

## Hidden Barriers To Healing

'Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for peace was upon Him and with the stripes (lashings of the whip) we are healed and made whole' (Isaiah 53:5).

'Pilate had Jesus whipped (scourged, flogged) then gave Him up to be crucified' (Matthew 27:26).

When Jesus was on earth, every time a sick person approached Him for healing, they were always healed. Some healings were in the body and some in the mind. Sometimes deliverance from an evil spirit was necessary, and sometimes a straightforward cure was needed. In every case, Jesus did exactly what was necessary in order for the person to be healed. There are so many scriptures about healing in both the Old and New Testaments, we cannot possibly look at all of them but we will look at just a few. Whenever a person asked if it was Jesus' will for them to be healed, Jesus always said it was His will and He told them to be healed (Luke 5:12 & 13). From what Jesus said, we can deduct that it is always God's will for people to be healed. However, in order to be healed, we need to meet God's strict conditions.

In all four Gospels, Jesus often healed people by simply speaking the word or touching the sick person. Some of the healings were different, in that the sick person needed to have evil spirits cast out of them in order for the healing to take place (Matthew 8:16), and there are many other scriptures about that form of healing. Jesus said, "When He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak of His own authority; but He will tell whatever He hears from the Father. He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will honour and glorify Me (Jesus) because He will take of what is Mine and will reveal it to you. Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He will take of what is Mine and reveal it to you" (John 16:13 to 15). Notice this important fact: the Holy Spirit is a 'He' not an 'it'. He is part of the Godhead. He is a Person and He wants to be treated and respected as a Person. Everything that the Father has, has been invested in the Son. Everything that the Father and the Son has, is utilised by the Holy Spirit. He is the Steward – the Keeper of the storehouse.

We need to face the fact, that although there are many wonderful healings in the church – not every person will receive healing. There have been thousands of divine healings in the church over the years – but there have also been a number of inexplicable deaths of God's choicest people that cannot be explained, and only God knows why, but we need to know within our hearts that (1) God is in control and (2) God knows what is best. 'The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all of the words of this Law' (Deuteronomy 29:29). There are two kinds of 'things' mentioned here: the secret or hidden things that belong to God and there are the revealed things; things that are revealed so Christians may do them. For example; God has called some people to be teachers of His Word, and to those people He reveals many nuances within the Bible so they may share them with others, and it is their responsibility to act on what God has shown them. There is no harm in asking God to reveal His will for our lives so we can work together in harmony and without confusion. It is truly edifying to the soul when God reveals small secrets to us. Knowing some of His secrets brings the Lord so very close to our hearts, just as it would – for example – if an earthly king revealed some of his ideas with his servants. God will only reveal what He wants us to know and will never overload us with information, so there is no danger in asking Him to reveal secrets. Hearing the secret things of God can be very, very exciting. With the Lord's help, we will reveal some hidden barriers to healing. If there are any barriers, they are not on God's side. When Jesus died, every barrier on God's side was removed. Through Jesus, we have unlimited access to God. In order to be able to receive healing, those barriers have to be cleared away. We will mention some of the most common barriers that can prevent people from receiving healing, and the solutions to those barriers. We also need to thank the Lord when He heals us, and He notices those who do thank Him and those who do not (Luke 17:12 to 19). When Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one came back to thank Him. They were all healed of the disease, but only the one who came back to thank Jesus had his body fully restored. Leprosy is a disease that causes the body to absorb the fingers and toes. That means the man's fingers and toes were restored by Jesus; so the nine who didn't thank Jesus didn't get any worse, but they didn't get any better

either. Only the thankful man was made whole. By that incident, we can see it is very important to thank the Lord for our healings. Scripturally, it is the only way to be healed and fully restored. We always thank Him in advance because that increases our faith.

Unforgiveness: Jesus said, "I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that it is granted to you and you will get it. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it go in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive your sins. If you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive you" (Mark 11:24 to 26). We can see in these verses that unforgiveness is a barrier to receiving answers to prayer. If we are praying and seeking God for a healing, then forgiveness may be the key so before we pray, we need to forgive. The words 'anything' and 'anyone' does not leave anything or anybody out. It literally includes anything that any person has done to offend or hurt us at any time in our lives. For God to ask us to forgive abusive parents, an unfaithful or abusive spouse, a vile paedophile or a drunk driver who ran over and killed our child, can be very, very difficult. Most of us have no more than a bossy sibling to deal with, but some of us have had the most dreadful experiences in our lives caused by evil people. Even so, we must forgive them. It is even harder to forgive and then honour a sadistic, abusive parent, but in God's Kingdom we must. We don't have to agree with everything parents do, but we must have an attitude of respect for them – even if they have died. We have no choice. We have to honour our father and mother no matter what they have done to us and we have to forgive them, for it is an essential requirement for our blessing in God. Forgiveness can be really hard, but for our sakes we have to forgive and allow God to heal our broken hearts, and let Him deal with our bad parents. Forgiving is not an emotion; it is a decision of our will. There are some people who blame God for a tragic event that may have happened, and in that case, we would have to forgive God. Forgiving is enlightened self interest; our prayers are answered, we are healed, we prosper, all will be well with us, we can have a long life and we can draw closer to God because there are no barriers.

Solution: Ask the Lord to help you to forgive anybody and everybody who has sinned against you; ask Him to reveal any unforgiveness in your life; speak out your forgiveness by faith – remember it is a matter of your will; ask God to forgive your unforgiveness; thank Him for His help in solving your problem of unforgiveness. The Lord may give you a specific name or bring to mind a specific situation. We could pray something like this: 'Holy Spirit, I ask You now to speak to my heart. Show me if there are any areas of bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness. I renounce it now. I lay it down. If anyone has ever harmed me or wronged me, by faith, I forgive them now as I would have God forgive me. In Jesus' Name, I ask Your help to forgive them. Thank you for my healing Lord. Amen.'

Ignorance: Ignorance of God's Word, His will and His promises. Many Christians are not aware of the teachings in the Word of God. 'My people go into bondage because they have no knowledge of God' (Isaiah 5:13). That is they have no deep, intimate knowledge of God and what Jesus accomplished on the cross. 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge' (Hosea 4:6).

Solution: We need to take the time to study God's Word and see what He is saying to us personally, so we need to set time aside every day to read the Bible. We are 'washed' and cleansed, just by reading His Word (Ephesians 5:26). We cannot rely solely on what we are taught in church because our pastors are only human, and cannot possibly teach us all the things that God has for us to learn. We need to study the Bible as often as we can, because that is the only way God can tell us His will for our personal lives. A pastor can only tell the church collectively, but God can teach us personally; that is only if we take the time to learn. We could pray something like this: 'Lord, give me a hunger and a thirst for Your Word and help me to understand more deeply, the hidden truths in Your Word. Reveal to me Your will for my life, so we can work together and walk side by side in harmony. Thank you for my healing Lord. Amen.'

Complacency: Some Christians put more faith and trust in the medical profession than they have in God. Many hundreds of people undergo major surgery and suffer intense pain that could have been avoided if only they had asked the Lord for healing and trusted in Him for the outcome. Many people have died because they refused to trust the Lord for healing. King Asa was one of those people. 'In the time of his old age, King Asa was diseased in his feet until his disease was very severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord but relied on the physicians' (1 Kings 15:23; 2 Chronicles 16:12). That attitude is not a lack of faith or unbelief, but

a rebellious spirit and a hardness of heart. 'Make straight paths for your feet so that the lame may not be dislocated but rather may be healed' (Hebrews 12:13).

Solution: Repent of a rebellious attitude, seek the Lord for healing and trust in Him more than in the doctors. We need to realise the doctors, specialists and surgeons only know what God has revealed to them about the human body! Without the Lord's revelations, they would not know anything. Knowing that, should make people seek God first, and then we can go to a doctor if God tells us to. Seeking a healing is like a bus ride; our path should lead us straight to the door of the throne room so the first stop is worship and diligent prayer joined with faith; the second stop is fasting; the third stop is patience; the very last stop is seeking a doctor. We could pray something like this: 'Lord, please forgive my rebelliousness. Help me trust You for my healing. I give you my sickness for I know You took my sickness on the cross. Thank you for my healing Lord. Amen.'

Unbelief: This is not a harmless weakness; God says it is wickedness and sin. We need to rid ourselves of this sin and believe God for that which He has promised. 'Beware brethren, take care, lest there be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart, leading you to turn away and stand aloof from the Living God. But instead warn one another every day that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become fellows with Jesus and share in all He has for us, if only we hold our confidence unshaken to the end. Then while it is still Today, when you would hear His voice, do not harden yourselves as in the rebellion when the people provoked God. For they who came out of Egypt heard, yet were rebellious. He was grieved for forty years with those whose bodies were strewn in the desert. And He did swear that those who disobeyed should not enter His rest. So we see that they were not able to enter into His rest because their unbelief shut them out' (Hebrews 3:12 to 19).

Solution: We need to replace the negative of unbelief with the positive of trust and belief. We may need to repent of the sin of unbelief. We could pray something like this: 'I believe in God the Father, His Son Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. I believe the Bible is the true Word of God. Father, please forgive me for the sin of unbelief and impart faith to me through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for my healing Lord. Amen.'

Unconfessed sin: 'He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will receive mercy' (Proverbs 28:13). We can not hide our sins from God, and if we try to, we will not prosper. That is a scriptural principle. He is not asking us to confess our sins so He can find out what we have done, because He already knows and we can't shock Him or take Him by surprise. There may be sin that we are too embarrassed to tell another person, but we can tell God; He is never embarrassed. Confession is what He wants us to do because we need to take responsibility for our sins and turn away from them; we need to give them up. The best way to learn good Christian behaviour is to be regularly confronted with our sins, and the sense of shame we feel when we know we have offended God, should make us stop. We need to confess all – that is all – our sins to God and He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and then He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Jesus took our sins on the cross but we must first confess them to God. 'Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven and whose sins are covered (by the blood of Jesus). Blessed is the person of whose sin the Lord will take no account against them' (Romans 4:7 & 8). The principle here is, if we try to cover our sins, we will not prosper but if we allow our sins to be covered by the blood of Jesus, we are blessed.

Solution: We may need to repent of unconfessed sin and when God forgives our sin, He blots them out and our lives are cleansed as though we had never sinned and we are refreshed (Acts 3:19). The Lord will never mention that sin again; we need to let it go and maybe even forgive ourselves. If there is any unconfessed sin; even from years back, tell the Lord. You may need to ask the Lord to help you remember so you can deal with it. If you have ongoing sin in your life, then you would need to ask God's help to do away with it. We could pray something like this: 'God, I acknowledge my sin of (identify, name and confess the sin) and am sorry. Please forgive me and cleanse me. Wash me in the blood of Jesus. Thank you for forgiving me, Lord. God now that you have forgiven me – I forgive myself. Thank you for my healing Lord. Amen.'

Occult involvement: Being involved in the occult in any way; freemasonry, fabianism, skull and bones, religious cults, fortune telling, taoism, tarot cards, ouija boards, horoscopes, superstition, witchcraft, wicca, iridology, reiki, keeping idols like buddha or hindu gods, hard rock music, thrash metal music, some science fiction,

illegal drugs, ornamental idols, some souvenirs, the sun god, sorcery, divination, mediums, wizardry and many other forms of the occult. All the evils mentioned here are major barriers to healing and worse; they can put you under a curse and you may need deliverance from it. We are not to bring idols into our homes because if we do, we bring the curse with it. We can assure you, idols do not bring 'good luck' – they bring a curse. If you have an idol – such as a buddha at your front door or Egyptian hieroglyphs hanging on the wall – burn them or smash them to pieces and toss them in the rubbish. Utterly destroy them. Don't give them away because you will only curse another person with it (Deuteronomy 7:25 & 26). It is very important to realise, God has an intense hatred of all kinds of idolatry and it is an abomination to Him (Deuteronomy 18:9 to 12; 20:18; 32:16). All who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. The people who make the idols are cursed as are their children and grandchildren down to the fourth generation (Exodus 20:4 & 5; Deuteronomy 27:15). The children of Israel were told they were not to take part in any of these evil practices because it is sin and it would be a snare to them, and we notice in these verses, God says He will take sickness right out of their midst, if they do not sin in this way (Exodus 23:24, 25, & 33). We are warned not to make a covenant with anyone but God Himself (Exodus 23:32). Freemasonry is a very evil covenant. They think they are secret but they are not. Nobody can keep secrets from God. The royal arch degree acknowledges a god whose name is jabulon. 'Ja' is short for Jehovah; 'bul' is short for baal and 'on' is short for osirus, and any religion that combines God the Father with wicked gods is an abomination in the sight of the Lord; an incredible evil. If you or any members of your family have ever been involved with any of the above mentioned branches of the occult or idol worship, you will most certainly need deliverance from its curse and from its grip. Not only you but your whole family are under the curse. If there is any one of these wicked practices in the family, first break away from it and renounce it. The effects of a curse can impede healing. The good news is: Jesus was made a curse for us and He took the effects of the curse on the cross, so that we may be redeemed from the curse and receive the blessing (Galatians 3:13). Usually we need to renounce the cause of the curse and claim the release. A list of common indications of a curse over a person's life or family can be: Early death, barrenness and repeated miscarriages or female problems are due to the above practices (Exodus 23:26). A history of mental and emotional breakdown; violence and an uncontrolled bad temper; hereditary and chronic sicknesses – the mark of a curse is that it goes from generation to generation; repeated breakdown of marriage, family alienation and feuding; poverty and constant insufficiency; accident prone – a person that is an accident always waiting for somewhere to happen; falling down, breaking bones, burns, banging the head, car prangs or breakdowns, slipping and tripping over and finally a family history of suicides or unnatural deaths. That dark shadow that has been hovering over your life, and has followed you everywhere, tripping you up and stopping you from succeeding can be destroyed, freeing you to live a new carefree, curse-free life. The frustration can be halted. If you have been a person who has all the hallmarks of success, yet just as you are about to make it, something strange goes wrong and your success fails over and over again; that is a curse. If we totally break with and renounce the above practices and serve God, then we can expect prosperity, increase and good health. If you have ever been involved with the occult and you have never dealt with it in your life, for your healing and spiritual growth, it needs to be dealt with. Renounce every, and any, involvement in the occult, cults or co-called secret societies. If you have dealt with it then that is good, you are free.

Solution: Take a little time to consider your life and have a look and see if you have the hallmarks of a curse. If you have a chronically sick child, have a look at the family, then seek healing for the child. Find out if there has been anyone in your family who has been involved with these accursed things, because the effects of a curse carry down to the fourth generation. We could pray something like this: 'Thank you Lord Jesus that You were made a curse that I might be redeemed from the curse and enter into the blessing. And because of what You did for me on the cross, right now Lord Jesus, in Your precious Name, I release myself and my family from every curse over me and over them, and I claim the blessing that you purchased for me with your blood. Lord Jesus, I want to serve You and to love You. If there is in my life or in my family, the curse of freemasonry or fabianism or any other wicked society or cult, I ask You to release me, and forgive me, and break its power over me and my family right now, in Jesus' Name. Lord if I have ever been involved in the occult – knowingly or unknowingly – I confess it as a sin. I renounce it. I ask you to forgive me and release me from its consequences. I deeply apologise for offending You. I commit myself now, that never again will I allow myself to be involved with those things. Forgive me Lord and release me from their influence, right now in Jesus'

Name. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.' When you pray that prayer, let it all go. Something wonderful can happen in your life. You can be set free. You can be a different person.

There may be other hidden barriers to healing, but these are usually the most common. Sometimes sickness can be caused by evil spirits but not always. For example; sometimes deafness is caused by an evil spirit and other times it is not. Epilepsy is sometimes an evil spirit and other times it is not. Sometimes healing comes only by driving out these evil spirits. Jesus dealt with evil spirits and so must we. Jesus said, "In My name they will cast out evil spirits" (Mark 16:17). With Jesus' ministry of healing, came also the driving out of evil spirits. When the supernatural power of God comes into operation, evil spirits can't stand it and they have to flee. There are two main ways in which evil spirits are associated with sickness; they can be direct causes of sickness or the evil spirit can overtake the person or 'possess' and control them (Matthew 8:28; 15:22). In the scriptures there are evil spirits mentioned that cause infirmity (Luke 13:11); deafness and dumbness (Mark 9:25 and Luke 11:14); depression or heaviness (Isaiah 61:3); epilepsy (Mark 9:18 to 24); mental illness (Mark 5:2 to 16 and Luke 8:27 to 36); phobias and fears (2 Timothy 1:7); bondage; Tourette syndrome is a good example of an uncontrollable spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15) and there are spirits that cause death and crippling. For example; curvature of the spine, spina bifida and cerebral palsy can sometimes be caused by a crippling spirit. For a person suffering from any one of these illnesses, they may possibly need deliverance from that crippling spirit. The woman bent double was crippled by a spirit of infirmity and Jesus didn't treat it as an illness, He rebuked the spirit and the woman immediately straightened up (Luke 13:16). Some illnesses are a direct result of sin and once the person has repented, they are healed (Matthew 9:2; John 5:14).

There can also be a spirit of death. Such sufferers tend to be maudlin, pessimistic, wear dark clothes, are sickly, too thin or obese, have skin problems, digestive problems and they often are very morbid. Cancer is a good example of a person with a spirit of death. It slowly saps their lives until there is no life left. People who always wear black may need to look at themselves and see if they have a dark attitude. That is not to say people should never wear black; that is saying people who only ever wear black need to look carefully at their outlook. One way the spirit of death comes in is through being discouraged, disheartened, disappointed, oppressed or rejected by a parent; and when you speak out negative words like: "I wish I were dead," "I wish I was never born," "What's the good of living?" it is an invitation to a spirit to come into your life and take over. Depression can then take hold and it is called a spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3). Depression can lead to suicide which is the aim of the spirit of death.

Our will comes into play here, and we can swap the negative speech for the positive. 'I shall not die but live and shall declare the works of the Lord' (Psalm 118:17). Let's stand and say that again. Don't let the evil one have place in your life. Trample him underfoot. Stand and say with a loud voice seven times to someone, to yourself or to God, "I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord." You will certainly feel better after saying that seven times!

Can a Christian have an evil spirit lurking inside? Yes. We see in the scriptures where a believer had an evil spirit. We know he was a believer because he was in the synagogue (Luke 4:33). Mary, the sister of Martha had seven demons cast out of her (Mark 16:9 and Luke 8:2) and she was most certainly a believer and one of Jesus' closest friends. About a week before Jesus died, Mary was the one who wept over Jesus' impending death, poured the ointment over His head and feet and wiped His feet with her long hair, to prepare Him for burial. Jesus said everywhere the Gospel is preached, what Mary did would be told, and He told her to go in peace once she was cleansed (Matthew 26:7 to 13; Mark 14:3 to 9; Luke 7:37 to 50; John 11:2 then 12:2 to 7). We are told to put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3) and only a believer can genuinely praise the Lord; only a believer would be seeking the Lord and reading the Bible, so we can see that believers can suffer from a spirit of depression.

When Jesus was on earth, He gave believers the authority over the devil and all evil spirits, and that newly given authority surprised the apostles (Luke 10:17). The Lord Jesus gave to Christians divine authority over all the authority the devil once had (Luke 10:19). The Bible tells us to put on the whole armour of God to keep

ourselves free from the evil one (Ephesians 6:11 to 18). It tells us to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he must flee (James 4:7). Jesus would not allow the evil spirits to speak (Luke 4:40 & 41). He had total authority over evil and we have that same authority now too, through the blood of Jesus.

Once we have thoroughly examined our own hearts to find out what the barriers were to healing and have dealt with them; we need to praise the Lord and thank Him for the healing. Even if there is no immediate evidence of healing, thank Him in advance by faith and keep thanking Him until the illness goes. Praise Him for the victory. Give Him glory. Thank Him for the blood of the Lamb and the Name of Jesus. Thank Him for going to the cross and for giving us healing in body, soul and mind. The Lord is big enough to deal with every situation mentioned in this Bible study. Just by praying, we can receive individual attention from God. Another way to increase our faith to receive healing is by quoting scriptures appropriate to our illness; 'I am the Lord Who heals you' (Exodus 15:26). For mental illness or phobias: 'The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind' (2 Timothy 1:7). For blindness: 'The blind receive their sight' (Matthew 11:5). 'Blessed are your eyes, because they do see' (Matthew 13:16). For the lame: 'The lame walk' (Matthew 11:5). 'Rise up and walk' (Acts 14:10). For the deaf: 'Blessed are your ears for they do hear' (Matthew 13:16). In the Bible, nearly all skin conditions were called leprosy, so for skin problems from leprosy to eczema: 'The lepers are cleansed' (Matthew 11:5 & Luke 7:22).

There are too many illnesses on the earth to mention here, but if you have an illness and you want healing, quoting scriptures appropriate to your particular sickness will help. There is at least one scripture in the Bible that can be matched with almost every illness on earth. We need to seek out the correct scripture for each illness and quote those scriptures to God every day. Healings are sometimes instant and sometimes they take time. You may need to remind the Lord the curse is broken over you, the believer. Never put your illness before your relationship with the Lord; don't say to Him, "I won't believe until I am healed," because you need to believe so you can be healed. Thank the Lord in advance by faith, and once you have received your healing, don't forget to thank and praise Him. Praising the Lord before you have seen an answer will surely speed things up. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

Amen and God bless you.

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