

Divine Healing for You

Mark 11: 23, 24:

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. ²⁴Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

According to what Jesus said in Mark 11: 23, a person can have what they say, ***and actually end up with what they continually confess and believe will take place***. It shouldn't be difficult to believe or understand this for us who have received salvation, because we got saved through the confession of faith. According to Romans 10: 9, 10, confession is made unto salvation (**⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**). If we really believe that Jesus Christ is Who the scriptures say He is, and if we willingly, and from our heart, make a public confession that we receive Him as our Lord and Savior, that's how we are born-again. For a verse 13 says, **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

So, if one can receive salvation through what they believe in their heart and confess with their mouth based on the written Word of God, one can also receive anything else that has been promised in the Word. What makes confession work is what you believe, and if what you believe is scriptural, and if you maintain a scriptural confession, you can receive anything that is promised in God's Word. Hebrews 10: 23 says, **Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering...**

For instance, if a person were ill, or if they had a mental problem, they could go to God's promises by opening up their Bible and finding scriptures that promise them divine healing. They would then confess those scriptures until that healing manifested. For instance, you could take 1 Peter 2 :24 and continually confess that by His stripes, you were healed. And, instead of talking sickness and disease, just continually say what the promises of God say about you. The Word of God doesn't promises sickness; it promises us healing.

One night, when I was ministering on faith and divine healing in a church service, a dear sister in the Lord approached me after the service and seemed to be extremely angry at what I had just taught. I had taught on receiving healing through confessing God's Word. This lady had been saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit for years, according to her testimony, and since she had been saved, she had been taught to some degree about healing, and believed in it. The way she believed was, ***"If it is God's will, I could receive divine healing."***

I felt in my heart that one of the reasons that this lady was so angry about what I had taught was because in this one service, the fact that it was **her** responsibility to receive her healing by taking the Word of God and applying it to her life was dumped into her lap. After all, she was no longer a baby Christian, or a carnal Christian, or a sinner. So therefore, God required her to use her faith. It wasn't that she couldn't be healed through some other scriptural method of receiving divine healing.

For instance, there is the gift of healing, as in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-8; and then, there's the anointing with oil as in James 5: 14-16. There are also special manifestations of the Holy Spirit, as in the Gospel of John, Chapter 5, with the pool of Bethesda being troubled. (Whoever stepped in first was healed of whatever they had.) There is also the prayer of agreement in Matthew 18: 19, and there's a prayer of faith in Mark 11: 24 and in John 16: 23, 24. There is the use of anointed cloths in Acts 19: 11& 12, as well as the fact that a person can receive communion and claim their healing by faith. But, no matter how you receive your healing, it's important to maintain a scriptural confession, by refusing to talk the curse because you've been redeemed from sickness and disease, according to Galatians 3: 13.

So, this dear lady said to me, *"You taught on divine healing as though it belongs to everyone and as though God wants everyone to be healed."* And while she was saying this, she reached into her purse and pulled out her medications. She proceeded to tell me that she had been taking fifteen prescriptions for seventeen years. And her question was, *"What am I supposed to do with this medicine, throw it away?"* Now, I had an inward witness in my heart that this woman had done everything she could to stay sick, because of all the attention she was getting from her husband, family, and others. She controlled her whole family and household with her ailment.

And granted, sometimes the Word of faith can come across to others as an arrogant message. And if that has taken place from my ministry to you in any way, I apologize, because that was not intended. We are not to do anything to purposely offend others. Still, we must not compromise the message, just because others may be offended. We must teach the Word in season and out. For, once a minister begins to compromise and to fear what others may think, they then live with the guilt of compromising God's Word in order to please others. Jesus set the example of paying the ultimate price by not compromising. We all must love God and prove to Him that we do by accepting what His Word says about us and by conforming to it. It's not easy to forgive and walk in love, but because God's Word says to do it, we have to do it.

The gospel message is offensive and it's usually offensive to religious teachings, customs, religious doctrines and many times, to our feelings and emotions. Satan wants to cause people to get offended to keep them from receiving all that God has for them. Some of the greatest blessings that I have in my life today start from the new birth, and go all the way to prosperity. At first, the message offended me, and even made me angry and upset. But if we will allow the Holy Spirit to work on our hearts, we will become open and receptive to the will and Word of God. But sadly, some people choose to hold fast to their religious upbringing and reject the blessings and truth of God's Word.

But, there are people looking for a reason to stay sick, just as there are people looking for a reason not to get saved, for whatever the reason may be. For Jesus asked the crippled man, "***Wilt thou be made whole?*** " It was up to this man, *and not God*, whether he was going to receive his healing or not. It is called, '*believe and accept*'. First, one has to believe. In this instance, he had to believe that it was God's will to heal him. Second, one has to accept it, which is called, '*receive it by faith*', just as with salvation. And until a person really believes in their heart that it is God's will for them to be healed, they will never be able to accept or receive it, because they are double-minded, and are not fully persuaded that healing is God's will for them.

James 1: 5-8:

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Romans 4: 17-21:

¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

So, we as ministers, must never compromise the message, no matter how much we are misunderstood or persecuted. We must be bold in our message, whether it is salvation or divine healing, prosperity, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or any other of the new covenant promises that belong to us in Christ Jesus. That is one of the reasons that we've got so much confusion in the body of Christ today-- it's because the message is being compromised.

The dear sister was very proud to be able to boast how sick she was, what all the doctors had said, and how many times they had to increase her dosages; and she was proud of how she could bear all this pain and trauma. She was just absorbing all the attention she was getting through her sickness; her whole life **was** herself. If you get people like this talking, it is hard to get them to talk about something else. When you endeavor to change the subject, a selfish sufferer is always going to revert back to themselves in the conversation. They want you to listen to them, and them only. What usually makes these dear people angry about the Word of faith is that it exposes their real problem. Because, when you're taught the Word of faith and its fullness, and when you begin to apply it in your life, you realize right away that you have to make some

drastic changes in the area of your mouth and conversations, with your heart and unforgiveness... and the list just continually goes on. We just can't receive divine healing and continually trash other people with our mouths. This lady had pretty well made up her mind that the only people that she was going to love in this world were those who told her what she wanted to hear.

If you're going to please God in the ministry, you are not only going to have to walk in love with everyone and be full of compassion to the suffering humanity, you also have to have a boldness and courage to tell people the truth. There are times in our lives, as believers, that we don't like the truth; it upsets us. I know many times it has happened to me that I didn't like what the Lord told me that I needed to do or change. Sometimes, other people told me things that were true, and as I would begin to think about it, I knew in my heart that what I was told was right. We all have flesh, pride and ego, and there's something about us that we don't like to be corrected. And we have a choice to make when the Lord corrects us. We can swallow our pride and ego, and crucify the flesh in order to change the circumstances that we are confronted with. (And by the way, it isn't easy; there's nothing harder in life than to admit we were wrong and to make the necessary changes to rectify this situation). I know there are many times in my Christian life, or even in my ministry, I've been wrong and the Lord would show it to me, and I knew that I just had to change.

We live in this world, and every day of our lives, there are good influences, as well as evil influences. So therefore, we need God to show us the difference. Consequently, God is always going to be dealing with us about our conduct, our lives, and most of all, about our heart. He always wants us to be tenderhearted, totally submissive and obedient to Him; always walking in love, practicing forgiveness, preferring the brethren, putting God first in every area of our lives, and controlling our fleshly desires, because we never get to where we have arrived in our spiritual walk. We always have to examine the motives of our hearts, because even getting off a little and not correcting ourselves, it can get us over into the place that we are not walking or living in the perfect will of God.

So when we hear something we don't want to hear, we can act like a spoiled little child and run from the truth and responsibility over to someone who will coddle us and not be honest enough to tell us the whole truth. When I was a child, I acted like the little brat. My parents let me get by with it to some degree, but one of my brothers didn't. If he was around, he would make me pick up my clothes, and eat with my mouth shut and do what my mother told me to do. He seemed so mean to me, and I was so glad when he left to go to the Army. All those things that he drilled into me, I practice today. There are so many things that come to us in life that we don't like, but if we are going to grow and excel, we must make the necessary changes.

So when that dear lady asked me what she was supposed to do with her medications, I knew that no matter what I told her, she wasn't going to take it the right way. She was already offended at the faith message and this was just going to make her even more offended. I know why ministers back down and compromise their message to appease

others. It's because of all the problems it causes when you don't compromise the Word of God.

I said, "*Sister, every time you take your medication...*" She interrupted me and said, "*I have to take it several times a day,*" and she went off again, talking about how bad she was and how all the doctors said how sick she was. When she calmed down again, I said, "*Sister, every time you take your medicine, please, just lift your hands to the Lord and say, 'by His stripes, I was healed.'*"

You say, "*Brother Rich, why would the Lord have you tell her to say something like that?*" Well, in this instance, the reason was that she was going to have to do something to get her miracle. Many times in our lives, we've got to do something if we are going to receive our healing, or a miracle, or our prayer answered. We often have to do something we don't want to do, such as call someone up and apologize, or make some kind of restitution to someone that you wronged, or start loving someone that you didn't like-- Because we can get to be like Naaman (2 Kings, ch. 5). --We need a miracle, but we don't want to have to do what God just asked us to do to get it. So, whatever is producing the pride in our life will have to be eliminated first, before we get what we need from God.

Romans 8: 1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 John 3:20-23

²⁰For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. ²²And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

²³And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Deuteronomy 28:47

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, AND WITH GLADNESS OF HEART...

For some people to receive it, they've got to remove that blockage-- the blessing blockage. To do that is like plucking out an eye, or cutting off a hand. I know from experience that it is one of the hardest things to do in Christian life. You'll just be going along and suddenly, you'll be somewhere and God begins to show and reveal to you that you've got to make a correction. He's not going to cause something bad to happen to us, because He's our Father, and He's trying to protect us. There are pride busters that we need to install and activate in our lives. Those are things like:

- apologizing to others and saying, "*I was wrong,*"

- or by humbling yourself and washing someone else's feet,
- or by getting on your knees and lifting up your hands to God and worshiping Him, and
- just doing all those things that you know in your heart that need to be done.

She barked to back at me in her anger and said *"Well, I don't know what good **that** would do!"* I said, *"Sister, just do it, please, because I ask you."* Well, she walked away, more irritated at me than she was before. I remember feeling so sorry for her, and wishing I could have done more to help her. The human, emotional, religious response to the lady would have been, *"That's OK dear sister, you have to keep taking your medications and trusting the Lord. In His good time, if it's His will, He may heal you, who knows? I don't know why the Lord hasn't healed you-- these things we don't quite understand. Maybe it is just your cross to bear. But someday, if it be His will, in His good time, He may heal you. He may look over the banisters of heaven and say, 'I think I'll just heal this lady today.'"*

And that response would've gotten me off the hook and looking like a bad guy. She probably would have started supporting my ministry on a monthly basis! But something good did come out it-- about a month or so later, I was back at that church, preaching again. That same lady came up to me after the service and told me that she had been doing what I had told her to do (every time she took her medication, to lift up her hands and thank God that by His stripes she was healed). According to her, the doctor's office had called that day, and because of the examinations, tests, and lab work that had come back, they decided that it would be better to take her off of eight of the prescriptions that she had been taking for seventeen years! And her question to me was, *"What am I supposed to do with the rest of the medications that I am on?"*

I found myself talking to her as though she were a little child, and in a way I had never talked to her before. I said, *"My dear sister, every time you get ready to take your prescriptions, in faith, based on the Word of God, I want you to lift up your hands to the Lord and begin to thank God by saying, 'By His stripes and healed.'"* And do you know what the lady said back to me after God had just removed 8 of the prescriptions from her life that she had been taking every day for seventeen years? She said, *"I don't know what could that would do!"* I said, *"Sister, just do it because you believe in His Word and you love the Lord."*

I never got invited back to that church to preach, and as with a traveling ministry, you don't see many people again. It isn't like when you pastor a church and you're there to see the fruits come forth-- you just have to trust God and believe that the Word of God will not return void. You planted the seed, you hope that someone else comes around to water it so that God can give the increase.

We may not be somewhere where the gifts of healing are in manifestation, or where they anoint with oil, or where we have someone to agree with us in prayer, but whether we do or don't, we do have God's Word and if we continually say what the Word says about us to where we believe it in our heart, ***then the mountain will move and healing will manifest.***

The great thing about receiving divine healing through your confession of faith based on God's Word is that you know how you got it, and you know how to keep it! And you'll be able to teach it and share with others. You'll get so that you love the Word of faith message, because it's what God used to bring you over into victory through Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul said in Romans 10: 8, **The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, THE WORD OF FAITH, WHICH WE PREACH;**

So don't let the Word of faith offend you. Receive it as the message sent from God to help you in your walk with God.

Your partner in faith,

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