The key ingredient for one to walk in divine health is always to obey God in whatever He tells you or leads you to do. In order for us to do this, we must maintain a fervent daily prayer life. If Satan can ever persuade us not to obey God, he knows that we will no longer be dwelling in the secret place of the Most High, or living in the perfect will of God, or being protected by our shield of faith.

Ephesians 6:16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Romans 12:1, 2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Walking in the perfect will of God is like walking a tight rope. It's something that requires total concentration and focus on God and His Word. People don't realize that God is doing everything He can to protect us from Satan's attacks. He doesn't want any harm to come to us, but when we don't listen to the Lord, or obey Him for whatever the reason may be, the first thing we forfeit is our divine protection.

The devil was never able to put sickness on Jesus, or lay hands on Him through disaster until Jesus yielded over to the crucifixion. Jesus always walked in the God-kind of love and He always walked in the perfect will God.

John 15:13: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 6:38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 14:30: Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

John 10:17,18: Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Did you ever notice that when you walk in the God-kind of love and you're doing everything God told you or leads you to do, how much peace you've got your heart and how bold you are? Obedience produces the utmost confidence in a believer's life, so that no matter what happens, they have the confidence that God will get them through. And if you're born again, God has much bigger plans for you than you just attending church and helping out whenever the need arises. There's much more to Christian life than ‘Forsake not the assembly yourselves together.’ Most of us did that before we got saved. But you're not doing anything for God if that's all you're doing.
It's our responsibility, as believers, to seek the Lord and to put the time in prayer every day, so we can stay in tune with God spiritually and keep our conscience tender toward God. And whatever He leads or tells us to do, we need to obey Him.

A good scriptural illustration of what disobedience can do to God's people is found in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13:

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Hebrews 3:7-19: Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

An indication that a person really loves the Lord is that they have high regard for obeying God and they don't do anything to grieve the Spirit of God, or do anything that would sear their conscience from hearing from God, as we read about in 1 Timothy 4:2: Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

You know in your heart when God is leading you to do something, and you know immediately in your spirit when you just missed God. We need to do everything we can to correct the situation get back in His perfect will when we miss Him. Sometimes, we get confused about what to do, and that's an indication that we need to spend more time in prayer and fasting things of the world until we hear from God.
As a believer, the Holy Spirit is in our lives to reveal truth to us, to be our Comforter, to be our Guide, and that means that He wants to lead us -- and we should follow. But there are so many distractions in the world that if a person gets entangled with those things, it's more difficult for them to be led by the Spirit. When a person becomes carnal-minded and caught up with the things of the world, they lose their zeal and hunger for God, and they lose that spirit of wanting to please God. Then, they give up fighting the good fight of faith.

Once you get caught up with all those things, you have little or no interest in serving the Lord. One of the greatest services we can do for God in His kingdom is to put a lot of time into praying in the spirit. The more you and I pray, the more God has to work with to get His will accomplished here on this earth, and the more it benefits us when we pray, because it's easier for us to walk in love as well as for us to be spiritually-minded and not carnal-minded.

Romans 8:1-8: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither in deed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Overindulging in carnal activities to where your prayer life suffers and takes a hit is a very dangerous place to be or to stay. Satan is the god of this world, according to 2 Corinthians 4:3 & 4, and he comes only to steal, kill and destroy in our lives (John 10:10). We're in his world, so therefore, we need the whole armor of God to protect us, as we read in Ephesians 6:10-18: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jesus gave us authority over the devil and all evil spirits, as well as having defeated Satan for us. (Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17; Colossians 2:14, 15). So, it's important that we keep ourselves built up spiritually so we can claim our divine protection, divine health, and be able to resist the devil and for him to flee. James 4:7 says, Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. The opposite of this is, don't submit yourself to God and the devil won't flee.

Many things have happened to God's people that were never God's will. Those things brought destruction to them, as we read in 2 Corinthians 10 and Hebrews 3. It was never God's will for these things to happen to His people, but because they would not hearken unto
God's voice, or yield to it, they limited God from protecting them. It is like in the natural, when children don't obey their parents, they can suffer the consequences. God doesn't do anything bad to us, or cause anything bad to happen to us. Satan smote Job with boils and took his family from him in Job, chapters 1 and 2, simply because Job's hedge of protection was down:

**Job 2:7**: So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

The same is true in our lives. There are many things that open the door to the devil. In Job 3:25, we read what fear can do. In James 1, we see what double-mindedness can do, and in Galatians 6:7 & 8, we see what an out-of-control carnal life can do, as well as many other things, from unforgiveness, strife, bitterness, pride, to not doing the Word of God and being just a hearer only of God's Word.

God gave all of us these verses so we would have knowledge, and for a warning about how to avoid being taken captive by the enemy. Because of disobedience and lack of yielding to the voice of God, God's people become prey to the enemy's attacks. God sees and knows but everything, but we don't. He loves us and wants to protect us, so when He tells us to do something, or when we have an inward witness about something, the first thing that usually kicks in is our mind. Through logic and physical senses, our flesh, and Satan, we begin to question the importance of having to do what God wants us to do. And it can be a real challenge to your carnal nature to yield to the will of God, because our flesh usually hates to do anything that has anything to do with sacrificing to the will of God. Whatever we get in prayer, it's important that we follow through with it. The sooner we obey, the sooner we begin to reap the benefits and rewards that come to the individual who is totally obedient to the will of God.

Once, when I was doing a seminar in Florida, I overheard some people in the airport talking about the recent rise in shark attacks. It reminded me of how the devil operates. A person that's swimming in the ocean is in the sharks' territory. And without some kind of protection, there's a risk of being attacked, or being injured, harmed, or even killed. That's how we are as believers: When we get out of the will of God, we don't have the protection that we normally would have, simply because we've gotten over into disobedience, which is the enemy's territory.

Don't tell me that when things begin to happen in the area of hurt, harm or disaster, it doesn't get your attention! How many times we've allowed ourselves to get out of love and into strife and we have suffered some kind of consequences over it, all because we allowed ourselves to get out of love and didn't repent soon enough.

It's so important that you and I obey God, walk in love, and keep our prayer life to maintained in order for us to hear from God and walk in the God-kind of love. This way, our shield of faith can be in place to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. So, let's keep our hearts tender and obey God in every area of our lives, so we can enjoy divine health and protection.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

**Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers** (3 John 2).
Your Word of faith pastor,

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