that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another, exactly as He gave commandment to us. And the one who keeps His commandments... [you can see that outwardly; you can know inwardly, yourself, individually] ...is dwelling in Him [Christ]. and He [Christ] in him..."

[In you, and that's what's important!] ...and by this we know that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us" (vs 23-24). That's why these things take place. That's why we are to change, grow, and overcome.

God has called us because He wants to do something so unique and fantastic through the power of His Holy Spirit. Of course, the world doesn't know this and really doesn't completely understand it, even those who are religious. They may be able to read the words, but it's an entirely different thing here. ***Christ is dwelling in you!*** That is what is the important and profound thing. That is what is going to *help overcome these difficulties, problems, attitudes and inner sins* that we're going to talk about.

1-Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you understand that **you are God's temple**, and **that the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?**" That's what God wants us to know. That's what John said: 'Hereby we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight; that He is in us and we are in Him.' That's a tremendous thing— isn't it? Everyone wants to know: Where is God? God says, 'If you repent and love Me, I will dwell with you.' That's a tremendous thing— isn't it? Comprehend that, if you can.

That's something that's really hard to grasp. That the great God, Who created the heavens, the earth and everything that there is, desires to dwell with His Spirit in us, so that we, at the resurrection of the dead, can be ***changed and conformed to be like Him and live with Him forever!*** That is so awesome and fantastic that it makes all of this plain, little, law-keeping and religion ridiculous— doesn't it? *Yes!*

Then He gives a warning, v 17: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, which temple you are." That's something to consider.

Proverbs 4:20: "My son, attend to my words..." Remember all the words that Jesus spoke were Words of the Father— correct? *Yes!* All these are the inspired Words of God even though this is David, at this particular point, talking to Solomon. Solomon, unfortunately, didn't follow his advice.

"...incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart" (vs 20-21). Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and God is interested in the heart, the mind, and so forth.

Verse 22: "For they *are* life to those who find them, and **health to all their flesh**." We can put in there: 'and spirit.' What we're talking about here is not only *health to the flesh*, which we need

to be concerned with, but also the spirit. If you are healthy before God spiritually, you're going to be healthy physically, nine times out of ten. This is true today. How many things bother people's health because they're not keeping their hearts right with God; rather, they're letting too much of the world in and too much of the past to continue to dominate.

He says, v 23: "Above all **guard the door of your mind** with diligence... [part of the thing we need to do] ...for out of it *are* the issues of life." Physical life! Spiritual life!

As we read Prov. 3 let's bring together what we brought concerning the commandments of Christ, 'If you love Me, keep **the** commandments, namely, **My** commandments.' Let's see if this will help us give a little better understanding concerning ***spiritual health and physical health***.

Proverbs 3:1: "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments... [again, we're dealing with the heart] ...for they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace, to you" (vs 1-2). Of course, ours is to eternal life— isn't it?

You can look at all these 'rock idols/rap idols that are in the world, they are breaking every one of God's laws and what happens? *They die young!* Some in their 20s, some in their 30s, some in their 40s, some in their 50s. They don't live long because they're going against what God has said. Likewise, with young people; they get their parent's car and they go out driving 100 miles an hour, crack it up and kill everybody in it. They didn't listen! So, they're dead!

Verse 3: "**Do not let mercy and Truth forsake you...**" Always, always keep both. 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.' ***Truth is the Word of God!*** Never let the Truth of God forsake you. Always keep it there.

"...bind them around your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart" (v 3). That's what we covered earlier concerning the *washing of water by the Word* by study and God's Holy Spirit together.

Verse 4. "And so you shall find favor... [grace] ...and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with **all your heart**, and lean not to your own understanding" (vs 4-5). This is where we need to be all the time. That's the battle that we're fighting. That's the battle we need to work on.

Verse 6: "...In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." That ties in with 'For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God' (Rom. 8). He'll direct our paths. Many times God has us do things that we don't even know what He may have spared us from. Nevertheless, when we have 20/20 hindsight we

can look back and see: ‘Oh, yes! Oh God, You saved me from a mess!’

Verse 7: “Do not be wise in your own eyes...” That’s where a lot of these things come in. They trust in the flesh and trust in the outward keeping of the commandments. To this very day, the Jews are so locked in to their Judaism and that they’re the chosen people that they just don’t comprehend that they are the rejected. One of these days, they’ll repent. I use that as an example to take it to the extreme. Let’s not be wise in our own eyes.

“fear the LORD and depart from evil” (v 7). That’s the proper kind of fear that we’re to have. The other kind of fear, we’re not to have.

Notice what it’s going to do for you physically—not only spiritually, but physically—v 8: “It shall be health to your navel and marrow to your bones.” In other words, you’re going to have good health *from the inside out!* Marrow produces the blood and the life is in the blood. The blood is that which heals or makes sick.

Verse 9: “Honor the LORD with your substance and with the firstfruits of all your increase.” Substance is other than agricultural products. There are still some people, to this day, who are hung up in bitterness toward men because they misuse the laws of God concerning tithes and offerings. They, to this day, are bitter against God. They think it’s against the man, but it really comes down to that they’re bitter against God and do not believe that they ought to tithe. They do not recognize that likewise, just as you break any of these things that are here, you come under a curse. That’s what does happen.

My observation has been, through the years, that God is no respecter of persons. People believe that way concerning the things that God has bless them with—the physical things—and they thumb their nose at God and say, ‘I don’t believe the New Testament teaches tithing,’ when it does. I’ve seen them in *physical and spiritual* distress; in some cases, because of the ‘locking of their minds’ on that thought, *and their resentment* because of it has *affected their health* and their *spiritual standing with God*.

God says He will bless you. Do you believe Him or not? You want to believe Him in everything else, but not that! Trust me, if you don’t believe Him in that, *you don’t believe Him in the other things either!* You’re not exercising faith and belief that God says He would bless you. No wonder that so many have to spend so much for their health when they don’t realize that they are sinning spiritually, as well as physically. What they need to do is *repent! God will heal them!* Won’t God heal them? Didn’t He say that He would heal them? *Yes, He did!*

Verse 10: “And your barns shall be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst with new

wine.” God is going to take care of you. I’ll tell you what, there are many widows on our mailing list that put a lot of rich people to shame. Who do you think God is going to look to? Just read Luke 21. When they were looking at all the rich men casting in their offering into the treasury, the little widow came and put in two mites—which was everything she had—because she loved God and believed God. Jesus didn’t tell the widow, ‘You’re exempt, go back and take it out.’ She gave it from the heart and wanted to. What did He say of the rich who just cast in of their abundance? *They haven’t done anything at all because they just gave of their abundance!*

- they didn’t give anything from the heart
- they didn’t give anything because of love
- they didn’t give anything but because of the outward necessity of doing it

We could tie in another Scripture, ‘Verily, they have their reward.’ One other thing that David brings up here, because in order to do up through v 10 you have to accept:

Verse 11: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD...”—because there’s going to be that correction that has come! As Paul wrote, that’s an assurance that you are the sons of God.

“...nor be weary of His correction; **For whom the LORD loves He corrects**, even as a father *corrects* the son *in whom* he delights” (vs 11-12)—so that

- he may be better
- he may be perfected
- he may grow in grace and knowledge

We need to understand and have this whole perspective so next time we’ll be ready to talk about some of the things that we need to overcome along those lines and how we can do it.

A comment was made that what we covered concerning keeping the commandments of God, tithing and so forth, you can liken that to ‘preventive maintenance.’ What if you had your car and you spent ‘X’ number of dollars—they’re almost as much as a house used to be 20 years ago—and you never changed the oil and you never did anything to it. Just think what kind of shape it would be in at 200,000 miles, because you did no preventative maintenance, it all fell apart and you had to buy a new one. Because you didn’t pay the maintenance, did you save anything? *or* Did you lose? *You lost!*

The same person can take the same car. With preventive maintenance and what it takes to do it, he can drive that thing 300,000 miles *or more*. Did the preventive maintenance help? Did it prolong it? *Yes, indeed!* That’s the exact same thing we are talking about here spiritually!

You first have to have the physical, then you have the spiritual and then you have them all combined in Christ. It is a preventive maintenance **so you don't get the curse for stealing from God!**

All Scriptures from *The Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*
by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1). John 5:14
- 2). Hebrews 4:12-16
- 3). Matthew 19:16-22
- 4). Luke 14:11, 23-27
- 5). Matthew 10:34-39, 41-42
- 6). Romans 12:1-2
- 7). Titus 3:3-7
- 8). Ephesians 5:25-26
- 9). John 15:1-3
- 10). Hebrews 10:16
- 11). 1-John 3:18-24
- 12). 1-Corinthians 3:16-17
- 13). Proverbs 4:20-23
- 14). Proverbs 3:1-6
- 15). Proverbs 3:7-12

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 8:1-3
- Mark 2
- Matthew 15
- Hebrews 4:9
- Psalms 51
- Romans 8
- Luke 21

Also referenced:

From *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*:

- Appendix R: *What is Meant by "the Works of the Law"?*
- Appendix Q: *What Does it Mean to be "Born of God"?*

Emotions and Healing I

Fred R. Coulter

Let's look at some things concerning healing that are very important. We're talking about *physical* healing; we're not talking about spiritual healing. In Exo. 15 God first revealed to the children of Israel that He was the God Who healed them. We'll see something very interesting in what He had them do, which gives us a basis for a lot of things that we can also do.

Exodus 15:23: "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah because it *was* bitter. Therefore, the name of it was called Marah.... [bitterness] ...And the people murmured against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'" (vs 23-24). Let's just stop here for a minute and analyze something. Seeing the power of God and the miracles of God that He did in bringing them out of the land of Egypt, did it make a lasting impression upon the people? *No, it did not!* Signs, miracles and power of God does not convert.

Here they are just three days after passing through the Red Sea, they come to Marah and they say, 'What do we drink?' What they should have said was, 'Ah! God did all of this to get us out of Egypt. Oh, Moses, pray to God for some water for us. We know that God will hear you and we'll pray with you.' *No! No such thing!* They murmured. They complained!

Verse 25: "And he [Moses] cried to the LORD. And the LORD showed him a tree. And when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet...." This also shows us another principle—which we'll see a little bit later in Psa. 104—that God made herbs for the service of man. Here God Himself is actually doing this to make the water sweet.

"...There He made a decree and a law for them, and there He proved them" (v 25). Sometimes we go through circumstances and trials so that God will test us. In other words, God is proving our faith: Do we really, really believe God? A lot of people like to believe some things about God because that's what they like, but they don't like other things that God has said so they don't believe it. Paul said that he believed *all* that was written in the Law and the Prophets, as well as what God inspired him to write.

As far as the things to believe, your degree of believing them will grow in grace and knowledge as you draw closer to God; but as far as the things from the Bible to believe, you must do as Jesus said: 'Live by every Word of God.' You only live by every Word of God because you believe every Word of God—correct? Do you not only act upon that

which you believe? *Yes, indeed!*

If you know that buried in the middle of this floor is \$10-million in gold, what would you do? You would somehow negotiate with the owners of the building and the land, not letting them know that you knew for sure that the gold was there, to buy this—right? Then what would you do? *You'd dig up the floor like crazy*, after you got the property, and get out all the gold, because you acted upon what you knew and what you believed. That's why it's important that not only does God prove us, but we also prove the Word of God 'whether these things are true are not.' So, God proved them.

Verse 26: "And he said, '**If...**'" There are 1200 in the Bible, which might be an interesting study sometime. Get out your *Strong's Concordance* and start right at the beginning of the Bible and go through the whole Bible and see all the conditions that God says concerning *IF*. Notice, the condition is always on *us*. We, as human beings with our nature and so forth, are the variable factor. We have to choose God's way and choose His Truth, as well as not only choosing it, but also proving it.

So He says, "**If...**" you decide to keep some of My things, if you find enough energy to do so. *No!* He says, "...**If** you will ^[#1]**diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your God...**" (v 26) That's why Jesus says in the New Testament, 'He who has ears, let him hear.' Isn't it interesting that in the word 'hearken' is the word 'hear'? Actually, if you'd pronounce it with 'hear' it would be 'hear-ken.' You have to with all your diligence "...hearken to the voice of the Lord your God..."

Then, there's another condition. "...**and** ^[#2]**will do that which is right in His sight and** ^[#3]**will give ear to His commandments...** [not only what He says but also what He commands] ...**and** ^[#4]**keep all His laws**, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I *am* the LORD Who heals you" (vs 26).

I think it's quite interesting that when they go back and look at all the diseases of the Egyptians, and they look at some of these mummies, what did they have? *Some of the very same diseases that we have today!* God made it very clear. Deut. 28 contains all *the blessings and all the cursing*. When people read Deut. 28, everyone wants the blessings—don't they? What don't they want to do? **Be obedient!** We won't focus on all of the curses, but we'll just look at the verses which have to do with some of the diseases.

Deuteronomy 28:20: “The LORD shall send on you cursing, vexation, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do... [We’re going to see that repeated in this society. If you think things are getting bad, it’s just getting started!] ...until you are destroyed...” God is not going to be mocked. They entered into a covenant with God and what did they say? What did they tell God after Moses wrote all the words to the covenant? *All that the Lord has said we will do and obey!*

You enter into a covenant with God, which all of us have done through baptism in the New Covenant—correct? We’ve entered into covenant with God—have we not? *Yes, indeed!* God is the One Who sets the conditions, and God is the One Who gives us His Word, and so forth. In bringing upon these curses, vexations and things, God is very merciful, indeed. What He does, He brings it to you to see if you’ll repent—I’m talking to every nation or group of people. If they repent, then God will pull back and be merciful to them. If they don’t repent, then He’ll send another wave.

What I want you to do is think about the recent history of the United States, which is probably the sole place in the world that is still preaching the Gospel in any form as far as the people within it. If there is repentance, they’ll be restored, and if not He’ll bring another wave, then another one, and then another one. Hopefully, God will get their attention.

Verse 20: “...in all you set your hand to do until you be destroyed, and until you perish quickly because of the wickedness of your doings *by which you have forsaken Me.*” *A lot of the sickness and disease that we have today in the world around us is because as a nation we have left God!* As we read all of these things we’re going to see that’s exactly what’s coming upon us: “...because of the wickedness of your doings by which you have forsaken Me.”

Verse 21: “The LORD shall make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from off the land where you go to possess it. The LORD shall strike you with lung disease and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword...” (vs 21-22) That doesn’t necessarily mean just an invasion.

- Has the sword been turned loose in America?
- How many murders are there every day?
- How many robberies?
- How many beatings?

When we first got Fox News on cable, I thought that’s a great improvement over CNN; but all they do is talk about crime, murder, death and have their

stupid inane panels discussing all of this nonsense.

You know what this does? *This blinds the people to the reality of the things that **are** taking place!* It blinds them to the reality that these Scriptures, which we are reading, are the things that are taking place. ***They always try and have a secular solution to a spiritual problem!*** Oh, you need more police; you need better investigators. That which would help them more than anything else:

- the reading of the Bible in schools
- the Ten Commandments posted
 - ✓ on school walls
 - ✓ courthouse walls
 - ✓ the walls of homes

would be the first step in beginning to cure the problem.

Once the crime is committed, you can’t cure the problem. The only way you can cure the problem is to have the right instructions, even in a carnal world; to have the commandments of God where they obey them in the letter of the law.

This nation was much better off when it was doing that—was it not? The forces of evil and the campaign of Satan the devil using high-profile people have removed God from the government, from the schools, from society in general. ***Christianity without God is alive and well and that’s why these things are taking place!***

Because they don’t want God, God is going to give them the fill. Homosexuals want to marry, let them marry and live in their debauchery! You want sin, have lots of it! ***‘You want to reject Me,’ says God, ‘I’ll reject you!’*** There we have it!

Verse 23: “And your heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth that is under you iron.... [go out and see if you can put a shovel in your soil] ...The LORD shall make the rain of your land powder and dust. It shall come down from the heavens upon you until you are destroyed. The LORD shall cause you to be stricken before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them. And you shall become abhorrent unto all the kingdoms of the earth” (vs 23-25) That’s the ultimate thing: captivity and leaving the land that God has given.

Verse 27: “The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt...” Isn’t it interesting? What are they worried about today that has the name of Egypt in it? ***Egyptian Fever, by a mosquito!*** God doesn’t have to send giant planes and bombs to do His work. He sends viruses and bugs.

“...and with the hemorrhoids, and with the scab, and with the itch, of which you cannot be

healed. The LORD shall strike you with madness and blindness and astonishment of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind gropes in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall always be pressed down and spoiled forever, and no man shall save you” (vs 27-29).

That’s why back in Exo. 15 He wanted them to know. He says, ***‘I am the LORD that heals you.’*** When you turn to God for healing—there are many different things that cause disease—but number one is spiritual things that take place. Let’s just review some of those things that cause sickness or illness.

Accidents:

You can break an arm or break a leg. Unfortunately there was this terrible, terrible crash over near Santa Cruz. There was this big double semi that came barreling down Hwy. 17 and the brakes went out, or something like that. It smashed into and wrecked 10 cars and killed several people. The car that got smashed the most was between a flatbed wrecker in front and the truck behind it. It squished and killed the little baby right in the car. They showed the picture of it with the baby all crushed.

A lot of people look at those things and say, ‘Why does God allow this?’ The question is: Where is God in our lives? We don’t need to look at that and say, ‘That person must have really been a sinner for this to happen!’ What did Jesus say? They came to Him and He was healing and doing things and—He said, *‘Do not think that those who were killed by Herod and the blood mingled in the sacrifices were greater sinners than any in Jerusalem. I tell you, unless you likewise repent, you’ll suffer the same thing!’*

Or the eighteen who died when the Tower of Siloam fell upon them, were they sinners above other people? *No! ‘I tell you unless you repent you shall like wise die.’*

So, the same thing! When you see some sickness or we see some things that are wrong, what we need to do is return to God; not stand up and condemn and say, ‘I know why you have this.’ How do you know? Are you a mind reader? *No, you can’t know! God knows!* He says He’ll heal us.

Physical Illnesses:

There are just some things that are plain physical, physical illnesses. Sometimes there are physical things you need to do like God did in casting the tree into the bitter water. There are some other things that you can do. The favorite thing of psychologists today. It’s psychosomatic disease. It is true that emotions have an awful lot to do with your health and well-being.

Spiritual Illnesses:

Of course, some of the things we just covered—the spiritual cause.

Psalms 103 that gives us some promises. When we go to these Psalms, we just need to realize that God’s Word is true. Every bit of His Word is true, and God cannot lie. It is the covenant that He bound Himself to do. That does not mean that we don’t have some things we need to do. This means that we need to be *looking to God for our health and our healing*. There are some other things that we need to do in addition to that.

Psalms 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.... [There again we have whole-heartedness; we have complete zeal and passion toward God] ...Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits... [there are many, many benefits] ...Who forgives all your iniquities...” (vs 1-3). We look to God to forgive our iniquities—don’t we? We go to God and repent and pray and say, ‘Forgive me. and give me strength to change and overcome and not sin again’—don’t we? *Yes, we do!* Because of our nature, we need that all the time—don’t we? That’s why in the model prayer, the Lord’s prayer, every day, we are to ask God to forgive us our sins, as we forgive others.

Here is the second half: “...**Who heals all your diseases**” (v 3). That doesn’t mean you won’t taste of death. We all have the *law of sin and death* in us and ‘as in Adam, we all die.’ That’s just a fact of life. God says, ‘blessed is the death of the saints in His eyes.’ Why? *The saint has completed the course given to run and is going to be in the resurrection!* We need to balance it with that. ‘He heals our diseases’ does not mean that He gives us eternal life in the flesh. That’s not God’s design. He says He’ll heal us of all our diseases.

We’ll see in a minute where God says He will heal Hezekiah, but He also told him something else to do—didn’t He? In many cases, it is that there are some things that we need to do. In other cases, when we come to the point of things, we just have to put it in God’s hands and say, ‘Oh, God! You know whether I live or whether I die. I am in your hands. You make the judgment, whatever Your will be.’

Verse 4: “Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.”

Verse 8: “The LORD is merciful and gracious...” Yes, He is! There are some who would say that these Scriptures only apply to David and not other people. Why is it there? *These are examples that we are to learn from*—are they not? *Yes, indeed!* If they only applied to David, then God is a

respector of persons—is He not? If God is a respector of persons, then He’s not God because He’s lied and He said that He was not a respector of persons—correct? That’s how people do. That’s why if you are not studying, praying and really living God’s way when they start throwing some of these arguments to you, you won’t have an answer for them.

Verse 8: “...slow to anger, and abundant in mercy. He will not always chasten... [if you’re going through a trial, there’s going to be a light at the end of the tunnel] ...nor will He keep His anger forever” (vs 8-9). All you have to do is remember God’s anger that was kindled against Ahab. He sent Elijah to Ahab. He said, ‘You go tell Ahab he’s going to die and the dogs are going to lick his blood off the wall.’ Sure enough, Elijah went over there and said those words and what did Ahab do? *He repented in sackcloth and ashes!*

Here was a man whom God said was one of the most evil men around and He repented. As Elijah was on his way back home, or wherever he was going, God said, ‘You go back and tell My servant, Ahab’—now, he becomes God’s servant—‘because you walk tenderly, I’m not going to execute this, yet.’ How about that? Does that not prove this verse true? Does that not prove that it applies to other people? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 10: “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.” *The ‘wages of sin is death!* If He dealt with us that way, we should be struck down with a bolt of lightening immediately and be killed, never to be revived. That means that God has not dealt with us according to our iniquities or our sins.

Verse 11 “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (vs 11-12). That’s why in the things concerning healing, when you repent, *always remember and learn the lesson!* But also understand this: *God has removed them as far from you as the east is from the west!* If you’re at one point in the universe and you go wherever east and west in the universe is, they never meet—do they?

Verse 13: “As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, for He knows our frame... [He made us] ...He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes, for the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and its place shall know it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness is unto children’s children, to those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember

His precepts to do them” (vs 13-18). We can claim that promise:

- whenever you’re in trial
- whenever you’re going through a difficulty
- whenever you need to be healed

You come to God in repentance, crying out to Him to intervene and to heal and claim the promises!

- Not because we are great, but because **God is great!**
- Not because we are able to read them, but **because God has given them!**
 - ✓ for our hope
 - ✓ for our healing
 - ✓ to raise us up

Psalm 104:14: “He causes the grass to grow for the livestock, and herbs for the service of man...” It’s perfectly all right to use herbs. God gave it to the service of man:

- to help
- to heal
- to cleanse
- to purge

—all those things for the body.

Of course, the medical industry doesn’t like that because they don’t make money. You just don’t make money on those things; at least the thousands and thousands that they do.

Verse 15 “And wine that makes glad the heart of man, and oil that makes his face shine, and bread to strengthen the heart of man.”

Many of the things in healing today fall into this category, but not all. There are times when only God can do it and He doesn’t expect you to do anything. There are other times when He expects you to do something, as well. We’ll see in the case of Hezekiah, He actually instructed him what to do.

Isaiah 38:1: “In those days Hezekiah was sick to death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD... [he’s giving an ultimatum]: ...“Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.”’” That seems absolutely final—doesn’t it? Can you get anything more final than that? Can you change God’s mind? *If you can, that shows God’s mercy—*doesn’t it? Some of us have been faced with those situations—haven’t we?

What did Hezekiah do? Verse 2: “Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD... [he is repenting, turning to God, claiming His promises] ...and said, ‘Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have

done *that which is good* in Your sight.’ And Hezekiah wept with a great weeping” (vs 2-3).

This was showing his deep repentance, showing there is deep repentance. God intervenes—does He not? ***One of the keys to healing then, is repentance!*** Jesus said several times to those who were sick, ‘Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.’ So, God changed His mind.

Verse 4: “Then came the Word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, ‘Go and say to Hezekiah...” (vs 4-5). Isn’t this interesting? Not only in the case of Ahab, which we have just discussed, but here in the case of Hezekiah *God changed His mind*.

“...Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, ‘I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add to your days fifteen years..... [Now that’s something! Fifteen years at that age is quite a time.] ...And I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria...” (vs 4-6).

Verse 9: “The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness” You can read all of that.

We will find that this was a combined effort: God intervening with the blessing and promise, but He required something to be done, just like He did with casting the tree in the water to make it sweet.

Verse 21: “And Isaiah had said, ‘Let them take a cake of figs and apply *it* as a poultice upon the boil, and he shall recover.” This was to draw it out. Apparently he had some kind of huge, what we would call today, carbuncle. Has anyone had a carbuncle? *They are painful*—aren’t they? If you think you were in bad shape, which you probably were; and if you were in pain, which you probably were; just picture Job covered head to toe, with boils. “...apply *it* as a poultice upon the boil, and he shall recover.”

Hezekiah, not being satisfied with that, said, ‘How am I going to know this? What sign is God going to give me?’ Then Isaiah came to him and said, ‘Okay, you have a choice. Do you want the sun to go forward ten degrees on the dial or to go back ten degrees on the dial?’ Hezekiah said, ‘To go back ten degrees on the dial, because I think going forward is a simple thing.’ He didn’t say it like that; I paraphrased it. What happened? *You can read the account in 2-Chronicles!*

After he was healed, his vanity got the best of him—didn’t it? Here come the ambassadors from Babylon and say, ‘O King Hezekiah, we heard of the great recovery that God has given you.’ They stroked him and they cooed to him and they politically as it were petted him, and so forth. He got carried away, and what did he do? *The most stupid*

thing in his life! He took them and showed them all the treasures and gold that God had given him and where it was. Then God sent to Hezekiah and said, ‘Because you have been foolish and done this thing, I’m going to give it all to the Babylonians.’ Another lesson: ***When you’re healed, don’t get ‘hoity-toity’ and all lifted up in vanity!*** Don’t be big braggadocios over it; just ***be thankful to God*** and go on.

While we need to pray for each other, that doesn’t mean that we need to broadcast our faults and mistakes abroad. While we are to confess our faults to one another, it doesn’t say that we are to confess our sins to one another. *We confess those to God*. Our faults are like some of the stupid things we do that cause us to get sick, like I did with my hips, which I’ve explained many times.

Emotional Illness:

We’re going to talk about more of the emotional things and attitudes that we have as it relates to healing. Here’s the basis for all of it. There is a Proverb which says, ‘*As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.*’ That is true! When people look at us on the outside. What do they see? Generally when we come together, we try and be as presentable as we can. What they see is the exterior. Even though wives, in living with their husbands, are quite skilled in understanding much of what their husbands have thought through the years and can fairly reliably predict what they may or may not do—because of experience—that does not mean that they can read their husband’s mind. *You cannot read anybody’s mind.*

The truth is: *As anyone thinks in his heart, so he is!* When we come before God, we are open and naked or *naked and laid bare before God*. ***God knows!*** Therefore, we repent to God. If we’ve sinned against someone, then we repent to the person that we’ve sinned against and ask forgiveness. Here is the way to ensure that the way you think in your heart is going to be of benefit to you health wise.

Like I started out this series, one thing that impressed me when I saw part of the Larry King Live show was when he was interviewing Art Linkletter—when he was over 95 and he didn’t look much over 65—Larry King was absolutely astonished and he said to Linkletter, ‘What do you attribute this to?’ Linkletter said, ‘Always thinking good thoughts and never letting any problems hang over me.’ The difficulty with many people is this: They don’t have this kind of attitude. Rather than ruling over their problems, they let the problems and circumstances rule over them and then they wonder why they’re constantly in difficulty. If they get sick, they wonder why they’re not healed. With the Spirit

of God and with the Word of God we're to have a change *within*, so that the way we think *within* will be reflected outward as to what we are.

Proverbs 3:1 "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments." There's a difference between keeping the commandments in the letter of the law in a punctilious way out here. You can be ever so sincere and law-abiding in this society, but as you think in your mind that's how you are. They've found many of their supposed good citizens to be perverts and pedophiles—haven't they? You keep His commandments with your heart. That means that *your emotions are involved* in doing that—correct?

Here's what it does, v 2: "**For they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace, to you.**" What happens to those who reject the commandments of God, spew at the Words of God, ridicule, impugn and blaspheme Christ? How long do they live? Look at some of the 'rock' stars, classical example of those who reject God. How many of them die of a young age because of sex, booze and over-dose of drugs? You can go on and on.

How about the sexual perverts? They're trying to fight off AIDS. Given enough time, it'll be resistance to everything—correct? There's one ***sure cure*** for all the sexual problems in any nation anywhere in the world: ***Keep the commandments of God: Do not commit adultery, fornication, homosexuality—male or female—bestiality or any of those things.*** You have to say that the country of Rwanda in Africa finally got the message. Much to the chagrin of the drug companies, they have turned back the tide of AIDS by preaching what I just said:

- no adultery
- no fornication
- no homosexuality
- abstain from any sex until you are married

(go to the next track)

The plague has been stayed. Even President Bush had to admit this is astounding. Those in South Africa just say that AIDS is a figment of your imagination and upwards of 30% of the population of the natives have AIDS, because they didn't do this:

Proverbs 3:3: "Do not let mercy and Truth forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart." As a man thinks in his heart so he is. Here is the change and conversion of heart with the Word of God. *Yes!*

"...and so you shall find favor... [or grace] ...and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding" (vs 4-5). That'll always get you in trouble, *if you lean to your own*

understanding.

Verse 6: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. **It shall be health to your navel and marrow to your bones**" (vs 6-8). That means that it's going to *keep you healthy inside* and the marrow means that it's going to *give you good blood*. This tells us that if you go contrary to the things that he has listed here, you're going to have bad health and your blood is going to be miserable; that is, if it is a *spiritual* problem.

If it's a *physical* problem, and yet, you're loving God and doing the things you need to do, then ask God for healing and do what you need to do and you can take care of it. ***The first thing to do is to solve the spiritual problem first!*** Then you can look at the condition that you have, or whatever it is, and you can see it in its right perspective.

Fear and Worry:

One of the things that we need to not have is *fear*. Here's the attitude that we need to have toward God; this will fight fear. If you constantly live in fear, you do things to your mind and your body. We're going to see that fear begins with worry. Let's deal with fear. Here's the attitude on how to fight fear and we'll see the final solution in just a bit.

Psalms 27:1: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?... [You're not to fear anyone or be fearful of anything. God is there!] ...The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell" (vs 1-2).

I can tell you this. My experience has been exactly the same thing. I've had many who have been foes against me. Many who have deliberately tried to do things to me. When they thought they were really getting me, what God was doing was really separating me from them to spare me any more of their hostilities, anger and hatred. God has fought every one of my enemies and I will use His mind.

- You don't need to have guns.
- You don't need to stand up and do things politically against them.
- You don't need to try and get your own revenge against them.

If we believe that God will fight our battles for us and He will take care of the enemies for us—will He not do it? *Of course, He will!* There's plenty of evidence and I've seen it in my life and in my ministry many, many times over.

We need to take the same attitude that David

had here, v 3 “Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid... [Regardless of what the circumstances are, regardless of how overwhelming it is, don't be fearful.] ...though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident.” Are we not we in spiritual warfare today? *Everyday, yes we are, everyday!*

Verse 4: “One thing I have desired from the LORD, that I will seek after...” What did he do? *He didn't stand up and brag that God did the enemies in!* How was it accomplished? Because he wanted vengeance against his enemies? *No!*

It was accomplished because of this: “...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life...” (v 4)—to be in the Kingdom of God. That's how it was done. Just the opposite of what most people would think.

“...to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple, for in the time of trouble... [rather than be fearful] ...He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me upon a Rock” (vs 4-5). It is the way that we fight against fear.

Now let's look at some fear. Job 3:25 is an absolutely true Scripture; of course, all Scripture is true, but this is one that also has great meaning. *If you are constantly living in fear your fear will come upon you, because you are not trusting in God!* Job thought he was trusting in God, in the letter.

Job 3:25 “For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come to me.” *I knew it! I knew it! I knew it!* What he didn't realize was that he needed to approach this from an entirely different point of view. Instead of accusing God, which he did, he needed to realize that the source of the problem lay with himself, and he didn't understand that Satan was also behind it.

Fear begins with worry! That's how it starts, you worry. Here's an interesting book. *How To Win Over Worry* by John Edmund Haggai. He's got some interesting principles here, which are true. What is so good about the Word of God is this: To whatever degree that you follow the Word of God—converted or not converted—is the degree that you succeed *spiritually*.

What I'm talking about here is that many of these things many Protestants understand. Many of these things, even cast in the guise of a secular way of doing things—such as: positive thoughts *vs* negative thoughts, and so forth—all have a part in what you might say is a person's physical and mental health. If it were just the exclusive domain of the Church, we would be the healthiest, the smartest of any in the world. Therefore, the world would know us, but that's not true.

Here's a little clipping:

Why Worry?

There are only two things to worry about, either you are healthy or you are sick. If you are healthy, then there is nothing to worry about. But if you are sick there are only two things to worry about, either you will get well or you will die. If you get well, then there is nothing to worry about. But if you die there are only two things to worry about, either you will go to heaven or to hell. If you go to heaven, then there is nothing to worry about. And if you go to hell, you'll be so darn busy shaking hands with your friends you won't have time to worry.

A fearful attitude and worry kind of go hand-in-glove—don't they? Let's talk about worry. I think he's very right in this:

from: *How To Win Over Worry*, pgs 36-37:

Worry is sin. If you're going to cast all your cares on the Lord, because He cares for you, and if you're to be anxious over nothing...

That doesn't mean you don't have to exercise caution and understanding and so forth.

...sin is worry for three reasons: Worry is a sin because worriers distrust God. Worry is sin because it damages the temple of God. Worry is sin because it damages relationships.

Okay. Let me go over those again:

1. Worry is sin because worriers *distrust God*.
2. Worry is sin because it *damages the temple of God*.
3. Worry is sin because it *damages relationships*.

Let's go back and look at these. If you worry, he says that you accuse God of falsehood. What do we have? *God is a God who cannot lie!* Is that not true? *Yes, it is!* He says that God's Word says, then He quotes:

Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.” If you love God and are called of God according to His purpose, you have nothing to worry about. Everything's going to work out:

- the trials
- the difficulties
- the test unto death

It's all going to work out. If the problem in trial and

difficulty comes, don't say, 'Woe is me!' Pray and ask God. Figure out what you need to do. Ask God to help you have understanding. Sometimes the understanding will come almost right away. Other times the understanding will come after you've suffered a little and so forth. He'll '*strengthen, establish and settle you*' (1-Peter 5).

1. Worry is sin because worriers distrust God

God's Word says He's done all things well. Yet worry says this is not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

This is very interesting! How much of God's Word do we really believe and really trust in? *That which you really do not believe and really do not trust in, you eventually give up*—don't you? Have we not seen that with the demise of the WCG? Those who stayed and went to Sunday really didn't believe the Sabbath or the Holy Days. Had you really believed them, you would you would have the conviction to keep doing them in spite of what men say or do—correct? *Yes, indeed!*

God's Word says, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens." Yet, the worrier says that's not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

God's Word says, "God shall supply your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ." Yet, the worrier says this is not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

God's Word says "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Yet, the worrier says this is not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

God's Word says, "He cares for you." The worrier says this is not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

God's Word says, "Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, what you shall drink nor for your body what you shall put on," etc., "for your Heavenly Father knows that you have need of all of these things." Yet, the worrier says this is not true. God's Word cannot be trusted.

Worry wears the cloak of hypocrisy for it professes faith in God and, at the same time, assails the Truth of His promises. You insult a man if you call him a liar.

Although David probably spoke the truth when he said 'all men are liars.'

How infinitely more inexcusable is it to accuse the sovereign God of falsehood? Scripture asserts that God, by His very nature, cannot deceive. As Christians we live in the hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world

began. Consequently, he that does not believe God has made Him a liar.

Do you see how much ***faith, health and healing all go together***? All this does not come at once—does it? We have to learn this. We have to experience it. In order to learn faith, we come to the point of understanding what it is like to try and live without faith.

Just like this man, a Protestant, but the Protestant's have one foot in the Bible and one foot in the world. The foot they have in the Bible does them good, though it doesn't necessarily bring them salvation. The foot they have in the world keeps them from understanding more of the Word of God. If they would get the foot out of the world and put both feet in the Bible and repent, then you would have another different story. He's got a lot of things here that are right.

2. Worry is sin because it damages the temple of God

1-Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you understand that you are God's temple, and *that* the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?"

Consider then the vast range in which worry impacts your physical and mental well-being....

He lists out some of these. That's why when people go to the doctor and they don't know what's wrong with them and they're fearful, fretful and all of these things; they are worriers. There are some people that if they have nothing to worry about, they worry because there's nothing to worry about. He says this:

...Anxiety produces: heart trouble, high blood pressure, asthma, rheumatism, ulcers or other stomach disorders, colds, thyroid malfunctions, arthritis, migraine headaches, blindness, palpitations, back and neck pain, indigestion, nausea, constriction, diarrhea, dizziness, fatigue, insomnia, allergies and more. In short, worry damages your body more severely than any vandals could damage a building or a church.

So, that's why! Cast all your cares upon God for He cares for you and ***don't worry!*** Don't worry about today or tomorrow. As Jesus said, 'Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof.' Whatever you need to do today, take care of it. If you can't do it all today and it carries over until tomorrow, then do it. If it's a long-term project and it takes longer than that, well, keep at it.

- never get discouraged
- never get downhearted
- never worry

That's the only way we're going to be able to face the problems that we're confronted with in this

world today, which come onslaughting to us every day.

Some people watch the news with all the things that are going on. They get all worried, concerned and involved emotionally in these things. Yes, it's terrible that that little baby was killed in that wreck that I just mentioned. Yes, it was a horrible thing that just the other day an 80-year-old man couldn't control his car and he drove up off the curb in the farmer's market and killed 10 people and injured 30. You can't get emotionally involved in it so much that it creates worry, anxiety, emotional tension and depression.

Listen, God knows that those things have taken place. Always remember this when you see those things: What is the Truth that you know—of the Word of God—which is going to undo all of that? ***The Truth concerning the second resurrection***—correct? *Yes, indeed!* So, fall in God's hand. That doesn't mean, on the other hand, that you should:

- throw caution to the wind
- never follow safety things and things like that
- should never be aware that you need to be careful when you're driving or whatever you're doing

No! It means:

- do it in a positive way
- don't be worried
- don't fret and stew
- don't sit and worry over in your mind all the possible scenarios of this, that, and the other thing of what you should think or what you should say

Ninety percent of your worries are not going to take place any way.

For example: My mother is 93, but she used to be a real worrier. Finally, on her own one day—she's not in the church but she's not anti-God—she decided, this is killing me! I'm not going to worry anymore! I think that saved her physical life for having a longer life.

It's not easy to do, especially if you're emotional and you get involved in these things. You get involved mentally and emotionally and you're really not anchored to Christ, then it's going to take you down! In many cases like that, when you have these things that are on-going you may be anointed and may be prayed for, but you don't realize that you need to repent of these things that are sin, because Jesus said, 'go and sin no more.'

Another thing concerning worry: ***Do not re-live the past!*** If you re-live the past, remember the lesson! ***Never forget the lessons that you've learned!*** But you don't go back and re-live the past.

You think, 'Well, if I'd have done this *or* if I'd have done that *or* if I'd have done the other thing.' What is the truth? *It is past!* Does always re-living the past things change something that has already happened? *Of course not!* You could always say, 'Well, I wish it never happened,' which is an unrealistic wish. We could all say that we wished that Adam and Eve had never sinned! *That's an unrealistic wish!* We have to deal with the reality of the way things are. That which is over and done *is over and done* and you cannot change it. Who only can change it? *God!*

Let me use another example that he uses in this book that is quite good. How many pay their bills by check? Some pay by electronic check. It's the same thing. When you mail out the bill with a check to pay for it and it reaches the one to whom you owe the money, they take the check, put it in their bank, it clears back to your bank and it's canceled. When you wrote the check it had value—right? It took care of a debt—correct? When it comes back canceled, how much value does a processed, cleared, paid check have? *Zero! Nada!* In the same way also, *all your re-living of the past is like trying to put value on a canceled check.*

If you don't believe that's true, reach into your past checks, if you still have an on-going account with anyone, pull out your cancelled check, stick it in the mail and send it with your bill, and see if they will recognize that as payment. If they do, they're stupid. That tells you the value of trying to re-live the past. Just conclude this: ***It's all in God's hands***—is it not? When you re-live the past, what are you trying to do? *You're trying to take on a duty that belongs to God!* Are you capable of that? *No!* By the very fact that you can't change anything that's been done in the past means that you do not have the power that God has to change it. *The way He's going to change it is to resurrect them!*

I don't know if you listen to some of these talk shows, but I was listening to Michael Savage, The Savage Nation. Michael Savage was all upset about this accident with this 80-year-old man who lost control of his car. Instead of putting on the brake, he put on the gas, drove up over the curb and killed 10 people and injured 30. Savage was ranting, raving and 'I don't understand this'—blah, blah, blah! All of his ranting and raving didn't bring anyone back to life—did it? *No!* Out there in the world, they don't understand. *We understand because we know the Truth of the second resurrection!*—right? God is going to take care of them. We have enough to groan overcome day-by-day as we go along—do we not? *Of course!* Let's focus on that.

3. Worry is sin because it damages relationships

When you let worry loose, or that is, control your life, it is not only your body

that suffers. In all kinds of ways, worry infects and degrades your ability to relate to each other.

mothers and children, husbands and wives, brethren in the Church, your relationship with God

Worry damages your relationship with God. Worry is a sin because it's symptomatic of prayerlessness. Rather than praying and putting it in God's hands, you're fretting and stewing about it, wondering and worrying and tossing and turning.

—which results in many sleepless nights.

No one can pray and worry at the same time.

—that is, be consumed with worry. It's one thing to understand that there is something you need to avoid or a problem or something like that to have concern. *Concern* is not worry. Worry is taking concern and magnifying it. Worry is making a mental problem and a *spiritual* problem. *You need to let God handle and ask for the strength of God's Holy Spirit to handle it.*

No one can pray and worry at the same time as God tells Isaiah, "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind *is* stayed on You; because he trusts in You."

When you pray, set your mind be on Christ.

Worry damages your relationship with family.

That's self-explanatory.

Worry damages your relationship with unbelievers.

Sooner or later they're going to find out that you're a Christian. If you're worrying about everything, worrying and stewing like everybody else in the world, they're going to look at them and say, 'I thought you were a Christian.'

Well, let me remind you of where I started. I, too, hold the distinction of having suffered a so-called nervous breakdown. I say so-called because we are mistaken if we see such crises as originating in the nervous system. Most breakdowns are not organic in nature rather they spring directly from the pressure of circumstances that arise when we allow ourselves to tumble out of control.

Or, live in the negative. Worry is the beginning of fear! When you let fear come upon you, or worry, and you exaggerate it, increase it and multiply it you get fear. That's why Job said, 'For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me...'

Let's look at some Scriptures that we can claim. If you are a 'worry wart' and worry about everything, there's hope for you! *Don't worry! There is hope for you!* Take them to God. Let your mind be free of worry. Leave it at the doorstep of Christ. Ask God for His Spirit to overcome. When worry comes in your mind, take that as one of those imaginations of the mind that we are told that we are to cast down and 'bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Jesus Christ.' Here's a promise:

Psalms 34:4 "I sought the LORD, and He answered me..." There are some people that even worry: Will God hear my prayer? If you worry about that, of course He's not going to hear your prayer *because you're doubting*. The very fact that you're worried about it, is saying that you don't believe God. You need to cast that out! You need to repent of that and say, 'God, forgive me. I know you hear. Jesus said that You always hear.'

"...and **delivered me from...** [50% of my fears—*no!* 75% of my fears—*no!*] **...all my fears**" (v 4). Lay them out before God. *Don't be afraid to lay them out before God!* Those who have fears are afraid to pray about their fears because maybe God won't understand. He understands even before you have the fear—doesn't He? *Yes, He does!*

- Does God have every one of the hairs on your head numbered? *Of course, be they many or few!*
- Does He know the fears you have? *Of course!*
- What is He waiting for? *For you to unload them!*

Verse 5: "They looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard, **and saved him out of all his troubles**" (vs 5-6). Whatever troubles you have, lay them before God.

- Can He deliver you? *Of course!*
- Does He expects you to do something about it? *Of course!*

The first step is repentance, the next step is taking positive action to overcome it. Of course, in the middle of it, if you are *fearful* and you are a *worry wart* and all you do is live on that, then you don't believe that God will hear you or answer you. Then you start accusing God of putting you through things that God is not putting you through. *It's you who are putting yourself through it! You are not allowing God to help you.*

Here's another little bit of help that comes along, v 7: "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them." You get deliverance

You have to have the right kind of fear toward God. That is the fear of awesome worship or

worshipping God with an attitude of awe. That's why it's wrong for a man to put himself between God and the individual. When it talks about the 'fear of God,' that's the right kind of fear. It is a *worshipful awe* of God.

Psalms 33:18: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope in His loving kindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield, for our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His Holy name. Let Your loving kindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in You" (vs 18-22).

Speaking of hope: ***Never worry! As long as there is life, there is hope!*** As long as there is life, there is opportunity for repentance—correct? *Yes!* These are profound things that we really need to keep in mind.

For those who don't believe this, Psalms 34:8: "O taste and see that the LORD is good... [Do as God said, live with the Word of God—that's like tasting the Lord—and you will see that He is good.] ...**blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.**"

Therefore, you don't have any worry. That doesn't mean you don't have difficulty. That doesn't mean you don't have problems. That means that you're not consumed with worry and fear as to what to do. Again, the right kind of fear of God.

It talks about two fears:

1. your fears that you worry about
2. fearing God so He can intervene to take those from you

Verse 9: "O fear the LORD, all you saints, for there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him."

Verse 15: "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous... [God knows—doesn't He? *Yes!*] ...and His ears are open to their cry." Rather than worry, go pray! Make that a motto! ***If you worry, go pray and stop it!*** Lay it before God!

- Why should you carry the burden?
- Are you Christ?
- Are you a sin offering?
- Can your worry make it any better?

No! You're just living in the negative.

Verse 16: The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth." Remember, the day of the wicked is coming. ***It is coming!***

They finally got the wording in *Shawshank Redemption* where the warden was supposed to be a religious kind of man and he had up on the wall: The Lord's judgment cometh and that right soon. He looked at that just before he blew out his brains

when he knew he was going to get caught. *That was God's judgment!* He took his own life. God will take care of the wicked.

Verse 17: "The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles." You put all your *fear*, all your *worry* and all your *anxiety* on God! ***Christ took it to the cross and nailed it there!***

Verse 18: "The LORD is near to the broken-hearted... [rather than proud] ...and saves those who are of a contrite spirit. **Many are the afflictions of the righteous...** [you've got plenty to do] **...but the LORD delivers him out of them all** (vs 18-19).

That's what we need to do!. ***That's the kind of spiritual growth and attitude that we need to overcome the sicknesses and diseases that we have!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred Coulter.

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- 1). Exodus 15:23-26
- 2). Deuteronomy 28:20-29
- 3). Psalms 103:1-4, 8-18
- 4). Psalms 104:14-15
- 5). Isaiah 38:1-6, 9, 21
- 6). Proverbs 3:1-8
- 7). Psalms 27:1-5
- 8). Job 3:25
- 9). Romans 8:28
- 10). 1-Corinthians 3:16
- 11). Psalms 34:4-7
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- *Why Worry?*
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Emotions and Healing II

Fred R. Coulter

A lot of these things are known outside of the Bible by experience with people. Let's look at some of the things that we haven't covered and put them together in a way that we're going to make sense out of it. Let's see how things, especially in the way of emotions, can build up.

First of all, we're going to go from envy, to anger, to wrath, to bitterness. Those are the steps in which things come. We're going to spend a lot of time in the book of Proverbs.

ENVY:

The Scriptures say, 'As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.' It also says, 'Every way of a man is right in his own heart.' That's why you need the Word of God to *show you* what is right and wrong. How you feel may not necessarily be right or wrong. It may be a very deceiving thing.

Proverbs 14:30: "A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh, but **envy the rottenness of the bones.**" Remember, in part 1 of *Emotions and Healing* we read in Prov. 3 how that loving God, serving God and keeping His commandments is 'health to the naval and marrow to the bones.' "...**envy** is the 'rottenness of the bones.'" It can cause you a great deal of ill health. There have been even some known cases that I have read about where it was advised people to repent of their envy and perhaps they would be able to reverse osteoporosis. Not all cases are true that way, but in some cases that has been done.

Envy can really shrivel and dry a person up. Why? *Because if you're envious of someone else, you're not thinking what you can do!* There are things that each person can do that's different from someone else. If you're envying someone else, you're really wishing you could be like that person when you ought to be who you are.

Here's one for today. Proverbs 23:17: "**Do not let your heart envy sinners...** [especially when you have nothing and they have everything] ...but *be* in the fear of the LORD all the day long." In other words, if you love God, if you fear God, if you keep His commandments, that's greater than *all* that we could have.

Let's go to a very interesting Psalm to show the thought process. Especially with television, it is so easy to do today, the TV program *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* shows the houses they have and they're just great, huge palaces:

- the wealth

- the paintings
- the furniture
- the lands
- bank accounts

and all this sort of thing. It's very easy to stir up envy in people. Let's see the process.

It can happen to anybody. That's why if somebody has something, be happy for them. In time God will bless you in His own way. Besides knowing and understanding the Word of God, you have more wealth than all of the riches of the wealthy. Occasionally, some wealthy people even come to the point of saying, 'I would rather have a happy marriage than all this wealth.' Here's an example of someone looking at the envy that they had and then coming to the right understanding of God.

Psalm 73:1: "Truly God is good to Israel, even to those who are pure of heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped, for I was envious at the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (vs 1-3). Then he began comparing himself with them. What does Paul say about comparing yourself among yourselves? *You're not wise! Why? Because then it leads to envy!*

Verse 4: "For there are no pangs in their death... [Look! Everything's going well with them!] ...and their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men... [if they are, they can buy their way out of it] ...neither are they plagued like *other men*. Therefore, pride is as a chain about their neck..." (vs 4-6). I cannot help but think of the haughtiness of the godfather John Gotti when he was going to trial in New York. He just flaunted everything before all of the law, attorneys and the U.S. government.

Verse 7: "Their eyes stand out with fatness; they have more than the heart could wish for. They scoff and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth.... [anything they want they get] ...Therefore, his people return here: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, 'How does God know?....'" (vs 7-11).

Here's something that we need to always remember: *God lets the wicked prosper so when they fall, it's going to be just like Pharaoh. God raised up Pharaoh for the very purpose of what He was going to do when He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. "...How does God know?...."*

“...And is there knowledge in the most High?” (v 11). Does that not sound quite a bit like *Christianity Without God* by Lloyd Geering? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 12: “Behold, these are the wicked, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.” Like they say today, it’s just ‘coming out their ears’; anything they want they can get.

Verse 13: “Surely I have made my heart pure in vain...” In other words, I don’t know about this following God’s way and God’s commands. I’ve done everything God wanted me to do and I’m not prosperous. I don’t have any of these things. Why does God give it to them and not to me? You see how envy comes in? *That was his envy!*

Verse 13: “...and washed my hands in innocence, for all the day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning... [Seems like I’m in trouble all the time. I can’t get my head above water.] ...If I say, ‘I will speak thus’; behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me” (vs 13-16). That’s why **envy doesn’t work!** Sometimes it is; sometimes it’s a difficult proposition.

Here’s how you get your senses, v 17: “Until I went into the sanctuary of God...” Same way with us. When we pray we go into the sanctuary of God—don’t we? We say, ‘Our Father in heaven’ and we have direct access to God the Father in heaven above, which is the sanctuary of God—is it not? *Yes!* That’s the only time you’re going to get understanding, and that is when you come before God. Look at what they’re trying to do in the world today to solve all the inequalities of life. That’s the whole basis and premise of socialism and communism—isn’t it?

- Have they ever really cured anything? *No!*
Has it ever changed the heart of man? *No!*

When we’re confronted with a problem like this, we need to take it to God.

David said, v 17: “...then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down into destruction” (vs 17-18). Sooner or later, it will happen. Look at the 12-year/1,000 year Third Reich. How did that end? *Though it started out with great success—right? Same way with all the rich people in the world!* When God begins to deal with this world, what are all these rich people going to do with all their gold and their silver? *They’re going to throw it to the moles and the bats!* It’s not going to be able to save them.

Verse 20: “Like a dream when one awakens; so, O LORD, when You awake, You shall despise their image.” God is going to deal with them. He

will! Let’s use a current event of a well-known athlete, Kobe Bryant. All that money, all those endorsements, all those things and he never read the Proverb that says, ‘The man who commits adultery is like taking coals of fire to his breast.’ Was he set in a slippery place? Did God cast him down to destruction? He didn’t destroy his life. But worse than that is to destroy your reputation and destroy your ability to earn 10’s of millions of dollars in endorsements. You can go to example, after example after example.

Verse: 21: “For thus my heart was grieved... [he was upset, frustrated] ...and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You” (vs 21-22). Yet, when he started out he thought he was right. When he started out he said, ‘Look God, why do You give everything to them and nothing to me?’

Verse 23: “Nevertheless, I am always with You...” God is with you! What greater wealth could you have than God with you? It’s very important to remember because God is able to provide whatever you need. Besides, I’ll just paraphrase the Proverb: ‘Better is the one who has little, with contentment, than one who has great wealth with all the strife and worry.’

“...You have held me by my right hand” (v 23). Isn’t that a greater blessing to have God lead you? That you know God? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 24: “You shall guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You I desire none upon earth” (vs 24-25) He came to his senses—didn’t he? Of course, God had to lead him with His Spirit to understand it.

Verse 26: “My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever, for lo, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all who go a whoring from You, and me, it is good for me to draw near to God...” (vs 26-28). That’s what to do for **any trouble, any emotional problem**, any of these things. **The first step to bitterness is envy!** If you can do what David did and cut it off at the first step, don’t let it go beyond go beyond there.

“...I have made the LORD God my refuge, that I may declare all Your works” (v 28). *There is the solution to it!*

ANGER:

The next step is anger. If you’re envious, sooner or later you’re going to get angry. There’s a ‘right kind’ of anger—which is righteous anger—that Paul said, ‘Be angry and sin not.’ Jesus even healed in anger. We’re not talking

about that right kind of anger. Paul also said, ‘Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.’ In other words: Whatever anger comes up, get it resolved before you go to bed. That way, you’re not going to be lying there tossing and turning and upset all night.

Let’s look at anger. We all have to learn. I’ve had to learn. I’m no different than you. It’s easy to get angry—isn’t it? *Especially when you’re right and more especially, when you know you are right—justified in being angry!*

Proverbs 22:24: “Make no friendship with **an angry man...**” Someone who’s angry doesn’t have many friends either, really. Have you ever had a boss and all he is, is angry all the time? How do you feel? Have you ever been in a situation where you’ve had a yelling match and ‘knockdown-drag out’ affair? Don’t you feel just so good afterwards? *No! You feel miserable!*

“...and you shall not go with a furious man, **lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare**” (vs 24-25). It’s going to do something to your heart, your mind and your attitude. For those of us, including myself, who have a temper that needs to be overcome, it takes a great deal of overcoming. You’re not going to overcome it all at once. It’s not going to happen all at once. You’ve got to work at it. When that anger comes up, begin to control it.

Here’s the cure to anger and wrath, Proverbs 15:1: “A soft answer turns away wrath...” If you’re shouted at, don’t shout back. All you’re doing is escalating it, especially when both parties think they’re right.

“...but **grievous words stir up anger**” (v 1). *All you’re doing is making it worse!* You don’t do that. That’s a hard one to learn. Besides, when you do, isn’t it really difficult to repair the damage? *Yes, it is!*

Isn’t this true? Proverbs 14:17: “He who is **soon angry** acts foolishly...” When do you make your most foolish mistakes? *When you’re angry!* When you finally come to your senses, you have to go back and correct the mistakes.

When I was 15 or 16 I really had a temper and I’m no mechanic. I’ll tell you that. I’m no mechanic, but I thought I was. So, I thought I would fix my motorcycle. I couldn’t do it, and I got frustrated and angry. I’d throw the wrenches all around the garage and ‘blankety, blankety, blank’—angry, hostile and just be in a big huff. Did the motorcycle come together the way it should have been? *No!* I couldn’t figure it out. I had all the parts in boxes lying all around and I couldn’t put it back together. Did I learn the lesson of overcoming anger? *No!* That didn’t come until later, that’s true! “He who *is* soon angry acts foolishly...”

You know what happened with the motorcycle? *I couldn’t repair it* because they didn’t know how to weld aluminum at that time. Even if I got it welded, if that were possible, guess what? *I couldn’t have put it back together*; I’d have to have someone else put it back together. It was a 1932, Indian Four, in-line. I sold it for whatever parts there were. So, “He who *is* soon angry acts foolishly...”

When we go through these things, we don’t think how these things affect our health; they affect:

- your mental attitude
- your stomach
- your intestines
- your bones

We never think of it.

This is the Proverb that I began to make some sense for what I to do, because this Proverb lays it all bare. Proverbs 25:28: “He who *has* no rule over his own spirit *is like a* broken down city without a wall.” That tells the story very plain—doesn’t it? What are you going to do in your life if you’re always angry? *It’s going to make you sick!* You have envy and then anger. We’ll look at a couple more here and then we’ll go to *wrath*. Wrath is the *increase of anger*.

This can be true with either men or women. So, this is not ‘pick on women’ time; please understand this. Proverbs 21:19: “*It is* better to dwell in the wilderness than with a quarrelsome and angry woman.” Also true: ‘It is better to dwell in the wilderness that with a quarrelsome and angry man’—works both ways. This is not ‘pick on women’ day.

Proverbs 29:22: “**An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.**” Have you ever watched a baseball game or a football game where someone loses his temper and a fight begins and stirs up strife and hatred? “...and a furious man abounds in transgression”

Isn’t that true. Just suppose you’re working with a crew of men. Every once in a while, if they’re not doing their job, you have to correct them. That is true, because some people are not able to correct themselves. Furthermore, some people don’t even care. Those are the kinds of people that you don’t want to employ.

The way I see that God prefers that people deal with each other—of course, this is a mature level—is to have missions. Here’s a job to do, go do it; check back with me when it’s done. If you need any help, ask me. When you have employees that’s the way it should be and that’s the way it needs to be.

How is the crew when the boss is angry and then he leaves? There's a big, depressive cloud that just hangs after someone has just blasted out his brains and his lungs at somebody and is absolutely, *furiously right in his own eyes*, slams the door, and walks out. It's just, WHEW! It's hard to recover.

Unfortunately, within the Church of God, too many times sermons have been based on that! What happened to the congregation? *The results are very true*—right? You go home like a whipped dog with your tail between your legs. When you come to services and Church, God expects the one who is teaching to be able *to up-lift, to edify, to inspire!* Has enforced anger upon anyone really resulted in willing compliance other than fear of further anger? I'm speaking from experience.

Unfortunately, parents are really taught nothing before they have their children, and here they are, now what do I do? They're nice and sweet when they're little but as they grow up it's different— isn't it? Now what do you do? I've had my furious mistakes that I've made. You've had yours that you have made. Has it worked? Did it convince them? Were they overwhelmingly willing, come and give you a hug and say, 'Oh, dad, you're so right'? You've left them with no breath. You've left them with no inspiration. It doesn't work, and besides you just run around with a mean look all the time when you do that—don't you?

WRATH:

Let's see about wrath. That's kind of anger multiplied a little more. God talks about His anger against the sinners, and then He talks about His wrath that He is going to do—the 'seven last plagues or the wrath of God.'

Here's the atmosphere that it leaves, Proverbs 27:3: "A stone *is* heavy, and sand *is* weighty; but a **fool's wrath is heavier than them both**. Wrath *is* cruel and anger *is* overwhelming, but who *is* able to stand before jealousy?" (vs 3-4). You see how they all come together?

I remember one time in Pasadena where we were there for a Bible study and it was an attempt to explain away the philandering adultery of one of the leading evangelists. Of course, the underground truth was circulated around with everyone. When it came time for this Bible study, everybody *knew* why they were there. Everybody was waiting for the admission of truth. The leading minister got up. You all know who he is, he has three initials to his name—HWA. He stood up, he leaned over the table and he literally glowered at everyone and said, '*You are all a bunch of dumb sheep!*' Of course, he didn't admit anything, but what happened? "A stone *is* heavy, and sand *is* weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both" (v 3). That's how you felt when you went out.

I tell you what, the atmosphere at that Bible study was so absolutely icy cold that it was just unreal. I'll tell you what occurred in my mind: *Yes, we may be dumb sheep, but God doesn't want us to stay dumb sheep forever!* That was the thought that came to my mind. Envy, anger and wrath—all right here in Proverbs 27:3-4—shows how it is all tied together.

Once you hold on to that—and you can add to it **resentment**—when you are a recipient of those things, you can build up resentment and bitterness, and *anger* can lead to *bitterness*, too—especially when no one cooperates. Why do you suppose they don't cooperate? *We haven't made them willing!* God doesn't want to *beat you* into the Kingdom of God. He's going to beat the wicked. He wants you in the Kingdom of God because:

- you desire it
- you love Him
- you're willing

Let's look and see how the next step comes along and bitterness really becomes a problem.

BITTERNESS:

Job is a perfect example of how a person can be right in the letter of the Law, but totally wrong in relationship before God. Isn't that what happened to the scribes and Pharisees? *Yes, indeed!* They were so right that they rejected Jesus. They can't understand their bitterness to this day.

Job 7:11: "Therefore, I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the **bitterness** of my soul." What happens when a person gets bitter? *Everything ferments! Everything becomes sour!* Was Job right in his own eyes? *Yes, he was!* Think of it; you're sitting there covered from head to toe with boils, and you thought you were doing everything in your life right. Like he said, 'What did this profit me?' *He had bitterness!* What does bitterness do?

Job had to learn a lesson. Job repented. That's fine, so can anybody else who has bitterness; just get over your 'hang-up.' If you have had **bitterness in your heart** because of church wars:

- Did you ever change a church with of your bitterness?
- Did you ever convert the person to what is right because you are angry?
- Did you have peace of mind and health?

Look at how many people who have had **bad health because of problems within churches**, not only our past experiences, but also other churches. I've got a stack of stuff on why I left this church, that church, the other church. The biggest reason

why those things take place and people get bitter is because *they look to a man instead of God!* When a man fails, you say, 'I'm right!' The commitment you have given to a man, you should have given to God. That's what happens.

You don't want to get *the bitterness*, because bitterness will lead you through an experience like Job did. When people are bitter, they *know* they are right! I remember I was talking to a minister one time who was very bitter. I didn't know he was bitter. I said, 'This particular minister I know of made a lot of mistakes and I'm sure that by the time he died, God led him to repentance.' *He just came unglued!* The vitriol, hatred and bitterness just spewed forth like someone took an axe to a wooden cask in the days of temperance, busting open the keg of whiskey and letting it spill everywhere.

Of course, the worse smell in the world is whisky that becomes rancid. That's just how it left me in talking with this man. *Whew! Boy!* When I hung up the phone, I just wanted to shake my hands of it and clean out my ears of it. It left this man unable to function. He couldn't even stand to hear the name of this man without coming unglued. What if God forgave him? What if he really repented? *Well, hurray! God is great!* Look what happened to that poor individual because of it.

Proverbs 14:10: **"The heart knows its own bitterness..."** If you let anger, wrath and resentment build up into bitterness—and the thing that is difficult with bitterness, it's hard to let go—you've invested so much in it. You've invested emotional energy, mental energy and you have stripped yourself of your *spiritual* energy. When bitterness really comes out, you can bring it down and contain it for a while, but sooner or later it's going to come out. When it comes out, it's like a car going full speed in neutral. *It's just burning everything up and you're going nowhere!* If there's bitterness, you have to deal with it.

"...and a stranger does not share in its joy. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown, but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. **There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death**" (vs 10-12). You have yet to meet a bitter person who is not right in his own eyes—correct? *Yes, indeed!* They'll tell you:

- every fault
- every mistake
- every wrong
- everything that ever went

Okay, so that did happen. Now, what are you going to do? Can you change yesterday? *No, you can't!* But you can change today and you can make tomorrow better.

I have a motto: *Never drag the problems of the past into today. There's enough to solve today.* When tomorrow comes, don't drag today's problems into tomorrow. Why pollute time that has not yet arrived? Let the time that comes be clean from the pollution.' That's why Paul said, 'Do not let the sun go down on your anger.'

Here's part of the solution to it; here are some of the things that you can do, Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart does good *like* a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." Don't let bitterness get to you and envy and rottenness of bones, and don't let it just break you down like this man in the book *How To Win Over Worry* by John Haggai. He said he had a nervous breakdown, not from without but from within.

He went to the extreme. He took this: 'A merry heart does good like a medicine,' and it worked for him. I don't necessarily say we should do this, but he went on a laughing campaign. Just to laugh for the sake of laughing because he was so depressed that the only way out of his depression was to force himself to laugh. I guess it did something to help re-program his brain. I don't know, but he said it worked. I don't think that we should necessarily do that, but this is part of the cure right here.

(go to the next track)

Let's look at some of the solutions. In covering these things *in relationship to health, healing* and things like this, it's very important to realize that these things are only *part* of the whole picture! As we have seen, there are things that we have to do and there are things that we're responsible for. After all, God made us into His likeness, gave us a mind, created us to learn, be able to think, and also so we can *overcome* some of the *weaknesses and difficulties* that we have. It's something that each one of us is going to have to work on ***between you and God***—if it involves others, between you and the others—that's what's important. These things are to help you so that you can have a *right relationship with God and a right relationship with each other*. Of course, that's the important thing—isn't it? *Yes!*

Let's look at some of the solutions. A lot of these we're going to find also in the book of Proverbs. It's very important that we understand the things that we are doing here, that this is not something where the minister tells you what to do and you check with him for everything that is done. These are so that you can go through the Proverbs, and ***with God's Spirit and with God's Word you can live your life right!***

Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD." He gave you the means and the ability

in how He created you, to do a lot of these things. Even unconverted people in the world know a lot about what I'm talking about here—don't they? *Sure they do!* By experience, they've learned it. We have to *use the Word of God*:

- rightly divide it
- put it together
- live by it

Verse 2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits."

- How do you overcome all of these things?
- How do you change these things?

Here's the key. Here's the answer:

- whatever your weakness
- whatever your problem
- whatever the difficulty

Verse 3: "**Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.**" That's how to do it:

- leave them to the Lord
- pray about it
- ask God for help
 - ✓ He'll help you
 - ✓ God is right there waiting
 - ✓ He wants to help you
 - ✓ He's going to help you

Here's how you can affect a change of behavior, because over a period of time, these behaviors can be changed.

Verse 6: "By mercy..." That is *God's* mercy. Also, we covered the thing concerning mercy and forgiveness toward others—haven't we? If you go to God and ask God to forgive you, then you also have to forgive yourself. You cannot go around with a guilt complex and keep condemning yourself when God has already forgiven you.

"...and Truth... [Word of the Truth of God; that's why we are to study; use the Spirit of Truth] ...iniquity is purged..." (v 6). Of course, it's *the sin within* that needs to be taken care of. There's enough sin without, but *it all starts within*. If we can purge the sin within, then there's not going to be an outward display of sin either. That's why we're told in the New Testament, 'Bring every thought into captivity.'

"...and by the fear of the LORD *men* turn away from evil" (v 6). The fear of the Lord is:

- worshipful awe that you know God is right
- you know His Word is true
- you can trust in it and rely in it
- you depart from evil

—whatever it is.

Verse 7: "When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." Have you ever experienced that? *You know you can!* It doesn't say your enemy is going to be your friend. It just says he's going to be at peace with you. In other words, he's not going to bother you. In some cases, God can take care of the enemy.

I look back at the things that happened in my life—and I'm sure you can in yours—that God has taken care of many enemies that have come along—hasn't He? *Sure He has! God has the power to do it! God has the power to intervene!* Look at Joseph. Who were his enemies? *His own brothers!*

- they faked his death
- sold him off into slavery
- he came into Egypt
- was falsely accused
- was thrown into the 'slammer'
- was in the dungeon

God raised him up at the last minute!

Then, when it was all over and done with, and the brothers were finally together—after Joseph revealed himself to them because they had to come and get the grain from Egypt—they really couldn't believe it. God finally brought peace—didn't He?

After Jacob died, his brothers were worried that now Joseph is going to take vengeance on them. What did Joseph say? He didn't say, 'Well, now that dad is dead, I'm coming after you.' *No!* They came to him and he said, 'I'm not God; I'm not going to hold this against you. You meant it for evil to me, but God meant it for good.' He was able to see the whole perspective of what it is. When we look at these things in life

- God is there
 - God is behind it
 - God can take care of it
 - He can even make your enemies to be at peace with you
- at least, not be hostile.

Be satisfied with where you are, and ask God to bless you. Verse 8: "Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice. A man's heart devises his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (vs 8-9). This is how you do this:

- You study God's Word
- You figure out what you need to do

God leaves it to you to figure out what to do! He's given His Word so you'll know what to do, but you have to put it together. Then:

- ask God to lead you with His Spirit

- ask God to direct you

He will! You can have **faith, confidence and trust** and trust that God will always do that.

Verse 13: “Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right.” This is what you need to do for each other, *speak the things that are right!* As I mentioned before, one of the most **important things in relationships**—husband and wife and with each other—***is to be forbearing***.

- Do you have faults? *Yes!*
- Do I have faults? *Yes!*
- Do I make mistakes? *Yes!*
- Do you make mistakes? *Yes!*
- Does God know we do? *Of course He does!*

Then be forbearing, not judgmental. Like it says, ‘If you see someone sin a sin which is not unto death—that’s just a mistake or problem that someone may have—pray for them’ (1-John 5).

- ask God to help them
- encourage them
- up-lift them
- help them
- point them to God

Remember this, it is always, ***always*** true:

- ***As long as there’s life, there’s hope!***
- ***As long as there is life, there is always opportunity for repentance!***

If God is dealing with you, God is dealing with the other person. God is dealing with people in the world, too, in many different ways at their own level. It’s just that they haven’t been called to salvation at this time. We leave all that in God’s hands.

Verse 20: “He who handles a matter wisely shall find good...” You put this together:

- commit your works unto the LORD, your thoughts shall be established
- by mercy and truth iniquity is purged, by fear of the LORD men depart from evil
- a man’s heart devises his way, the LORD directs his steps
- he that handles a matter wisely shall find good

It shows that these are the steps on how to solve these problems. The reason I’m bringing these out in *relationship to healing* is this: Lots of times, we bring sickness upon ourselves that we should not be having. ***We’re doing it to ourselves!***

With all of these things that I’m talking about, what can you do? What does it do to your body? *They know, scientifically, it lowers your immune system!* This is why I’m bringing these out. This is not to nail someone for their problems or difficulties at all. It’s to say: Look! When we have sickness and we have ***emotional contributory things to our sickness***, can we not—with God’s Spirit and with God’s help—ask Him to lift these things and then we’d feel better, and we’re not bringing sickness upon ourselves? *Sure!*

“...and **whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he**” (v 20). There it is, some really good advice for us.

Let’s understand something very important: It doesn’t matter the source of where it comes from for advice to you, if it’s true. I’ve been corrected by many people and many brethren coming and saying, ‘What about this?’ and ‘What about that?’ *Yes, indeed! If it’s true, it’s true!* The truth is what is important, not the bearer of the truth in your relationship of how you think of them. If it is right, it’s right.

Proverbs 15:12: “A scorner does not love one who corrects him...” Correction is not easy, *it’s difficult*, especially when you know you’re right. I’ve done that; you’ve done that.

“...nor will he go unto the wise.” The solution is to just take that the other way: Do not be a scorner, but love whatever correction that comes if it’s going to help you, and go to the wise. Whoever has good wisdom in whatever you’re dealing with, go to them; that’s fine. I can help you with the Bible, but there are other people who know so much more about other things that maybe you need to know about, go to them.

Verse 13: “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but ***by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken***.” We don’t want that. Let your heart be uplifted with the Spirit of God. Be happy and joyful.

Verse 14: “The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.” All you have to do is watch TV and you’ll see that’s true.

Verse 15: “All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.”

- These are the solutions that we need.
- This is what we need to look to.

Verse 30: “The light of the eyes rejoices the heart... [you can tell that’s a sincerity that comes from a person] ...**a good report makes the bones fat**.”

- be encouraging
- be up-lifting
- say the things that are right and good

That's what God wants. You'll find your life will be a whole lot better for it.

Let's look at some of the things we need to do for using our tongue. Like James said, 'the tongue is a small little thing, but it is a world of fire.'

Proverbs 12:14: "A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth... [going to come back to you] ...and the reward of a man's hands shall be given to him. The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, but he who listens to advice *is* wise. A fool's wrath is known at once, but a prudent *man* covers shame. *He who* speaks truth shows forth righteousness, but a false witness deceit. There are those who speak like the piercings of a sword, but **the tongue of the wise heals**.... [to help, to encourage, to up-lift] ...The lips of truth shall be established forever, but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment" (vs 14-19).

We can put all of this together with everything that we have covered. Here's what we need to do, Proverbs 21:21 **"He who follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor."**

Verse 23: "Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles." There's another one that says that *even a fool when he is quiet is thought to be wise*. There it is right there.

Let's look at couple of more. We've covered an awful lot in going through the Proverbs one after another. It's a little quick. So, you can go back and go through it and study through it.

Proverbs 25:11: "A word fitly spoken..." You can do this to encourage someone: If someone is discouraged, *give them a kind word and encourage them*. That'll help them.

"...*is like apples of gold in pictures of silver*" (v 11). Quite descriptive— isn't it? That's what God wants. That's what it means in the New Testament to speak the truth with each other, love each other and so forth.

Verse 12: "As a ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprover upon a hearing ear.... [because the things that need to be changed, they will hear and change] ...Like cold snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to his senders, *for* he refreshes his master's soul" (vs 12-13). That's what you want.

- you want to have your soul refreshed
- you want to be right with God
- you want to do the things that are good

That's what we need to do, brethren.

Proverbs 27:2: "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth... [don't toot your own whistle or your own horn] ...a stranger, and not your own lips."

I wanted to cover these things concerning the *physical* things and the *emotional* things we do because those all have a bearing. ***When we come for an anointing and for healing, then we know that when we lay it before God, there may be some other things we need to repent of rather than just asking God to be an automatic healer for us.***

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter.

Scriptural References:

- 1). Proverbs 14:30
- 2). Proverbs 23:17
- 3). Psalms 73:1-18, 20-28
- 4). Proverbs 22:24-25
- 5). Proverbs 15:1
- 6). Proverbs 14:17
- 7). Proverbs 25:28
- 8). Proverbs 21:19
- 9). Proverbs 29:22
- 10). Proverbs 27:3-4
- 11). Job 7:11
- 12). Proverbs 14:10-12
- 13). Proverbs 17:22
- 14). Proverbs 16:1-3, 6-9, 13, 20
- 15). Proverbs 15:12-15, 30
- 16). Proverbs 12:14-19
- 17). Proverbs 21:21, 23
- 18). Proverbs 25:11-13
- 19). Proverbs 27:2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Proverbs 3
- 1-John 5

Also referenced: Books:

- *Christianity Without God* by Lloyd George Geering
- *How To Win Over Worry* by John Edmund Haggai

Conscience and Guilt

Fred R. Coulter

We need to understand something concerning guilt and we need to also understand that ***guilt complexes can lead to a lot of sickness***. We'll see what that has to do with health and especially how we deal with each other.

Guilt comes from the human conscience and there's also something that's important to understand, and that is *only human beings have an inner conscience*; none of the other created beings, outside of the angelic realm. I can't speak for the angelic realm, we'll let God tell us that in due time when we see Him as spirit beings. Let's talk about the human conscience. Here's the definition of it:

From The Unpardonable Sin—Summary (cbcg.org):

The Human Conscience: The human conscience is an inner creation of God in all men and women—part of the heart and mind. When anyone sins there is an automatic sense of guilt.

That's why God has given the conscience: *to alert you that your behavior is not correct.*

The worse the sin the greater the guilt and hence, dread.

From Cruden's Concordance:

Conscience is that faculty within us which decides [makes us conscious of actions and thoughts] as to the moral quality of our thoughts, words and acts. It gives consciousness of the good of one's conduct or motives, or causes feelings of remorse at evil-doing, but its action is involuntary. A good conscience is one which has no feeling of reproach against oneself, does not accuse oneself of willful wrong."

The worst the sin, the greater the guilt—and hence, dread. "Conscience is that faculty within us which decides as to the moral quality of our thoughts, words and acts [i.e., makes us specially aware of our thoughts and actions]. It gives consciousness of the good of one's conduct or motives, or causes feelings of remorse at evil doing, but its action is involuntary. A good conscience is one which has no feeling of reproach against oneself, [and] does not accuse oneself of willful wrong."

The ultimate that God wants us to have is *a clean conscience or pure heart*.

Let's see how this works. What we're going to find out is if you constantly go around with a

guilty conscience over things you have repented of, you in fact, *do not believe that God forgives your sins!* If you believe that God forgives your sins and forgets your sins, then you are only torturing yourself with *self-condemnation and guilt* and you carry this load around. We'll see how you can get rid of this load a little later. Let's see how God does this. We will also see as we go through this that *the conscience can also be destroyed*.

This is a very key one: Proverbs 23:7: "**For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...**" Whatever a person thinks in his heart—these are the inner thoughts that everyone has that only that person knows about—that is how he is or what he is. It's a very key important thing. That's why it's very important that you ***guard the door of your mind!***

You need to understand that *as you think in your heart, that's how you are!* Whatever you're constantly thinking about, that's actually what you are and who you are. That's why when people give themselves over to evil they truly become evil. That's why we are to:

- think on the things that are right
- think on the things that are good
- think on the Word of God
- have the Word of God written
 - ✓ in our hearts
 - ✓ in our minds

and ***let that be as we think!***

As I've said before, in learning and studying the Bible, what we need to do is learn to think with the Scriptures. If you understand that the Bible is:

- the Word of God
- inspired by God
- from the mind of God

if you

- think with the Scriptures
- think on the Word of God

and these are the central things in your thoughts, motivated with

- love
- service
- doing the things you need to do

then you will be thinking more and more like God. It's a process that takes time, but then you will have the mind of Christ, 'Let this mind, which was in Christ Jesus, be also in you.'

Proverbs 4:20: "My son, attend to my words..." If God is our Father, let's understand that all the words that Jesus spoke were the

commandments of the Father. Everything that is in the Bible comes from God Who is our Father. Look at it this way: God the Father is talking to you.

“...incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart, for **they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh**” (vs 20-22).

What happens is this: He says, ‘The more that you think the way that God wants you to think, the more that you control your emotions the way that God wants you to control them, it says here that it’s “...health to all their flesh.” What we’re talking about is ***prevention of sickness!*** Later we’ll talk about sickness, anointing, and things like this.

This ties in with v 13: “Keep hold of **instruction**; do not let go; keep her, for she **is your life**.... [It also talks about the wicked. We’ll also be talking about the wicked] ...Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil *men*.... [that’s how they think; that’s how they act] ...Avoid it; do not go in it; turn from it, and pass on!” (vs 13-15). That’s the same thing that the New Testament says: ‘flee fornication.’ Run away from it, exactly the same thing!

Verse 16: “For they do not sleep except when they have done mischief... [those who have ‘seared their conscience with a hot iron] ...and their sleep is taken away unless they cause *some* to fall.” Sounds like a lot of religionists, as well as evil people. Some of the most evil people in the world are religionists who preach in the name of Jesus, but preach false doctrines and lead people astray.

Likewise, it applies here, v 14: “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil *men*”—because if they give you a pseudo-Christianity, it is false. Pseudo means: *fake, false*. If they tell you something that the Bible says, and the Bible does not say it, then it is not true.

Verse 16: “For they do not sleep except when they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they cause *some* to fall, for they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shines more and more to the perfect day” (vs 16-18). That ties right in exactly with what Peter wrote in 2-Peter 1 about shining into the time of the resurrection.

Verse 19: “The way of the wicked *is* as darkness; they know not at what they stumble.” Lots of times we’re not doing wicked things, but when we go around with a guilty conscience all the time, then what happens? *We’re stumbling at things and we don’t know what we’re stumbling at!* We’re looking at something that is not the cause.

Verse 20: “My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart

from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart... [Note: Heb. 10:16-17, to let the laws of God be written in your heart and mind by God’s Spirit.] ...for they *are* life to those who find them... [Of course, it is the Holy Spirit of God that we receive which does that. It’s not just the letter of the law that we’re talking about, but the whole of the Spirit and the Holy Spirit of God.] ...and **health to all their flesh.**”

Ecclesiastes tells us that there’s a time to be born and there’s a time to die. Death comes to all. God has already determined that it does. If someone dies—like someone recently died 96-years-old—it’s time to go, it’s time to die. Bob Hope died at 100. It was time to go. Again, you look at the lives of even those men and women in the world who live long lives and what do you see? *You see people who:*

- didn’t worry
- didn’t fret
- didn’t stew
- didn’t have guilt complexes
- thought positive thoughts

The Word of God and the application of these things, anyone can learn. It’s not a doctrine of the Church. This is the teaching of the Bible. Just as we will see with the *conscience*, that even without the Law of God, some people have come to the conclusion that these things are so and true. They’re truisms that actually uphold the Word of God, though they know it’s not the Word of God.

1-Corinthians 11:30: “For this *very* reason...”—because of not taking the Passover correctly. What is more correct about the Passover has to do with the inner attitude, heart and conversion which is the profound and important thing.

“For this *very* reason **many are weak and sickly among you, and many have fallen asleep**” (v 30). That is, they have died. We’re not talking about those whose lives are coming to an end because it’s time. If you live to be 70 and on into 80, God has given you plenty of long life. Be happy and thankful in it. There’s going to come a time that you are going to know that it’s time. As God has said, ‘in Adam, you die,’ but you have the resurrection to look forward to.

In the meantime, here’s the key thing: v 31: “Now if we would **examine ourselves**...” That is take the Word of God, apply it to ourselves and look at these things that we’re getting into in the book of Proverbs, and so forth.

“...we would not be judged” (v 31). Many of the things that have come upon people in the Church have been in the way that, we could say is ‘the curse comes not causeless.’ In other words, there’s a cause

for a lot of these things. A lot of these things we can avoid if we **take good care of our health and take good care of our mind!** You can take good care of your body all you want, but:

- unless you have the right thoughts
- unless you use the Spirit of God
- unless you grow and overcome
- unless you think the way that God wants you to think

it could create problems for you.

Verse: 32: “But when we are judged...” That is judged of God. God is judging us. Judgment is now on the house of God; it’s just that simple. It’s on the world, too. It’s on everybody’s lives in the world, whether they know it or not. But they’re not being judged unto salvation like we are.

“...we are chastened by *the* Lord, so that we will not be condemned with the world” (v 32). That’s a profound and very important thing. That’s why we need to think like God and not think like the world. That’s why we need to have the Word of God written in our hearts and in our minds. That’s why we need to apply these things, *so that we don’t get sick*.

We’ll talk about anointing and healing later. First of all I want to concentrate on these things which are the **prevention of sickness and disease and the keys to help maintaining good health**. It’s more than just not eating unclean foods. We’re not going to get into things concerning everybody’s health, because one is different from another. What is one man’s poison is another man’s nourishment. You can’t take everything exactly the same for everybody. That’s something you have to work out yourself. What we’re getting into is what each one of us is responsible for:

- our health
- our minds
- our bodies
- our attitudes

—all of these things

Too many times in the past, and especially in the hierarchical Churches—of which the Catholic Church is certainly one of the most rigid hierarchical Churches in the world—**they rule by fear, they rule by guilt** and they **make people dependant upon the ministry**. God wants you **dependant upon Him, not on the ministry!** The ministry is not God, even though the pope has claimed, ‘What else can I say of myself, but I’m God!’ God wants you to have a relationship with Him. God wants you to be responsible to Him. After all, that’s Who you’re going to answer to—is it not? *Yes, it is!*

Proverbs 4:23. “Above all **guard the door of your mind with diligence**, for out of it *are* the

issues of life.” We’ve covered that before, but this is so important. Everything concerning the issues of life have to do with *how you think!* That’s why God has given His Word. There are some things we are to do.

Verse 24: “Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you.” We could also say:

- put away anger
- put away bitterness
- put away guilt
- put away condemnation
- put away judging other people’s hearts

—put all those things away.

Verse 25: “Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established.... [in the Lord] ...Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil” (vs 25-27). Those are the key things.

Let’s see something concerning how the conscience works. God created it in us for a purpose. If He didn’t give a conscience to men, how on earth would even the carnal society get along? How would they have any kind of standard whatsoever of right and wrong? *They would not do that!* They would not be able to do it. It would be nothing but total anarchy all the time. Even the laws of most countries find their roots in the Bible anyway—don’t they? *Sure!*

Here’s how God has done it, Proverbs 20:27: “**The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.**” That is, the inward parts of your whole self. We’re going to see that the conscience is because God has put *spirit in man*.

Let’s look at *the spirit in man* and see that this is vital for the working and functioning of a conscience. **Conscience can be your friend** when you sin and it convicts you, so that you *may repent!* **Conscience can be your enemy** if you go around with a *guilt complex* all the time or *if you sear your conscience with a hot iron!*

Job 32:8 “But *there* is a **spirit in man...**”—which He gives to every human being. It’s called *the spirit of man*; this is what gives you:

- thought
- conscience
- heart
- mind
- intelligence
- life

The body is dead without the spirit! You’ve heard of people being brain dead—haven’t you? Yet, if

they have them on life support, they can keep the physical part of the body going for quite a length of time; but when they're brain dead, it actually is saying that ***the spirit of that person has returned back to God***. They're no longer alive. You can keep the 'soul' alive—which is *the chemical running of the physical body*—all souls that sin will die, even though they can keep it going for a while. All they have to do is take it off the life support system and that individual is dead.

“...and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding” (v 8). Just like it talks about the spirit is the lamp by which God knows the inner most parts of a person—same way. The way that you understand, grow and overcome *is the inspiration of the Almighty Who gives understanding!* Whenever you have understanding of the Word of God, that's an inspiration of God. It is God Who put this *spirit* in man. The creation of man is so fantastic and so absolutely marvelous, that anyone who believes in evolution is—as the Bible says, doesn't believe in God—a fool.

Zechariah 12:1: “The burden of the Word of the LORD for Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth... [What's the most important thing, after the physical creation, that God has made for us?] **...and forms the spirit of man within him.**” In other words, if we didn't have the spirit of man within us—all men and women—we would be *robots!*

- we wouldn't have conscience
- we wouldn't have thought
- we wouldn't have connection with God
- we wouldn't have understanding of God's Word

You could just:

- program us up
- put in a sophisticated chip
- send it on it's way
- make everyone like universal soldiers

Just put chips in the back of their head and send them on their way. *God is the One Who forms it in us!*

Here, again, we are going to see how profound the spirit of man is in relationship to what God is doing and in relationship to Christ.

Isaiah 42:5: “Thus says the LORD God, *He* who created the heavens and stretched them out, spreading forth the earth and its offspring; **He who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it.**” Having the *spirit of man*, which God has given to all human beings, is a profound and important thing; right next to creating the heavens and the earth. We need to quit

downgrading human beings and downgrading God's creation. Lots of times we *downgrade ourselves* so much that all of that can lead to a *guilt complex!*

A lot of people think today we're so advanced; we have so much knowledge. Let me tell you something, the book of Job was probably the very first book written after the Flood, long before Moses, even before Abraham. The reason we know is because of the timing and the setting of it, and also because Job acted as the patriarchal priest of the family. He's the one who offered sacrifices for his sons and later for his friends.

Job 20:1: “And Zophar the Naamathite answered and said, ‘Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer... [here we have a thinking man] ...even because of my inner turmoil. I have heard the rebuke which puts me to shame, and the ***spirit of my understanding*** causes me to answer’” (vs 1-3). They knew about *the spirit of man* back then—didn't they? They understood the special creation of God.

Verse 4: “Do you not know this from *days* of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *is* for a moment?... [Of course that's true today. These are living things that continue all the way through life.] ...Though his excellency... [Again, what I want to emphasize is whenever they're talking about the spirit of man, it refers back to the heavens.] ...mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds” (vs 4-6).

You talk about a big head! He's talking to Job. He's saying, ‘Job look, you've exalted yourself up to heaven. You've got your head in the clouds so high that you can't even see what's going on around you and you're sitting here suffering this horrible calamity.

Verse 7: “He shall perish forever like his own dung...”

Let's see what Paul says about *the spirit of man*. It is of *the spirit of man* that gives us ***heart, conscience, thought***, and all these things together. That's why the Holy Spirit makes us complete. No one is a complete person without the Holy Spirit! It's that simple. ***God made us to receive the Holy Spirit!*** Those who do not have the Holy Spirit, they may not like to hear it, but they are only half here. Granted, they:

- have the spirit of man
- have conscience
- have emotions
- can think

but without:

- the knowledge of God

- the Truth of God
- the Spirit of God

Of what value are all of those things? This is why it's so important in what we're doing, brethren, and our calling.

1-Corinthians 2:9: "But according as it is written, '*The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*'" That's the whole key. *Loving God! Loving God on an on-going, continuous basis!* If you're loving God:

- you'll be *believing* God
- you'll be *obeying* God
- you'll be *hoping* in His promises

If you have 'religion' without the love of God, then you truly have a 'religion' *and not the way* of God. ***The way of God is to love God!***

Verse 10: "But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things... [This is referring to the Spirit of God, which He gives to us.] ...even the deep things of God." That's what gives us the understanding of the Word of God.

Of course, in dealing with people in the world, as many do, you soon understand that only with *the spirit of man*, can they understand the real things of God. They may know how to do their job well. They may be a genius in this, that or the other thing. They may be inventors, artists or writers. Whatever they may be, they're limited. All of that is well and good. To function in the world that's well and good; but *they have no knowledge or understanding of the spiritual things*, because that comes from the Spirit of God.

This is what Paul talks about here in v 11: "For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him?..." I often marvel: I love to listen to piano playing. You look at these little, old, stubby hands. I can only reach an octave if I do it on the edge. You look at some of those who have the brains, the spirit and the hands. If you ever get a chance to look at a picture of Rachmaninoff and can see his hands, they said his hands are like coal shovels. In other words, his four fingers were almost all the same length.

When you listen to Rachmaninoff's concertos, that's why there are so many notes being played in such a range; because he has these huge, big hands and he can reach them. That's a talent. He's got to have *the spirit of man* within him to be able to do that; to sit down, not only write the music, but to play the music. When I see someone who can really play the piano and memorize—play by memory a whole long concerto and never miss a note—that tells you how great that God has made human beings and given

the spirit. See if a horse can do that or a chimpanzee! Never happen!

They claim a chimpanzee has 94% the same genes as human beings. I doubt that. I think that when they know more about genes, they'll find that they're extremely different, even though there are similarities. I think God made the chimps and the primates to let us know, that even though you get something close to what you think man is, *without the spirit of man, it's just an ape*. That's all it is. There are some special gifts. For example: There's a young boy who has a talent. He just sat down, listened to some jazz music, memorized it as it was being played, got up and played exactly the same thing himself. He never had piano lessons or anything like that. He didn't know anything about this tune until he heard it.

That's something like Mozart. When they asked him, 'How do you do this music?' His music, from a music point of view, is what you call 'near perfection.' That is, horizontal—going across from left to right—and vertical; that is, going through all of the instruments, all the chords and everything for an entire symphony orchestra. He said, 'It's in my head. I hear it in my head, and then I write it.'

As we said when we started this off, Art Linkletter—still alive at 95/96—said, 'We live between our ears.' That's where we really live. God intended it to be that way. The greatest thing about it is, *God wants to dwell in there with you with His Spirit!* That's what's the fantastic thing about it.

Verse 11: "For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God.... [here's what God's Spirit is to do]: ...Now, we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God... [What is the spirit of the world? *We haven't received that!*]: ...so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God" (vs 11-12). *That's what we are to know!*

Verse 13: "Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the Holy Spirit in order to* communicate spiritual things by *spiritual means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned" (vs 13-14)

That's why it's very important that those of us who have the Holy Spirit of God don't get hung up with fear and guilt complexes. We are to ***let the conscience that God has given us operate*** in the way that God wants it to operate and we will see that what God wants is:

- a pure conscience

- a clean conscience
- a clear heart

That can only be done on a day-to-day basis.

Let's see what the spirit of the world does. Part of the reason why your conscience can be *your enemy and condemn you* all the time is because you go around with guilt feelings, or as they are called in the world **guilt complexes**. This is something that's not restricted to just people within the Churches of God. *It's everybody!* Sooner or later even *the spirit of man* that is in them shows them, 'Look! You can't continue this way.'

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God. Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear..." (vs 14-15). That is the thing that comes down to all the things that we've gone through. Fear is a key source:

- of guilt
- of anger
- of bitterness

fearful of:

- things around you
- people around you
- fearful to follow God

It can operate in all those things.

This is what holds us back *health-wise*. They're just many things that we can do to improve our health. We all have to start with what we've inherited; in some cases that may give us an automatic limitation. Nevertheless, even some of those who supposedly have had some of the most sickly inheritance, by taking care of themselves, live to be well into old age. They learn how to handle and do those things.

Let's see how the conscience works. We're talking about people in the world. We're talking about those who don't know God; they still have a conscience. Of course, what Satan wants to do with education and with the things that he wants: he wants to **lower the sensitivity of the conscience**, so that you will accept, and people in the world will accept, doing more evil things; or things that are more evil in degree.

I think we're seeing the flight of this with the onslaught of the vomit of the sodomites trying to get across their same sex marriages. What do they call that, to 'lower deviancy down'? In other words, if there's a high level of resistance against deviancy, and people have conscience, then they won't do it. But *if you gradually break the conscience down*, one of the first ways that Satan begins to break the conscience down is through teaching kids, and it begins right in kiddie cartoons, and then goes right on into their education.

As I've said before, if there's any way you can home school your kids, *home school your kids*. If you don't and they go to the public schools, they're going to be taught by sodomites. Don't be too surprised if your kids grow up and make an announcement and 'come out of the closet,' like Dick Gephardt's daughter did and said that she's a lesbian. How did she become one? *The high threshold of deviancy was brought down to normalcy and it is accepted!* The conscience, then, becomes **seared** to a certain degree. Maybe not seared to the point of the unpardonable sin. But normally the conscience works this way:

Romans 2:14: "For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* law... [In other words, they don't have the Law of God to guide them.] ...practice by nature the things contained in the Law..." They conclude:

- adultery is wrong
- murder is wrong
- thievery is wrong
- lying is wrong
- stealing is wrong

Those are a law unto themselves. It's still based on the laws of God, even though they don't have the Law. It was never given to them.

Verse 14: "These who do not have *the* law are a law unto themselves; who show the work of the law written in their own hearts... [In other words, they have decided to think this way: that these things are right and these other things are wrong.] ...**their consciences bearing witness**... [here's the activation of the conscience] ...and their reasonings also, as they accuse or defend one another" (vs 14-15).

Because of this, this is how God is going to judge those who are worthy for the second resurrection. That's how He's going to do it.

Verse 16: "In a day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel." When God does that, those who qualify for the first resurrection will be in the first resurrection. Those who did not have the Law and qualify for the second resurrection, will be in the second resurrection. God is going to make the judgment based upon what their choices and what their conscience was, even though God had blinded them. Is that not fair? Is that not love? *Yes, it is!*

(go to the next track)

*What I'm talking about in this case, is a conscience that becomes **progressively dull!*** Of course, who has the dullest conscience of all? We'll talk about seared consciences in a little bit. *Fear, guilt and conscience together means that you are living in dread.* That means you're not repenting of

guilt. Even though you may repent of the sin, ***if you still carry a guilt conscience, you have not repented of guilt!***

Let's understand something. Guilt can also come about because you are trying to work everything out *yourself* without the Spirit of God and without repentance, hoping that your works will be good enough for God to accept you. ***All the good works without repentance does not mean acceptance with God,*** in the spiritual sense. Yes, good works are good works, that's fine. If you go around with a guilty conscience or you have some major sin in your life that you think: 'God can forgive me of all these little ones over here, but God can't forgive this big sin'—whatever it may be—then you really don't believe God. If you believe God is going to save you, if you believe God is going to have you in His kingdom, but you do not believe that God can forgive you and forgive your sin so that you do not have a guilty conscience, *then your level of belief is infantile indeed!* You need to understand that.

Proverbs 18:14: **"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a broken spirit who can bear?"** Have you ever been around anyone who has a wounded spirit? It can be wounded with:

- bitterness
- guilt
- fear
- doubt

all of those things. Christ came to heal the broken hearted—didn't He? *Yes, He did!*

We're going to talk about how to heal the conscience in just a little bit. Let's go just one step further. Let's see what happens when people give themselves over to evil. When people give themselves over to evil and do not repent of it, then they come to the point of a *seared conscience*. How does a person get a *seared conscience*? ***A person gets a seared conscience by seeing and ignoring the moving of the conscience that God has put in them!*** That's how you *sear the conscience*. It's by choice that it happens. It also gets into things having to do with the spirit of Satan the devil and demons, both.

1-Timothy 4:1: "Now, the Spirit tells us explicitly that in *the latter times*..." Are we living in the latter times? *We have to be living in times later than what Paul was living*—right? I would say we are living in the latter times.

"...some shall apostatize from the faith... [Have we seen that happen? *Yes, indeed!*] ...and shall follow deceiving spirits..." (v 1)—which then, leads you to *sear your conscience* by saying, 'That's okay.' The book that came out *I'm OK, You're OK*

was the first step in beginning to 'dumb down,' dull and sear the conscience—correct? It has laid the whole foundation for the society of Sodom and Gomorrah that we're now creating.

Then what happens? "...and doctrines of demons... [you begin to listen to the teaching of demons] ...speaking lies in hypocrisy, **their consciences having been cauterized with a hot iron**" (vs 1-2). Once that happens, anything goes. What happens when a whole society comes to the point of *searing* their conscience? Let's find out! It happened before and we're getting to the point that it's beginning to happen again.

In Gen. 6 they didn't even have their conscience prick them when they did evil. In other words, when people ***practice evil all the time***, it affects your *conscience* and it affects you to the point that you ***accept evil as good***. Look what happened here. This took over 1,500 years to do:

Genesis 6:5: "And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually." In other words, *they had all seared their conscience through the evil practices that they were doing!* Do we have that today? *Yes, we do!* We have that particularly and most notably in the sodomite legislation that they are trying to get through everything. They are trying to force evil on everyone and people are gradually being beaten down, *beaten down and beaten down* to accept it!

The goal of the whole homosexual establishment is to silence every church so that they will not speak against the evils of homosexuality. ***That is their goal!*** That's what the legislation is all about. That's what the facilitators in the political parties are doing to assist them. That's why they have so many of the homosexuals in the legislatures of various states and in the U.S. government that will back and support those things. The Supreme Court of the land has already opened the door. It is near at hand and we will end up just like here in Gen. 6. What did Jesus say? '*As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man.*' ***Those things have got to affect us because we live in the world!***

Just recently in New York, they had an all homosexual high school. Can you imagine how pitiful the state of the students of America are, that they have an all homosexual high school with:

- homosexual principals
- homosexual men
- homosexual women

Where did they get this? They were taught it with the sex education program in the public school. It's called the Harvey Milk High School, named after the

homosexual mayor who was assassinated in San Francisco back in the 70's^[transcriber's correction].

They don't understand that God left Sodom and Gomorrah as a perpetual witness against this kind of thing. No nation or empire has lasted more than 50 years when they have openly accepted homosexual behavior. Here we have the whole society. What did God have to do? *Destroy it with a flood!* How corrupt was it? *So corrupt that God had to select the animals and send them to Noah so he would get the right ones. He had to destroy everything!* Everything else but Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives, and those animals that God sent to be on the ark.

We're rapidly reaching that kind of thing in the society that we're in today. Does it affect those in the Church of God? *Yes!* The last era of the Church of God is called—and you've heard it many times—*Laodicean!* Why are they lukewarm? Why are they ready to be spewed out of the mouth of God? *They have allowed their conscience to become callous,* maybe not seared, but callous.

What happens when a conscience is *seared* completely? Let's see what happens with the seared conscience, the one who can no longer be moved by evil and the perpetrators of evil. That's why the Iraqi people are very happy that Uday and Qusay are gone, because they were evil and perpetrators of evil, *knowingly so!*

From: *The Unpardonable Sin—Summary*
(cbcg.org)

The Unpardonable Sin is a Deliberate, Willful Choice and Rejection of God the Father and Jesus Christ, and a Repudiation of the Forgiveness of Sins and the Gift of Salvation Through Jesus' Sacrifice and His Blood

The unpardonable sin is a deliberate and calculated renunciation of God. It is *not* and accidental sin...

The reason we're going through this is to help you get rid of any guilt complex you have toward any sin that you have done. If you've repented of those, God expects you to have a clean conscience. *He will give it, but only He can give it and you must accept it!* If you continually live in your sins by living them in your mind, though you have attempted to repent of them, you have not repented of them. *What you're actually saying by having a guilt complex over these things all the time is that 'God cannot forgive me'!* That's not quite like the unpardonable sin where you *reject* the forgiveness of God.

...nor is it a sin committed under temptation or through weakness. But the

unpardonable sin is a knowing, determined, calculated, premeditated, willful decision and choice arrived at by rejecting any pangs of conscience, leading of the Holy Spirit, pleadings of the Word of God, or ministers and brethren.

We could put in there families and friends.

It is a willful, determination to reject the gift of repentance, and hostile contempt for the commandments of God, the Spirit of God, a willful repudiation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His blood for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of God. Those who have committed the unpardonable sin have no regrets, no sorrow and no conscience that they have turned their backs on God the Father and Jesus Christ, and the Word of God. It is impossible to renew them to repentance—it is impossible for the Holy Spirit to move them to repentance, for others to move them to repentance, or to move themselves to repentance. They have seared their consciences with a hot iron and there is no power—human or Divine—that is able, or has the ability to renew them to repentance.

Or for others to move them to repentance, or to move themselves to repentance.

They have seared their consciences with a hot iron and there is no power—human or Divine—that is able, or has the ability to renew them to repentance. Their choice is *final*, and God's judgment against them is final.

If you're worried about committing the unpardonable sin, that's the first clue that you haven't. If you have committed the unpardonable sin, you would never worry about committing it.

From: Lane, *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 47A, p. 142).

In [the book of] Hebrews, the characteristic terms for sin that display contempt for God are compounds of *para*, many of which occur nowhere else in the New Testament.

When Paul was writing the book of Hebrews, he was talking to a generation very much like what we have today. The book of Hebrews is written for Laodiceans that they will not commit the unpardonable sin. Here are the words:

• *paradeigmaizein*, to expose to public humiliation (6:6)

That is, of Christ, exposing Him to public humiliation.

- *parapikainein*, to rebel (3:16)
- *parapikrasmos*, rebellion (3:8,15)
- *pararrein*, to drift away, fall away (2:1)
- *parapherein*, to carry away (13:9)
- *pareineros*, being listless (12:12)

All of those things lead to a decline in faith and can lead to contempt and rejection of God.

There is no other repentance than that provided through Jesus Christ. There is no salvation apart from the purification for sins accomplished by the divine Son in the final period of God's redemptive activity (1:1-3). The *adunatou adunaton* [the impossibility]...

'adunaton' means: *the powerlessness of*

...which is used, absolutely and without qualification in Heb. 6:4, expresses an impossibility because the apostate [has] repudiated] the only basis upon which repentance can be extended. **To repudiate Christ is to embrace the 'impossible.'**

You can see why that's the only commentary I use because it gets into the words and the meanings of the Greek and does not deal in doctrine; it just deals in the words and explanations of it. What does this tell us? *This tells us that anyone who deals in the Word of God can understand the Truth of God to the extent that they know what sin is and what sin is not!*

Let's see what the sacrifice of Christ is to do for us. We've gone all the way from a *guilt feeling*, to *searing the conscience* with a hot iron, now let's come back to the guilt feeling. Let's come back to see how we need to begin to handle this. The way you handle it is *with repentance and belief!* If you're all done praying a prayer, if you're all done repenting, and you start to get up off your knees and you say to yourself, 'I wonder if God will forgive me?' Get right back on your knees because your prayer has just been negated, because you don't believe God.

God cannot lie! What you need to do is get right back on your knees and say, 'O God, forgive me for that thought. Forgive me for saying that You won't accept my repentance. Forgive me that I accuse You of not forgiving my sins.' What does it say? *He forgives all your sins!*

- How many is that? *Every one of them!*
- How many is that? *All of them!*
- How many is that? *Every single one of them!*

If He says that, why would you get up off your knees and say, 'I wonder if God will forgive me?' Why did you get down and pray in the first place? That's much like the question: How many people in

the cemetery are dead? *All of them!* Consider your sins in the cemetery of repentance and forgiveness—*they're all dead!* Paul said, 'Consider yourself dead to sin.'

1-John 1:7 "However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin.**" Every sin! Every evil thought! That's why it says we are to *bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* That's the inner battle that goes on. If you're fighting the evil thoughts in your mind, you have not committed the unpardonable sin, by a long shot, and your conscience is pricking you to repent. ***So, yield to the Spirit of God! It cleanses us from all sin!***

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us." That's what happens when people begin to:

- dumb down their conscience
- dull their conscience
- ignore their conscience

They say, 'Well, it's not so bad.' What have you just done when you do that? You begin to stifle the conscience. If your conscience is working full time, it will *prick you in heart* (Acts 2). In other words, you'll be moved. You'll see what is wrong. You will let your conscience shame you into remorse and repentance.

On the other hand, v 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. **If we confess our own sins...** [Confess your sins! Confess your guilt! Let God give you a clean conscience!] **...He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**" (vs 8-9). *Every single bit! No doubt about it!*

- we could apply this to *worry*
- we can apply this to *anger*
- we can apply this to a *guilty conscience*
- we can apply this to *fear*

All the things we've talked about in this series. Here's where most people get themselves in trouble: *We have to live in the world but we're not to be a part of it!*

James 4:4: "*You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*" You don't want to put yourself in that position.

Verse 5: "Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The spirit that dwells in us lusts with envy'?.... [you've got to fight to go on] ...But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, 'God sets Himself against *the proud*, but He gives grace to

the humble.’.... [you need to humble yourself to God] ...Therefore, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded!” (vs 5-8).

If you go around with a guilt complex all the time, you end up being double-minded! You can’t help it. You say, Oh God, forgive me for my sins! Oh, God can’t forgive this sin. Oh, God, forgive me for my sin; but oh, God, I don’t know how you can forgive this sin.’ It makes you vacillating. How is it that you can have friendship with the world? It’s been very well expressed: *you have one foot in the world and one foot in God’s camp*. That in itself will give you a guilt complex. If it gives you a guilty conscience, then you need to run and repent. When you run and repent, also *pull that foot out of the world* and put them both on the Rock of Christ. That’s what it’s talking about: *submit to God!*

Verse 8: “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded!” We’ll show you how to purify your hearts in just a minute. That’s what it’s all about, *purifying the heart! God’s purifies the heart and that’s how you overcome a guilt complex!*

- repenting to God
- believing He forgives you
- having faith that He will
- letting Him cleanse your heart

That’s why most religions in the world—Catholic, Jew, Muslim and Hindu—always keep people in a guilt complex and fear, so they can manipulate them and, of course, make money on it, too; put fear in you and give you a guilty conscience. The priest would say, ‘So-and-So is in purgatory but for so many masses and for whatever amount we can probably get them out.’

Acts 15:6: “Then the apostles and the elders gathered together to see about this matter. And after much discussion had taken place, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Men, brethren, you know that from the early days, God made the choice among us that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the Word of the Gospel, and believe. And God, **Who knows the heart...**’” (vs 6-8). Very interesting! The Greek is *the heart-knowing God!*

God knows your heart, your mind, your conscience and, as we have seen in the series in Hebrews, when you come before the throne of God you are naked and laid bare before Him. There is nothing that is hidden.

When you go before God to repent of your sins, and get your heart and your mind squared around, God knows everything. He knows it all.

Therefore, that’s why when you confess your sins to God you can be honest. If you go to a priest in a confession booth, you don’t want to be too honest. You want to say some of it, but if you’re too honest you’ll have to do ‘hail Marys’ and ‘our fathers’ and have Masses for the rest of your life. *That’s not God’s way!*

Verse 8: “...‘bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, even as *He did* to us, and made no difference between us and them and has purified their hearts through the faith’” (vs 8-9).

I’m going to do a little extrapolating on this, v 10: “Now therefore, why do you tempt God by putting a yoke upon the necks of the disciples...” That can apply to anything. That can apply to the thing of the laws of Judaism:

- Why do you put the *yoke of guilt* around yourself all the time?
- Why do you wear the *yoke of bitterness*?
- Why do you wear the *yoke of fear*?

Those can all apply. He purifies the heart.

Hebrews 10:22: “Let us approach *God* with a true heart, with full conviction of faith... [or confidence of faith, not doubting, not questioning, but *believing in your heart*] ...our hearts having been purified from a wicked conscience...” God wants you to have a pure conscience. **God**—since He created the conscience and gave it to us in the spirit of man and with His Holy Spirit—*can purge our conscience!*

Paul talks about this in Hebrews 9:14: “To a far greater degree, the blood of Christ...”

- Do you believe in the sacrifice of Christ?
- Do you believe that His blood forgives your sin?
- Do you believe that if you confess your sins He will forgive all your sins, all your unrighteousness?
- Do you believe that?

If you believe that, you cannot have a guilty conscience, unless it is over some sin you have not repented of. When you **repent** of it then ask God to give you a **pure conscience**, because that’s the whole part of it. That will do more for health:

- physically
- mentally
- spiritually
- emotionally

than anything else can do.

“...Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, shall purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (v 14).

- *fear* is a dead work
- *worry* is a dead work
- *bitterness* is a dead work
- *anger* is a dead work
- *guilt complex* is a dead work

You are working it, choosing it and it is a dead, dead, **dead act!** Most people don't understand that. There are some people who because:

- they *like* to be bitter
- they *like* to have resentment
- they *like* to have anger
- they *thrive* on a guilty conscience so they can *inflict* it upon other people

and never come to the point of understanding that. When you're finally dead and buried you're not going to have a U-haul trailer be towed behind the hearse with a big sign on it: 'In here resides:

- his guilt
- his anger
- his bitterness
- his resentment

which we need to bury with him.'

We're always fighting sin. As long as we're in the flesh we are going to sin. That's why we live under God's grace; so that we can constantly come to God when we do sin, that we can have those things forgiven.

1-John 3:18: "My little children, we should not love in word, nor with *our* tongues; rather, *we should love* in deed and in truth.... [that's what we need to do in our own personal lives] ...And in this way we know that we are of the Truth, and **shall assure our hearts before Him, that if our hearts condemn us...** [if you have a guilty conscience or if you have a guilt complex] **...God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things**" (vs 18-20).

In reality, if you go around carrying a guilt complex all the time, what are you really saying? You may not express it in these words, but your actions are saying, 'I am greater than God because I can bear my own guilt.' No wonder *your heart condemns you!* That's why you need to **repent**.

- God is greater than your heart
- God is greater than guilt
- God is greater than bitterness
- God is greater than
 - ✓ anger
 - ✓ hostility
 - ✓ worry
 - ✓ fear
 - ✓ doubt

and all of the works of the flesh.

Verse 21: "Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, *then* we have confidence toward God." What you need to do, if you have a guilt complex, or any of the things that we talked about here that ***affects our health***, go to God and pray. Continue praying and staying at it until you come away with a clean conscience. ***Pray for a clean conscience!*** Don't just ask for forgiveness of sin and then get up and still carry the guilt complex; also ask God to ***purge your conscience and make it new and pure!***

Verse 22: "And whatever we may ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight."

- Can God answer that prayer? ***Yes!***
- Will He answer that prayer? ***Yes!***
- Does He want to answer that prayer? ***Yes!***
- Is He going to answer that prayer? ***Yes!***

What are you waiting for? ***Go repent!***

We're going to look at this a little differently, 1-Peter 5:5: "In the same manner, *you* younger men be subject to *the* older men; and all of *you* be subject to one another, being **clothed with humility because God sets Himself against the proud**, but He gives grace to *the* humble." If you keep any of these things that we've talked about:

- anger
- guilt
- worry
- fear
- a guilty conscience

That is ***spiritual pride!*** You're exalting that against God because you don't believe that He can forgive you. You don't want to function without it, so you hold on to it. ***That is spiritual pride!*** Here's how to take care of it.

Verse 6: "Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time; **casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you**" (vs 6-7). For if you think that God cannot forgive a sin, you're not willing to cast that care upon Him—are you?

Verse 8: "Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil..." He's the one whose going to come along and keep pumping it into your head that that's what he wants you to do. God does not want that. God wants you to have:

- a pure conscience
- a pure heart
- a pure mind

and that only comes through repentance and casting everything to God. Another thing about a guilt complex, or not having your conscience purged of guilt, is this: ***You let other people keep putting it on***

you. If you put a guilt trip on someone, *you're sinning.*

In bringing this out, I'm not trying to put a guilt trip on anybody. I'm trying to say: Get out of the guilt trip. Don't put it on anyone. Whenever something goes wrong, don't go back, re-live the past, bring it up and vomit it out all over them again and again. All you are doing is letting your guilt, which you have not repented of, come out in judging, condemning and throwing guilt down before other people. So, it works that way, too. *Yes, indeed! That's got to stop! That cannot be!*

Let's see the other part of the solution. God is using those 'small' words again: '*all*' and '*if*.' Cast ***all*** your cares, not just some of them, not the worst ones, ***all*** of them: big, little, and in between. Another way to help you understand this is to get your eyes on Christ and what He's done.

Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*'" (vs 25-27). You've had Christ personally reveal the Father to you.

Here's the solution, v 28: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest." Why don't you ***let your conscience be purged and cleansed*** and have rest? Why have:

- torment
- fear
- doubt
- guilt
- anger
- bitterness
- resentment

all of those things that

- kill the spirit
- make you double-minded
- bring you ill health

"...I will give you rest." Let yourself and those around you have rest and peace from these things.

Verse 29: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me..." What is Christ's yoke?

- love
- faith
- joy
- peace

all the fruits of the Holy Spirit

- gentleness

- goodness
- temperance
- meekness

That's the yoke. Keeping the commandments of God is not a yoke. Those free you.

"...for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls... [Why be tormented any more with a guilty conscience?] **...For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light**" (vs 29-30).

All you have to do is go to some quiet, private place and pour your heart out to God. Cast all your cares upon Him. *He will hear and answer you. **Let God cleanse your heart and conscience and let a pure conscience be your friend!***

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Sermons: Hebrews Series

Article: *The Unpardonable Sin—Summary* (cbcg.org)

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