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Healing of The Spirit, Soul, and Body

Betty Miller

Overcoming Life Series

Best Seller

**Healing
of the Spirit,
Soul and Body**

by
Betty Miller

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Preface

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

I present this book to the body of Christ as the Holy Spirit presented it to me. I challenge you to allow God's Spirit of truth, and the Bible, to test the accuracy of the words within these pages. This book, part of the Overcoming Life Series, is also addressed to all seekers of truth who know not THE CHRIST UNLIMITED, as it would be my privilege to introduce you to Him.

During the early years of the ministry, I struggled to learn how to hear the voice of God. Once, while nervously waiting to speak before a large audience, and not being sure on what subject I should speak, I posed to the Lord in prayer this question: "Lord, what am I going to say to all these people?" In my spirit, I heard Him very clearly reply, "Betty, I was hoping you would not say anything, as I really wanted to speak." Yes, He wants to speak through us, as we yield to His Spirit. Submitting to the Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I found, was not only possible, but the only way He wants us to minister. **For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you (Matthew 10:20).**

This book is a gift from the Holy Spirit. I take no credit for it. If something within these pages blesses you, enlightens you, brings you closer to the Lord, releases you from fear or bondage, or heals or delivers you, then please lift your voice in praise to the precious Savior of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord! On the other hand, if you find some of these things difficult to receive, hard to understand, or totally heretical from your viewpoint, would you also look to the Lord and ask Him if it could possibly be the truth? With an open and honest heart, will you ask God to change any pre-conceived ideas, and be free from traditions to receive of Him, His truth? His truth always brings freedom, never bondage. **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).**

In walking with the Lord, I have found we must obey the

things we feel He is speaking to us. In my personal life, I used to be fearful of speaking for the Lord because I was so afraid of missing Him and making mistakes. (He, of course, has now delivered me of all my fears. Praise Him!) He encouraged me not to quit because of mistakes when He spoke these words to me: “Betty, if I receive the glory and praise for all the things that are a blessing to people, I also receive the responsibility for your mistakes, as long as you are striving to please me. I am able to make even those work for your good.” **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).** We serve a wonderful, loving God, who encourages us to follow and obey Him that we might be blessed, and in turn bless others!

This book was written as an act of obedience to the Lord, whom I dearly love. I consider it an honor to write for Him. Years ago, when I was in prayer, the Lord spoke that I was to write a book, but I never felt it was God’s timing, nor did I feel the unction or anointing to begin this work until now. Over the past year God has performed a series of miracles to confirm that it is now His time, and has made the arrangements for this to become a reality.

I pray that this book, along with the Overcoming Life Series, may help you learn to walk closer to our Lord, as He is THE CHRIST UNLIMITED!

I am, by His love,
A handmaiden of the Lord,

Betty Miller
February, 1980

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself (John 7:17).

Foreword

It just seemed natural that I would do the foreword on this book since my wife, Betty, and myself, are “one flesh.” God, through the Holy Spirit, has given by revelation to Betty many truths of His Word, which have been set forth in this book.

The Lord spoke to Betty about ten years ago that she was to write a book for Him, and that He would arrange the right time and place to write it. Betty simply took this vision and set it aside until God began to “quicken” her spirit to bring it forth. One morning, very early, Betty awakened, and began to write as the Lord dictated to her. In giving her this small initial portion of the book, He showed her how, by submitting to His Spirit, and completely yielding to Him, He would feed to her the message He wanted to share with the body of Christ. He also revealed how quickly and easily it would be completed. The messages that God has given in this Overcoming Life Series are to all who desire to become “overcomers” and be “conformed to the image of His son” (**Romans 8:29**). Our Lord is not satisfied that a person remains a “babe” in Christ, but longs for each “babe” to grow to maturity. He desires that we should strive to become overcomers, live the overcoming life, and claim the promises of the inheritance of all things that are to be given to the overcomers.

I thank God that He has allowed me to share such close love and companionship with Betty. I know that within her heart she has no personal ambitions, no personal ends to achieve. Betty has simply been doing the will of the Father in the writing of this anointed book. May the Lord bless you with this book, as He has blessed us in being a part of His work.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor R.S. "Bud" Miller

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son (Revelation 21:7).

Credits & Acknowledgments

ALL PRAISE AND CREDIT
GOES TO **THE CHRIST UNLIMITED!**

Truly Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, are to be praised, not only for this book, but for our very lives. His sacrifice on Calvary made it possible to know Him and all the members of God's family.

As with the printing of any book, there are lots of people responsible for the words on these pages, physical words as well as spiritual words. All the people that have ever been a part of my life, all the people that have prayed and supported this ministry, my friends and my family have truly contributed to this work. Special credit should be given to my husband, Bud, whose faithful and loving prayers, encouragement, leadership, and love are a big part of this book. Also, to everyone whose books and articles I've read, to the ministers of the Gospel, whose sermons I've heard, I express my gratitude. For each has contributed, in some measure, to this book. The list is endless, but eternity has the records. So instead of naming individuals on this page and giving them earthly credit, I prefer the Lord Jesus Christ to reward them each as only He can. God bless you all, and may you be surprised as you open up the box that contains your heavenly treasures.

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works (Matthew 16:27).

Introduction

HEALING OF THE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY teaches believers how to receive divine healing for emotional as well as physical problems. The root of many physical problems are in the spiritual and soulful realms and, when corrected there, will cease.

In this book you will receive an understanding of man's three-fold nature and how they relate to one another. The Bible teaches the Lord's will is for man to be whole, spirit, soul and body. Sickness in any area affects the whole man. One example is when there is bitterness in the soul; it can cause physical ailments to manifest in the body. Forgiveness of others can release a person to receive healing in their body.

HEALING OF THE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY also gives you the tools to bring strength and health to the spirit man. God's highest for man in regard to healing is for him to be able to ward off physical attacks from Satan against the body and thereby walk in divine health. This is God's promise in His Word to His overcomers.

Healing of the Spirit, Soul and Body

1 Thessalonians 5:23: 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.

Healed by the Word

God intends for His body to be made whole. His people, being those individual members of His body, need His wholeness to be able to perform the tasks commissioned to them as the church. One recent move of the Holy Spirit has been the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit to the church bringing deliverance and healing. Since Jesus is coming back for a church without “spot or blemish,” a “glorious” church, we can look for her to be cleansed and healed before that moment. This healing involves the total man: spirit, soul and body.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:26-27).

The Hebrew word for “heal” is rapha, which means “to make thoroughly whole.” The Greek word sozo has the same connotation. It is used interchangeably throughout the Greek New Testament to mean “to save” and “to heal.” We need to be free of **...the sin which doth so easily beset us... (Hebrews 12:1)**, the sickness in our bodies, the fears of the soul, and all that keeps us from being the overcoming sons of God. This is what the Bible calls

sanctification; the process of cleansing that needs to take place within our spirits, our souls, and our bodies.

Trinity of God and Man

Man is a trichotomy made up of spirit, soul and body. God designed man as a functioning unit with his reborn spirit to be in charge of the soul (mind, will, and emotions), and with the body in subjection to the soul and spirit. Man was created in the image of God. Until we understand this, we cannot begin to understand ourselves.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:26-27).

First let us notice God said, “let us make man in our image.”

God is also a triune being. The Godhead is made up of the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. We must have some understanding of this mystery if we are to understand our own makeup. Jesus spoke in **Mark 12:29, ...The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.** John records in **1 John 5:7, For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** From these Scriptures we can see that God is not three Gods nor a three headed being, but rather one God with three distinct and separate personalities. The “Word” in **1 John 5:7** is referring to Jesus since **John 1:14** states, **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

Perhaps through an analogy we can understand better how

He can be three in one. A married man with a family is a father, a husband and a son. He is not three different men but has three different roles. He relates to his children, wife, and parents in a different way. It's similar with the Lord. He relates to us as the Father, as the Son, and as the Holy Spirit. God does not change; He is holy, He is spirit, He is eternal. God is one, but He has three forms even as water can manifest as a solid, liquid, or gas, yet is still one compound. As ice it takes a definite form and shape; as a liquid it flows freely, and as steam it becomes vaporous. Even so, the Godhead manifests Himself so He can be seen as Jesus, felt like rivers of water as the Holy Spirit, and known as the invisible power of the Father.

The Spiritual Man

The whole counsel of heaven is available to us as His children, made in His image. The image and likeness is not a physical likeness, as one day the physical shall pass away and we will be given glorified bodies. The image that bears likeness to God is the potential of our spiritual image. God created man with the possibility to become like God. No other creature has this potential.

Before the fall of man, Adam and Eve were walking in wholeness. Although spiritually they were not fully mature at creation, God's destiny was for them to grow to maturity by walking with Him and obeying Him. Through their disobedience, they ate of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" while still in their immature state which was their downfall. Some things God denies us at present because they are not good for us in our immaturity, but later He desires for us to have them. After Adam and Eve matured, I believe God intended to give them not only the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," but also the "tree of life" to eat in order that they would live forever. However, because of their disobedience they fell into sin and darkness, and all mankind followed. The Lord Jesus then had to die as a substitute for men's

sins so we could find our way back to God. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour we become “born again” and are once again created in God’s image.

God created man with a very precious gift, one that He never violates. This gift is the free will of man. Creating man as a free moral agent resulted in the possibility of not only sons that would become like Him, but also sons that would become like the devil. Man would be able to choose his own destiny by exercising his will. Why didn’t God just create man so that He would obey? He could have thus avoided this world full of sin that is all due to the moral evil that proceeds from the will of man. God had such high and lofty intentions for man that He desired more than a robot who would say “I love you” on command. He wanted sons to fellowship with Him who would have His same desires and interests. He desired to have intimate communion with a “like being.” He wanted sons that would have a genuine love for Him, not beings that would be forced to love Him. In making man with a free will he could choose to become like God. We have neglected teaching the power and the role of man’s will in the walk of the overcomer, and thus many have been defeated by the enemy. Let us see how this important truth concerning our free will can help us to be victorious in our daily walk with the Lord.

We need to understand first that man is a spirit, with a soul, that lives in a body. The physical body is only the house or temple that holds the real man. Let us first look at the real man which is the spirit man. The Greek word for spirit is pneuma or “breath.” The spirit man is unseen with the natural eye, but is the hidden or inward man. This is the part of man that is referred to in Scripture as the heart of man. It is the sphere of divine influence. **But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price (1 Peter 3:4).** The spirit man, being the real man, will live eternally. He will possess a soul and a body, but in essence the spirit will rule over the other two.

The Two Worlds of the Spiritual Realm

In the spirit world there exist only two kingdoms: God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom. We belong to one or the other of these kingdoms; there is no "in between." **Romans 8** speaks of these two spiritual worlds and the spiritual laws that govern them. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).** From this verse we can see that we are governed either by the Spirit of Life, or the spirit of death. The Spirit of Life enters into us when we become "born again." This is made possible by the death Christ took for us on the cross. He died that we might live.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (Colossians 2:13-14).

Until we experience the life of Christ, we are lost in sin and under the power and dominion of the spirit of death which is ruled by Satan.

Within these two spiritual worlds there are also only two ultimate powers that are in existence: the power of Christ (The Spirit of Life) and the power of Satan (the spirit of death), and we are controlled by one or the other. There is no "in between" or third power. Some people believe that man has supernatural power of his own called "soul power." This is not true because the soulish part of man is ruled by either God or Satan.

The Soulsh Man

Of what does man's soul consist? The soul is composed of

man's will, his mind or intellect, and his emotions or personality. The power that has been given to man is the power of choice. But he does not possess supernatural power of his own. As he chooses God's way or Satan's way, he is empowered by either the Spirit of Life or the spirit of death. He comes under the rules and laws of one of these spiritual kingdoms. If we choose Christ, then we operate under His power, His love, and His kingdom. If we choose Satan's ways, we come under his dominion. This is spoken of in **Ephesians 2:1-5,**

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;).

Referring to the chart on "Spirit, Soul and Body" at the end of this book, we notice that in the soulish realm is found the mind or intellect. When we walk after the things of this world and commit sin, we are said to be obeying the carnal mind. To be carnally minded is to walk after the flesh. The Greek word for "flesh" is sarx and this refers to the wisdom of worldly man and the nature of the carnal mind.

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. Be-

cause the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his...Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live (Romans 8:3-9, 12-13).

We can observe from this that the “flesh” refers to the carnal mind and not to the physical body of man. Therefore if we yield to the flesh, we are yielding to the temptation that comes to the carnal mind.

In the soul, along with the will and the mind, are the emotions. Our emotional patterns tend to formulate our personalities. We tend to evaluate individuals by their emotional expressions of generosity, goodness, gentleness, greed, fear, impatience, etc. As Christians, we are to develop the attributes of Christ, and we are to crucify the “old man” of sin and his deeds. **Ephesians 4:18-24** says,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

In these verses we are told to “put off” the old man and to “put on” the new man. We must “submit to God” (the new man and the Spirit of Life) and “resist the devil” (the old man and the spirit of death). Our old nature must be counted dead and nailed

to the cross so that our new nature can live. We die to our way and live unto the Lord's way if we walk in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit is simply obeying the Word of God and the Holy Spirit's promptings. As we do this, we overcome the old nature and develop Christ's nature in us. The spirit or inward man must be renewed day by day. **But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16b).**

The Physical Man

The outward man is the soul, not the body. The body is the physical man or "flesh and bones." This kind of "flesh" is not the same "flesh" of which the New Testament generally speaks. As previously mentioned, the "flesh" refers to the carnal mind. The body of man is simply the container or vessel for the spirit and the soul.

The Scriptures make reference to the body as the temple of the Holy Ghost. **2 Corinthians 6:19-20** tells us, **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.** Our body is either Satan's temple or God's temple, depending upon our choices. The body is also a receiver. The senses of the physical man are hearing, sight, touch, taste, and smell. These five senses are given to protect the body. When they are under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they are properly tuned and serve man perfectly. However, under Satan's dominion, they are used to fulfil the lusts of the flesh. If we do not properly choose the things that pass through these sensors, we find that soon the body is out of balance and control and we are indulging in things that are harmful to us.

The body has no power of its own to decide what it will do; it simply obeys the commands of the spirit and the soul. It only follows, or "tags along with," the inner man. For example, when I

awake in the morning, my body will not get out of bed until I make a decision to get up. It will lie there as long as I decide to allow it to stay in bed. When I make the decision to get out of bed, then my body follows me. If we train our bodies to rise early they will respond by rising early. If we indulge in extra sleep, they will respond after that manner.

Feelings

The “voice” of the body is our feelings. We must not allow our feelings to rule us as Christians because they are not good gauges as to what truth is. Feelings tend to vary due to circumstances and outward conditions. An example of this would be when we continue to “feel” sleepy even though we have had ample sleep. If we allow those feelings to prevail, we will overindulge in sleep and the old man or the flesh will rule us. We need to check with the Holy Spirit and see what He says is the truth about the condition. The Holy Spirit will direct us to rest if we have not had ample sleep. Usually we will have had enough sleep and need to rise and pray and spend some time with Him before greeting the day. Our spirit man needs strengthening. We must give him time and not allow our lower nature to rule us.

How do we overcome a bad habit such as oversleeping? The real key lies in the soul: it is the will of man. Daily we are given the opportunity to make choices and these choices are executed by the will. Every day holds choices to serve God and walk in His way, and thereby operate under the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ. Or, we may choose the way of “self” which is under the law of sin and death ruled by Satan. **Deuteronomy 28** lists the blessings and the curses that befall those who make certain choices. Look these up and see what a wonderful inheritance we receive when we walk in the Lord’s way and what terrible things befall us when we choose Satan’s way. **Deuteronomy 30:19** says, **I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have**

set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

The Carnal Mind

If we receive a curse accompanied by terrible problems, then we need to ask God to show us the cause. **Proverbs 26:2b** says, **...the curse causeless shall not come.** Perhaps our problem has been that we have not known how to appropriate God's blessings and how to overcome our flesh.

The Lord gave us the key to victory by giving us His power to overcome the flesh (the carnal mind). He did not leave us powerless. This was one of His promises, to give us the Holy Spirit. We are told that the carnal mind is enmity against God; it is against God's ways and consequently produces death. Our minds have been filled with ideas and imaginations of the world before we come to Christ and therefore they need cleansing and renewing. This renewing is a continual process and is accomplished by reading God's Word and fellowshiping with Him in prayer. This process of renewing of the carnal mind, emotions, and body is called sanctification. **Ephesians 5:26** says, **That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.**

In order for us to understand how we can renew our minds and put on the mind of Christ, let us use the following example. In the world when someone has hurt us or deliberately maligned us, our first reaction is to hurt back and to hate them. However, when we have been "born again," we are told in God's Word,

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:19-21).

If our carnal mind is still in control, our automatic reaction

will be one of hate instead of love. To overcome this, we must, by an act of our will, choose not to hate, and ask the Holy Spirit to give us His love for the person who is hurting us. As we do this, our carnal mind will soon be renewed and we will love instead of hate when we encounter those who are unkind to us. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to renew our minds; our part is to make the choice for Him to do it (**Romans 12:2**).

Sanctification of the Mind

Our will is of key importance in the work of sanctification, or holiness. Sanctification is not automatic.

Some people believe that they have no part to play in this cleansing work, that it is the Holy Spirit's job. They are simply waiting on Him to clean them up. This is not true. God's part is to empower us to overcome our sin and weakness; our part is to "will" for it to be done. If we are to have our minds renewed, we must be willing for the Lord to do it as He will not touch one area that we do not submit to Him. Not only are we to "will," but we must also yield and obey.

Some people have made the right choices; however, they are still having difficulty in getting the victory. If this be the case, perhaps the need is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We have been promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit and can have it by asking for it.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:13).

The Lord wants us to be holy and righteous, yet this can only come through the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Our part is to desire this with our whole heart. **Blessed are they which do hun-**

ger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).

If we “walk in the Spirit,” we will not fulfill the works of the flesh. If we continually choose God’s way and resist the way of flesh, we can have victory over every weakness. Let us look at some of the works of the flesh and compare them with the fruit of the Spirit so that we know what we are to resist, and what we are to embrace.

Galatians 5:16-25 says, **This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

According to this Scripture, we can be “living in the Spirit,” and not “walking in the Spirit.” We can be “born again” and living in God’s kingdom, yet failing to “walk in the Spirit.” The Bible tells us to **...work out your own salvation... (Philippians 2:12)**. This means we are to learn how to walk with God, so that we can be saved from the effects of the flesh walk. We are not told to do “good works” for our salvation, as it is a gift of God.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ

Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The good works should be an overflow from our walk with the Lord, not a plan by which we are to attain a place in God.

Working Out Our Salvation

“Working out our salvation” is a process. Salvation is not a one time experience, but rather an ongoing process. We are saved from the penalty of sin when we accept Jesus as our Lord. We are saved from the power of sin when we stay filled with the Holy Ghost. We eventually will be saved from the very presence of sin when we enter into the presence of the Lord. The gift of salvation is free, we cannot earn it. But to be an overcomer, we must “work out our salvation” by learning to “walk in the Spirit.” God wants to save us from tragedy, sickness, fear, anxiety and the turmoil of this world. These things come upon us by “walking in the flesh.” The Lord wants us to walk in the Spirit of Life and have His love, joy, peace and victory. Why do some Christians walk in victory and others lead defeated lives? It is because they do not understand how to overcome the flesh and the world.

The manifestations of the flesh are caused by problems in the heart of man. Even after man has been “born again,” to be a true overcomer he needs to know how to cleanse his heart and mind. Victory is not automatic. We must know the part we are to play, for the Word instructs us to cleanse ourselves. **Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 7:1).** The way we get this victory is to put the Word of God in our spirits so that when the need arises in regard to specific trials, we will know what the will of God is and be able to yield to it and resist the devil.

Looking at the chart on “Spirit, Soul and Body” we see several contrasting fruits and emotions listed within the soulish realm.

The negative ones proceed from the carnal mind and produce the manifestations of the flesh listed in **Galatians 5:19-21**. Our need is to know how we can walk in the positive and eliminate the negative. This is done through an act of our will. We must choose to love instead of to hate, to be longsuffering instead of impatient, to be generous instead of greedy, and to trust instead of fear. After making one of these choices, by faith we are then to ask the Lord to empower us to be able to overcome the old carnal emotions that we feel. We then resist the devil with the Word of God and obey whatever the Spirit of the Lord tells us to do.

Let us be specific and deal with the problem of unforgiveness. We meet someone who hurts us and we are unjustly wronged by them. We immediately have the feeling of unforgiveness come up in our hearts if our carnal mind has not been renewed. We must first recognize the wrong “feeling” and present it to the Lord, asking Him to take it out of our hearts and to give us His forgiving nature. By an act of our will, we must simply say, “Lord, I ‘will’ to forgive them; I don’t feel that forgiveness yet, but I ask You for Your love, and to have Your forgiveness in my heart.” The Spirit of the Lord may then require us to do something to obtain this “feeling.” He may speak to us to go to this person and greet them with love, or do something kind toward them. Then, as we obey, we find the Holy Spirit will give us the proper attitude toward them. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will have us fast and pray for them instead of speaking to them. Whatever He instructs us to do we should obey. This is “walking in the Spirit,” and “dying to self” and the flesh. The old self does not want to forgive, but would rather hold a grudge or ignore the offending party. Jesus would have us “walk in His Spirit” and be peacemakers and forgivers, even as He was.

As we continue to obey the Lord, we will find an automatic spiritual law going to work for us. As we walk in the Lord’s steps we have the Spirit of Life working for us. God’s blessings will be our blessings; God’s peace will be our peace; and God’s mercy will follow us. However, should we disobey, the opposite is true.

Should we decide not to forgive someone, the spirit of death will go to work in us in the same way. Automatically we become bitter, depressed, unkind and fearful because we have chosen to yield to the flesh. Our choices each day determine our growth in the Lord. We will either become more like Him by walking and obeying the Spirit of God, or we will become carnal Christians displeasing to God. This brings death to our lives for **Romans 8:6** says, **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** From this we can see why so many Christians are not enjoying their inheritance in God. They are refusing to “walk in the Spirit” and are reaping the things they are sowing in the flesh. **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7-8).**

Sowing and Reaping

Many do not desire the Lord to cleanse them, and subsequently refuse His work of sanctification and holiness. Therefore, they reap those things that are sown to the flesh. At one time in my life, I was very concerned about reaping all that I had sown, since I seemed to be continually failing God. I felt I would be forever reaping and never make any spiritual progress. I didn't mean to fail God but my flesh was weak.

The Lord was so gracious to minister to me with His love. He first led me to the Scripture in **Matthew 26:41, Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

He then gently explained to me that the kind of sin that reaped corruption was premeditated sin. (**Galatians 6:7, ...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**) He did this by asking me how one sowed a seed. I replied, “By digging a hole in

the ground.” He then asked, “What do you do next?” I said, “You put the seed in and cover it up.” He said, “That is the way you commit a premeditated sin. You deliberately dig a hole, plant the seed and then cover it up so that others will not see it. The results of those sins will eventually be reaped.”

He then said, “The other kind of sin, which is the weakness of our flesh, was like the seed that was thrown on top of the ground, and the sun beat down on it, and it never took root.” This is where we really do not mean to sin, but suddenly in a weak moment we fail the Lord, and immediately we are sorry and seek His forgiveness. This kind of sin will not be reaped, for the Lord’s grace covers it even as the sun beat down on the seed on top of the ground.

Each time we give these weak areas back to Jesus and determine that we want to be overcomers in that area, we find ourselves growing stronger. In time, we’ll become totally victorious. Should we become rebellious and commit willful sin, the moment we seek God for forgiveness we can enter back into the walk of the Spirit. However, we must deal with the results of those premeditated sins.

An example of this would be a young girl who deliberately sinned through fornication with the result of an illegitimate baby. The Lord would forgive her the moment she sought Him for forgiveness; however, she would still have the child as a result of her sin. Nothing could change the fact that the child was illegitimate. However, God’s grace and mercy could cover this sin so that mother and child could grow in His love and goodness, if the mother chose God’s way for her life.

God will forgive and cleanse us and always show us the way to overcome as we continue to follow Him. When we sin or fail God, He always stands ready to receive us back into His fellowship and love. He doesn’t just want us merely to “live in the Spirit,” but also to “walk in the Spirit,” that is, the crucified life. (**Galatians 5:24-25**).

Conquering Negative Emotions

By looking at some of the other negative emotions or fruit of Satan that we experience, we can see the means by which to conquer them. Let us take fear for instance. The Word of God tells us **He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord (Psalm 112:7)**. Fear is the opposite of trust. The devil continually tries to get us to be fearful. The Bible says in **Luke 21:26, Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken**. Many shall not overcome fear, but be overcome by it. As Christians, we are not to be fearful but are to trust in the Lord. Should Satan come against us with his lies and fear, we are to turn to God and ask that the fear be removed. People's fears are many. Some fear death, others are afraid of getting cancer, afraid of losing their loved ones, afraid of the house burning down, afraid of having car wrecks or afraid of flying in airplanes. Others are tormented with the fear of the dark, fear of being molested or fear of staying alone. Fear is a horrible monster no matter what form it takes. After we seek God for the removal of our fear, we then should quote the Word of God concerning that subject to the devil. **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)**.

As we listen to the Holy Spirit, He usually speaks something positive for us to do. It could be we are to sing to the Lord, pray in tongues or read the Bible. If we obey, the Holy Spirit will then drive the "spirit of fear" from us. If we cannot get free and find we are in bondage to an evil spirit of fear, we may need to have this evil spirit "cast out." If we are simply overcoming a weakness of fear in our flesh, submitting to God and resisting the devil will accomplish the victory. We should not be discouraged if we do not get the victory the first time. It sometimes takes several bouts with the devil to win the round. If we lose one battle, it does not

mean we are losing the war. The Lord will bring the victory if we are determined and have chosen to trust God and not to fear.

This same approach applied to any weakness will bring us success. The place to begin is with a decision of the will. A decision allowed us to come into the kingdom of God. We decided to accept the Lord's forgiveness and reconciliation. At the time of this decision we were "born anew" and received the gift of life in Christ. This was all accomplished by faith in God's Word.

The same method will work in overcoming any weakness in our lives. We must first decide we want to be an overcomer. Then the power of God will perform this in us as we trust Him by faith to do so. We must not be double-minded once we set our course since a double-minded man receives nothing.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:6-8).

Contrary to what we might think, we need not go about continually confessing the thing we are trying to overcome to others; making a prayer declaration is sufficient, as this is "confessing" it to God. We sometimes talk too much and do too little. True faith rests in the victory of Jesus and does not need to broadcast the desired outcome. It will be evident when the fruit begins to manifest in our lives.

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding (Proverbs 17:27-28).

It is not necessary to go back through all the rubble of our lives to receive healing. When we come to the Lord, we are made "new creatures" and old things pass away; all things are made new. **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

The Lord wants the pain of those things erased so we can function without the hurt of those wounds. We should not dig up the past unless the Holy Spirit specifically sees the need to touch an area with His healing, and only then if that healing requires facing the past. With His love He will remove the hurt of those days. Inner emotional healing is sometimes the key to receiving a physical healing. We can be suffering with ulcers because we have not forgiven someone, or arthritis can possibly be the result of a bitter and prideful spirit. Heart problems can occur because of fear. The Lord begins our healing from the inside out. Once we have been cleansed in our hearts and souls, then the body will also respond and experience healing. When we prosper in our souls, then we will also prosper in our bodies. **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (3 John 2).**

If we are overwhelmed by depression or hopelessness and we are unable to pray or read God's Word, we can ask the Holy Spirit to speak to someone to pray for us. The Lord knows that many times we are too weak to pray and that we need the body of Christ. They can stand and pray with us until we get the victory. We need not feel embarrassed to ask others to pray. We need each other. We are told to **...support the weak, be patient toward all men (1 Thessalonians 5:14)**. It is also helpful to have someone pray the prayer of agreement with you when trying to overcome a weakness. This will bring strength to your decision to overcome in the areas needed. **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 18:19)**. This is a wonderful agreement that should be utilized by husbands and wives. The wife can agree that her husband's weakness will be overcome in Christ, while the husband can make the same agreement for his wife. Satan tries to divide husbands and wives with critical thoughts and words about each other's weaknesses.

Reviewing how to overcome any negative emotion, we must: (1) Ask the Lord to remove it. (2) Quote the Word of God. (3) Listen to the Holy Spirit. (4) Obey His guidance. (5) Praise Him for the answer. This is only a simple outline but many find it helpful when needing a guideline to overcome faults and failures.

God's Transforming Power

God delights in taking weak men and women and making them into pillars of strength. He has a unique plan for each of us. God does not want us to try to change ourselves. Self-sufficiency and self-will are just what their prefixes denote--"self." "Self" will always fail us; God will never fail. The reason self-will fails is that one day man comes to the end of himself and needs God. God's method for changing us is to have us align our wills with His and allow His power to transform us. This will explain why people who overcome addictions to food, alcohol, tobacco and drugs without Christ often return to their destructive habits.

"Self" methods are only temporary. God's methods are permanent. The alcoholic doesn't merely have to abstain to remain free because the very root cause of his addiction can be healed by Jesus. He can be delivered from this evil spirit. He does not have a disease that cannot be cured. Jesus can heal every malady. A recovering alcoholic need not live with the "fear of taking a drink" and ending up in bondage again. He need not have this tormenting fear for the rest of his life. God desires to set him free of all fear and addiction by giving him the power to overcome through Jesus Christ.

Temperance is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and as we walk in the Spirit this fruit will become a part of our lives. We will not indulge in any excesses. When our spirit and soul are cleansed we will have all the fruits of our Lord evident in our lives. The desire of our Father is that we should be whole and abound with much fruit. If we walk with Him and abide with Him, this fruit

will come forth. **I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing (John 15:5).**

Gluttony is another spirit that enslaves millions. Deliverance can bring freedom in this area. If the problem is not an evil spirit, but only a bad habit in the flesh, the flesh can be conquered by aligning our will with the Father's and by asking Him to give us the power to eat properly. We should not be "weight watchers," but rather "Jesus watchers." If we keep our eyes on Him instead of the problem, we will soon have victory over the problem. He will give us a desire to please Him and be with Him instead of a desire to overeat. He will be our comfort instead of our food. Most overweight people need emotional healing, usually in the area of self-worth. As they seek the Lord, He will heal them of their wounds of rejection. Once they have received this inner healing, the physical man (the body) will begin to respond and the weight will return to normal. Should the problem be one of a physical nature (thyroid, chemical, or hormone imbalance), the cure is still the same: abiding in Jesus. He will bring the needed healing if they continue to walk with him.

Since our battle is in the mind, we must continually keep our minds fed with the Word of God, as this is the ammunition used to overcome the enemy. Many people do not obtain the victory promised to them as Christians because everything but the Word of God is fed into their spirits. They cannot "eat" of the things of the world without becoming "worldly." Secular magazines, soap operas, neighborhood gossip, and sensuous movies corrupt the whole man. If they do not yield totally to the Lord, all their efforts will be to no avail. Overcoming begins with yielding and is executed by dependence upon God. We must not wait until we feel we are worthy, or wait until we "get better" before we approach God to help us. We cannot get better, except God work in us. The Bible tells us that in our flesh dwells no good thing. **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is**

good I find not (Romans 7:18). We must realize we are totally dependent on God from beginning to end. Satan lies to us and tells us we must do better before we can be rewarded. Walking in the Lord requires no such action. We are rewarded because we are walking with Him, not because we have performed. Our deeds change because we have been with Him; we do not perform the deeds to be worthy of Him. We are worthy the moment we set our wills with the will of the Father. We then have access to all our rights and blessings in Jesus. We do not have to wait until we have become totally changed to enjoy our privileges in Christ.

We are justified immediately by the blood of Jesus when we are born again. We then are sanctified daily as we walk with Him. Eventually we will be glorified when we meet him.

If we are to be victorious we must not allow the carnal mind to “reason away” the Lord’s answers to our problems. Christians who listen to “reason” and refuse to do anything because they don’t “feel” like it will never overcome and be healed. Reason is the voice of the soul, while “feeling” is the voice of the body. We must listen to the voice of the Spirit if we are to be victorious.

To illustrate this, let us say we are believing the Lord for the physical healing of a headache. We have taken an aspirin, but to no avail, and have prayed and claimed God’s Word in Psalm 103:3, “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” The unrenewed mind begins “reasoning” to talk us out of our healing. Satan causes thoughts such as the following to come to our minds: “This is really stupid to ask God to heal a headache. He doesn’t have time for this sort of thing; besides, He’s punishing you because you told a lie yesterday. You’ve never had a headache this bad before; this could be a brain tumor. What if you died?, etc.” The physical man (the body) will concur as it will be “feeling” pain. If we allow the carnal mind (the flesh) to rule us we will probably end up in bed with a bad headache. However, if we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we will be encouraged to trust the Lord and His Word. He will speak to us to resist and rebuke the devil. He may show us why we have the headache.

Possibly we have allowed fear and anxiety to rule us, and got our minds on our problems instead of the Lord. The Holy Spirit might whisper for us to give Him those problems and rest in Him for the answers. As we obey and channel our thoughts back on the Lord, we find that suddenly our headache will disappear.

We must overcome “reason” and “feelings,” and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit if we are to continue to walk in the Spirit. If we wait until we “feel” like praying we may never pray. Once our minds are renewed by the Holy Spirit, our reasoning will be accurate, for we will “reason” according to the Word of God and not according to the false standards of this world. The Lord does not do away with the mind and reasoning. He simply renews and cleanses it of the things that are not of Him. Some people ask, “How can I claim I am healed when I know I am sick? Isn’t this what Christian Science does?” Christian Science denies the reality of sin and sickness and says that it is all in our mind; and therefore, if we do not think about it, it does not exist. This is entirely different from the Biblical approach to sin and sickness. The Bible declares the reality of both, but gives us the answer in Jesus.

We are to acknowledge our sin and sickness and resist them in prayer as the devil is behind them both. We are to submit to the Lord for healing and deliverance, for it is His power that will give us the victory, not the so-called power of mind over matter. We are to submit our minds to the Lord and claim His healing and freedom. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” We trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to deliver us, not in “mind control.” Our reasoning and feelings should not keep us from the blessings of God nor from serving Him.

If we wait until all things are comfortable to the flesh to serve the Lord, we will never get very far. If we listen to the objections of the carnal mind as to why we can never be overcomers, we will never become one. Unregenerate man does not have the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to him because he is not “born again.” The voice of conscience is the only restraining guide-

line to keep unbelievers from sinning. This is given for man's protection, for without some restraint man would become as a wild animal.

The Conscience's Role

In fact, some men who continue to sin and do evil find that their consciences have become "seared," and they feel no sorrow for wrongdoing. Men that follow the devil long enough become like him. They end up with not only a seared conscience but also a reprobate mind. **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:1-2). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (Romans 1:28).** Sinners are not led to God through their conscience, but rather by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit "woos" and "draws" the lost to the Father. Prayer promotes this.

The conscience of man speaks different things to different people depending upon what they have been taught. **Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled (Titus 1:15).** If a person has been raised in a very legalistic atmosphere, his conscience will condemn him over things that are really not Biblically wrong. On the other hand, a person raised under liberal rules will many times not feel guilt over definite sins. Only when the Spirit of God comes into our lives will He speak the truth to us for He is the Spirit of Truth. **Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:17).** We need to give the Lord all of our past teachings regarding right

and wrong and let Him purify them according to His Word. We may find we are free to do some things we have been taught as wrong, and also we may find we must eliminate other things as they are not consistent with God's Word. We should be led by the Spirit of God and not our conscience. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).** We must have our conscience purged so that we hear the voice of God. **How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14).** We are not to have "sin consciousness," but rather "God consciousness." We are not just "old sinners" saved by grace; we are the righteousness of God by faith. We are to be conscious of Jesus, not past sins.

In looking at our chart again, we can see the fruit that Jesus desires for us to bear in our soulish realm. As we contrast it with Satan's fruit, we are able to see the areas in our soul that need the Lord's cleansing. We must present these areas to Him and trust Him by faith to overcome. Overcomers will have love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance growing in their souls. Those that still are being ruled by the carnal mind will have hate, sorrow, strife, impatience, harshness, evil, unbelief, pride and excess. Other good fruit such as forgiveness versus unforgiveness, trust versus fear, generosity versus greed, and enthusiasm versus depression, will also be evident.

Perhaps we have not thought of some of these negative fruits as being from the devil. Many have been taught that these things are simply part of life, and that we must just "hang on" and endure them until we die and go to heaven. Only then shall we finally get relief. How sad that Christians do not know that they can live free of these things because of Jesus' sacrifice on calvary. These negative fruits and emotions are products of the world. Jesus overcame the world for us and said that we too could overcome by faith. **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our**

faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4-5).

Sickness Related to Sin

In looking at the chart we see the outward signs of what's wrong in our souls. Perhaps we have not realized that our noticeable problems have a "root cause." Some of the signs of spiritual problems are sickness, uncleanness, disorder, immodesty, poverty, negative confessions, harshness, perverted sex, weakness, shyness, obesity, rebellion and error. We must treat these symptoms as sins if we are to be free. After we present them to the Lord and ask for forgiveness, then we are to listen to His plan for overcoming them. We may not see immediate results; but as we seek the Lord daily, He will give us a program for cleaning up these vessels. We are to align our will with His will and depend on His power to bring our bodies into subjection. If we follow Him, we are guaranteed victory. **...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).**

Some may be offended that we have called sickness a sin. However, let us see what the Bible says about it. A man was brought to Jesus for healing and we find Jesus forgiving his sins instead of praying for his healing. Jesus treated sin and sickness alike.

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? (Matthew 9:2-5).

If sickness is a sin, then we must deal with it the same way we deal with a temptation. When we are tempted to steal or lie,

we resist and call on Jesus to keep us from these sins. This is the same way we are to deal with sickness. When Satan tries to put sickness on us, we should resist him in the name of Jesus and call on God to keep from receiving this evil in our lives.

Paul had a problem with sickness and weakness at the first of his ministry (this was not his “thorn in the flesh”). However, the people received him and prayed for him regardless of his problems. We must have the same compassion and love for those we know who have not yet received physical healing. Either they do not know their rights in the Lord, or have not yet battled through for their victory. Paul was not “put down” because he had an infirmity. We should not do this to others nor tell them they have no faith. We should receive them in love and stand with them until they receive their healing. Paul, as he grew in God, became an overcomer. Just because our particular problem may not be physical sickness, we still may have other problems that need overcoming as well. We are all battling different temptations. Sickness is only one of those temptations that we struggle against.

Paul called his infirmity of the flesh a temptation. **Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus (Galatians 4:13-14).** If Paul called his infirmity a temptation, then we know he dealt with it the way the Bible tells us we are to deal with sin and temptation. God never tempts man, so we know that sickness cannot possibly be from God.

James 1:13-17 says,

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh

down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.

The Bible stresses in these verses that we are not to be in error by thinking that sickness is from God because every good and perfect gift comes from above. Sickness is certainly neither good nor perfect. Sickness leads to death, just as sin leads to death according to this verse. God wants His people well. Sickness is from Satan. We are promised in God's Word that if we are following Him we can be healed. **And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him (James 5:15).**

Jesus came as the Great Physician to minister wholeness to His people. **When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17).** Here again we see the Lord linking sickness and sin together. When we are totally healed spiritually and in our souls, we then will be healed in our bodies as the physical must follow the spirit and soul. We need to cry out for this healing in our souls so that we can experience total healing. We find David praying this kind of prayer in **Psalm 41:4, I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.** If we are sick at present, we should not allow the devil to condemn us, but rather seek the Lord for cleansing and healing. Being sick is no different from the sins of fear, a bad temper, overweight or guilt. Jesus wants us free from all of these. He loves us and desires that we walk in total health; spirit, soul and body. If we have problems in any area, it affects us in other areas because we cannot separate the whole man.

Physical sickness causes us not to be able to worship God as we would like to do. Soulful sickness (of the mind, the emotions and the will) also affects our worship and love for the Lord, and many times it produces depression. Spiritual sickness (broken fellowship with God) causes the soul to be without joy and peace. We are a triune being designed to function as a unit. The way God

designed man to operate at his fullest is to have the regenerated spirit in control of the soul (mind, emotions and will), with the body in subjection to them both. If this order is violated, man invariably functions abnormally and beneath his God-given potential. To realign our nature, we must begin with the spirit or the heart of man. This must first be in order before the rest of a man's life can be complete. The first step is to be "born again" by receiving the Spirit of Life. Then we must ask for heart cleansing. This must continue until truly we can say that we love the Lord with all of our heart, and there is not one thing we would desire above Him. This is the first and great commandment, that we love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind. **Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:36-38).** The Lord knew that sin is in the heart of man, and until it is cleansed, man will continue to fail God.

The Nature of Sin

Sin is not in things. Things by themselves have no power to sin. Whiskey cannot sin. Television cannot sin. Tobacco cannot sin. It does no good to preach against such things. Sin is in the heart of man. It is through his choices, and what he does with things that makes them evil. It is not the television that is evil, but what man produces and watches on it that make it evil. Taking a television away from a man will not take away his sin because it will still remain in his heart. God wants man to be able to refuse the evil that comes over the television, not destroy the television. God wants man to choose good and shun evil. He will not force man to do this, but it is His desire. God will never violate man's freedom of choice. It is not God's will that any should perish and go to hell. He wants all men to go to heaven because He loves

them. However, He will not force men to go to heaven. If they choose to go to hell, He will let them go there by their own desire. **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).**

It is not God's will that any should live in sickness or emotional distress. It is His will that all be healed. Jesus healed all that came to Him; He refused no one. His death and atonement not only healed us of the sin problem, but was also for our physical problems.

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (Matthew 8:16-17).

If Jesus took them for us, we are not to take those sicknesses.

Salvation From Sin and Sickness

Once we understand where sickness comes from, we can understand how we are able to get rid of it. God's Word reveals that sickness originated with sin and now it is being spread by Satan. God's Word teaches that forgiveness of sin and healing of the body go hand in hand. Healing is just as easy to receive from God as forgiveness of sins. One of Satan's primary objectives is to discredit God by spoiling our bodies with sickness. Being created in the image of God, we are caught in the middle of this spiritual battle. Satan is described as a roaring lion who is seeking whom he may devour. **(1 Peter 5:8 says, Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.)** Satan will devour us

with disease and sickness if we allow him to do so. Our great advantage is that God sent His Son to destroy the works of the devil. **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).**

When Jesus shed His blood on the cross for our salvation from sin, He also bore the stripes on His body for our healing from sickness. Jesus was beaten by Roman lashes that literally tore pieces of flesh from His back. They were the stripes by which Isaiah and Peter say we were healed. **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24).** We can't serve the Lord the way He wants us to if we are sick in our bodies. He wants us whole: spirit, soul, and body. He desires this wholeness to continue to spread until our families are whole and the body of Christ is whole. Those who are walking in physical wholeness should not "point their fingers" at those members who are still sick, but rather uphold them so they can also come into wholeness. Those who are still sick should not feel condemned if they are seeking God for healing. Our answers don't always come instantly, so we are not to be discouraged and walk as defeated Christians. We are to rise above our problems, knowing that as we continue to follow Jesus, the problems will be corrected.

We must not allow the enemy to talk us out of our position in Christ. He will attempt to discourage us by telling us we will never be healed, nor become an overcomer. One of Satan's favorite tricks when people are believing God for healing is to point out someone who was believing for healing, but instead of being healed, got worse or died. Then the devil tries to convince us that they were better Christians than we are, so therefore how can we expect God to heal us? We should never base the answers to our prayer requests on what other people receive or do not receive. Man's experience should be judged in the light of God's Word,

not God's Word in the light of man's experiences. When we see failures in others, we must remember that does not mean we must fail. We may not understand why others are not healed, but only God sees the hearts of men. So we must leave those questions regarding others to Him. We must trust His Word and allow the Lord to show us the way. We should always keep our eyes on Jesus and not on men. Men will fail us, but Jesus will never fail.

When we desire healing, we must remember to seek Jesus for who He is, and not just for what He can do for us. We need to seek Jesus the Healer, not the Healer, Jesus. Healing is the bread for God's children and we shall receive that bread as we follow Him. Jesus replied to a Gentile woman seeking Him for healing of her daughter.

...It is not meet to the take children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour (Matthew 15:26-28). If sinners can get the crumbs (many are being saved and healed at the same time), those who have known God for years are certainly entitled to their healing. We must ask the Lord to renew our minds until we are able to receive as the little Syrophenician (Gentile) woman did. She was willing to consider herself as a dog if that was what it took to receive God's blessings. Many are too proud to come as this woman did, so they still have not received. It is easier for them to keep their sickness rather than to admit that perhaps their doctrine has been wrong. We must come with a humble heart to receive from our Lord.

Jesus referred to Himself as the "living bread," and those who ate of this bread would live forever. When the life of Christ Jesus flows into us, that life will produce healing.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the

world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you (John 6:51-53).

Only those who have spiritual understanding can comprehend the meaning of Jesus' words. The sacrifice of Jesus' life on the cross paid the price for the sins of all mankind. His spilled blood and torn flesh bring life to those who accept Him as Saviour. It is a great mystery as to why His innocent life was required as a sacrifice for your sins and mine. We cannot intellectually understand the vicarious suffering of the Lord, nor why this was the plan through which salvation would come. Those religions, however, that do not accept the atoning work of Jesus Christ have become "bloodless" theologies without power. As the Scripture says in **Hebrews 9:22, ...without shedding of blood is no remission.**

The Blood of Jesus

The Lord gave me a beautiful analogy of what the blood of Jesus does for us. This was especially meaningful to me coming from a medical background. As a former laboratory technician, one of my primary duties in the lab was to examine and analyze patients' blood samples. The revelation the Lord gave me makes a comparison between human blood and the blood of Jesus. The function of human blood in the body is to keep it healthy and alive. The same is true of the blood of Jesus. His blood keeps the body of Christ healthy and alive.

Another of the main functions of the blood in the human body is to facilitate cleansing of the system. This is also one of the main purposes the blood of Jesus does for us. As members of the body of Christ, we are in need of cleansing when we come to the

Lord. This cleansing process is an ongoing operation, as we walk in the Lord, so that we will remain free from sin.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-9).

The blood in the human body brings carbon dioxide to the lungs to be exhaled and exchanged for the oxygen needed for the body. This is done through the action of the heart beat that pumps the blood through arteries to the entire system. The veins are the blood vessels that return the blood to the heart and lungs, while the arteries carry it back to the body. The majority of people from whom I would take blood samples with a needle and syringe would comment on how dark their blood was as I removed it. I would always explain that the blood was taken from a vein. Consequently, it was full of impurities and depleted of oxygen. Therefore it was dark since it lacked oxygen that gives blood its bright red color. In accidents in which a blood vessel has been severed, one can determine whether it is a vein or artery by the color of the blood and by the flow at the point of injury. If an artery has been severed, it will be bright red and spurting out with each beat of the heart; a severed vein will ooze dark red (blackish in color) blood.

Jesus' Blood Cleanses

Just as the body needs cleansing, we also need that cleansing work in our spirits and souls. When the Holy Spirit points out sin to us, we need to repent and confess that sin so that we can be cleansed of it. The above Scripture says that if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we will be in fellowship one with another. As Christians, if we have broken fellowship with any member in the body of Christ, one or both of us will be walking in

darkness and sin. God never divides and separates His body. We should always strive to walk in peace and harmony with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Of course, if there are those who refuse to fellowship with us, then we must leave them in the hands of the Lord and pray for them. However, we should be very sure that there is nothing at our end of the relationship that is preventing fellowship, lest we be guilty of “walking in the dark.”

If there are those who are rebellious and refuse to “walk in the light,” then the church leadership should seek the Lord as to how to handle the problem. Perhaps the Lord would have the fellowship fast and pray for those individuals. The Spirit of Christ always seeks to reconcile any division. He requires those that are strong to bear the burdens of those that are weak. The Lord would have those that are mature to pray for and love those that are immature. If those involved in conflict would put on the nature of Christ during those times, the Lord would bring forth victory each time.

We are not to defend our position, but are to trust God to defend us even if we have been unduly wronged. Fighting back with words and hostile feelings only compounds the problem. We must ask for God’s grace and love for those who oppose us. We must recognize it is the enemy at work against our marriages, homes, friendships and churches.

Dependence upon God and His tools is the only way for our victory to come. If we are to be cleansed and purged by the Lord, we must yield completely to Him and His working in conflicting situations.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee from youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that

oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:21-26).

Not only does the blood of Jesus bring cleansing to the body, but the Scripture says in **Hebrews 9:14** that it will **...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God**. The Lord desires that all the evil in our hearts and minds and consciences be purged so that we can have the mind of Christ.

This cleansing process is accomplished by applying the Word of God to our lives. **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you (John 15:3)**. By fellowshiping with the Word (Jesus) and reading the Word (the Bible), we shall be made clean. The more of His Word that we know and apply, the cleaner our vessel shall be. The Word of God cleanses and the blood of Jesus cleanses. When Jesus offered up His blood, He did it so that you and I could become clean, holy vessels.

Life Is in the Blood

The blood of Jesus also brings life to us, just as the blood in the physical body carries the life. **But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat (Genesis 9:4)**. Those who do not know the Lord Jesus are dead and have no life in them. Also, those who refuse to accept Christ will never have any life in them.

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you...He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him (John 6:53 and 56). Anything that is not life is not from the Lord. Death and sickness are the enemies of man.

Jesus said in **John 10:10, The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might**

have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. If we do not accept the life of Christ, eternal death will result. Just as life leaves when the blood flows out of the natural body, so it is true with those who have not the divine flow within their veins.

Sin Requires Shedding of Blood

Under the Old Testament law, the penalty for men's sins that were not punishable by death was the sacrifice of an animal's life. The shedding of blood was required to atone for their sin. We might wonder why such a terrible thing was required by God.

Why were innocent little lambs and doves slain and their blood sprinkled on the altar? Perhaps we can understand this if we place ourselves in the situation of being instructed to kill an animal for telling a lie or committing some other sin. When one must kill an innocent animal because of his sin, it illustrates the awfulness of sin. God wanted man to understand that when he sinned, it meant death for something or someone.

If we were still under the Old Testament law today, we would be required to take a little lamb and kill it for our sins. This would be difficult for most of us because we would cringe at the thought of slaying anything innocent. The Lord wanted us to realize that the penalty of sin would cause a life to be taken. When people had to take a little dove and bring it to be slain upon an altar as an offering for their sins, the impact of sin became real to them. Sin always requires a sacrifice.

Today, we have the Spirit of God that cleanses us from our sins as we confess them. Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world, and His death and shed blood paid the price for sin once and for all. No longer does an animal need to be offered for our sins.

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said,

Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:6-9).

Jesus' Blood Gives Health and Strength

Another function of the human blood is its capacity to bring healing to the physical body. Human blood is composed of more than just red blood cells. In fact, over half (55 percent) of our blood is not red at all. It is a clear liquid, known as plasma, that is 92 percent water. The other 8 percent includes many essential substances necessary to keep our bodies healthy. These are proteins, hormones, vitamins, enzymes and salts. Should the body become ill, the blood alters its normals to adjust and promote healing. The white blood cells (leucocytes) are the body's first line of defense against bacterial invaders. When bacteria enter the body, white blood cells are produced in great numbers. They travel to the infection and engulf the invaders.

The blood of Jesus spiritually does the same for the body of Christ. When Satan invades, the Holy Spirit stands ready to come to our aid and bring the needed healing. The Lord desires that we walk in divine health. If we stay in close communion with Him, we will find our spiritual man will not become sick and depleted, needing continual healing. Satan tries to drain us of our spiritual strength and weaken us to the point where we have no resistance against His attacks. Staying in the flow of God's Spirit prevents this, as we then have His strength to overcome and walk victoriously.

The natural body becomes weak when proper diet and rest are neglected. This results in a condition commonly referred to as

“tired blood.” The medical name for this is “anemia,” and it is due to the lack of iron in the red blood cells. The iron compound in the red blood cells is medically termed “hemoglobin.” When this is low, the body becomes weary and fatigued. The blood carries this compound to all parts of the body to bring strength.

We, as Christians, are admonished to **...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Ephesians 6:10)**. Weakness is just another attack of the devil. We are to be strong in our spirits, souls, and bodies.

Christians should not be spineless individuals, but strong in their witness for the Lord. Timidity and shyness can be overcome through Jesus by asking Him for His holy boldness. Many people suffer needlessly, unable to speak the things in their hearts, because of fear and timidity. Jesus wants them free. We are to be strong people, not weak individuals. Physically, we can also call upon the Lord to strengthen us when we are weary. We are not to walk in weakness but in the Lord’s strength. **Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees (Isaiah 35:3)**. Weakness is another area in which we must resist and learn to claim the Lord’s strength. Of course, if we have been abusing our bodies, we need to correct our habits and get the proper rest and diet. However, if we have been doing this, sometimes the problem is a spiritual one and needs to be dealt with through prayer. When we are about the Lord’s business, He gives us the energy and vitality to accomplish those things that require our attention.

We must remember that when we give our lives to the Lord, all that we do becomes His business. We do not have to serve the Lord in the capacity of a minister to be in His service and claim His power. Average people become more than average when they become children of God. What is normal for the children of this world is not normal for the body of Christ. We have our values messed up because we have not looked to God’s Word for our “norm” or standard. It is not normal for a Christian to be weak, fearful, depressed, grieved, or sick. These things are abnormal for God’s people. However, so many of God’s people have accepted

the world's standards that they are walking far below their privileges.

Examples of this would be the acceptance of nausea and weakness during pregnancy, "hot and cold flashes" during menopause, fever while babies are cutting their teeth, and discomfort and depression during menstruation. As Christians, we do not have to accept these discomforts as normal, but rather refuse them in the name of Jesus and receive His healing. We must confess God's strength and healing instead of continually confessing our tiredness and sickness. **Joel 3:10** says, **...let the weak say, I am strong.**

Another thing that can cause people to be weak and sickly is for them to take the communion of the Lord without first examining themselves to see if any sin is present in their lives.

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (1 Corinthians 11:24-30).

The taking of communion is one of the church sacraments that represents the spiritual communion with our Lord. The reason we are to examine ourselves before we take the wine and the bread is so that there is nothing in our hearts that would prevent our communion with God. If we do not have the proper relationship with members of the Lord's body, then we cannot have a proper relationship with God.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also (1 John 4:20-21).

If we have been taking of Christ's blood (abiding in His Spirit) and eating his flesh (assimilating His Word), then we will have blessed communion with the Father. We shall walk in health and strength for they are the Lord's blessing and promise. When we do not walk in the Lord we find our spiritual body becomes unhealthy, and we begin to have problems.

There is a blood disease called leukemia that attacks some people. This occurs when the white blood cells begin to multiply too rapidly. Under normal conditions man has only around 5,000 white blood cells for every 5,000,000 red blood cells per cubic millimeter of blood. When this condition changes drastically, it indicates sickness in the body. The disease of leukemia is caused by runaway cells that are cancerous and in rebellion.

When we become rebellious toward God, we cause the same condition to occur in our spiritual lives. We find that spiritual cancer will eat away our life. We must ask the Lord to deliver us from all rebellion and submit to His will in order to remain healthy. The Bible says in 1 **Samuel 15:23, For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee...** We must yield to the Lord to remain spiritually and physically healthy. The Lord will minister to us the things we need to stay in proper spiritual condition.

Fed Through the Blood

Another purpose of the blood is to distribute the needed nutrients to all parts of the body. Because of what Jesus' blood purchased for us, we also receive spiritual nutrients. The plasma

of the blood carries the proteins, hormones, vitamins, enzymes and salts throughout the body. God feeds us through the Word by quickening (making alive) the right word to us. If we have need of comfort, He will show us the Scriptures in His Word that bring comfort. And, because the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, He will bring that to our spirits. When we are submitted to Him, we will be fed the proper word so that we may grow in Him. If we are not submitted, we can become imbalanced in our spiritual lives. The same is true in the physical body. If diabetes is present, too much blood sugar is produced and the body suffers because of this condition. The written Word of God must be balanced by the Spirit of God. The dead letter of the law will kill and bring death, but the Spirit brings life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 says, **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.** When we get out of balance, we become spiritually ill. We must continually rely on Jesus to bring us the truth and the life. In the spiritual as well as the natural, we must not only have the proper diet, but the proper exercise also.

Just knowing the Word is not enough; we must apply the Word for it to work. Many people become spiritual gluttons as they listen to good teachings over and over, but they do not apply the truth to their own lives. We must use what we hear. We are instructed not only to be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word. **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).** By applying the blood of Jesus to our lives, we shall have His life.

Protection Through the Blood

Protection is another benefit of the blood. This does not mean that if we chant “the blood of Jesus” repeatedly we will not be

harmful. Some people have made a fetish of Jesus' blood by pleading the blood over themselves, over their houses, and sprinkling the blood here and there. It is not the chanting of "the blood of Jesus" that brings protection, but rather faith in what the blood of Jesus has done for us. Expressions such as "the devil cannot cross the blood line" are futile unless one's faith is in the protection secured by the shed blood of Jesus on Calvary. It is what is behind the blood, not the mere speaking of the blood that brings protection. Of course, we can voice our faith in Jesus' blood, and as we do so there is power in those words. We should, however, understand that mere speaking is not sufficient unless our words are backed by real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A beautiful type of this is found in **Exodus 12:13, And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.** When the Lord sent the plague to destroy the Egyptians because of their refusal to release Israel, He instructed His people to slay a lamb and place the blood on the upper and side doorposts of their houses, so that the death angel would not come into that house. Because they had faith in God and obeyed His command, all that were in those houses were spared.

Blood Covenant for Your Household

Today, our faith in the Lord's blood can bring salvation to our households too. If we have unsaved loved ones, we must remember to claim their souls and believe for their salvation, just as the first Passover was followed in Egypt. It was "a lamb for a house." One member of that household sprinkled the blood on the door and all beneath the roof were safe, for God's covenant was with them. That covenant is still good today.

Rahab is another beautiful type of the Lord saving an entire family by one woman's faith. By faith, Rahab put out the scarlet

thread, which is a type of the blood of Christ, and saved all of her family (**Joshua 2:18**).

In the New Testament we also find an account of the Philippian jailer who cried out, **...what must I do to be saved? Paul replied, ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (Acts 16:30-31).**

Our families are promised redemption if we believe. The angel promised Cornelius that Peter would tell him words whereby he and all his house should be saved. **Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved (Acts 11:14).**

What are the conditions we must meet in order to make this “Blood Covenant” effective for our loved ones? First, we must consecrate our lives fully to God. Then we must take the matter to the Lord and put in a definite claim for the salvation of our kindred.

As we claim them, let the Spirit of God lead in how we are to pray for each of them. Some are led “with strong crying and tears” (travail), others by fasting since it will break Satan’s hold. For some a steady faith applied for their souls will bring them into the kingdom. If we are claiming our children, remember we must first **...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).** We must lay a good foundation by teaching them God’s Word.

If the children are grown and we have failed to do this because we were not walking in God’s light at the time, we need to repent and ask God in His mercy to save them. We should not allow Satan to condemn us after we have repented, but trust the Lord to redeem those lost years. He is able, no matter how deep in sin those rebellious children have become.

Next, we must leave our loved ones in the hands of the Lord and trust Him to bring them in. We must not allow doubt and unbelief to plague us as we are trusting Jesus to bring them to salvation and deliverance. We must never fear that the Lord will bring evil upon them to save them. Our prayers of mercy, forgiveness and protection will keep them safe until they respond to the

Holy Spirit. **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44).** Another very important step is to bind Satan away from our loved ones. We must command the devil to release their hearts, minds, emotions and wills. We must exercise our spiritual authority over the enemy for their souls.

After we have done these things, then we must stand firm and believe God through “thick and thin” until they come to Him. Our faith will not fail as long as we look to God for the answer. If they seem to go farther away from God after we have claimed them, we must keep our eyes off them and firmly fixed on the God of the Covenant, believing and praising Him for their salvation.

Here is a sample prayer that will give us an idea how to pray for loved ones who are lost.

“Father, I come believing that Your Word is true; I am claiming each and every member of my family for the kingdom of God. Lord, I ask that You forgive their sins and be merciful to them. Lord, keep Your hand over them and protect them from the enemy until they come to You. Father, ‘woo and draw’ them by Your Holy Spirit and convict them of their sins. Send them the right people to testify to them. Send the Word to them so that they will hear of Your love and grace. Now Lord, I speak to Satan and command him to loose his hold on their minds, hearts, wills and emotions. I declare he is a defeated foe in their lives and their souls are now claimed for the Lord. Lord, I trust You to deal with each of them in Your mercy, and believe that You will do a quick work in their lives. By faith I now believe they are in the family of God. Amen.”

Now we must trust the goodness of God to lead them to repentance. Never believe Satan’s lies that it might take a tragedy to get them to believe. Satan would like to destroy them with a tragedy so that they will never be saved. The work of the Holy Spirit and the goodness of God is what saves people, not tragedies.

Or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and for-

bearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Romans 2:4).

Overcoming Satan Through the Blood

We can overcome Satan in our lives and the lives of our loved ones by claiming the atoning work of Christ and His blood shed for us. **Revelation 12:11** says, **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.** Our faith in what the blood of Jesus does for us will bring us the victory. We are never to walk in condemnation, but in the righteousness of Christ. When we are “born again,” we then have Christ’s righteousness, so **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1).** We can boldly come before the Lord washed clean in the blood of Jesus.

We can have not only sweet fellowship, but also access to the power and authority of Christ. We can now speak the Word and it will come to pass because we ask in the name of Jesus. **Revelation 12:11** says, **And they overcame him (the devil)...by the word of their testimony.** This does not mean our individual testimonies of what the Lord has done for us, but rather our testimony of the Word of God. As we speak the words of the Old and New Testaments, we overcome the devil. God’s Word will overcome any situation. We must allow the Word of the Lord to abide in us so that we can speak it forth and overcome. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you (John 15:7).**

The last part of this verse in **Revelation 12:11** says, **...and they loved not their lives unto the death.** Faith in the blood of Jesus, the Lamb, and speaking the Word of God are not enough to get the victory over Satan. We must also lay down our lives to the degree that we would be willing to die for Christ’s sake. If we do not have this kind of commitment, then somewhere along the

way we shall fail, no matter how strong we are in faith or the Word. A total commitment is required if we are to be an overcomer. A half-hearted commitment will fail us. We must be willing to go anywhere, do anything, and give up anything for the cause of Christ. Some of us have never been overcomers in the lesser issues of life, yet are claiming big things for God. The way to get the victory is to daily crucify our flesh and obey the Lord in the little things, then we will be able to overcome in bigger realms.

We may think we have made a total commitment and have crucified our flesh. However, a good check to see if we have “died to self” would be to read the following:

“Dying to Self”

When you are purposely set aside, rejected, forgotten, and hurt with the insult of oversight -- but your spirit sings because you are being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, that is “Dying to Self.”

When your advice is disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and all manner of evil is spoken against you, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all with patient, loving silence, that is “dying to self.”

When you do not allow any disorder, irregularity or arrogance to come against your peace, when you are face to face with filth, waste, stupidity or spiritual pride, and endure it as Jesus endured it, that is “dying to self.”

When you are content with the location you live, the climate, the society, the solitude of the “backside of the desert,” and are willing to have your plans changed or interrupted by the will of God at any moment, that is “dying to self.”

When you never care to have others know of your good works, and never refer to yourself in conversation, or even care to have anyone commend you, when you truly love to be the unknown, that is “dying to self.”

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in the Spirit, and feel no envy, nor question God as to why your own needs are not being met, that is “dying to self.”

When you can receive correction and reproof, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up in your heart, that is “dying to self.”

Are you “dying to self?” At this hour, the Holy Spirit would bring us to the cross. **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:11).**

Dying to the flesh means making choices, dying to our ways and living to the Lord’s ways. The power of man’s will can either make him an overcomer or send him to hell. If we set our will with the will of God, we can become that overcomer. We are promised many blessings as we follow the Lord, and on the other side of the coin there are curses for going our own way. We must choose.

Isaiah 1:19-20 says, **If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.** The Lord wants to heal us, bless us and make us whole. The choice is ours. **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land (II Chronicles 7:14).**

God is always looking for a willing mind and a perfect heart. He wants to use those who qualify, even as He used the great men and women of the Bible. We must choose and obey, even as Solomon did when he built the temple.

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will

be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it (1 Chronicles 28:9-10).

Healing of the spirit, soul and body always begins with the choice to follow Jesus and the subsequent choices to continue to walk with Him. To receive complete wholeness, we must make a complete commitment, even as our Lord spoke the greatest commandment of God.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

“SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY”

SPIRIT

(Greek Word — Pneuma)

Inward or Hidden man, the Heart
Holy Spirit: Voice of the Regenerate or
“Born Again” Man

Conscience: Voice of the Unregenerate

Man

We are either one of these:

(1) Spirit of Life (Christ), “Born
Again”

(2) Spirit of Death (Satan), Lost in Sin

SOUL

(Greek Word — Psyche)

Outward Man

Reason: Voice of the Soul

Soul is comprised of:

WILL — Choice

(1) God’s way (Law of the Spirit of
Life in Christ)

(2) Way of Self (Law of Sin and Death)

MIND — Intellect

(1) Renewed — Spiritual

(2) Carnal — Flesh

EMOTIONS — Personality

BODY

(Greek Word — Soma)

Physical Man

Feelings: Voice of the body

Body is a receiver:

(1) Temple of God

(2) Temple of Satan

Senses — hearing, sight, touch, taste,
and smell

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

I Thess. 5:23 “spirit, soul, & body”

I John 2:15-17 “love not the world”

Romans 7:18-25 “deliverance from self”

Romans 8:7-17 “carnal mind versus
mind of Christ”

Gal. 3:13-14 “redeemed from the curse”

Gal. 5:16-25 “walk in the Spirit”

Gal. 6:8 “sowing to the flesh”

Rom. 8:13 “mortify deeds of the body”

Col. 3:5 “mortify deeds of the flesh”

II Cor. 5:15-17 “new creatures in Christ”

Eph. 2:1-6 “the spirit that worketh in
the children of disobedience”

James 1:12-17 “temptation”

Gal. 4:13-14 “sickness, temptation”

James 4:7-8 “resist evil”

Fruit of the Holy Spirit:

(*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Love Hate

Joy Sorrow

Peace Strife

Longsuffering Impatience

Gentleness Harshness

Goodness Evil

Faith Unbelief

Meekness Pride

Temperance Excess

Other Fruit:

Forgiveness Unforgiveness

Trust Fear

Generosity Greed

Enthusiasm Depression

OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS

Spirit of Life

Brings:

Health.....

Cleanliness.....

Order.....

Modesty.....

Prosperity.....

Confession of God’s
Word.....

Truth.....

Submission.....

Gentleness.....

Sex in Marriage.....

Strength.....

Holy Boldness.....

Normal Weight.....

**Spirit of
Death Brings:**

Sickness.....

Filth.....

Disorder.....

Immaturity.....

Poverty.....

Negative
Confession.....

Error.....

Rebellion.....

Harshness.....

Sex in Perversion.....

Weakness.....

Shyness.....

Overweight,
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Postnote

The Millers are very glad to receive mail from their readers; however, they are unable to answer the letters personally due the volume of mail that they receive. They will be happy to pray along with their intercessors for all who write with a prayer request; although they do no outside counseling as they believe this should be directed to local pastors as outlined in Scripture.

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The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it (Psalm 68:11).

For Additional Study

This book is taken from a course of Bible studies called the Overcoming Life Series. The entire series is a virtual “spiritual tool chest,” as it covers a multitude of subjects every Christian faces in his walk with God. It also answers questions that many believers have concerning the current move of God. These are dealt with in a balanced approach and in the light of the Scripture. God’s people are not to live frustrated, defeated lives, but rather they are to be victorious overcomers! Other books available with their companion workbooks are:

PROVE ALL THINGS - Christ warned that great deception would be one of the signs of the end times. In this book, instruction is given on how to recognize false prophets and teachings. Clear Scriptural guidelines are given on discerning the Spirit of truth versus the spirit of error. The book deals with how to judge without being judgmental.

THE TRUE GOD - This is a teaching on the character of God, explaining why God does certain things, and why it is against His nature to do other things. It differentiates between the things for which God is responsible and the things for which the devil is responsible. Our responsibility as Christians destined to overcome is made clear so that we can live victorious lives.

THE WILL OF GOD - This lesson teaches us not only how to know the will of God in our personal lives, family, ministry and finances, but also brings understanding as to why God allows sin, sickness and suffering in the world. As overcomers, Christians are not to suffer under many of the things we have accepted as normal.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM - Instruction on how to gain authority in God’s Kingdom through prayer is the topic of this book. Many principles and methods of prayer are covered, such as pray-

ing in the Spirit, fasting and prayer, travailing prayer, praise, intercession and spiritual warfare.

EXPOSING SATAN'S DEVICES - This book is a powerful expose of Satan's tricks, tactics and lies. Cult and Occultic methods and groups are listed so Christians can detect their activity. Demon activity is discussed and deliverance and casting out demons is dealt with in detail. Satan's kingdom is uncovered and the Christian is taught to overcome through spiritual discernment and warfare.

HEALING OF THE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY - This book teaches how to overcome emotional problems, as well as physical ones, and how to receive divine healing. It also teaches how to renew the carnal mind and walk in the spirit of life, thereby overcoming depression, loneliness and fear.

NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE - What is the woman's role in the church and home? Who is a woman's spiritual head and covering? Does God call women to the five-fold ministry? What does God's Word say about divorce, celibacy and choosing a marriage partner? These and other woman related topics are Scripturally examined.

EXTREMES OR BALANCE? - Many Christians have hurt the cause of Christ through "out-of-balance" teachings and demonstrations. This book shows how to avoid those areas. It also deals wisely with the excesses and extremes in the body of Christ.

THE PATHWAY INTO THE OVERCOMER'S WALK - This book contains answers to the questions an overcomer faces as he presses toward the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. How can we be conformed to the image of Christ? How does the Holy Spirit work with the overcomers in the end times? What are the overcomer's rewards?

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE - Explains the invisible world of spiritual forces that influence our lives and how good can prevail over the evil around us as we prepare for the new kingdom age that is coming. This book will help you overcome problems in your finances, marriage, the emotional pressures of fear, anger and hurt. Here are the keys to victory through spiritual warfare.

MARK OF GOD OR MARK OF THE BEAST - Much has been written and said about the mark of the beast, but little has been said about the mark of God. What does the 666 mean and what is this mysterious mark? How is it linked to the world of finance? Has this mark already begun? This book answers many questions about the mark of the beast and the mark of God, and how they affect Christians.

Please visit our website for information on how to order the complete "Overcoming Life Bible Study." Our site is also an excellent source for additional books and Bible resources.

[http:// www.BibleResources.org](http://www.BibleResources.org)

Purpose and Vision

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19,20

Christ Unlimited is not “another denomination,” sect, or just a separate group. It is an arm of the Body of Christ — the Church of Jesus Christ, which has been called to strengthen the Body at large. We also believe we have been called to help establish the Kingdom of God in the earth.

Christ Unlimited is involved with all Bible-believing Christians regardless of their church or denominational affiliations and committed to helping wherever possible in evangelistic and teaching outreaches.

Christ Unlimited believes that time is running out and the Gospel has not been preached to every creature. Many nations have not heard the Gospel, and in many places, doors for evangelism are closing. We believe it is time all Christians cooperated with the Lord in breaking down denominational walls for a united front line against the kingdom of darkness and in setting up the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christ Unlimited provides such tools as to enable the saints of God to establish the Kingdom of God in the earth. We encourage groups of prayer warriors who will pray, fast, and intercede for the nations. This, we believe, is weapon number one. We teach believers how to overcome through spiritual warfare and through

knowing how to use their authority in Christ Jesus through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christians need to know how to bring down the forces of darkness in their own lives and in the lives of those to whom they minister. We provide such tools as Bibles, literature, Christ Unlimited books and an online prayer ministry. We publish the Gospel going out via any means of communication, including the internet, videos, as well as literature. We have teaching seminars, Bible schools, and correspondence courses, all aimed at winning souls to Christ and building the Body of Christ into maturity.

Bud and Betty Miller serve the Lord together as founders of the multi-visioned ministry outreach, Christ Unlimited. The outreaches of this ministry have stemmed from a tremendous desire to see the Word of God taught in its balanced entirety. The Millers are firm believers in prayer and, through prayer, have seen many released from the bondages of fear, failure, and defeat.

The outreaches of Christ Unlimited are in obedience to the words of our Lord in **Mark 16:15: Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** This mandate from the Lord presents a challenge to our generation as an estimated 25 percent of the world's population still have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ Unlimited Ministries also is dedicated to teaching God's Word. **Hosea 4:6** says: **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.** Many Christians are leading defeated lives simply because they do not know God's Word in its fullest.

Christ Unlimited Ministries has provided for those who desire to know God's Word in a greater way. The main thrust of the teaching and literature is directed at "How to be an overcomer." In the endtimes, we must be prepared to overcome the onslaughts of Satan. Many Christians are suffering needlessly, because they do not know how to overcome sickness, depression, divorce, fear, and financial failure. Christ Unlimited Ministries provides answers for troubled families as well as trains workers for service.