

FAITH IS ACTION

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Reach Up!

"...All that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on everyone of them, and healed them."

Luke 4:40

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the Healing Covenant

part two

By R.G. Hardy

THE BREAD OF LIFE

*“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: Your fathers did eat bread in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if a man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the **bread** which I will give is **my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:35, 49-51).*

Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, stepped onto the stage of Israel and declared, “I am a big loaf of bread!” Remember, the prophet Moses had said, “*Bread shall be given, and your water sure.*” God literally rained down bread on Israel in the wilderness for forty years! It was sweet and tasted like honey. David, in the Psalms, called it *angel’s food*. The Israelites named it *manna*, which in the Hebrew tongue means “*What is it?*” They had never seen or tasted it before, and after the wilderness experience, they never had it again, but it was so fortified with the essential nutrients and vitamins to sustain life, that it kept them in perfect health for forty years!

Generations later, Jesus stepped onto the scene and beheld the multitudes of humanity that were starving to death for the *Bread of Life*. Most of them were perishing for the spiritual bread. And He declared, “*I am that bread of*

life that if a man eat thereof, he shall live, and never die!” (Death in the spiritual sense means *separation from God*: He will never be separated from God.) And if you will eat this bread, it will not only give you eternal life in the world to come, but it will heal and deliver you right now!

THE CHILDREN’S BREAD

Having declared Himself to be the *Bread of Life*, Jesus began throwing out slices to the multitudes. He saw them in their sicknesses, diseases, demon-possession, and dying conditions, and He began to throw out slices of healing to them. In Matthew 15 & Mark 8 a Syrophenician (Gentile) woman came to Him, and falling at His feet, cried, “*Master, my daughter is grievously vexed of the devil.*” But Jesus answered her not a word, and His disciples misunderstood His not responding to her call. They wanted to turn her away, and hush her up, but she would not be denied. She had spiritual insight; for she saw Jesus as a *loaf of bread* with the power to heal her child. Although Jesus then replied, “I am sent only to the lost sheep of Israel,” she did not pay any attention to dispensations. She was going to get some of that healing bread for her daughter!

Again, she cried out, “*Lord, help me!*” But He answered and said, “*Let the*

children first be filled. It is not meet” (not proper, not right) “to take the children’s bread (healing) and cast it to the dogs.”

Now if that had been most of us, we would have stopped right there and gone away sad and unblessed, but Faith doesn’t take “no” for an answer!

That little Gentile woman answered, “*Truth Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.*” In essence, she was saying, “I know it is not right to give the children’s (Jews) bread to the dogs (Gentiles). I do not claim the status of a child. Just let me be as a dog that sits under his master’s table and eats of the crumbs. *Just give me the crumbs, Lord!*” (She knew that even the **crumbs** from this bread of life would heal her daughter!)

No wonder Jesus answered, “*O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.*”

I want to show you **what** the children’s bread is, and what it will **do** for you: This bread is so powerful that if all you get is a crumb, it will deliver you and heal you! And if you are a child of God, you are not promised just *a crumb*. You are promised *the whole loaf!* Jesus said that this bread belongs to the children. It is our daily diet. It is what God wants us to subsist on and feast on everyday. All we have to do is ask for it everyday. Jesus taught us to pray, “*Our Father, which art in heaven, Give us this day our daily bread...*” I am not talking about the bread of the natural, but that bread “*that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*” (Matthew 4:4). This is the bread by which we are to live!

This is why I refuse to be sick! I refuse to be bound! I refuse to be tormented by demons! The *bread* belongs to the children! *Deliverance* belongs

to the children! *Healing* belongs to the children! These are benefits of the covenant Jesus cut with the children of God. For those who keep the covenant, freedom from demons, healing, and deliverance are a part of our daily diet. It belongs to us. It is not something extra. It is like the tongue of a shoe: When you buy a pair of shoes, you get the tongue and the laces with it!

If you are a child of God, these benefits belong to you. Whether or not you claim them, or receive them, is an individual choice of faith. But I am here to tell you that as a child of God, the children’s bread belongs to you, and you are to ask for it everyday! When Jesus told that woman that it was not right for Him to give the children’s bread unto the dogs, *what* was she asking for? Was she asking for a *piece of wheat*? No! She was asking for *deliverance* from demon powers! She was asking for *healing* for



her daughter!

This desperate woman received through faith even though she was not in a covenant relationship with the God of Abraham. Now, let's look at the case of a woman who was, in Luke 13:10-13:

“And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”

Afterwards the ruler of the synagogue rebuked Jesus because He had healed on the sabbath day. Note carefully Jesus' answer in verse 16:

*“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?”*

The point I want to make is that Jesus ministered to this woman and “called her to Him” to be healed, because she was a “daughter of Abraham”—a child of God, and because *healing is the children's bread!* It belonged to her! And it belongs to us!

Galatians 3:26: *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”* (vs. 29).

Before the cross, Jesus was only sent to the Israelites, but on the cross, He tore down the middle wall of petition between Jew and Gentile, making us both one new man, and He came and preached “peace” to us all! (See Ephesians 2:11-19).

CHASTISED FOR OUR SHALOM

Isaiah also declared of Jesus the Messiah: *“...the chastisement of our peace was upon him...”* (Isa. 53:4). This includes healing for the mind and body. The Hebrew term for “peace” is “shalom,” and it is much more potent and rich in its meaning than is the English “peace.” The biblical principle of *shalom* means “perfect well-being, spirit, soul, and body.” It is not just the absence of conflict, but it is the active presence of God at work in our lives in every aspect. It includes mental well-being, physical well-being, and spiritual well-being. In a word, it means “wholeness,” which means “nothing broken, nothing missing.”

Paul's prayer for the believers in Thes. 5:23 brings this out: *“And the very God of **peace** sanctify you **wholly**; and I pray God your **whole** spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The God of Shalom cares about the whole man, because we are three-part beings, and if we are “sick” in any one of these areas, it affects our whole being. Jesus cared about people's souls, minds, bodies, and their total healing, and often when He healed a person, He told them “Go in peace,” or “shalom,” that is, *totally whole*.

A good illustration of this is the case of the woman with the issue of blood who received her healing when she pressed her way through the crowd to touch the hem of His garment. He said unto her, *“Daughter, thy faith hath made thee **whole**; go in **peace** (shalom), and be whole of thy plague”* (Mark 5:34).

After 12 years of suffering many things, she not only received healing for her physical condition, but emotional and mental restoration as well.

Remember we read in Isaiah 50:6 that Messiah said, *“I gave my cheeks to them that plucked off my hair. I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”* This chastisement was for our **shalom!**

KEEPING THE LAWS OF HEALTH

Earlier I related my own personal experience of healing (FIA, Apr. `00). This, in fact, was a miraculous healing. Instantly, the pain was gone, and the twisted contortions of my body vanished on the spot. I had the visible symptoms that I was healed, and everyone could see that I was healed. I took off my steel corset and gave it back to the doctor. When I got saved shortly thereafter, I was full of zeal, youth, and vigor. Unfortunately, my zeal was not according to knowledge, and I began to break the laws of health by pushing myself beyond my physical strength. Consequently, I reinjured myself, and the pain returned. Alarmed and somewhat indignant, I began to seek God, and God began to talk to my heart and show me where *I had caused my relapse.*

You see, when one breaks the laws of health, even if he is a Christian, he is going to have to suffer the penalty for breaking those laws. He may be saved and even have the Holy Ghost, but if he does not take care of his body by eating and sleeping properly, and dressing properly in inclement weather, or by exposing himself to harmful chemicals, he is abusing his body, and is going to become sick as a result!

Someone might say, *“Well, I’ve got faith!”* That’s great, but God requires you to have *wisdom* too. Jesus also had faith, but I didn’t read that He jumped off of the mountain either. I have faith also, but I am not going to walk out in

front of a moving automobile to prove that God can deliver me. We are commanded not to tempt the Lord God. He gave me enough sense to know better. Now, if by accident, this should occur, than I have faith that God will deliver me. Likewise, God gave me sense to know better than to go out doors improperly clothed in sub-zero weather too, or to think that I can get by without proper diet and rest, or eat all the wrong foods and fail to eat the right ones, and not get sick! In fact, 1 Cor. 3: 16-17 indicts, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God... If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.”* This is a strong warning.

When I began to seek God to heal me again, God said, “I am going to heal you and show you how you got this way. You have broken the divine laws of health, and if I had healed you right away, you would not have learned your lesson, and you would just turn around and do it again.” God showed me that I had abused His temple and had not exercised one of the fruits of the Spirit: *temperance!* Now, I had done so ignorantly; nevertheless, ignorance of the law is no excuse. I was still suffering the consequences, and God used it to open this message up to me.

Then I said, *“Lord, if you will heal me, I will not do it again.”* I still did not get my healing right away. About a week or so later, God directed me to listen to a minister on the radio who had a healing ministry. At the end of the program, he prayed for the sick, and God told me to put my hand on the radio and agree with him in prayer. I laid my hands on the radio, and the power of God hit me and shook me, penetrating my whole body. I knew that healing virtue was in

me, but I was still feeling pain. I even straightened up, but the pain was still there. I knew that I would have to claim healing by faith, despite any symptoms, as this time God was allowing me to be healed by the *gift of healing*, and not by an instant miracle of healing. Every morning when I got up, I was still in pain, but each day, it lessened. I would say, *“Thank You Lord for my healing. I know healing is in me.”*

Oh, the devil talked to me and told me that I wasn’t healed, because I still felt the pain, but I would say, *“I am healed by the blood of the stripes of Jesus!”*

One day I got up, and the pain was gone. The healing was complete. Since that time, I have learned not to overtax my body’s capabilities and bring on weakness and injury. Whenever I get overtired, the symptoms start resurfacing, and the devil tries to preach to me that I have lost my healing. But I resist him with the Word of God, and **believe on the stripes of Jesus!**

Remember when God instituted this “healing covenant” with His people, He told them, *“If you will do that which is right...obey My commandments... keep all of my statutes... I will not put the diseases upon you that I brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee”* (Ex. 15:22-26).

God has made it clear that we must keep all His laws and statutes, and they include the laws of health, such as proper diet and rest. Christians are not exempt from these laws anymore than we are exempt from any other physical laws such as the “law of gravity.” If I don’t believe this law affects me, and I jump willfully off of a ten-story building, I will suffer the consequences. Jesus respected the law of gravity, and He did

not jump off the pinnacle of the temple to tempt God. (Now if I accidentally slip or am pushed, He will send angels to “bear me up.”)

If you read Leviticus, you will find that God gave His people specific dietary and sanitary laws, which may have seemed peculiar at the time. Today we realize that these laws kept them from many diseases and plagues and from the spreading of such cases throughout the whole camp. Thousands of years before medical science caught on, God knew that *“the life of the flesh is in the blood!”* (Lev. 17:11).

Also, God had forbidden them to eat the fat of animal flesh. Many health problems today are caused by all the saturated animal fat in our diets, and the man-made trans-fats.

Many healing ministries today are now teaching people about diet and how to prevent disease and how to keep their healing, because they realize that we all must obey the laws of health and not abuse God’s temple. While the purpose of this message is to reveal the divine part of God’s healing covenant, I would encourage you to become informed about the laws of health and how to apply them to your life to stay well.

I just celebrated my 70th birthday (9/03/99), and I am in excellent health and minister with vigor. But about 10 years ago, I began experiencing alarming symptoms that increased over a period of weeks. At times I thought I was having a heart attack. I prayed for healing and God began to deal with me about my weight and my diet. I was about 50 lbs overweight, and I ate a diet high in fat. I had my blood pressure and cholesterol taken, and they were very high.

I refused medicines, but I radically changed my diet. Within a few weeks, both my blood pressure and cholesterol were normal, and all my symptoms had disappeared. They have never returned, and after losing 50 lbs, my energy increased greatly. I had gotten into trouble by abusing the laws of health.

I have tried in such limited space to strengthen your faith to believe God for your healing basing it on the Scriptures. Nothing less will effect healing. It is not by *feelings*, as I have pointed out, but by adherence to and faith in the Word of God! Now in summary, I would like to outline *eight* sure steps to be followed in *receiving*, and just as important, in *keeping* your healing:

1. Recognize It's God's Will To Heal You

You cannot have faith for anything from God unless you know that He *wants* you to have it. As I have shown by the Scriptures, nothing could be plainer than God's will for the healing of your body. They are very clear on this subject. In addition to what I have covered in this message, I quote:

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, than he might destroy the works of the devil..." (1 John 3:8).

The former verse proves that God wants us to have health. The latter verse tells us that Jesus came into the world to destroy the works of the devil which include sickness. Now just *what* did He do to destroy these works? We find the answer in *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..."

Whom did He heal? "All that were oppressed of the devil"—all that came unto Him!" (See Luke 6:19).

Peter, in the verse just quoted from *Acts*, called *sickness* an *oppression*. Since Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, then it is evident that the devil causes sickness. Some might still question this, and I refer those to *Job 2:7* which says, *"...So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils..."*

Also in *Luke 13:16*, we read of the woman who had been bound with a *spirit of infirmity* for eighteen years, and could not straighten up, of whom Jesus said: *"And ought not this woman, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond?"*

Doctors would probably call her malady *arthritis*, but Jesus said that she was *bound by Satan!* Is not this conclusive Scriptural evidence that sickness is the work of the devil, which works Jesus came to destroy!

One of the clearest illustrations of God's will to heal His people is that of the leper who came to Jesus. He came and worshipped Him, calling Him, *"Lord."* This clearly showed that the leper recognized that Jesus was the Son of God who had power and authority over sickness. The leper said, *"Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."* He knew Jesus *could*, but he wasn't certain if He *would*.

Jesus put forth His hand and touched him. This was something a rabbi would have been forbidden to do. Then Jesus said, *"I WILL; be thou clean" (Matt. 8:2-3).* Immediately, his leprosy was gone.

It is God's will to heal you today!

2. Be Prayed For

The *laying on of hands*, and the *prayer of faith* are two of God's methods to bring healing to you:

"And these signs shall follow them that believe... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17).

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up..." (James 5:14-15).

Remember, you are not basing your healing on *feelings* (even though they may accompany the prayer), but on *faith in the Scriptures concerning healing!*

3. Exercise Your Faith

Once you have been prayed for and have received your healing, you then must *exercise your faith*, that is, to do what you could not do before you were prayed for. This may sound ridiculous at first, but it is like *acting out your healing in faith*. If you could not walk before, after prayer is offered, *walk! If you make the attempt, God will do the rest!*

4. Study Your Bible

In His great testing by the enemy, Jesus did not defeat Satan with a mighty show of His power, but by the *Word!* He authoritatively declared, *"It is written,"* and Satan fled. You and I can do the same. James 4:7 commands, *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

One cannot resist the devil, however, if he has no effective weapon against him, which is the *sword of the Spirit — the Word!* You must study your Bible to be able to resist him. You cannot say, *"It is written"* unless you have the appropriate Scripture to substantiate

your claim. Satan will not heed all the catchy phrases, confessions, and formulas in the world, but he will and he *must* honor God's Word spoken in faith!

Furthermore, the Bible teaches in Romans 10:17 that *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* This brings us to the next step in keeping your healing:

5. Go to Church

It is not easy to keep your healing unless you stay in an attitude of faith. The church is where the anointed Word of God is *preached*, and which, as we have just quoted, generates, inspires, and keeps active, one's faith. Under the influence of the anointing, the fellowship of the brethren of like, precious faith, and the ministering of the Word, you will not be susceptible to the negative suggestions of the enemy. (See *Hebrews 10:25*).

6. Don't Talk About Your Sickness

You will not keep your healing talking about your sickness. Talk about God's goodness and His promises, *but not about your sickness!* If you moan and groan about how you feel, you are simply playing into the hands of the devil. Does this mean that you should lie and say that you feel good when you don't? No. One is never justified to lie under any circumstances, but you do not have to lie. Although the symptoms may still be bothering you, you can stand on God's Word and say, *"Praise God, His Word says that by His stripes I am healed!"* (Or whatever Scripture fits your need).

The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21, *"Life and death are in the power of the tongue..."* You can actually talk yourself *out of your healing*. If you talk negative-

ly, you will get negative results: sickness. If you talk positively, you will get positive results: healing. Remember, by talking about your sickness, you are opening up the door for more. Just as *“faith comes by hearing God’s Word,”* speaking negatively produces doubt. Speaking God’s Word is part of God’s prescription plan for your healing Proverbs 4: 20-23 tells us that the Word of God is God’s *“medicine”*:

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

The word *“health”* in Hebrew (verse 22) literally means *medicine!* When we incline our ears to God’s Word by speaking and meditating upon it, it’s like taking medicine that will bring healing to our bodies!

We are told to *“attend to God’s Words.”* Pay attention to what God’s Word says about healing and not what doctors, unbelievers, doubters, and demons say. *“Believe the report of the Lord!” (Isa. 53:1).* The report of the Lord is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Read the four Gospels and fill your heart and your mouth with its report. Remember, Jesus said that *“out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matt. 12:34).* This is why you must *“guard your heart with all diligence.”*

Whatever is in your *heart* will come out of your *mouth*, and whatever you say out of your mouth, your *ears* will hear, and if you want faith for healing (or anything) you must hear the Word of God! Proverbs 23:7 says, *“For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* The

best Biblical prescription for thinking right, which leads to speaking right, is Philippians 4:8: *“... Whatsoever things are true... honest... just... pure... lovely... of good report... virtuous... praiseworthy... think on these things.”*

There is one other thing that one cannot talk about and keep his healing: *His brothers and sisters!* If he does so, he is not discerning the Lord’s body, and the result is *“weakness, sickness, and even death” (See 1 Cor. 11).*

7. Be Obedient

God does not heal people so that they can use their healing to return to practicing sin. He heals them so that they can glorify Him in their lives. Would I ask God to heal a man’s hands so that he could steal? To heal a woman’s feet so that she could perform lewd dances? To heal another’s finger so that he could pull the trigger on a gun and murder? Or even to heal one’s throat of cancer so he or she could sing worldly, ungodly songs? No! I ask God to heal people with the understanding that they will use their healed bodies for His glory! (This is how and why God healed me!)

Jesus told the impotent man whom He healed, *“Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee” (Jn. 5:14).*

As I already pointed out, one must also obey the laws of nature and the laws of health. If mistreatment of one’s body brought on the original sickness, than will not returning to the same harmful practices cause a recurrence?

Another point of great importance is obedience to all God’s commandments, that is, the *Bible ordinances for the Church.* For example, could a man

that robs God (*Malachi 3:8*) expect God to heal him?

8. Finally, Stand On The Word

I have also covered this point throughout, however, it is imperative that you practice this. Numbers 23:19 emphatically states, “*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said it, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*”

Once you have studied the Scriptures and *know* what God’s promises concerning healing are, you can stand on those promises, and do not allow Satan to back you down.

Do not accept symptoms—Stand on the Word! Resist any symptoms with the Word. Refuse to carry your sickness: Jesus has already carried it, and **by His stripes you are healed!**

Do not fear—Speak the Word! Resist every suggestion of the enemy that you are not healed. When you hear an “evil report,” do not allow it to bring fear to your heart. Words are powerful and the enemy will try to use them like “fiery darts” to your heart and mind, but you must resist them and replace them with God’s Words.

When Jarius came to Jesus seeking healing for his young daughter who was near death, Jesus agreed to come and pray for her. On the way, He was interrupted by the woman with the issue of blood. Before He could continue to Jarius’ house, his servants came with the announcement that it was too late. “*Thy daughter is dead,*” they said; “*Don’t bother the Master any further*” (*Mark 5:35*). Note carefully verse 36: “*As soon as*

Jesus heard the word that was spoken...”

Jesus heard the word of doubt and despair and He knew how potent it could be to Jarius’ faith. Immediately, He counteracted it with His Word—the word of faith! “*As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe*” (*Mark 5:36*).

This is what you must do as soon as you hear or feel the words or a spirit of fear try to grip your heart. You must immediately counteract it with the Word of God, such as 2 Timothy 1:7: “*For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind.*”

EPILOGUE

In my personal testimony, I related how I received my healing miracle through an anointed *prayer cloth*. To some this may seem foolish, but the Word of God teaches it. *Acts 19:12*: “*And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.*”

If certain contagious sicknesses and diseases can be transmitted through contaminated clothing, bedding, etc., *why not healing virtue?*

Furthermore, it is not just the transmitting of healing virtue, but also *making a point of contact in which to release one’s faith!* Remember the woman with the issue of blood said within herself, “*If I can but touch the hem of his garment, I will be made whole.*”