

BY HIS STRIPES . . .

Planting the Seed

To Those Needing Healing . . .

"He sent His Word and healed them . . ." Psalm 107:20

Church of the Lamb

Altha Burts

Opening Comments

This booklet has been put together in hopes that you will be able to “find” for yourself the wonderful truth of God’s will and come to know His heart in the area of healing.

I have gleaned and used much of what is contained in F.F. Bosworth’s “Christ the Healer,” as it has been so instrumental in opening up the Word and confirming truths that the Lord has impressed on my own heart.

I would like to personally thank my co-laborer in this work, Jennifer Ramey, who has not only put all of this together on the computer but has processed the truth with me as we have worked together.

The questions in the Study Guide will serve to stimulate and challenge deeper thinking in order to bring forth maximum fruit.

Please remember to study ‘prayerfully,’ asking the Father to open up the eyes of your understanding and to **wait** expectantly upon His illumination of the truth. For it is He who desires to reveal Himself personally to you as Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord who heals you. The timing of ‘this revelation’ is in His hands.

Growing Together
In the Lord,

Altha

How To Use This Book

May I suggest that you read the narrative through twice before beginning to answer the questions in the study guide. Be sure to answer the questions slowly and reflectively with an attitude of reliance upon the Holy Spirit for understanding as only He can give light!

In order for you to obtain a panorama of healing, a section has been provided for you from the Spirit-Filled Life Bible. This will help you to understand where healing fits in throughout the Old and New Testament.

For those who wish to go deeper, there are copied chapters from various books (with some having questions in the study guide). I would strongly recommend reading Derek Prince's chapter on "Physical and Mental Effects of God's Word" as it gives a deeper understanding of our key passage, Proverbs 4:20-22. I'd also suggest reading Dake's word study on Isaiah 53:3-4.

Remember what Jesus said: "BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ARE HEARING." **The measure (of thought and study) you give (to the truth you hear)** will be the measure (of virtue and **knowledge**) that **comes back to you** and more (besides) will be given to you who hear . . ." Mark 4:24 (Amplified).

May the Lord richly bless you

*in the knowledge of
Himself*

Altha

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PLANTING THE SEED

Discipleship
Notes:

KEY PRINCIPLE

Mark 4:21-25 - Amplified Bible

- 21) *And He (Jesus) said to them, "Is the lamp brought in to be put under a peck measure or under a bed, and not (to be put) on the lampstand?"*
- 22) *(Things are hidden temporarily only as a means to revelation.) For there is nothing hidden except to be revealed, nor is anything (temporarily) kept secret except in order that it may be made known.*
- 23) *If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend."*
- 24) *And He said to them, "Be careful what you are hearing. **THE MEASURE (OF THOUGHT AND STUDY) YOU GIVE (TO THE TRUTH YOU HEAR) WILL BE THE MEASURE OF VIRTUE AND KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES BACK TO YOU - and more (besides) will be given to you who hear.***
- 25) *For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away (by force)."*

Spirit-Filled Life Bible - Notes

Verse 21 The parable stresses the need for PROPER HEARING in terms of RECEIVING BLESSING (verse 24) or judgment (verse 25).

Verse 22 Precious items, such as jewelry and silverware, are kept concealed until the proper time for their use. In the same way certain aspects of divine truth may be reserved for full manifestation later after the ascension of Christ. Jesus taught in parables not for the ultimate purpose of concealing the truth, but to hide the truth temporarily from His enemies. He then charged His disciples with the ultimate responsibility of bringing it into the open.

Verses 24-25 Jesus appeals for spiritual perception. Those who receive and assimilate truth will have their capacity for understanding enlarged and their knowledge increased. Those who disbelieve or are indifferent will lose whatever ability for understanding they had, and therefore will continue in ignorance.

The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:130

Note from the Pulpit Commentary: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light;" rather, the opening (or opening up) of Thy words, their FULL exposition and interpretation.

Discipleship
Notes:

Before anyone can have a steadfast faith for the healing of their body, they must be rid of all uncertainty concerning God's **will** in the matter.

Appropriating faith cannot go beyond one's **knowledge** of the **revealed will** of God. Before attempting to exercise **faith** for healing, one needs to **know** what the scriptures plainly teach: that it **is** just as much God's **WILL** to heal the body as it is to heal the soul. It is only by **knowing** that God **PROMISES** what you are **seeking** that all uncertainty can be **removed** and a **steadfast faith** is made possible.

KEY TRUTH

His **promises** are **EACH** a revelation of what God is eager to do for us. **Until we know** what God's will is, there is nothing to base our faith on.

It is important that **the mind** of those seeking healing be "renewed" so as to be brought into **harmony** with the mind of God as revealed in the Bible. Faith for **appropriation** of God's **PROMISED blessings** is the **result** of **knowing** and **acting** on God's Word (Romans 10:17). "For they have not all obeyed **The Gospel**," Isaiah says, "Lord, who has **believed** our report? So then faith **comes** by hearing and hearing by the **Word** of God". The right mental attitude of the "renewed mind" (Romans 12:2) makes steadfast faith possible to all.

The apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, tells us exactly **how** God works miracles. "He (God) that ministereth to you, the Spirit (the Spirit is the miracle worker), and worketh miracles **in** you, doeth He by the works of the Law, or by the hearing (message) of faith? Even as Abraham believed God" (Galatians 3:5 NKJV). Moffatt translates this passage: "When He supplies you with the **Spirit**, and works miracles in you, is it because you do what the law commands, or because you **believe The Gospel Message**? Why, it is as with Abraham, he had faith."

In this passage God tells us that He works miracles upon our bodies in exactly the same way as upon our souls, and that is, by having us hear and "**believe The Gospel Message**." In fact, God's way of doing everything is **making promises** and then **fulfilling** them wherever they produce **faith**, He says it is with us "as with Abraham." **How** was it with Abraham?
Bosworth

Discipleship
Notes:

Romans 4:17-21

- 17) (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed - God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
- 18) who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."
- 19) And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.
- 20) He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
- 21) and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

- ◇ He simply BELIEVED the Word of God, "he had faith" that God would do exactly as He promised.
- ◇ He was "FULLY PERSUADED" by the Word of God alone.
- ◇ He HELD FAST the beginning of his confidence when his faith was tested.
- ◇ He was WHOLLY OCCUPIED with the Word of God in the matter.
- ◇ He REFUSED to cast away his confidence when God, by telling him to offer Isaac, was apparently removing the visible encouragement to his faith.
- ◇ He "CONSIDERED not his own body" or the fact that he was a hundred years old, neither the "deadness of Sarah's womb" as any barrier or any reason for doubting that Isaac should be born (Romans 4:19). These things, which, according to nature, made the birth of Isaac impossible, were not **considered** by Abraham as the slightest reason for doubting. He **knew** his age; he **recognized** the barrenness of Sarah; he **weighed** the difficulties; but **notwithstanding** the impossible, "Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, so shall your descendants be" (Romans 4:17-18).

"Under utterly hopeless circumstances," by "looking unto the promise of God, he waxed strong in faith," being "fully persuaded" ("absolutely certain," Weymouth) that God would fulfill His promise. Note well, it was by "looking unto the promise of God," he "waxed strong in faith." "Everyone that looketh upon it" (God's remedy and God's promise) was likewise in the condition God required for the healing of the dying Israelites (Numbers 21:8). When coming to God, make sure this is your **attitude** because there is no healing promised except on this condition. Be encouraged, you will cultivate this attitude as you grow in truth. Bosworth

DiscipleshipNotes:

To the extent that we base faith on our improvement, or are affected by our symptoms, or by what we FEEL or SEE, instead of the Word of God alone, just to that extent ours is not real faith. To be "**occupied**" with what we SEE or FEEL is to exactly **reverse** the **condition** God lays down for us to follow. "Everyone that **looketh** at it shall live," (Numbers 21:8) simply means that everyone who, like Abraham, so **occupies** himself with God's PROMISE that he is no longer affected by his symptoms, "**shall recover.**" It means the Word of God (not what we feel) shall be the basis of our faith.

Note: it was by **continuing** to look unto the promise of God that Abraham experienced a **miracle**. The same with Sarah, "by **faith** Sarah herself also **received** strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised" (Hebrews 11:11). To be occupied with symptoms and influenced by them instead of God's Word, is to question the veracity of God. Instead of making God a liar, Jonah, from **within** the fish, gave the name "lying vanities" to the symptoms and circumstances which seemed to stand in the way of his **expecting** God's mercy. **Realizing** that it was **symptoms** and not God who was **lying** to him, he said "they that OBSERVE lying **vanities** forsake their own mercy." God never refuses mercy, but many "**forsake**" it by observing (beholding) their symptoms, which ARE REAL but which are "lying vanities" when "they" say to us that God is not "plenteous in **mercy** to all that call upon Him".

Real faith thrives on a test. Abraham's test with Isaac was God's way of perfecting his faith not of destroying it. Bosworth

KEY TRUTH**Spirit-Filled Life Bible: Numbers 21:5-9**

- 5) *And the people spoke against God and against Moses. "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."*
- 6) *So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*
- 7) *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.*

Discipleship
Notes:

- 8) *The Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."*
- 9) *So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.*

The Focus of Divine Healing

The plague of fiery serpents sent upon God's people was, in reality, a self-inflicted punishment, resulting from their frequent murmuring. God's judgment was in allowing what their own presumption invited, and many died from the bites of the serpents. But in answer to the repentance of His people, God prescribed the erecting of a bronze serpent to which any might look in faith and be healed. Jesus referred to this account in John 3:14-15. He clearly implied that the bronze serpent typified His being raised upon the Cross. Our healing, both spiritual and physical, comes from looking to and identifying with Christ crucified, "by whose stripes you were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

Numbers 12:1-62/II Kings 5:1-15

Possessing Faith

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3-14

"Praise be to" *eulogetos* is used exclusively of God (Father or Son) in the New Testament to indicate the One who alone is worthy of worship. "Blessed be God" was the customary introduction to a Jewish ascription of praise. "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" is a distinctively Christian addition arising out of a unique relationship. God who is to be blessed has **already blessed** all His people in Christ **through** the saving events of His **life, death, and resurrection**.

In the Old Testament, *b^orakah* denotes the bestowal of good. It is often the material and invariably quite specific. God's blessings for us in Christ are more exclusively spiritual but nonetheless definite. The Greek verb *eulogeo* might possibly hint that they are BROUGHT TO US through the Word (*logos*) of God. Gabelien

DiscipleshipNotes:**Faith Is A Possessor**

"Every place where your foot shall tread I have given it to you for an **INHERITANCE**" was the inspiring promise which greeted the Israelites as they faced the Promised Land. Footprints meant possession, but it must be their **own** footprints (Joshua 1:3).

So it is **in possessing** our New Testament, **Calvary-purchased blessings**, that every promise you put your feet upon is yours. The rich plain of healing is yours, to the extent that you tread upon it. The fertile valley of deliverance is yours, if you'll only go in and possess it. The upland of spiritual power is yours, if you will imitate grand old Caleb and by faith drive out the Anakims of **unbelief** that dwell there (Joshua 14:6-15). **Any** or **all** of these blessings are yours to possess in the mighty Name of Jesus because OF HIS BLOOD shed on Calvary.

All the blessed promises of the Word of God are yours, so do not be slack to go up and possess your land!

Between you and your possessions are powerful enemies, but gather your forces of prayer and faith together in that all-sufficient Name, and go against them. Don't give up until the last enemy of UNBELIEF is conquered THROUGH HIS WORD. Osborn

Spirit-Filled Life Bible: Joshua 1:3

Word Wealth: **tread; darach**

Strong's 1869: To walk, go, **tread**, trample, search. This word, occurring more than 50 times in the Old Testament suggests a more FORCEFUL ACTIVITY than mere walking. "Marching" or "**treading**" would best render *darach*. From this verb comes the noun *derech*, meaning "road," "path," or "way," whether an actual street OR THE PATH ONE HABITUALLY TREADS IN LIFE.

The Word is the Seed**KEY TRUTH**

Jesus said, "the Word is a seed" (seed; the essential element of transmitting life Matthew 13:3, 22; Open Bible).

It, the Word, is the seed of divine life. Until the person seeking healing is **sure from** God's Word that it is God's will to heal **him**, he is trying to reap a harvest where there is no seed **planted**. It would be impossible for a

Discipleship
Notes:

farmer to have **faith** for a harvest before he was **sure** the seed had been planted (Mark 4, Hebrews 11:1, John 6:63).

It is not God's will that there shall be a harvest without the planting of the seed - without His will being known and acted **upon**. Jesus said "ye shall **know** the **truth** and the **truth** shall make you free" (John 8:32). Freedom from sickness comes from "**knowing**" the truth. God does nothing without His Word, "He sent His Word and it healed them" are the words of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 107:20, Fenton's translation). Bosworth

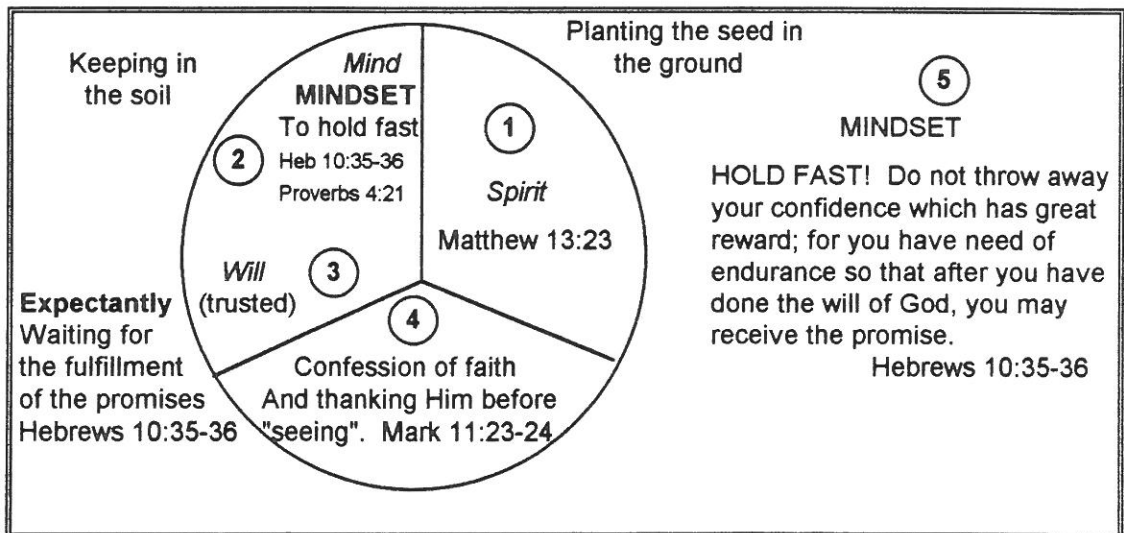
KEY WORD: Promise

What actually constitutes a **promise**? Samuel Johnson's answer is "a promise is the declaration of some **benefit** to be conferred." Webster's Dictionary gives us this:

- 1) One's pledge to another to do or not to do something specified; narrowly, a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a **right** to **expect** or to **claim** the performance or forbearance of a specified act.
- 2) **Ground for hope, expectation** or the **assurance**, often specified of eventual success of all the promises of the Bible. Lockyer

KEY PRINCIPLE

FOR EACH SICK PERSON TO **KNOW** THAT IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL HIM, **IS** THE SEED WHICH IS TO BE PLANTED IN HIS MIND AND HEART. AND IT IS NOT PLANTED UNTIL IT IS KNOWN AND RECEIVED AND TRUSTED. Bosworth



Discipleship
Notes:

No sinner can become a Christian before He KNOWS that it is God's will to save him. It is the Word of God PLANTED and WATERED and STEADFASTLY TRUSTED, which heals both SOUL and BODY. The "seed" must **remain** planted and be kept watered before it can produce its harvest. Bosworth

Life is in the seed itself.

Romans 12:1-2

And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed³³³⁹ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will²³⁰⁷ of God.

will Strong's 2307

Thelema; from the verb *thelo*, to **will**. The **will**, not to be conceived as demand, but as an expression or inclination of pleasure towards that which is liked, that which pleases and creates joy. When it denotes God's **will**, it signifies His gracious **DISPOSITION** toward something. Used to designate what God Himself does of His own good pleasure.

transformation Strong's 3339

Metamorphoo from *meta*, **denoting change of condition**, and *morphoo*, to form. In Romans 12:2 and II Corinthians 3:18, the idea of **transformation** refers to an invisible process in a Christian which takes place or begins to take place already during their life in this age.

Is not transformation a change of the sick body into a healthy one? It comes first by our minds being made new and thinking in "harmony" with God.

For one to say, I believe the Lord is **able** to heal me before he knows from God's Word that He is **willing** to heal him, is like a farmer saying, "I believe God is **ABLE** to give me a harvest without any seed being planted and watered." God can't save the soul of a man before the man himself **knows** God's will in the matter, because **salvation** is by faith - that is, by **trusting** the **known will** of God. Being **healed** is being **saved** in a **physical** sense. (Look up the definition of "salvation".) "The prayer of faith" which heals the sick is to **follow** (not precede) the **planting** of the "seed" (the Word) upon which alone **faith** is based on.

Knowing His Power
God is ABLE to heal me

Knowing His Will (Heart)
God is WILLING to heal me

Matthew 8:2 willing, *thelo*; To wish, desire, will, take delight in. It carries the idea of being ready, preferring, and having in mind. A related NT word is *boulomai*, a stronger expression of the will, signifying the determinant will be deliberately exercised.

And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded as a testimony to them. (Lev 14:2-32)

SPIRIT

6 Mark 16:20
And the Lord working with them and **confirming the Word** through the accompanying signs.

BODY

Spirit-Filled Bible Notes: Leviticus 14:12

And the priest shall take one male lamb and offer it as a trespass offering: The Law of Moses made provision for the healing of a person afflicted with skin diseases. Verses 1-32 describe the process of healing and the offering which is made to God for the recovery. When Jesus healed the leper (Matthew 8:1-4), He commanded him to show himself to the priest and to make the offering which was commanded by Moses in the law. This indicates that the biblical regulations pertaining to skin diseases were being observed by the Jewish people during the time of Jesus.

Healing Taught in the Old Testament Types
Bosworth

Again in Leviticus 14:18, we read of the priest making atonement for the cleansing of the leper. Why an atonement for the leper's healing if healing for us is not in the Atonement of Christ? The types in Leviticus, 14th and 15th chapters, show us that it was invariably through atonement that sickness was healed. This, to our mind, is a complete answer to the question we are discussing, should we go no further, because all of these typical atonements point to, and prefigure Calvary.

DiscipleshipNotes:

It is **The Gospel** which the Holy Spirit says, "is the power of God unto salvation," in all its phases, both physical and spiritual. And **all The Gospel** is for "every creature" and for "all nations." **The Gospel** does not leave a man in uncertainty praying with an "if it be Thy will;" it tells him **what** God's will is. The Holy Spirit's words, "Himself bore our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17) are just as truly a part of **The Gospel** as His words "who His own self bore our **sins** in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24).
Bosworth

Again, Moffatt's translation of Galatians 3:5 as well as a quote on appropriating faith:

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, tells us **exactly** how God works miracles. "He (God) that ministereth to you, the Spirit (the Spirit is the miracle worker), and worketh miracles among you (IN YOU, Gabeliein) doeth He it by the works of the law, or by the hearing (message) of faith? Even as Abraham believed God (Galatians 3:5). Moffatt translates this passage: "When He supplies you with the Spirit, and works miracles (IN YOU) among you, is it because you do what the law commands, or because you **believe The Gospel Message?** Why, it is as with Abraham, he had faith."

In this passage God tells us that He works miracles upon our bodies in exactly the same way as upon our souls, and that is, by having us **hear** and "**believe The Gospel Message.**" In fact, God's way of doing everything is by making **promises** and then by fulfilling them wherever they produce faith. He says, "it is as with Abraham." How was it with Abraham? "Who contrary to hope, in hope **believed**, so that he **became** the father of many nations . . . He was told by God (the Word), believed and became" (Romans 4:17-18). Bosworth

KEY PRINCIPLE

Neither the spiritual nor the physical phase of **The Gospel** is to be applied by **prayer alone**. Seed is powerless until it is planted. Many, instead of saying, "pray for me," should first say "teach me God's Word, so that I can whole heartedly cooperate for my recovery." We must **know** what the **benefits** of Calvary **are** before we can appropriate them by faith. David specifies "who **forgiveth** all thine iniquities, who **healeth** all thy diseases."

Discipleship
Notes:

After being sufficiently enlightened, our attitude toward **sickness** should be the same as our attitude toward **sin**. Our purpose to have our body healed should be as definite as our purpose to have our **soul** healed.

Jesus Attitude Toward Sickness
Have You This Same Attitude?

Let us begin by asking a very important question: "How did sickness enter this world?"

Our answer is found in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Then physical death and all that produces it are the direct results of sin.

But how came man to sin? Read Genesis 2:17 and Genesis 3:1-19, and you will find that it was Satan who caused our first parents to disobey God. Then Satan is the real originator of sin, sickness, and death.

Many deny this and say that God Himself is the real author of sickness and death because He said to Adam (Genesis 2:17), "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." But who caused Adam and Eve to disobey God's command and so bring sin, sickness, and death into this world? Satan. Then Satan, and not God, is the real author of sin, sickness, and death.

This explains why Christ said to the man whom He cured at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:14), "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee." His sickness had come as the result of sin.

This explains also Christ's words in Mark 2:9-11, "Whether it is easier to say to the sick of the palsy, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (He saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.'"

The people would not believe that Christ had power to forgive this man's sins, so He says to them, in effect, "I will now prove to you that I have the power to forgive sins by curing this palsy, which is one of the consequences of sin. When you see that I can cure or take away this sin-produced disease, then you will know for a certainty that I also can take away sin itself."

DiscipleshipNotes:

Again we are absolutely sure Satan is the author of sickness as well as sin, because Christ always uses the same harsh word, *epitimao*, to rebuke sickness (Satan's work) as He uses to rebuke evil spirits.

In Luke 4:39 we read, "And he stood over her (Simon's wife's mother), and rebuked (*epetimesen*, the same word as in Luke 4:35) the (spirit of) fever; and it left her." Christ used the same harsh word to rebuke all sicknesses as He used to rebuke all evil spirits, because all sickness is caused by Satan. This is the only explanation.

Yes, every sickness, disease, and deformity which Christ cured while on earth was the result of sin, Satan's work. Read Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." Then all Christ cured, while on earth, were oppressed of the devil. This included also Lazarus' sickness, even though Christ declares (John 11:4), "This sickness is . . . for the glory of God."

Let us here examine this word "oppressed." The Greek word is *katadunasteuomenous*, the present participle passive, accusative plural of *katadunasteuo*. This comes from *kata*, "down or under," and *dunasteuo*, "I hold power or lordship." Then this word *katadunasteuomenous* in Acts 10:38 really means "those under the domination or lordship of Satan."

Yes, every sickness, disease, and deformity Christ cured while on earth was the result of Satan's work, and it is the same today.

Not only is Satan the originator of sickness, but he is the propagator of it, for the Bible informs us that he has special evil spirits whose chief business is to make people sick.

In Luke 13:11 we read, "And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together (bent double), and could in no wise lift up herself." Luke 13:16 informs us that this was Satan's work: "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

Notice now the words "which had a spirit of infirmity." The word for "infirmity" here is *astheneia*, the commonest word in the Greek language for "sickness." Then this poor woman had been dominated for eighteen years by an evil spirit, a *spirit here called "a spirit of sickness."* Yes, Satan really has "spirits of sickness" whose one great work in this world is to propagate sickness and disease.

DiscipleshipNotes:

In Mark 9:25 we find that Satan also has “deaf and dumb” spirits: “When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him (Note, these evil spirits are persons), “Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.” Then, in addition to “spirits of sickness,” Satan also has “deaf and dumb” spirits to afflict mankind.

In Mark 1:23 we read, “And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean (unwashed, dirty, foul) spirit.” Then Satan also has spirits who are specialists in polluting men’s minds and imaginations, making them immoral.

In Acts 16:16 we read of a girl who was “possessed with a spirit of divination” (literally, a spirit of Python). This was an evil spirit which gave her the ability to foretell things.

Satan, then, has all kinds of evil spirits, and thousands of these belong to that group designated as “the spirits of sickness.” No wonder we read in Ephesians 6:12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Yes, Satan is not only the originator of sickness and disease, but he is the propagator of the same by means of these many evil spirits who obey his every command. McCrossan, Bodily Healing in the Atonement

KEY TRUTH

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Spirit-Filled Life Bible: Kingdom Dynamics

The original order of man’s environment of Earth must be distinguished from what it became following the impact of man’s fall, the curse, and the eventual deluge (Isaiah 45:18; Romans 8:20; II Peter 3:4-7). The agricultural, zoological, geological, and meteorological disharmony to which creation became subject must not be attributed to God. The perfect will of God, as founding King of creation, is not manifest in the presence of death, **disease**, discord, and disaster any more

Discipleship
Notes:

than it is manifest in human sin. Our present world does not reflect the kingdom order He originally intended for man's enjoyment on Earth, nor does it reflect God's kingdom as it shall ultimately be experienced on this planet. Understanding this, we should be cautious not to attribute to "God's will" or to "acts of God" those characteristics of our world that resulted from the ruin of God's original order by reason of man's fall.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:16-17; Genesis 3:16-24

We should NOT ignore any part of **The Gospel**. Pause to reflect on what **The Gospel** means:

KEY WORD: Gospel

The Greek words that are relevant for a study of "**Gospel**" are *eunangelion* (good news) and *euangelizo* (to share the good news). In most New Testament uses, "**The Gospel**" is the sum total of the saving truth about Jesus as it is communicated to lost humanity. **The Gospel** is called the good news about Jesus. (Memorize the definition of **Gospel**.)

Mark 1:1

- 1) *The beginning of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*
- 2) *As it is written in the prophets: Behold, I send my messenger*
- 3) *Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight*

Spirit-Filled Life Bible Notes: Mark 1:1

The comparative "as" links "THE BEGINNING" of The Gospel with the announcement of the prophets (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1). Isaiah is the primary prophet who foretold the day of the Lord. In light of this, read Isaiah 53:4-5 on "His Sufferings and Substitutionary Atonement" which was a part of the "Gospel message" as well.

It is also called **The Gospel** of God:

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle, separated to The Gospel of God.

Discipleship

Notes:

Romans 15:16

That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering **The Gospel** of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 11:7

Did I commit sin in humbling myself that I might be exalted because I preached **The Gospel** of God to you free of charge.

I Thessalonians 2:9

For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day that we might not be a burden to any of you. We preached to you **The Gospel** of God.

I Thessalonians 2:11-13

- 11) As you know how we exhorted and comforted, and charged everyone of you, as a father does his own children
- 12) that you should walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- 13) For this reason we also thank God without ceasing because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also works in you who **believe**.

I Timothy 1:11

According to the glorious **gospel** of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

I Corinthians 9:12

If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder **The Gospel** of Christ.

II Corinthians 2:12

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's **Gospel**, and a door was opened to me by the Lord.

II Corinthians 10:14

For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with **The Gospel** of Christ.

DiscipleshipNotes:*Galatians 1:6-7*

- 6) *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different **Gospel***
 7) *which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to prevent **The Gospel** of Christ.*

Spirit-Filled Life Bible Notes: Galatians 1:6-7

*The news of the Galatians is not of progress but of regression. They are deserting Christ for a different (Greek, heteron, "another of a different kind") **Gospel**, which is not another (Greek, aslo, "another of the same kind"). There is only one **Gospel**, and what the Judaizers preached was a perversion of it.*

Amplified: Galatians 3:4-5

Have you suffered so many things in vain, if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He (God) that ministereth to you the Spirit (the Spirit is the miracle worker) and worketh miracles among you, doeth He it by the works of the law, or by the hearing (message) of faith? Even as Abraham believed God.

Moffatt's: Galatians 3:4-5

*When He supplies you with the Spirit, and works miracles among (in: Gabeliein) you, is it because you do what the law commands, or because you **believe The Gospel Message**? Why it is as with Abraham, he had faith.*

Again, in this passage God tells us that He works miracles upon our BODIES in exactly the SAME WAY as upon our SOULS and that is, by having us hear and believe **The Gospel Message**. In fact, God's way of doing anything is by making promises and then by fulfilling them whenever they produce faith. Receiving **The Gospel Message** of Christ is the way unto **salvation** in all phases. Bosworth

Romans 1:16-17

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

Quoted from Habakkuk 2:4, it means that the just must live by continued faith, and go from faith to faith as **light** is received (1 John 1:7). Dakes

DiscipleshipNotes:

So **The Gospel** is called the “good news” about Jesus (Mark 1:1), and the “**Gospel** of God” (Romans 1:1, 15:16, II Corinthians 11:7, I Thessalonians 2:8-9, I Timothy 1:11), and the “**Gospel** of Christ” (I Corinthians 9:12, II Corinthians 2:12, 10:14, Galatians 1:7, I Thessalonians 3:2, II Thessalonians 1:8), and “**Gospel** of our salvation” (Ephesians 2:13).
Bosworth

Ephesians 2:13

*In Him you also trusted, after you HEARD the word of truth, **The Gospel** of your SALVATION; in whom also, HAVING BELIEVED you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*

The Full Gospel

Again, the FULL **Gospel** . . . we should NOT ignore any PART of it. After being sufficiently ENLIGHTENED, our ATTITUDE toward sickness should be the same as our attitude toward sin. Our purpose to have our body healed should be as DEFINITE as our purpose to have our soul healed. We should not ignore any PART of **The Gospel** (remember Mark 1:1). Our Substitute bore both our **sins** and our **sicknesses** that we might be delivered from them. Bosworth

KEY TRUTH

Spirit-Filled Life Bible: Matthew 8:16-17

- 16) *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon possessed and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick,*
17) *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying: He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.*

**The Biblical grounds for divine healing,
the provision of divine healing . . .**

Healing must rest on clear grounds. Obviously it is Biblically based, but from what source is this great mercy of God derived? Some link it to just that - God's mercy. While that is certainly a truth - for His compassion is great - the question at issue is this: What are the redemptive grounds of divine healing? Is healing included in God's saving provision in Christ, or is it simply a loving gesture of His benevolent characteristic? This text, together with our next text in Isaiah

Discipleship
Notes:

53:4-5, gives clear evidence for divine healing as being provided in the atonement of Christ's redeeming work on the cross. To avoid this truth some suggest that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled completely by the healings of that one day. Such would be impossible, for the prophecy of Isaiah states that the servant of YAHWEH would bear sickness in the same way that He would bear sins - that is; vicariously. Furthermore, He was to suffer for our sins and sicknesses. If "our" means all of us in regard to our sin and our being given a Savior, then it also means all of us in regard to sickness and our having a divine healer (see Mark 1:40-45).

Matthew 4:23-25/Mark 1:40-45

KEY TRUTH

Spirit-Filled Life Bible: Isaiah 53:4-5

- 4) *Surely He has borne our grief (sicknesses) and carried our sorrows (pains) yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*
- 5) *But He was wounded for our transgressions He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

Healing Prophesied through Christ's Atonement

Isaiah 53 clearly teaches that bodily healing is included in the atoning work of Christ, His suffering, and His cross. The Hebrew words for "grief" and "sorrows" specifically mean physical affliction. This is verified in the fact that Matthew 8:17 says this Isaiah text is being exemplarily fulfilled in Jesus healing people of human sickness and other physical need.

Further, that the words "borne" and "carried" refer to Jesus' atoning work on the cross is made clear by the fact that they are the same words used to describe bearing our sins (see verse 11; also I Peter 2:24). These texts unequivocally link the grounds of provision for both our salvation and our healing to the **atoning work** of Calvary. Neither is automatically appropriated however; for *each* provision - a soul's eternal salvation or a person's temporal physical healing - must be received by **faith**. Christ's work on the cross makes each possible: simple faith receives each as we choose. Remember "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

DiscipleshipNotes:

Incidentally, a few contend that Isaiah's prophecy about sickness was fulfilled completely by the one-day healings described by Matthew 8:17. A close look, however, will show that the word "fulfill" often applies to an action that extends throughout the whole church age. (Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 12:14-17.)

Psalm 107:20/Matthew 4:23-25

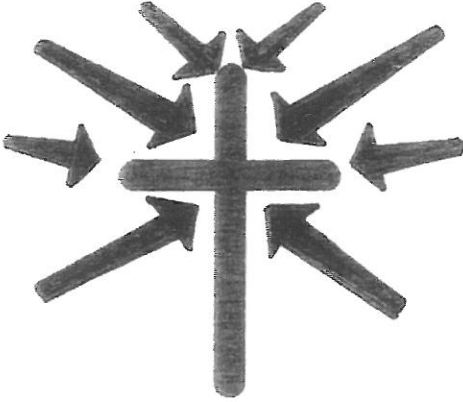
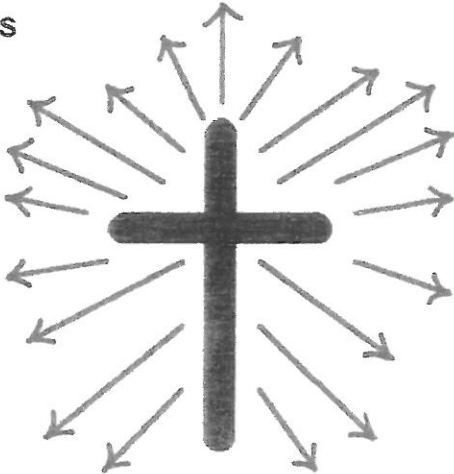
Remember "has borne . . . carried" are verbs that mean "to take upon oneself" and are obvious references to vicarious sufferings, griefs, and sorrows . . . These nouns have reference to sicknesses both spiritual and physical. The servant's suffering is part of God's providential plan. "Transgressions . . . iniquities" are literally wickedness and rebellion. "Our," the pronoun is emphatic, He suffered not for Himself but for mankind's sins and sicknesses (verse 6), stripes . . . healed. Peter sees this as referring to Christ on the cross . . . Oh The BLOOD OF JESUS!

1 Peter 2:24-25

- 24) *Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.*
- 25) *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and overseer of your souls.*

Spirit-Filled Life Bible Notes

In verse 21, Christ is our example "for to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps;" but here in verses 24-25, He is our **Redeemer**. Christ's vicarious death makes possible our response of death to sin (repentance) and life for God (**righteousness**). This is New Testament Christian conversion in its broadest application, which Peter describes when he says "**by whose stripes you were healed.**" Peter's intent in quoting Isaiah 53:5 is to show that **personal wholeness - mental, psychological, physical, and spiritual** - flows from this conversion.

<p style="text-align: center;">NKJ</p> <p>By His Stripes we are healed I Peter 2:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOFFATT</p> <p>The blows that fell on Him have brought us healing I Peter 2:24</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 53:4-5</p> <p>Surely He has borne OUR griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried OUR sorrows and pains (of punishment), yet we (ignorantly) considered Him stricken, smitten, afflicted by God (as if with leprosy; Matt 8:17). But He was wounded for OUR transgressions, He was bruised for OUR guilt and iniquities; the chastisement (needful to obtain) peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes (that wounded) Him we are healed and made whole.</p>
<p>By His Stripes by Hugh Jeter</p> <p>Many cases could be cited of those who have been instantly healed while taking Communion. Moffatt's translation of Isaiah 53:5 says: "The blows that fell to Him have brought us healing." Let us not forget this benefit. The atonement was complete, not partial. Don't fail to get the full benefit provided by our Lord at such an awful cost! Satan has no right to lay on us that which has already been laid on Christ. When he tries to do so, resist him with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The atonement of Christ makes possible our redemption. We are redeemed from the curse of both sin and sickness."</p>		
<p>PONDER</p> <p>I once heard an evangelist tell of a poor European who wanted to immigrate to the United States. After some years of saving his money, he was able to get enough together to pay for steerage passage on a ship bound for America. He took along with him some food that would not spoil during the trip. While the other passengers were eating in the dining room, he would go off by himself and eat his crackers and cheese. Near the end of the trip he was so tired of this fare and the smells from the dining room were so tempting, that he got up the courage to ask one of the ship's stewards how much it would cost to get a warm meal. The steward looked at him and said, "You have your ticket, don't you?" "Yes," the man answered. "Well, your meals are all included in the price of your ticket." Think of all this poor man had missed simply because he didn't KNOW of the benefit that was his, that had already been bought and paid for! Let us not overlook any of the benefits our Lord has purchased for us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all His benefits who forgives all your iniquities and heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:2-3</i></p>		
<p>The BLOOD of JESUS</p> <p>By His Stripes we are healed I Peter 2:24</p> <p>Stripes; literally bruise; only here in the New Testament; meaning a bloody wale which arises under a blow. Vincent</p>		<p>Just as the Fall of man introduced sickness as a part of the curse, the Cross of Christ has opened a door to healing as a part of salvation's provision. Healing encompasses God's power to restore broken hearts, broken homes, broken lives, and broken bodies. Suffering assumes a multiplicity of forms, but Christ's BLOOD not only covers our sin with redemptive love; His stripes release a resource of healing at every dimension of our need.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Nathaniel Van Cleave</p>

DiscipleshipNotes:

So you see our Substitute both BORE our sins and sicknesses that we might be delivered from them. Christ's BEARING of our SINS and SICKNESSES is surely a valid reason for **trusting** Him **NOW** for deliverance from both. When in prayer, we definitely commit to God the forgiveness of **sins**, we are to **believe**, on the authority of His Word, that our prayer is heard. We are to do the same when praying for healing.

After being sufficiently enlightened by the promises of God, then, by simply **believing** that our prayer is heard, before we have yet experienced the answer, as Jesus commanded in Mark 11:24, "therefore I say to you whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe** that you receive them, and you will have them." And following this with the observance of Hebrews 10:35-36, "therefore do not cast away your **confidence** which has great reward. For you have need of **endurance** so that after you have done the will of God, you may **receive** the **promise**." It is God's will for every Christian to successfully practice Hebrews 6:11-12. Bosworth

Divine Promise

Again, let's look at what actually constitutes a **promise**.

Samuel Johnson's answer is, "a promise is the **declaration** of some **benefit** to be conferred."

Webster's dictionary gives us this:

1. One's pledge to another to do or not to do something specified; narrowly, a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a **right to expect** or to **claim** the performance or forbearance of a specified act.
2. Ground for **hope**, **expectation** or the **assurance**, often specified of eventual success. Lockyer

Between the time we definitely commit to God the healing of our body, and the completion of our healing, we can, and should learn one of the most valuable lessons of our Christian life. And that lesson is, how to observe Hebrews 10:35-36:

- 35) *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.*
- 36) *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.*

Discipleship
Notes:

Only divine promises can make our **faith** steadfast (remember the definition of promise). **This applies to whatever promise God has given us and whatever blessing we are seeking to experience.** After Jonah had prayed for mercy, he did not cast away his confidence because there was no **visible** proof that his prayer was answered. Actually he called his circumstances “lying vanities” and said that those who *regard* them **forsake** their own mercy” (KJV). Bosworth

He held fast his **confidence** and added to it, **in advance**, the sacrifice of thanksgiving (Jonah 2:9).

Jonah 2:7-10: Amplified Bible

- 7) *When my soul fainted upon me (crushing me), I earnestly remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple.*
- 8) *Those who **observe lying vanities** (pay regard to false, useless, and worthless idols) forsake their own (source of) mercy and lovingkindness.*
- 9) *But as for me, I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation and deliverance belong to the Lord!*
- 10) *And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*

Yes, Jonah held fast his confidence and added to it, in advance, the sacrifice of thanksgiving. In Hebrews 13:15 the Holy Spirit commands us all to do this **“continually;”** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Bosworth

God’s promises work their wonders while we “see” and act on **eternal realities** (on that which He has accomplished on our behalf, His promises, our standing, His faithfulness, etc). Isaiah 53:4-5, I Peter 2:24, Matthew 8:17, II Corinthians 5:21, and Ephesians 2:6 are all eternal realities.

II Corinthians 4:17-18

- 17) *For our light affliction which is for but a moment is **working for us** a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*
- 18) ***While** we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.*

DiscipleshipNotes:

We must refuse to be affected by **temporal** things to the contrary of God's Word. God always fulfills His promises when He can get the right cooperation. He always accepts us and undertakes for us when we observe Mark 11:24 and Hebrews 10:35-36. "He came to give us life and life more abundantly" (John 10:10; see notes in *Spirit-Filled Life Bible*).

Comprehensive Instructions Proverbs 4:20-24

- 20) My son, **give attention** to My words; *incline your ear to My sayings.*
- 21) **Do not let** them depart from your eyes; **keep** them in the midst of your heart;
- 22) *for they are life to those who **find** them, and health (medicine) to all their flesh (health: physical, psychological, and spiritual, NIV Study Bible)*
- 23) **keep** your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life.

In this passage of Proverbs, from the 20th to the 22nd verses, we have the **most comprehensive** instructions as to **how** to receive healing:

- 1) **attend My words**
- 2) **incline** thine ear unto My sayings
- 3) let them **not depart** from thine eyes
- 4) **keep** them in the midst of thine heart
- 5) for they are life unto those who **find** them, and
- 6) **health** to **all** their flesh.

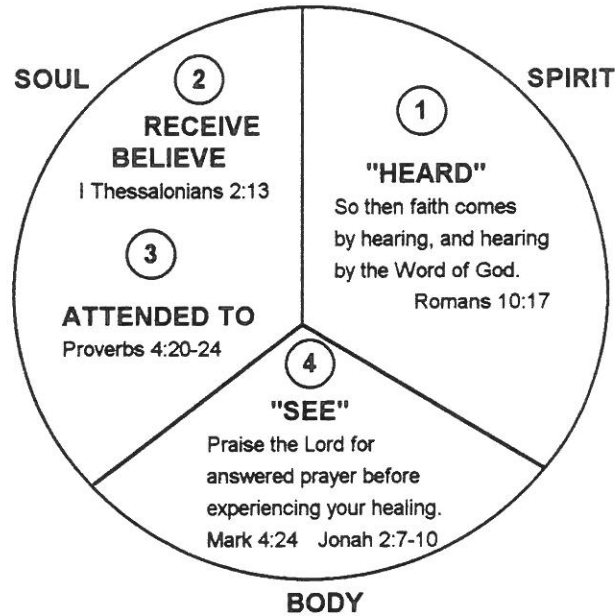
The Word of God cannot be health to either soul or body before it is:

heard

received, and

attended to.

Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would "see" the glory of God?
John 11:40



Foundational Series by Derek Prince

This truth of physical healing through God's Word is even more fully stated in Proverbs 4:20-22, where God says:

*My son, give attention to My words; incline your ear to My sayings.
Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;
For they are life to those who find them and health (medicine) to all their flesh.*

What promise of physical healing could be more all inclusive than that: . . . *health to all their flesh*. Every part of our entire physical frame is included in this phrase. There is nothing omitted. Furthermore, in the margin of the 1611 King James Version, the alternative reading for "health" is "medicine." The same Hebrew word includes both shades of meaning. Thus God here has committed Himself to providing complete physical healing and health.

Notice the introductory phrase at the beginning of verse 20: *My son*. This indicates that God is here speaking to His own believing children. In Matthew 15:26, we read that a Syro-Phoenician woman came to Christ to plead for the healing of her daughter, and that Christ replied to her request by saying, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

By these words Christ indicated that healing is the children's bread; in other words, it is part of God's appointed daily portion for all His children. It is not a luxury for which they have to make special pleas, and which may or may not be granted them. No, it is their "bread," part of their basic, appointed daily provision from their heavenly Father. This agrees exactly with the passage which we have read in Proverbs 4, where God's promise of perfect healing and health is addressed to every believing child of God. Both in Psalm 107 and in Proverbs 4, the means by which God provides healing is His Word.

Discipleship
Notes:

Again, please notice here that the words of God are life **only** to those who "**find**" them. If you want to receive life and healing from God, **take time** to "**FIND**" the words of scripture which promise these results. This is the divine method of receiving the blessings which God **hath** provided for us (Ephesians 1:3).

God says that **when we do** as we are told in scripture, His words are made "**health to all our flesh.**" Whose flesh? Those who "find" and "attend" to the words of God **on the subject.**" This is the exact way that the Word of God **becomes** health to the **soul.** Bosworth

For they are life to those who find them, healing and health (medicine) to all their flesh. Amplified Version

Cannot Look Two Ways At Once

In this comprehensive passage, God tells us exactly how to "attend" to His words. He says, "let them not depart from thine eyes, **keep** them in the midst of thine heart." Instead of having your eyes on your symptoms and being **occupied** with them, let not God's words "depart from thine eyes." That is, look at them continually and, like Abraham, "wax strong in faith" by **looking at the promises** of God and nothing else. As the only way seed can do its work is by being "kept" in the ground, so the only way that God's "imperishable seed" can "**effectively work in us**" is by its being **kept** in the midst of our heart." This does not mean occasionally but **continuously.** Bosworth

1 Thessalonians 2:13; KJV & Amplified

*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the message of God (Word of God) which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of (mere) men, but as it truly is, the Word of God, which is **effectually** at work in you who **believe** (exercising its super-human power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it)*

*Notes: **effectual; energeo***

*Strong's 1754; one of the four big energy words: **energeo, energeis, energia, and energema.** The words all stem from en, "in", and ergon, "work" and have to do with the **active operation or working of power and its effectual results.***

DiscipleshipNotes:**Must Do As Farmers Do**

When we **attend** unto God's Words by not letting them depart from before our eyes and by **keeping** them in the midst of our hearts, the seed is in "good ground," the kind of ground in which Jesus says, "it bringeth forth fruit," and where Paul says as we have just seen, "it effectually worketh." When the farmer gets his seed into the ground, he does not dig it up everyday to "see" how its doing, but says, "I am glad that is settled" and **believes** the seed has **begun** its work. Why not have the same faith in the "**imperishable seed**" (I Peter 1:23). Christ's words which He says are "**spirit and life**" (John 6:63) and believe that they are already doing their work, without "waiting" to "see." If the farmer, without any definite promise, can have faith in nature, why can't we, the Christian, have faith in the God of nature.

The Psalmist said, "Thy word hath quickened me." Paul tells us that it is the **Word** which effectually worketh in them that **believe**. Every Word of God is "spirit and life" and will work in us when we **receive** and "attend" to it. When we **receive** and **obey** the Word of God, we can say with Paul "the power of God worketh in me mightily." Thus the **Word** of God becomes the **power** of God. It is "spirit and life." If a **field** in which the **seed** has been **sown** could talk to us, it would say, "the seed worketh in me mightily."
Bosworth

I Corinthians 3:7, 9

*For we are God's fellow workers and you are God's field . . .
I planted, Apollos watered but God gave the **increase** . . .*

The Parable of the Growing Seed

Mark 4:26-29 NIV Study Bible

*He (Jesus) also said, this is what the kingdom of God is like; a man scatters **seed** on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the **seed sprouts** and **grows**, though he does not **know** how. All by itself the **soil produces grain** - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the **grain is ripe**, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest is come.*

NIV Study Notes

*Only Mark records this PARABLE. Whereas the PARABLE of the sower stresses the importance of the **proper soil for the growth of seed** and the success of the harvest, here the mysterious power of the **seed itself** is emphasized. **The Gospel Message** contains its own power.*

Discipleship
Notes:

Dakes: Seven Reasons for Using Parables

1. To **reveal truth** in interesting form and create more interest (Matthew 13:10-11, 16).
2. **Make known new truths** to interested hearers (Matthew 13:11-12, 16-17).
3. **Make known mysteries;** comparison with things already known (Matthew 13:11).
4. **Conceal truth** from disinterested hearers and rebels at heart (Matthew 13:11).
5. **Add truth** to those who **love it and want more** of it (Matthew 13:12).
6. **Take truth away** from those who hate and do not want it (Matthew 13:12).
7. To **fulfill** prophecy (Matthew 13:14-17, 35).

NOTE: A mystery is a secret previously **hidden** but now **made clear** so that no mystery remains for anyone who will **accept the truth as revealed** (verse 19, II Corinthians 4:3-4).

Now read the parable of a lamp on a stand and the growing seed together and ask yourself what new truths about the power of God's Word has the Lord **revealed to you "personally."**

Mark 4:21-29: Amplified Bible

- 21) *And He (Jesus) said to them, "Is the lamp brought in to be put **under** a peck measure or under a bed, and not (to be put) on the lampstand?"*
- 22) *(Things are hidden temporarily only as a means of revelation). For there is nothing hidden except to be **revealed**, nor is anything (temporarily) kept secret except in order that it may be made known.*
- 23) *If any **man** has ears, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend."*
- 24) *And He said to them, "Be careful what you are hearing. The measure (of thought and study) you **give** (to the truth you hear) will be the measure (of virtue and knowledge) that comes back to you - and more (besides) will be given to you who hear.*
- 25) *For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away (by force)."*
- 26) *And He also said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who **scatters seed** upon the ground.*

Discipleship
Notes:

- 27) *And then continues sleeping and rising night and day while the **seed sprouts and grows and increases** - he knows not how.*
- 28) *The earth produces (acting) by itself - first the blade, then the ear, then the full grown grain in the ear.*
- 29) *But when the grain is ripe and permits, immediately he sends forth (the reapers) and puts in the sickle, because the HARVEST (Webster's: **product of labor**) stands ready."*

KEY PRINCIPLE

NIV Study Notes

- Verse 25** Whoever has will be given more. The more we **appropriate truth now**, the more we will receive in the future. *And if we do not respond to what little truth we may know already, we will not profit even from that (See Hebrews 2:4 Dakes).*
- Verses 26-29** Only Mark records this parable. Whereas the parable of the sower stresses the importance of proper soil for the growth of seed and the success of the harvest, here the mysterious power of the seed itself is **emphasized**. *The Gospel* contains its own power (For more depth see NIV Notes on Mark 4:1-33).

KEY TRUTH

Spirit-Filled Life Bible Notes

- Verse 21** This parable stresses the need of **PROPER HEARING** in terms of **RECEIVING BLESSING** (verse 24) or judgment (verse 25).
- Verse 22** Precious items, such as jewelry and silverware are kept concealed until the proper time for their use. In the same way, certain aspects of divine truth may be reserved for **full manifestation** later, after the ascension of Christ. Jesus taught in parables, not for the ultimate purpose of concealing the truth, but to hide the truth temporarily from His enemies. He then charged His disciples with the ultimate responsibility of **bringing it into the open**.
- Verse 23** Jesus exhorts them to hear and to heed His admonition

DiscipleshipNotes:

Verse 24-25 Jesus appeals for spiritual perception. Those who **receive** and **assimilate truth** will have their **capacity for understanding** enlarged and **their knowledge increased**. Those who **DISBELIEVE** or are **INDIFFERENT** will lose whatever ability for understanding they had, and therefore will continue in **ignorance**.

Verse 26 This parable is unique to Mark and teaches the supernatural character of God's kingdom. Man is **responsible** for sowing the kingdom message, but only God can produce **effects**. In the final analysis, it is totally His deed.

Three Essential Things

Back to Proverbs 4:20-23

- 20) My son **GIVE ATTENTION** to my words; **INCLINE** your ear to my sayings.
- 21) **DO NOT** let them depart from your eyes; **KEEP** them in the midst of your heart
- 22) for they are life to those who **FIND** them and healing and health (medicine) to all their flesh.
- 23) **KEEP** your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

This passage in Proverbs shows us the **method** of **obtaining** results from the promises of God's word:

- 1) There must be **the attentive ear**; "Incline thine ear unto my sayings."
- 2) There must be the **steadfast** look; "let them not depart from thine eyes."
- 3) There must be **the ensuring heart**; "keep them in the midst of thine heart."

When your eyes are upon your symptoms and your mind is **OCCUPIED** with them **MORE THAN** with God's Word you have in the ground the wrong kind of **SEED FOR THE HARVEST** that you desire. You have in the ground seeds of doubt. **YOU ARE TRYING TO RAISE ONE KIND OF CROP FROM ANOTHER KIND OF SEED**. It is impossible to sow tares and reap wheat (Galatians 6:6-8). Your symptoms may point you to death but God's Word points you to life, and you cannot look in these opposite directions at the same time. Bosworth

DiscipleshipNotes:**Which Kind of Seed Have You?**

Which kind of seed have you in the ground? "Let not God's Word depart from thine eyes; keep it in the midst of thine heart." That is, look **steadfastly** and **continuously** and only at the evidence God gives for your faith (belief). The Word of God and God says to **all** incurables, "everyone that looketh shall live" Numbers 21:8 (Amplified). The word "looketh" is in the continuous present tense. It does not mean a mere glance, but it means, "Let His Words not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart."

The motives that call for our attention are exceedingly powerful. It is **our heavenly Father** who speaks. "**My son** give attention to My words . . ." all heaven is behind His words. The things which are spoken are of quickening and invigorating virtue. They are life to such who **find** them, and healing and health (medicine) not only to the **soul**, but to the **body**; not to a **particular part of it**, but to "ALL THEIR FLESH."

A medicine **effectual** to the cure of a single member of the body might make the inventor wealthy. Here is a **medicine** for all the flesh - from your head to your feet. Here is a Physician of infinite ability - "who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3). Bosworth

KEY TRUTH***Spirit-Filled Life Bible Psalm 103:1-3***

- 1) *Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!*
- 2) *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits;*
- 3) *Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,*

God's Saving and Healing Benefit

This is a definite Old Testament promise of bodily healing based upon the character of Yahweh as the Healer. It is clear that the dimension of healing promised here is specifically to include physical wholeness. The text reinforces the healing covenant, since the Hebrew word *tachawloo* (diseases) is from the same root (*chawlah*) as the word for "disease" in Exodus 15:26 (*makhaleh*). Further, the words for "heal" are the same in both passages (Hebrew *rapha*), the distinct meaning involving the idea of mending or curing. The two texts form a strong bond (Deuteronomy 19:15; II Corinthians

DiscipleshipNotes:

13:1). These two verses bear witness from the Old Testament that the Lord not only forgives iniquities; HE HEALS OUR DISEASES. If, under the former covenant, bodily healing was pointedly included with the Father's many other benefits, we can rejoice and rest in faith. The New Covenant "glory" exceeds everything of the Old (II Corinthians 3:7-11), and we can be certain that God, in Christ, has made a complete provision for the well-being of our total person.

Psalm 91:9-10; Psalm 107:20

William Wilson's Old Testament: heal; *rapha*

To heal diseases of all kinds (Psalm 103:3), particularly wounds by outward application, and binding or sewing: Ezekiel 30:21, to heal a distressed nation or person by restoring them to prosperous circumstances; to heal in a moral sense; to cure the mind, to pardon the soul. "Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases."

The Evidence of Things Not Seen

After you have planted your seed, you BELIEVE it is GROWING before you SEE it grow. THIS IS FAITH which is "the evidence of things not seen (Mark 4:6-29, Hebrews 11:1). In Christ, we have perfect **evidence** for faith. Any man or woman can get rid of their **doubts** by **looking steadfastly** and **only** at the evidence which God has given for **our faith**. "Seeing" only what God says will **produce** and **increase** faith. This will make it easier to **believe** than to **doubt**; for the evidences for faith are so much stronger than those for doubting.

What a means of blessing is the look of faith to Christ. There is life, light, liberty, love, joy, guidance, wisdom, understanding, perfect health - in fact **everything** in a steadfast look at "**the Crucified One**." Bosworth

No one ever looks in vain to the Great Physician, Jehovah-Rapha. "Everyone" that looked at the brazen serpent - the type of Christ - lived. "And their faces were not ashamed," says the psalmist. They were all, **humanly speaking**, incurable, but they were both forgiven and healed by "looking." He who trusts Christ has no need to be ashamed of his confidence. Time and eternity will both justify **his reliance**. Bosworth

Discipleship
Notes:

Can you trust Him, Jehovah-Rapha, for the healing of your body as well as your soul? Have you come to know Him in this aspect of His glory?

Jehovah, our God and Savior Jesus, wants to reveal His glory. The name Jehovah is derived from the Hebrew verb *havah*, meaning "to be" or "being." The idea is that of existence - self-existence. Thus, **Jehovah** is the Eternal Self-Existent One, without beginning and without end.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
Hebrews 13:8, Revelation 4:8

There are some Hebrew scholars who see in the word *havah* part of the verb "to become," and a verb of becoming does not necessarily mean "coming into being," or "coming into existence," but rather "*becoming something to someone.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ is "**The Becoming One**" in the sense that He becomes what His people need. **The significance of the name Jehovah is in the revelation of God, becoming to His people what they need in order to supply that need.** In the need you have presently, He wants you to come to know Him as Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord your Healer.

Before you go on to the questions, in the Study Guide, look over the panorama of "The Ministry of Divine Healing" as it will help you 'see' the significant place physical healing has throughout all of scripture.

The questions have been prepared to help you assimilate and digest the truths in this narrative. Please go through them 'prayerfully' and 'reflectively' trusting the Holy Spirit as your Guide and Illuminator of all Truth.