

The Plain Truth
About
God's
Healing

By
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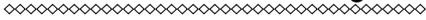


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Does God Still

Heal Today?



Have you heard of any really dramatic, miraculous healings happening in the Church today? How many people do you know that have been amazingly healed of a life-threatening illness or disease? Do we hear of the blind miraculously being given their sight or the lame running and leaping for joy? Do you know of any who have been raised from the dead? Do you know of anyone who has *the gift of healings*?

Fantastic, miraculous, spectacular healings occurred in the first century through the ministry of Jesus Christ—and by His apostles and disciples! Were those astonishing healings only for that time in history?

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

Does that scripture apply only to those *believers* of the first century?

Are we not believers today? Yet, so many are sick and need healing—and some have died—just as I Corinthians 11:29 states. What does “not discerning the Lord’s body” mean? Why is God not healing those who really do believe today?

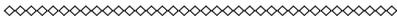
Is the rarity of true healings today due to a lack of faith by the people of God?

Do God’s people really understand and apply all of the Biblical instructions regarding true healing?

Does God have a definite, set time for miracles, signs, and wonders to dramatically begin again as a sign—to identify where the True Church of Jesus Christ is today?

The wonderful answers to these questions are joyfully presented in the pages of this booklet and come directly from the Word of God! This is NEW TRUTH given by *the grace of God our Father and from the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (II Peter 3:18).*

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Introduction:

God is God! He is our loving, heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ is our Savior and the living Word of God—and the Holy Bible is the written Word of God!

The Bible emphatically declares that one of God's names is: “...**I am the LORD that healeth [Yahveh Rapha] thee**” (Ex. 15:26). As long time members of the former Worldwide Church of God (WCG), we were taught that wonderful, blessed truth—God is our Healer. We were taught from the Word of God the magnificent truth that we can be healed of our illnesses and diseases through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God—through the *stripes of Jesus Christ*.

Since learning this amazing new knowledge, most of us have experienced God's merciful intervention in healing us when we were sick or injured. But it was apparent then, and it is today, that many, many brethren experience serious health problems and healing is not always seen, especially *dramatic healings* as were regularly seen during Christ's earthly ministry.

Dramatic healings are a rare occurrence at this time, although I have witnessed many amazing healings. Certainly, God's people still experience His merciful intervention, but all in all, it appears that some brethren are suffering many of the same sicknesses and diseases of the world around us. Are we, as believers, lacking the faith to be healed? Are we failing in some way to completely perform God's will and instructions in regard to true healing? Are we, as believers in the sacrifice of Christ, doing something wrong?

In the past 10 years, God in His grace, has given His faithful Church more *knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* that clearly means He has revealed to us wonderful New Truth (II Peter 3:18). Now, as you read this booklet, it will be apparent that Christ has additional knowledge for us in regards to the vital doctrine about God's *healing*.

The evidence of a multitude of sicknesses within the Church surely

indicates something is seriously amiss. Take for example the following plain scriptures that are crying aloud that something is off-track:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16:17-18).

Do we see this scripture being fulfilled today in God's Church? Isn't it true that in the majority of cases these signs are not following those who believe? Why? Are we witnessing demons being cast out of troubled people? Have we been given the ability to *miraculously* speak in new languages? Hands are being laid upon the sick, but all of them are not recovering—why not? Is it that we do not really *believe*?

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 (I Cor. 11:28-30).

There are many, many weak and sickly among us—and some have died of terrible illnesses! Why? What has happened? God is God—He changes not! Are we off-track and doing something biblically wrong? Are we weak in faith? Are we not correctly *discerning the Lord's body*? These are honest questions! Now we need to honestly ask for answers and then diligently search the scriptures to determine if we are rightfully *discerning the Lord's body*—or do we have more to learn? We must examine this question very prayerfully and carefully.

Read again Exodus 15:26 that we quoted in part earlier:

...And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

The Church of God's Faithful, as well as the Laodicean Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) and all of the splits of the WCG, are afflicted with the *diseases of Egypt* on a level comparable, in some cases, to that of the world around us! Why? God is still the Great Healer, but we are

not being healed today to the extent that we can claim that *these signs follow us*. We know that man can not live forever in the flesh—we are not questioning that—we are asking about God’s people who are looking to Him as their Healer, but in so many cases healing is not seen.

Some older church members believe that a greater percentage of God’s people were healed during the 1960’s and 70’s than is seen today. That may be true! Nevertheless there were also many deaths of adults and children during those years. Two examples that I remember personally were: a faithful woman in the late 60’s who died horribly of painful bone cancer. It was a shock to the Church in our area. Then two very fine ladies who were examples of healthy life-styles, one a deaconess, also died of cancer. Another case I remember vividly was a faithful couple’s struggle with the legal authorities over their young son’s eventually fatal battle with cancer.

Yet, I know without question or doubt, having personally witnessed remarkable healings of adults and children, including those of my own family on numerous occasions, that God is the great Healer.

The WCG from the 1940’s through most of the 70’s was taught that using doctors and medicine were idolatry and witchcraft! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God’s end-time Elijah, had written a small pamphlet based on an ad-libbed *World Tomorrow* radio broadcast titled, *Does God Heal Today?* The teaching contained in that pamphlet made up the basis for the early doctrine on healing that members of the WCG lived by. Teaching that using doctors and medicine were *idolatry* and *witchcraft* greatly impacted the minds of those who tried to be God’s obedient and faithful “sheep”. *Idolatry and witchcraft* are deadly sins, therefore the membership shunned the use of doctors as submitting to *idolatry* (*Strong’s*#1495) and relegated all medicine as *witchcraft* (*Strong’s* #5331 *pharmakeia* from which the English word “pharmacy” is taken). Galatians 5:19-20 was used as New Testament scriptural proof:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry,¹⁴⁹⁵ witchcraft,⁵³³¹, ... 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.

Strong’s definition of *idolatry* #G1495 is: eidōlatreia [i-do-lol-at-ri’-ah] From G1497 and G2999; *image worship* (literally or figuratively): - idolatry.

Strong's definition of *witchcraft* #5331 is: pharmakeia [*far-mak-i'-ah*] From G5332; *medication* ("pharmacy"), that is, (by extension) *magic* (literal or figurative): - sorcery, witchcraft.

But years later, Mr. Armstrong changed his views on the use of the medical profession. He grew in God's grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in 1979, Mr. Armstrong wrote a booklet titled *The Plain Truth about Healing*.

The following are quotes from his booklet beginning on pages 64 and 65:

Forty-five years ago (1934) I spoke of the use of medicines and drugs as poisons. Written 32 years ago (1947), the only booklet the Church had, until now, published on healing spoke of it prescribing an opposite poison to counteract the poison of the body. Unlike all our other booklets it was transcribed from the recording of an ad-libbed broadcast. I said that the medical arithmetic was that one poison plus one more poison equals NO poison, and I remarked that a student of second-grade arithmetic ought to know that one plus one does not equal zero...

But for the past 15 or 20 years the medical people have made considerable progress in this area...

Further, it is true that today most doctors prescribe medicines that are NOT poisons but rather are designed to help nature do its own healing...

However NO MEDICINE—NO DOCTOR—can HEAL...

I am not saying that God's people should trust in doctors instead of relying on God and His promises...

Continue on page 66:

The fact of man's ability and capacity for development reflects, not the GLORY of man, *but the creative might of our Maker* in creating man to have such abilities and capacities...

...The great advances in the medical field enable man to do for his human family many things he could not do 50 years

ago, short of actual *healing*. God gave man talents, mind-power (physical) and abilities that He intended us to use and develop *under His guidance*, and always for His glory and toward our development in the holy, righteous CHARACTER of God...

To this end, God intends man to excel and improve—but never in a way to inflate vanity or detract from reliance on and trust in God. We must rely on GOD for guidance even in what we are made able to do for ourselves.

On page 68 we read:

But another important means God gave His people of our time for spiritual growth is RELYING ON HIM AND HIS PROMISES FOR HEALING.

Let me help you understand. True, God does for us that which we *cannot* do for ourselves—something doctors, medicines, or knives CANNOT do.

Do not misunderstand. Doctors may be a real HELP—because they have specialized in learning many things humans *can* do. Again, I refer, IN PRINCIPLE, to child delivery and binding and setting a broken arm or leg. Today doctors can do for us *many other things* possible for a human to do short of actual healing.

But the VERY FACT that *two conditions* to miraculous healing by God are obedience and faith *requires* the exercise of, and therefore GROWTH in, obedience and faith.

“Growth in obedience and faith” is still required today (in the Day of the Lord) and our obedience and faith is destined to greatly increase! Another, higher level of Christian maturity is being placed before the faithful Church of Jesus Christ. The time has come that God has opened more New Truth to us directly from His Word in regard to the complete instructions concerning true healing.

You will understand, as you continue to read, that faith is not the problem—we are filled with faith from the unlimited source—God Himself! The problem is that important instructions for true healing have not been completely revealed until now— and also there exists

a time in God's Plan for *dramatic healings* to once again identify the Work of the Living Christ!

But would the great loving God delay revealing knowledge of such vital information: information that concerns our very life—or death? In His perfect wisdom; Yes, He would delay that information—IF it was reserved for a very special time and reason! And that very special time is upon us since Christ has come in the Day of the Lord—and will reveal His true Church through the power of miracles, signs, and wonders in the same manner as He conducted His ministry in the flesh 1900 years ago!

Matthew 10:6-8 tells us:

...But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

The Kingdom of Heaven is most certainly at hand today! We are in the 11th year of the Day of the lord—believe it or not! (Please request our booklet, *The Day of the Lord*, or download it from our website.) The King is here and His Work shall be done. Verse 23 explains: **“...for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”**

Mr. Armstrong proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world as a witness to all nations—today Christ has come as *a thief in the night* and the cities of Israel will be thoroughly witnessed to!_

The complete teaching about *God's healing* will be revealed in this booklet. The Head of the Church is stirring our minds; He has more knowledge for us to understand. God speaks to us through the pages of the Holy Bible; therefore, we must **ask, seek, and knock** to obtain what He wants us to know as we *grow up into Him in all things*.

Asking sincerely in fervent prayer, while seeking the will of God from His Word, is pleasing to Him—and, as we persistently knock, He will open and give the answers through *the knowledge of Christ*. Therefore, we shall ask the following questions and allow the Bible to answer each question:

- Are we, as individuals and as the Church, collectively lacking in faith?

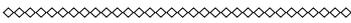
- Have we misapplied or misunderstood certain scriptures, thus believing and practicing a mistaken idea?
- Romans 7:14 states: “...**the Law is spiritual...**” Therefore, is there really such a thing as *physical sin*?
- Is healing the forgiveness of physical sin?
- Is it true that physical sins are forgiven through Jesus’ broken body?
- Is it true that spiritual sins are forgiven through Jesus’ spilled blood?
- Is it sin to seek medical or surgical help?
- Can today’s modern doctors and their miracle drugs actually heal?

The answers to these questions and then walking in humble obedience to those revealed answers from God’s Word, are destined to produce amazing results. Those results will include *dramatic healings*, beginning first among the faithful of the CGF. The time has come for the diligent *keeping of His commandments* and *doing those things pleasing in His sight*, thus, becoming a more active part of the Church, the body of Christ!

When new revealed Truth is followed, then, the signs of Mark 16:15-18 will follow the CGF to the full, and the *discernment of the body of Christ* will be absolutely understood. Here you will read New Truth of *the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* about true *healing* by the *grace of God*—for the GLORY of God. Therefore, with your Bible open and in readiness for proving what is stated, here, for your edification, is *The Plain Truth about God’s Healing!*

Chapter One:

Tender Mercies



The human body is wonderfully made! The human body was designed by the Creator to function within laws created for the health and wellbeing of each individual. When these laws are diligently followed joyful long lives are a result. However, when the laws of health are broken, slowly but surely aches, pain, disease, all manners of sickness, and death are the eventual outcome.

Another important, early doctrine of the Worldwide Church of God was that each member must recognize that our wonderfully made bodies are the Temple of God's Spirit—and we must not *defile the Temple*.

Of course, this teaching came from the inspired writings of the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 3:16-17:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Another booklet was produced by the WCG that thoroughly explained our responsibilities toward God in keeping our bodies fit and healthy. The booklet was appropriately titled, *The Seven Laws of Radiant Health*. We will not take time to review each one of these living laws as the booklet is still available on the Internet. But here listed are those seven laws that govern our health:

1. Build and maintain a peaceful, tranquil mind.
2. Eat only clean foods with plenty of pure water and occasional fasting.
3. Practice hygiene and proper dress.
4. Get plenty of sunshine and fresh air.
5. Get proper exercise, sleep, and rest.

6. Daily bodily elimination of wastes is necessary.
7. Avoid accidents or areas of known diseases.

If these laws are broken, health problems will arise. It is vividly apparent today that the laws of health, along with the Ten Commandments of God, have been trampled underfoot by the fast-paced, hedonistic society of the world, especially the western world. The family structure of a stable home has been nearly destroyed in the nations where husbands and wives both work at jobs away from their homes and children are left to fend for themselves. Millions of homes have been broken by frustrated couples who have never experienced a loving family structure as God intends. Millions have divorced producing single-parent moms or dads and rebellious, undisciplined children.

The home preparation of healthy breakfasts, lunches, and dinners are a thing of the past with too many families today. Instead, everything is fast food. In too many cases, fat, starchy, sweetened fast foods, loaded with calories but devoid of real nutrition, washed down by huge volumes of syrupy sweet sodas are what modern society lives on—and it has reaped the harvest of horrible health.

Health authorities have recently reported that this generation of children, especially in the USA, are expected to have a shorter life-span than their parents. That is a shocking and very depressing report, but the reason behind the shorter life expectancy is broken health laws. The USA is a nation of obesity! Billions of dollars are spent on dieting aids that do not work. The average grade school child gets little exercise except in their thumbs as they entertain themselves with video games. Most grade school children cannot perform a single chin-up exercise.

The money spent on doctors, hospitals, and medication in the USA is in the 100's of billions of dollars—all because the laws of health have been ignored. Satan has done a job! He certainly has deceived and blinded the world in the area of radiant health. Instead of sensible eating and drinking, the fast-paced society wants a “grace pill” to allow anything that walks, crawls, swims, or wiggles to be food—and plenty of it!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, walked the earth in the flesh nearly 2000 years ago. Mankind had struggled along for 4000 years under Satan's influence, suffering from the deception of his wicked sway. Fast food was not the problem in those days; other problems existed. Clean-

liness and hygiene, war, famine and disease took their toll.

Jesus was a man and He was God in the flesh. He, like God the Father, was filled with mercy and tenderness. He was sent by God to minister to the masses of deceived humanity that followed Him seeking His help. Luke 1:78 describes God's mercy "**Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us.**"

And *the dayspring from on high* followed His Father's example of tender mercy as the scriptures relate:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them (Matt. 4:23-24).

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all... (Matt. 12:15).

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick (Matt. 14:14).

Yes! Christ had deep compassion upon the multitudes of His day, and we know that *He changes not* (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8), therefore He has the same great compassion for the increased multitudes of today's deceived world.

Let me again quote Mr. Armstrong's statement from his 1979 *healing* booklet with my own emphasis on his statements added in brackets:

The **great advances in the medical field** enable man to do for his human family many things he could not do 50 years ago, short of actual *healing*. [Now, Nearly 30 years have passed since this statement was published].

True, God does for us that which we *cannot* do for ourselves—something doctors, medicines, or knives CANNOT do. [Only God can truly heal! Thus, before we study into God's method

of healing, we need to observe some of the ways the population in general can be helped by *the great advances in the medical field*—and ask the question; can God’s people use these great advances for their help too?]

Do not misunderstand. Doctors may be a real HELP—because they have specialized in learning many things humans *can* do. Again, I refer, IN PRINCIPLE, to child delivery and binding and setting a broken arm or leg. Today doctors can do for us *many other things* possible for a human to do short of actual healing. [I repeat, that was written nearly 30 years ago. Today the advances (*the many other things*) in the medical field are truly astounding.]

“Many Other Things”

Let’s consider some of these *many other things* the medical profession can do to help in this modern deceived age besides child delivery and setting broken bones. And let’s understand that the *great advances in the medical field* are allowed by the merciful, tender, and compassionate God *who changes not*—for the aid and help of humanity that truly needs help. Is this help available to God’s people too?

It is obvious by his writings that Mr. Herbert Armstrong grew in *grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ* in the areas of God’s healing—and of the use of doctors and medicine. He has made it abundantly clear that only God can heal—but has clearly stated that the medical profession can help in many ways.

He used the example of the trained obstetrician helping in childbirth. But suppose a woman was expecting a normal delivery of her child, but suddenly the doctor realizes the baby is too large for the woman to deliver naturally. Should a Cæsarian section operation be quickly performed? Or would that be wrong to allow the doctor, with years of training in how to handle such a situation, to do something other than what is “natural”?

Suppose a man was in an accident, not only breaking his legs, but having the bones partially shattered. Would it be wrong for the trained specialist to put the bones in place surgically, perhaps using stainless steel screws or possibly some of the newly developed glues to hold the broken bones together until the body “heals” itself?

In both cases, why should we be questioning whether the extra expertise should be used or not? The answer is that the preconceived ideas of idolatry and witchcraft still linger in the minds of some older members who grew up under the healing doctrine taught in the 1940's through the 70's. In addition to that wrong assumption is the belief that doctors and medicine are in competition with God's healing—which is entirely false.

The medical profession has deeply studied and learned about the human body through the God-given minds that they have been blessed with—and they, in turn, are able to help their fellow human-beings. The learned doctors are human and subject to vanity, lust, and greed like we all are. And, most certainly, there are vast amounts of fraud, dishonesty and unethical practices performed by the pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, and the hospitals in fleecing the federal and local governments and the population who look for assistance from these organizations.

Nevertheless, in his latter years, Mr. Armstrong recognized that the use of the medical profession was not idolatry or witchcraft, but a help that could be used in time of need—never in competition with God—but in cooperation with His laws governing the human body.

Mrs. Loma Armstrong, the wife of Herbert Armstrong for 50 years, died in 1967 of a “locked bowel” condition. The prevailing belief in the Church in 1967 was that God's people did not use doctors or medications, but instead we believed that faith in God was the only option for healing. Twelve years later, Mr. Armstrong wrote his *Plain Truth about Healing* booklet and made the admission that “the medical profession had made great strides in the last 50 years” and “*can help in many other ways.*” And most assuredly, one of those *other ways* was the ability to correct the problem of “locked bowels”. I have wondered if Mr. Armstrong had to learn from his wife's long and painful death that the prohibition of using doctors and medicine was a mistaken belief. We all live and learn! I know I had much to learn—some of it—the hard way.

Only God can truly miraculously heal. But the Church submitted to certain medical experts that could help in some specialized ways. We used them through the years with no concern that it was against our faith—which was somewhat strange. For example; the use of dentistry

was fine—teeth could be filled or extracted, although I knew of one man whose rotted teeth were healed. And none thought anything wrong with being fitted for glasses to improve their vision. Nevertheless, we “drew a line in the sand”! This you can do—this you cannot do!

God changes not! He is the great God filled with tender mercy—and, thankfully, His Word tells us that He will put nothing upon us that we cannot bear:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (I Cor.10:13).

Have we been so over-zealous in our faith that we have ignored the *way of escape* God has provided through the expertise of trained professionals? Does this offend you as I ask that question?

The ailment Mrs. Armstrong eventually died from could have been remedied by a fairly simple surgical procedure [*a way of escape*] that would have been less complicated than the Caesarian section operation mentioned earlier.

I repeat, we certainly live and learn! I have lived on both sides of the question. I have seen my children sick almost to the point of death and would not seek help from the doctors. I have stood in self-righteous indignation at some of my brethren who had succumbed to pain and suffering and sought medical help and the hospital instead of “trusting God to the end”. I judged those suffering people as being weak in the faith. I was vain and foolish and very much lacking in compassion and tender mercy.

For God to use me in His service, I had lessons to learn!

In his 1979 booklet, Mr. Armstrong taught us that not all medication was poison; and the medical profession consisted of trained professionals that could help us in many different ways. In his latter days, he used the services of a registered nurse around the clock. He grew in God’s grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. His 1979 teachings took nothing away from God; God was still his Healer. Mr. Armstrong died in “*the faith*” in January of 1986. Yet, the idea about witchcraft, idolatry, and most medicine being poison still lingers in the back of

some minds as it was taught 60 years ago.

Tender Mercies and Tough Trials

Since 1961 God has intervened for my family and me in the vital realm of healing. We trusted in God for healing whether the answer to our request was yes; no; or wait. And we did not take medicine at all. I had not taken 40 aspirins in 40 years. God has always heard our prayers. We have cried out for the healing of my wife's horrible migraine headaches. At times, the pain departed instantly. We would pray, write a request for anointing, seal the envelope, and place it in the mailbox. In those days we did not have a telephone. We had to walk or drive to the mailbox, which was a mile away.

My second son, Jeff, suffered no ill effects of a poisonous snake bite, except for the fang punctures in his big toe. We called upon God's promises in Mark 16:18 and knew God would intervene. Still, it was absolutely a trial of our "*faith*"!

In 1989, God came to my rescue twice, when I was stricken with kidney stones. Something as tiny as a pin head can cause such intense pain. I could not imagine something could hurt so badly. God allowed me to suffer for a short while each time, but He healed me in both incidents. Thus, I became quite vain, and somewhat intolerant of a few brethren who on occasion resorted to medicine and doctors. In my vanity I thought, "They do not have *faith* like I do!"

But, then came 1997 and many different changes began to happen in my life. Shocking and unexpected events thrust my wife and me into a situation we could not have believed. And these events were preceded by another "health" problem. This time my problem was not a kidney stone, but a large bladder stone. How could something like this form inside my body? But the sobering fact was—it was there—and it was expelled from the bladder into my urinary track.

Then, over several hours of time and by straining as hard as I could, I forced the stone to the very end of my urinary track; and you know where that is in a man. There it could move no further. It was stuck right there and it wasn't long before my misery began to increase. I could not pass a single drop of urine. My urinary tract was completely plugged, thus pressure began to build in my kidneys and bladder—and most likely the rest of my body.

I cried out to God, "Father, I need help! Help me! Heal me! Where

are You?” I prayed, prayed, and prayed—but I also murmured and complained and in desperation exclaimed, “Father, You promised You would not bring on me anything I could not bear! You promised you would make a way of escape for me. Where is my *way of escape?*”

I cried out with my Bible open in my hand, “Father, look, here is the scripture; I Corinthians 10:13, look, look, look! Where is my way of escape? What can I do?”

The stone would not come out, and the increasing pressure graduated from uncomfortable pressure to serious pain. It hurt so badly! Only one full day of 24 hours was my limit. Unable to urinate a single drop, I desperately asked my wife, “Please, take me to the hospital!” I was drained spiritually and crushed emotionally by crying out for help from another source other than the mighty Healer God! Was it a lack of *faith*? I am sure others could have endured longer than I did—but I had reached my limit.

On the way to the hospital 30 miles away, the vibrations of the car were a nightmare. My wife quickly found a doctor in the emergency area, a very nice doctor who came to my aid. After a brief examination he gave me two or three shots of a medication to ease my pain and desperation. I’m not really sure of how many shots he gave me or what it was, but I was so very happy to receive it—and the relief I began to feel. Then I didn’t care what the doctors did—I just wanted it done—remove the blockage! And they did! They removed a black, sparkling, peanut-sized stone with tiny, sharp burrs all over it. Upon removing it, more damage was caused to my urinary track; but it was out. That was the important thing—it was out!

A couple of hours later I awoke in a hospital bed, with a catheter in my penis and an IV drip connected to my arm! I was awake and I was not hurting. I was deeply thankful for that, however, I felt that God had deserted me in my time of need—and I was crushed. I felt that way at first—and that was bad enough—but then came an even worse thought. I thought I had failed in my trust in God! I felt alone and devastated. The scripture flowed through my mind: ***I will never leave you nor forsake you*** (Heb.13:5)—but those were the thoughts and emotions I had wash over me—alone and forsaken!

Those were a couple of awful days for me. My family and concerned friends came to visit me and I was ashamed and embarrassed lying there in that hospital bed. I had failed in my faith in God and allowed myself to go to the hospital—where I had gotten relief—very welcome relief.

But, there I was, lying in bed with time to think and pray. I begged God to forgive me for abusing *the temple of God*, my body, and He did! And along with forgiveness He gave me something else. He allowed my trial to produce within me something that I exceedingly needed in my overall character.

That trial created in me a real compassion for others who were suffering trials of pain and sickness. Instead of vain feelings of spiritual superiority toward someone who had sought help from the medical profession—I now fully realized that compassion is what is needed in these situations instead of self-righteous condemnation.

We must grow up into Christ in all things (Eph. 4:13).

A Way of Escape

I learned compassion through the suffering of my trial! What a realization and blessing! God is still God and He alone can heal—but He has certainly made available *many other ways* for His people who need *a way of escape*. Doctors and medicine cannot heal, but they can sure help. I could clearly see that the doctors and their medicine were not the “sins” involved in my case; they were the way of escape God had promised. The “sin” was my diet over the years that allowed unnatural stones to form in my body. Coffee is one of the known tasty culprits that can cause stones in the kidneys and bladder. It was a rude awakening for me, but I learned by the things I suffered. It fashioned in me a more patient, merciful, and tender attitude toward my brethren who had suffered or were suffering similar situations. Jesus Christ had a job for me related to teaching His truth in love, thus, He had to teach me compassion, tenderness, mercy, and love.

God is My Healer and in this booklet we will explore His wonderful ways and the Plan He is accomplishing with those who trust Him. Since the early 1960's I have taught trust in God to my wife and children and grandchildren. God is the Healer. Christ is our Savior and through God's grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior more has been revealed of His Truth about healing.

Grave Digging

Notice Matthew 24:37-38:

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of

the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.

Why does Christ list eating and drinking as a condition as in Noah's day? What is wrong about that? Of course, there is nothing wrong with eating and drinking unless you are overdoing it and maybe eating and drinking that which is not healthy for you. Not drinking enough good clean water or drinking too much coffee or alcohol is not good for you. Practically everyone today knows that drinking carbonated sodas or extra-sweetened fruit juices are a jolt on your body's blood-sugar level—and they are a significant source of unneeded calories. Maybe you have been a tendency toward gluttony; and you have eaten, and eaten, and eaten. The subject of this booklet is healing and one prime cause of illness is overeating. We cause the problems in our bodies. That is what I had done; that was my sin. My wife loves to cook; and I love to eat! This is a major problem in the United States—eating and drinking too much without a thought except that it tastes good. Remember, our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Obese America, look around, just look around! In many cases people are digging their graves with their spoons. And those of you who are thin by inherited factors, what are you eating? Are you in perfect health? If we have a poor diet, we are breaking health laws.

The Silent Killer

I have had two other physical problems in the last few years. On two occasions, I have had a hemorrhage in the retina of my left eye, due to extremely high blood pressure. Because of my diet, stress, inherited factors, and my age, my blood pressure had become dangerously high. I have a tendency to be overweight and the extra pounds along with those other factors produced hypertension, “the silent killer”, within my body. “The silent killer” made itself evident in my life by a hemorrhage of tiny blood vessels in my left eye. Of course, I was deeply concerned with the effect of that first hemorrhage. You are very much aware that something has gone awfully wrong when you begin seeing things through a brown haze. I asked God in prayer to heal me and I was anointed. I began a strict diet, counting and cutting back on calories and exercising moderately. I began eating much less [1500 calories a day] than I was accustomed to and it was still plenty to survive on. At

that time, I refused to take blood pressure medicine. I lost nearly 25 pounds of weight and I felt better; but the blood pressure was still very high—and my left eye was severely damaged.

But over the next few months, I adapted to the peculiar vision of my left eye and gradually began increasing calories. My weight began to climb again and my blood pressure increased even more. So, in simple terms, I continued to sin! Then, the second hemorrhage in my left eye happened. I went to a very alert and professional ophthalmologist who was also a kind man, that took a real interest in my situation—and he got my attention. Possessing very sophisticated equipment, he took photos of the backside of my eye and presented them to me. He explained each detail of what was evident in the pictures.

The doctor very bluntly told me, “Look carefully! This is what has happened in your left eye. You have almost ruined it—but now look at your right eye. Here are at least two threatened aneurysms. If you do not do something pretty quickly, they will explode, too. Look closely, I am showing you exactly where they are. Do you see them, right here?”

Even my untrained eye could see the potential danger! He then explained, “There are other capillaries in your brain, your heart, your liver, and your kidneys that are also seriously affected by your high blood pressure. If you do not do something quickly, you are a walking time-bomb. And I very respectfully inform you that I will not allow you leave my office, until you have called your local doctor or make an appointment at the nearest hospital.”

Well, that was pretty bold and blunt! And I did not even have a local doctor. Nevertheless, we contacted an MD near to our residence, and he suggested we come immediately. He proved to be another kind and patient man.

What are you suppose to do when you have health problems? First, I asked God to forgive me of the sins that I had committed causing the aneurysm in my left eye and the potential for another in my right eye. I asked God to forgive me for defiling the Temple of His Holy Spirit.

It was my decision to begin taking a blood pressure medication. That was November 29, 2005. My blood pressure was 220 over 115. I was also anointed again!

Today, April 2, 2008, my blood pressure is controlled by the medicine—but I have not been healed. If I reduce the medication the blood pressure goes back up. The doctor wants me to begin cholesterol lowering drugs, but I have refused them. I hope to be under 200 pounds

before Passover. If I do my part, it's no doubt God will heal me. It is difficult to diet and exercise—and the older you get (I will be 77 this year) the more difficult—but we must consider the outcome if we do nothing!

Let me state here also, that any medicine has its side-effects that in many instances are very serious. I have had to change the blood pressure medicine three times because of unpleasant side-effects. Of course, the doctor, each time, wants to prescribe another medicine to counteract the harmful effect of the first medicine—and then another to counteract that one—an on and on. But I would not do that!

In my opinion, the medication I am taking is a “crutch” that I will use until I have done what I should have done years ago. My diet, over-eating, too much coffee, inheritance, and stress are the sins that cause my illness. The medicine is a temporary “fix” of the immediate problem although it too produces other lesser problems. Only God can heal!

One other point that I hear often is; there are many herbs and supplements that can remedy high blood pressure. I think I have tried all of them; garlic, cinnamon, red pepper—you name it, I've tried it! And when you stop and think; what is the difference between taking herbs and supplements and using medications designed for a specific ailment. God created all things!

The medical profession is certainly a part of this world—man's society. Their practice is the best man can do with the wonderfully inventive mind that God has given them. Therefore, whatever the doctors can do with their hospitals, drugs and knives can be used to help in many different ways. The use of doctors and medicine are not substitutions for God's healing—but they most assuredly can be a help in time of need. Let me repeat what Mr. Herbert Armstrong has written; “The medical profession can help us in many other ways!” They can help, but only God can miraculously heal.

Thus, with any fears or misconceptions about the medical field dispelled in our mind, we are ready to explore the wonderful subject of healing *through the stripes of Jesus Christ*.

The Old Testament book of Leviticus informs us in chapter 17:11 that the spark of life is in the blood of the flesh: **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”**

The Son of God died from the massive loss of blood when his side was ripped open by a Roman soldier’s spear as He hung upon the crucifixion stake. We will, a little later, closely examine the scriptures that reveal that awful fact.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom. 5:8-9).

Christ died for us! His blood forgives us of all sin. As His blood poured upon the ground those many years ago, He gave His life for the sins of the world.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:16-17).

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son to provide the only means through which the great Plan to create multiple millions of God-Beings could be accomplished. And the Word, who was with God and was God from the very beginning, was willing to become flesh and give His life for the sins of the world (see John 1:1-2, 14).

Wasn’t that enough? He gave His life! Nevertheless, why are we counseled about *discerning the body of Christ* in I Corinthians 11:29? Are we to perceive the suffering Jesus endured in his body—or is the scripture referring to the Church, the Body of Christ? We will plainly see we need to fully understand both.

Let’s look first at the physical body of Jesus Christ. Our sins are forgiven through His spilled blood, but what part does Christ’s body have in the Plan of God?

Verse 5 of Isaiah 53 emphatically declares: **“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”**

We are seeking understanding of God's healing and Isaiah 53 makes it obvious how healing is possible. But before we get to Isaiah we must consider a few New Testament scriptures.

Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:29) and He is our Passover! "... For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

After His resurrection the Living Christ appeared to the apostle Paul and revealed to him particulars of the New Testament Passover. We read these details in I Corinthians 11:23-30:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he broke 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 show 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.

The first point to consider is that the ceremony occurs on the night Jesus was betrayed. That was the night before the Jews began their feast which is an unscriptural combination of the Passover and Days of unleavened bread combined. Jesus kept the true Passover on the correct date and time. During the Passover supper, He instituted the symbols of the bread and wine to represent His body and blood.

He took the broken bread and said, "**Take; eat, this is my body broken for you.**" Jesus knew all scripture and was well aware of the importance of that Passover. He deeply desired to partake of it knowing it would be His last in the flesh. He realized He would die on that Passover Day that had just begun at sundown. And He most assuredly knew He would be raised to eternal life after three days and three nights in the grave. He knew the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Jesus answered and said to them, destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, This temple was forty-six years building, and will you rear it up in three days? But He spoke of the temple of His body (John 2:19-21).

Jesus also knew that he would suffer *more than any man*, but that none of His bones would be broken. **For these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “A bone of Him shall not be broken”** (John 19:36).

Christ broke the unleavened bread and said it represented His broken body. The scriptures are emphatic that His bones would not be broken, therefore what did our Lord mean by: **“This is my body broken for you?”**

During the observance of the Passover ceremony today, while the symbolic unleavened bread is being *broken*, often the person officiating places the microphone on the table to amplify the noise of the bread being broken. In my opinion it is highly unlikely that the unleavened bread Christ broke was of a thin, crispy type. He dipped a portion of the bread to give Judas “a sop” identifying him as the betrayer (John 13:26). A “sop” was a piece of bread soaked in wine or the sauce from the main dish. Hard, crispy unleavened bread would hardly “sop up” any liquid; therefore the bread Christ used in the ceremony was more like a thick, tender pan cake. This more absorbent bread was “broken” by tearing it into small pieces.

Do God’s people understand, really, what is being emphasized as the unleavened bread is broken into pieces? The bones of Jesus’ body were not broken, but the marring of His face and form by the scourging and other brutalities He endured was unprecedented.

Do we truly *discern the Lord’s body*?

“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men” (Isaiah 52:14).

The Bible is the Word of Truth. When it states that His *visage and form were marred more than any man*, it is absolutely true! He was so beaten and brutalized with His flesh laid open by the violence of the scourging that those who saw Him were amazed—stunned (*Strong’s* #8074).

The entire chapter of Isaiah 53 is copied below to impress on our mind the intensity of the suffering Christ had to endure—to help us *discern the body of Christ!* I include the embedded numbers of key words and their partial definition from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* as provided by the wonderful computer program of the Holy Bible, *e-sword*.

Isaiah 53:1: Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 53:2: For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 53:3: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows⁴³⁴¹ [anguish, affliction, grief, pain, sorrow] and acquainted with grief²⁴⁸³ [malady, anxiety, calamity, disease, sickness, grief]: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not [Jesus was the happiest and most joy filled person ever to live because he kept all of God's Laws perfectly and always did what was pleasing to His Father. He was a man of deep compassion and tender mercies. He labored among the sorrows and sicknesses of the pitiful masses of humanity who were afflicted with the sins of the world].

Isaiah 53:4: Surely he hath borne our griefs²⁴⁸³, and carried our sorrows⁴³⁴¹ [They were our penalty]: yet we did esteem him stricken⁵⁰⁶⁰ [smite, strike, touch] smitten⁵²²¹ [strike, stripes, wound] of God, and afflicted⁶⁰³¹ [browbeaten, depressed, abased].

Isaiah 53:5: But he was wounded²⁴⁹⁰ [likened to boring, like a wedge, wound—the word apparently is a description of the wedge-pointed nails being driven through His hands and feet] for our transgressions, he was bruised¹⁷⁹² [beaten to pieces—this is the picture of the broken bread] for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [the forgiveness of our sins] was upon him; and with his stripes [the flesh of His body was

ripped and rent to shreds] **we are healed**. This statement has even a deeper meaning that will be explained shortly.

Isaiah 53:6: **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Isaiah 53:7: **He was oppressed⁵⁰⁶⁵ [*driven like an animal, harassed*] and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**

Isaiah 53:8: **He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living [He was brutally killed]: for the transgression of my people was he stricken⁵⁰⁶¹ [His body was discolored with bruises].**

Isaiah 53:9: **And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence [He was completely innocent], neither was any deceit in his mouth.**

Isaiah 53:10: **Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise¹⁷⁹² [to beat to pieces] him; he hath put him to grief²⁴⁷⁰ [*made weak, sickened, to feel pain*]: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed** [God the Father had to observe all of the sacrifice], **he shall prolong his days** [the Lamb of God should have died from the vicious scourging and the beatings, but God prolonged His life that he would suffer crucifixion and death by the loss of His blood by being pierced], **and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand** [Meditate on John 3:16 considering, not only what Jesus had to suffer—but also what God the father had to do. Read Psalm 22 that adds description of Christ's suffering physically, compounded mentally and spiritually by Satan and the demons swarming around Him and trying in every evil way to make Him sin. Every prophecy involving the supreme sacrifice had to be fulfilled—even to the agonizing cry Jesus made to fulfill verse 1 of Psalm 22: “**My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?**”].**

Isaiah 53:11: **He shall see of the travail of his soul⁵³¹⁵, and shall be satisfied** [the sacrifice had to be perfect: it had to be done in that horrendous manner—the sins of the world had to be forgiven for entrance into the God Family to be possible—and a way for the relief of physical or mental suffering—healing—to be made available]: **by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many** [God is God—and He is creating other Beings just like himself and His Son]; **for he shall bear their iniquities.** [All of the sins of the world, including those of the Firstfruits, were heaped upon the physical body of the Son of God.]

Isaiah 53:12: **Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death** [The Lamb of God would bleed to death—His life would spill forth]: **and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** [For all of us!]

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us! Read Isaiah 53 again, carefully noting that all of our sins, iniquities, and transgressions were laid upon Him; the Lamb of God. He bore our sicknesses and diseases! He carried all of our sorrows and troubles. The way of forgiveness for our sins and iniquities—the transgressions of God's laws was placed upon Him—and He carried them to the stake upon which he was crucified!

Christ Our Passover!

When the Passover of the year 31AD approached, Jesus Christ knew that He must fulfill the prophecy of the true Passover—He, Himself, would be the *Lamb of God*.

Controversy has raged throughout the centuries as to the exact day for the Passover ceremony. The translations of the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, in most versions, in regards to the time for the Passover, are scriptures that have been terribly wrested from their intended meaning. Thankfully, Jesus' example is precisely recorded so that true Christians can positively know the correct time for this extremely important ceremony.

Notice Luke 22:8-15:

And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.

Jesus and his twelve disciples observed the Passover a full 24 hours before the Jewish Passover festival would begin. The Jews combine Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread into one feast, but the scriptures are clear that they are two distinct occasions with different meanings designed by God.

Numbers 28:16-17 states: **“And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.”**

Christ kept the Passover at the correct day and time as an example for us today. He greatly desired to eat that final Passover with His friends before He suffered—and died. He looked over beyond the horrible trial that awaited Him to the glory He would once again enjoy as it had been before the *foundation of the world* (John 17:5,24).

During the Passover meal, He changed the emblems from the slaughtered lamb to the bread and wine representing his body and blood.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:26-28).

After the Passover service and His final instructions to his sleepy

followers, Jesus' final ordeal began. It began with His fervent prayers to God to help Him in the great trial He faced. It was to be a bloody night! Jesus prayed with such intensity that he actually sweat blood. A short while later he was taken captive by the demon incited mob and proceeded to fulfill every prophecy in regards to His role as the true Lamb of God.

Following the long, horrible night of brutal treatment, he staggered to the area outside the gates of Jerusalem known as Golgotha and was crucified around 9 AM on that Passover morning (see Mark 15:25).

Continue in Matthew 27:35-37; 45-49:

And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. And sitting down they watched him there; And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Now from the sixth hour [noon] there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour [3:00 PM]. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elijah. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him...

Allow me to interject a portion of scripture at this point that is usually omitted in nearly every translation except *Moffat*. *Moffat's* translation of verse 49 is from two ancient manuscripts that logically connect the other scriptures describing the final moments in Jesus' life—and they substantiate the important fact of the Lamb of God dying from the pouring out of His life's blood (Isa. 53:12). Therefore, Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the old 58 lesson *Ambassador College Correspondence Course* (ACC) adopted the *Moffat* translation of the scriptural clause at the end of verse 49 of Matthew 27: **“(Seizing a lance, another pricked his side and out came water and blood”).**

The ACC also explained John 19:34 as follows: “[For] **one of the**

soldiers with a spear [had] pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

The Way Opened to God the Father

Continue reading Matthew 27:50-51:

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for the sins of the world. The sins of the entirety of mankind was placed upon Him as he hung upon that stake—and as the soldier’s spear ripped open His side, He died of the massive loss of His blood—His life flowed away!

Exactly where the spear pierced [*Strong’s #3572* can mean *prick* or *pierced*] His side is not known. It must not have been thrust directly into His heart because He was able to cry out with a loud voice according to Luke 23:46: “**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**” John 19:30 adds also that he said: “**...It is finished...**” The piercing of his side had to have been violently administered to leave a gaping wound large enough for Thomas, later, to *thrust in his hand* (John 20:27).

One prophetic phrase in Zechariah 12:10 leaves no doubt that the *piercing* of his side was a violent act: “**...and they shall look upon me whom they have *pierced*...**” The word used for *pierced* is *Strong’s #1856* and is used ten times in the Old Testament meaning *thrust through*!

Jesus, the Son of God, died, and instantly ***the veil of the Temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom!***

Now read the inspired words from the apostle Paul in Hebrews 10:19-20 that explain how forgiveness of all sin was made possible!

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh... (Heb. 10:19-20).

These two verses are very important! They provide clear understanding of:

1. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world—our sins are washed away through His spilled blood.

2. The Way to God was opened to us through the ripped and torn flesh of His body. His flesh represented the veil of the temple that was rent in two—from the top to the bottom.
3. The total sacrifice of Christ, our Passover, provided access to God to *forgive our sins and heal our diseases*.

Jesus tells us this in John 6:51:

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.

Now we can truly *discern the Lord's Body!*

Read Hebrews 10:19-20 again; this time from two modern versions; the *Jerusalem Bible* and the *Living Bible* copied below:

In other words, brethren, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which He has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, His body (Jerusalem Bible).

And so dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—His human body—to let us into the holy presence of God (Living Bible).

Understand! Christ's ripped and torn flesh was symbolic of the veil separating the Holy Place from the remainder of the Temple. The Holy Place was where God dwelt! All the sins of the world were upon Christ's scourged flesh, but at the moment He died by *pouring out his life*—His blood—the sins of the entire world that He carried for us could be forgiven—washed away by His spilled blood! And the veil of the Temple was rent wide open through the torn flesh of the body of Christ!

Access to the great God of mercy was then made possible—and the forgiveness of all of our sins made possible! Access to God and the power of His Holy Spirit is so vitally important, yet we have failed to emphasize this at the Passover service—until now!

The ripped and torn flesh of Jesus' body represented the veil in the Temple. God shook the earth by a strong earthquake and the actual veil

of the physical temple was rent in two from top to bottom when he died. That is also an historical fact!

Through His blood all sins are forgiven—and through His torn body we may approach unto God Almighty!

Now, we can truly *discern the body of Christ!* Yes, we can understand how our sins are forgiven—and how we can be healed! But do we have the faith to believe that *through His stripes we are healed?*

And there is even more to discern about the *body of Christ!*

came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you (Matt. 9:27-29).

Is this the problem affecting the Church today? Are we lacking in faith, thereby not receiving the healing so desperately needed by many of our brethren? Mr. Armstrong has written in his 1979 healing booklet that he believed the Church did lack faith—but I respectfully disagree.

We are living in a different time today than when the blind men sought healing from Jesus. Satan is more violent in his attack upon the Church today than ever before. He knows the Day of the Lord has come. He knows his time is short and is attempting to deceive, thwart, and discourage God's people.

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child (Rev. 12:12-13).

I have stated on numerous occasions that I believe the faith of our people today—including many of the brethren of the splits and splinters of the former WCG—have as much or more faith than most of the righteous characters recorded in the Bible! Let me explain why I believe this.

The patriarchs, fathers, prophets, and apostles of old had direct “physical” contact with God, the Word who became Jesus. God sometimes spoke directly to them and on other occasions actually appeared to them.

We could begin with Abel, Enoch or Noah, but let's start with Abraham, the father of the faithful (Rom. 4:16).

It is recorded that Abraham enjoyed bread and wine with *the Lord* as He appeared as Melchisedec. Later, the Eternal and two of His angels had a complete dinner with Abraham (See Gen. 14:18-20 and 18:1-8). An experience such as that would indeed strengthen faith!

Jacob wrestled all night in the dirt of the earth with the God who became Jesus (Gen. 32:24-30). These men of old were specially called of God. They possessed the Holy Spirit and had personal encounters with God.

God spoke to Moses face to face (Ex. 33:11). This great man not only walked in faith—he also walked by the amazing things he saw and experienced.

Daniel swooned at the appearance of *the man clothed in linen* (Dan. 10:5-11). Daniel saw God (the Word—Christ) in just a wee bit of His glory and was overcome by his appearance.

The masses that were healed *according to their faith* during Jesus' ministry did not have God's Spirit—or the faith of Jesus Christ. Their faith was in what they saw and physically experienced. We have had no audible or visible contact, yet we believe. They believed because they saw others healed. They had faith in what they saw! We have not seen the *dramatic miracles* that they saw and experienced—yet we believe. We have *faith* because it is a gift of God to the true Christian—and it is renewed daily through prayer.

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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 11:9-13)?

Add to those clear teachings Ephesians 2:8 and Galatians 2:20:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God does not lie! He instructs us to ask, seek, and knock daily to receive more of His Spirit—and the fruits of it—and God promises He will give it to us more readily than we would feed our hungry children. We trust God!

The patriarch, Job cried out: **“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...”** (Job 13:15), and that is the attitude of most of God's faithful.

“We walk by faith and not by sight” (II Cor. 5:7) because, as true Christians, Christ lives in us. The multitudes during Christ’s ministry were healed *according to their faith* in what they saw. We have faith although we have not seen.

After His resurrection, Jesus said to “doubting” Thomas: **“... Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”** (John 20:29).

Consider this: we have faith to not be healed and we still believe!

As true Christians we must *grow up into him in all things* (Eph. 4:13). Have we reached the fullness of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance? Of course not! We must continue to ask, seek, and knock daily desiring God’s Spirit that we may grow in all of these characteristics.

Coming behind in no gift!

Consider the encouraging words in I Corinthians 1:4-8:

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Understand what is stated: **“...in everything we are enriched by Him...coming behind in no gift...”** Add to that Colossians 2:3: **“...In whom are hid all the treasures (of which we are enriched) of wisdom and knowledge.”** Also include Paul’s inspired writings in I Corinthians 12:1,7-11:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to

another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Faith is a fruit of God's Holy Spirit of which He is most willing to give to His children who sincerely ask, seek, and knock. Galatians 2:20 clearly states the faith we have as Christians is the living faith of Jesus Christ within us. The thousands who were healed *according to their faith* during Jesus' ministry did not have God's Spirit or the *faith of Jesus Christ*. But we do—we have God's Spirit and the faith of Jesus Christ. Faith is also a **gift of God** and I Corinthians 1:4 (above) plainly tell us **we come behind in no gift**—yet the *gift of healings* is not evident among us. Why is this gift not dramatically working among us today as it was seen during the first century—God does not lie?

The amazing amount of Truth given to the CGF is evidence of the gift of *miracles* (and *prophecy*), but not the type of miracles associated with remarkable healings. We, as believers, are not fulfilling Mark 16:17-18! The sign of *healings* are not *following those that believe*— but faith is not the problem!

A lack of faith is not the problem. One of my sons is an example of continuing faith! Back in the 80's when he was in his early twenties and before he was baptized; he suffered through an entire week of **excruciatingly painful appendicitis**. He refused any medical or surgical help, although, I was so concerned I was ready to rush him to the hospital if he said the word. He had never before, even taken an aspirin in obedience to the healing doctrine he had been reared in. Nevertheless, after a week of suffering, God healed him—suddenly!

And in thanksgiving, we continue to remember that direct intervention of God.

My son has also **suffered a severe hernia for 20 years**, refusing to have it surgically mended. Recently, the tear in his abdominal wall had become even more severe by a simple task related to his job. This has now restricted him in doing some customary physical activities. Therefore, this man of faith, after 20 years, is considering having it repaired surgically. Is that a lack of faith—or common sense? Is it a lack of faith to seek medical help? Mr. Armstrong has said, as previously quoted, “The medical profession can help in many, many ways.” And I have written my experiences of seeking help from these professionals as a *way of escape* that is made available if we need to use them. Under-

stand; God is the Healer, but he is filled with tender mercies and allows help as we need it. And we must grow in compassion and tender mercies and have faith to believe that our faith is the faith of Jesus Christ within us. We walk by faith and not by sight! We have faith to believe—and not be healed!

Yes! He Did Find Faith!

Consider the fact that we ask God daily for His Spirit—and in **faith** we believe it is given to us. Galatians 2:20 tells us that the faith given to us is the faith of Jesus Christ. Faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a spiritual gift of God (see again Gal. 5:22 and I Cor. 12 and 13). I believe God's statement—that He will give His Holy Spirit, to those who ask, more readily than I would feed my hungry child. Therefore, we continue to believe although we are not all being healed—and that is faith! My son has believed for 20 long years—yet his hernia plagues his activities. Faith is not the problem, but something is missing! Why are God's faithful not being healed?

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth (Luke 18:7-8)?

Crying night and day focuses attention on another important aspect of faith—persistence. Persistence is a vital key that we will study a little later. Hebrews 11:6 is another key: “**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**”

Those who have been called into the CGF are members because of faithfully and diligently seeking after Christ. By faith we asked God to lead us into truth—and here we are.

But, I had to learn necessary lessons of character before God could use me.

The existence of the Church of God's Faithful is the answer to the question in Luke 18:8. Yes! He has found Faith as He returned *as a thief in the night* to His shattered and scattered Temple. He found faithful *pillars* still standing on the true foundation (see Eph. 2:20 and Rev. 3:12). It is easily proven that Christ is here in the CGF by the abundance of New Truth found here. New Truth is *the knowledge of Jesus Christ*

given by the grace of God through the gifts of wisdom and faith. And His Truth must be taught in love!

A lack of faith is not the reason *dramatic healings* are rare today!

With the above thoughts, questions, and plain scriptures, let's make this statement: There must be one of two reasons why we are not seeing **dramatic healings** at this point in time—or possibly a combination of these two reasons.

- First: Is God delaying the healing of His people because He wants His Church [that is presently identified only by New Truth] to be partially hidden until the precise time He gives the special power and authority of *healings* and *miracles* as identifying signs of His True Church?
- Secondly: The Church has not emphasized the Way to God through the rent veil represented by Christ's flesh. Has the Church failed to apply or misunderstand any other scriptural instructions in regards to healing?

Is the situation we see today a combination of these reasons?

This is the area we shall investigate as we continue.

James 5:15: **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 5:16: **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

James 5:17: **Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.**

James 5:18: **And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.**

James 5:19: **Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;**

James 5:20: **Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.**

Isn't it obvious as you read these verses as a complete package of instructions that we have omitted some very important steps? Mainly, verse 16 has been omitted that involves fervent and effectual prayer for healing by the brethren! It declares that involving the brethren is necessary "...that you may be healed"!

Next, the importance of Elijah's example of belief and persistent prayers is carefully described in verses 17-18. This has never been actually stressed as part of the healing doctrine. And verses 19-20 when observed as part of the overall instruction is demonstrating love that must be shown in the Body of Christ.

We must carefully examine each verse, and the actual words used in each verse, for their true meaning to be sure we understand exactly what God would have us do.

Verse 14: **Is any sick⁷⁷⁰, (see *Strong's* #770: *feeble, impotent, weak, sick*) among¹⁷²² you?⁵²¹³ let him call for⁴³⁴¹ the³⁵⁸⁸ elders⁴²⁴⁵ of the³⁵⁸⁸ church;¹⁵⁷⁷ and²⁵³² let them pray⁴³³⁶ over¹⁹⁰⁹ him,⁸⁴⁶ anointing²¹⁸ him⁸⁴⁶ with oil¹⁶³⁷ in¹⁷²² the³⁵⁸⁸ name³⁶⁸⁶ of the³⁵⁸⁸ Lord:²⁹⁶² [Note that the word *sick* is *Strong's* #770]**

Verse 15: **And²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ prayer²¹⁷¹ of faith⁴¹⁰² shall save⁴⁹⁸² the³⁵⁸⁸ sick,²⁵⁷⁷ and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ Lord²⁹⁶² shall raise him up,^{1453, 846} and if²⁵⁷⁹ he have⁵⁶⁰⁰ committed⁴¹⁶⁰ sins,²⁶⁶ they shall be forgiven⁸⁶³ him.⁸⁴⁶**

Notice carefully the words *save* and *sick* in this phrase: Save is

Strong's #4982 defined as: “From a primary word σῶζ sōs (contraction for the obsolete σάος saos, “safe”); to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.”

Sick in verse 15 is Strong's #2577 defined as: “Apparently a primary verb; properly to *toil*, that is, (by implication) to *tire* (figuratively *faint*, *sicken*): - faint, sicken, be wearied.”

#4982 is used 103 times in the New Testament either spiritually or physically. Scriptures where #4982 is used spiritually are:

Matthew 1:21: **And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save⁴⁹⁸² his people²⁹⁹² from⁵⁷⁵ their⁸⁴⁶ sins.²⁶⁶**

Matthew 10:22: **And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end⁵⁰⁵⁶ shall be saved.⁴⁹⁸²**

Scriptures where #4982 is used in a physical sense are:

Matthew 9:21-22:

For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.⁴⁹⁸² But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.⁴⁹⁸² And the woman was made whole⁴⁹⁸² from that hour.

Thus it is apparent that #4982 can refer to *spiritual salvation* and *physical healing*!

Sick in James 5:15 is #2577 and is a primary *verb* used only three times in the New Testament—and observe its meaning: *toil*, *to tire*, *wearied*, *faint*—it does not even imply *sickness* or *diseased*!

The other two places #2577 is used are Hebrews 12:3 and Revelation 2:3.

Hebrews 12:3: **“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied²⁵⁷⁷ and faint¹⁵⁹⁰ in your minds.”**

Revelation 2:3: **“And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.²⁵⁷⁷”**

Now continue the last part of James 5:15:...**and the Lord shall raise him up,¹⁴⁵³ and if he have committed sins,²⁶⁶ they shall be forgiven him.**

Understand what we have seen so far. The *sick* [#770] are brought to the elders for anointing and prayer. Thus as the elders complete their

part in the instructions in *the name of the Lord*, the scriptures say they shall save [#4982] the sick [#2577, *wearied*]*—*it does not say they shall *heal the sick* [#770]. Isn't that interesting?

The word, *heal* [#2390], is not used until verse 16: “**Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.**”²³⁹⁰”

Strong's defines #2390 as: “Middle voice of apparently a primary verb; to *cure* (literally or figuratively): - heal, make whole.”

It is true that, *save* (#4982), as we have seen, can be used in a physical or spiritual application as a synonym of *heal* (#2390). But why did James use #4982 and not #2390 until verse 16? And why did he use a different word for *sick* [#2577] instead of the original word for *sick* [#770] as in the beginning of verse 14? Is James telling us something that we have not seen due to preconceived ideas in our mind?

I feel like Jeremiah when I study these verses! He cried aloud in Jeremiah 17:14: **Heal**⁷⁴⁹⁵ **me, O LORD, and I shall be healed;**⁷⁴⁹⁵ **save**³⁴⁶⁷ **me, and I shall be saved:**³⁴⁶⁷ **for thou art my praise.**

Which is the intent in James 5:14-15; being *saved* or being *healed*? Why use #4982 [*save*] when #2390 [*heal*] could be used as in verse 16?

It's All Connected

Here is an important point I was not aware of until I began this study: James 5:15 and 16 are continuing the same thought and are connected by either *therefore* or *so then* in other versions of the New Testament.

James 5:16: “[**Therefore**] **confess**¹⁸⁴³ **your faults**³⁹⁰⁰ **one to another,**²⁴⁰ **and**²⁵³² **pray**²¹⁷² **one for another,**^{240, 5228} **that**³⁷⁰⁴ **ye may be healed**”²³⁹⁰...”

This certainly means that James is continuing the instruction for God's *healing* in verse 16 and right on through 17-20! The elders had prayed for the *sick* and anointed him with oil *in the name of the Lord*. If he had committed sins they were forgiven him. The *wearied* had been *saved*—but evidently not *healed* until verse 16 is applied too.

We always followed verses 14 and 15 step-by-step, but then verse 16 says: “[**Therefore**] **confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another that ye may be healed**” [#2390].”

The *healing* had not yet taken place! The prayers of the brethren are an important part of the *healing* procedure. The last clause of verse 16 is forcefully stated: “**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**” The prayer of faith given by the elders must be

accompanied by the effectual fervent prayers of the brethren! Every point James makes in his instructions are vitally necessary for the *healing* [#2390] of the sick. Persistent, effectual and fervent prayers by the brethren in many cases have been lacking.

The common word for *heal* or *healed* in the *New Testament* is #2390! As it is used in verse 16, it is also used 28 other times in the New Testament as *cure*, *heal*, *healed*, *made whole*. In 24 of these scriptures, the healing of diseases or ailments, physical or mental (demon possession), is performed as seen in the following examples:

Matthew 8:8: **“The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.²³⁹⁰”**

Matthew 15:28: **“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 whole²³⁹⁰ from that very hour.”**

Mark 5:29: **“And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed²³⁹⁰ of that plague.”**

Acts 9:34: **“And Peter said unto him, Aeneas Jesus Christ maketh thee: whole²³⁹⁰: arise and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.”**

Three scriptures where physical or spiritual *healing* (#2390) is possibly implied are: Matthew 13:15; John 12:40; Acts 28:8. Each of those scriptures are quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10. Another scripture that conveys a *healing* (2390) of deep-seated depression of the mind is Luke 4:18:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed⁵⁵⁴⁸ me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal²³⁹⁰ the³⁵⁸⁸ brokenhearted,^{4937, 2588} to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...

An Old Testament Example!

Continue in James 5 with verses 17-18:

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth

brought forth her fruit.

James was inspired to use the account of *a man of like passion as we are*, the Prophet Elijah. I Kings 17 and 18 present his example of persistence and effectual fervent prayers that God is expecting of each of us in concern for our sick brethren.

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan (I Kings 17:1-3).

Now come to chapter 18:1,17-19:

And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

God had punished the nation of Israel for 3½ years—not a drop of rain or dew had fallen on the parched earth. The misery and suffering of the people still had not awakened them to the cause of the severe drought—but now it was time for them to understand!

The people of Israel came to the area of Mt. Carmel as Elijah had instructed them to; and with them were wicked King Ahab and the vain, idolatrous false prophets of Baal.

In verses 21-25, Elijah issues a challenge from the Eternal God to the hundreds of lying ministers who had led the Israelites into sin—the worship of false gods:

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long

halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

The people excitedly agreed to the challenge—the false prophets had no choice but to face the confrontation. Elijah demanded that the prophets of Baal call on their god first—and they did from morning to night—with no answer whatsoever. Then it was Elijah's time:

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God (verses 36-39).

Yes! There was no doubt that God was God! And His prophet was in charge: **“And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there”** (verse 40).

Elijah was a man of great faith—he cried unto God and instantly his prayer was answered. However, this instance of fervent and effectual

prayer is not the specific case that James is focusing on. The next few verses in I Kings 18 demonstrate the characteristic that true Christians must also employ in their prayers—persistence!

And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. [Elijah had no doubt that God would send the rain as he had promised] And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees (verses 41-42).

Can't you imagine this weary man *casting himself down upon the earth* in near exhaustion? Consider all that Elijah had done during the past 24 hours. He was a *man of like passion as we are* and had conducted the challenge to the prophets of Baal all day long, and then he labored all night killing at least 450 of them. And the scriptures do not indicate that Elijah ate or drank during that 24 hour period.

Continue with verse 43:

And [Elijah] said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. [Remember, Elijah's prayer for God to reveal Himself to Israel as the true God came instantly. Therefore, the prophet of God continued to pray for the promised rain.] And he said, Go again seven times.

How long did it take each time for the servant to go to the top of the mountain and scan the sea for signs of rain; 10 minutes; 30 minutes; an hour; or more? We don't know! But the Living Christ has this example of persistence recorded in His Word for us to follow today when we are requesting healing.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. [That was all Elijah needed—he knew the promise was beginning to be fulfilled.] And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel (verses 45-46).

The mighty God had spoken to Elijah and then demonstrated amazing power to the people and his prophet. Elijah walked by faith and sight! We walk by faith—not by sight—and we believe! God speaks to us as we diligently ask, seek, and knock. He speaks to us through the pages of the Holy Bible and gives us answers at the time it is His will to do so.

He is revealing to us New Truth that will again show His people that He is God—and who His true servants are!

A New Testament Example

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. II Peter 1:21 tells us: “**For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**”

James used the example of Elijah to describe persistent and effectual fervent prayers that are vitally necessary for healing of the sick. But his overall instruction for healing is unique in his step-by-step method. The writers of the other epistles, Paul, Peter, John, or Jude do not mention a procedure for healing as does James.

Paul emphasizes the need for every Christian to take care of their bodies which are the Temple of God. He warns of the danger of not *discerning the Lord's body* and of partaking of the Passover *in an unworthy manner*. And, as has been mentioned, Paul has written about the *gifts of healings*.

Peter quotes Isaiah 53:5 that *by His stripes we are healed*. And John doesn't mention healing *per se*—or does he? We will see!

The apostles were *holy men of God* and were inspired in their writings. Some of their writings involved recollection of many of the marvelous acts of mercy performed by Jesus. And, of course, they remembered His commission to them as given in Matthew 28:19-20:

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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Can we find any scriptural example from Christ's ministry that *teaches us to observe* the instructions for healing brought out by James in 5:14-20? Yes, we can! Luke 5:17-25 is a perfect example of James'

instructions.

Read this beautiful lesson verse by verse:

Luke 5:17: And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal²³⁹⁰ them.

Luke 5:18: And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy [he was paralyzed]: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

Luke 5:19: And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

Luke 5:20: And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

Luke 5:21: And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

Luke 5:22: But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

Luke 5:23: Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? This is an explanation from Jesus, Himself, that healing is the forgiveness of sin!

Luke 5:24: But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

Luke 5:25: And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

Luke 5:26: And they were all amazed, and they glorified

God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today.

Consider the sequence of events described above in light of James' instructions:

Verse 16 of James 5 informs those who are sick to *confess* (#1843, acknowledge) *their faults one to another*—to acknowledge that by suffering illness they have a problem—a *fault*. The word *fault* is *Strong's* #3900 defined as: “From G3895; a *side slip* (*lapse* or *deviation*), that is, (unintentional) *error* or (wilful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.”

Luke 5 does not say the paralyzed man acknowledged his *faults* to his friends who carried him to Jesus, but the important fact is that his problem was “acknowledged” as evidenced by him allowing himself to be transported there. And *in faith* his friends performed an exemplary act of love.

The men who brought the paralytic to Jesus *converted him* (#1994, *reverted*, or *turned him around*); they helped and changed him from the *error of his ways*. The man did not have God's Spirit—the Spirit was not yet given. This is not speaking of spiritual conversion! His friends *turned him around*, both mentally and physically: they set him on the right course. They brought him to Christ.

Those friends or relatives who carried the paralyzed man were fervent, effectual, and persistent (as Elijah was) in their request to receive help from Jesus, demonstrated by their extremely zealous action. They let nothing stop them in their efforts—they ripped open the roof—and Jesus was impressed with their faith.

The paralyzed man had *erred from the truth* (James 5:19). When you *err from the truth*, you commit sin! The sin produced his pitiful condition. Our Lord didn't say, “I wonder what caused the man's paralysis?” No! Christ said: “**Thy sins** (*Strong's* #266) **are forgiven...**”—**and the man was healed; proof positive that healing is the forgiveness of sin.**

Mr. Armstrong wrote in his 1979 healing booklet on page 25:

When a person is sick or has contracted a disease, he is simply paying the PENALTY of transgressed physical law in his body.

One may not himself have broken a physical law. It could have

been an accident. It could have been from a contagious disease contracted without his knowledge. In the case of Job (Job 2:6-7), Satan was the cause of Job's ailments for a special purpose, by God's permission. Nevertheless, sickness and disease are the *penalty* being paid for broken physical law.

Job's situation may shed light on the afflicted woman in Luke 13:11-16. By Jesus' own words, Satan had bound her for 18 years. Why this was allowed is not revealed. Perhaps her healing was for the glory of God to be made manifest as it was with the blind man in John 9. Verse 3 of John 9 plainly states: **“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”**

As human beings it is so easy for us to sin and not even think about it. We trespass God's laws not actually realizing how God thinks about our sin. God hates sin! He hates spiritual sin—and physical sin! God remembers Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22! God knows how His dear Son suffered because of the sins of the world—our sins. Jesus Christ had all the sins of the world heaped upon Him. He died for our sins!

Isaiah 55:7-9 tells us:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Some sins are more heinous in man's eyes than others. Murder is worse than lying—but they are both sins. A true Christian would not eat unclean meats, but will often “pig-out” over good food—or not so good food—even junk food. Balanced diets are nearly a thing of the past in modern fast-paced society. These modern customs are *faults*; they *err from truth—they are physical sins*. Nutritious foods have been mostly replaced by junk food in too many homes. Men, women and children are suffering severe health problems as a result. The laws governing health have been cast aside.

When any of God's Laws are transgressed in any way it produces a harmful effect. God is love; therefore he hates sin and the consequences

it brings.

A Review

In James chapter 5, it is apparent that he is writing with the belief that Christ is *at the door*—that His coming is imminent (vv. 8-9). Thus, these directions are especially for us today since Christ has truly come—*as a thief in the night*. Therefore, James gives a step-by-step message of do's and don'ts! Verse 8 tells us to be patient. Verse 9 warns of having murmurings against the brethren. Verse 12 cautions that we should *not swear at all*. Then in verse 13 he has written: **“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”** He asks a question, and then gives the practical solution.

The same method is continued in verse 14. He asks; **“Is there any sick among you?”** Then he gives the detailed directions to receive the removal of the sickness in verses 14-16. Finally, verse 16 shows the result of following ALL of the directions—*that you may be healed*.

With deep faith through the years, we have clung to verses 14 and 15 as the process by which God applies Christ's sacrifice for healing. But now we have a more complete understanding. Verses 16-20 are each vital steps in God's wonderful Truth about healing!

Verse 16 emphasizes the power of fervent and effectual prayer!

Verses 17-18 give the example of Elijah's persistence in prayer that is to be followed to achieve the desired results.

James concludes with verses 19-20 and is directed to the “brethren” in regards to “a brother” who has *erred* (#4105, gone astray) *from the truth*, one who has sinned. In those two verses James writes in his style the wisdom contained in Proverbs 10:12: **“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”**

King David's repentance of his appalling spiritual sin, recorded in Psalm 51, is another example that can be used as we consider our health and how God heals us when we are sick.

The sick (#770) come to the elders for prayer and anointing, but counseling by the elders will be done first (unless in an emergency) to discuss the *faults* that have caused the sickness. Helping the sick person in a loving, patient manner, to realize why they are sick so that they can truly repent is the duty of the elders.

So, to be sure we understand, let's repeat James' instructions point-by-point using King David's attitude of repentance as another

example. In Psalm 51:3, 10 David cried aloud: **“For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me...”**

That is the prayer of faith that will be offered for the sick—to acknowledge the *fault* and to receive a renewing of God's Spirit. Then the person will be revived spiritually, and raised up physically. He can fully understand God has intervened for him. David said in Psalm 51:12: **“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”** The sick will also know that the sins, which caused the sickness, are forgiven. Nevertheless, we must understand that the sick person may be an innocent victim of the sins, due to the environment, genetics, accident, or a special situation designed by God.

God knows all!

Jesus said, **“Which is easier to say; your sins are forgiven, or, arise take up your bed and walk?”** Consequently, as the repentant, sick person receives the anointing *in Jesus' name*, he is forgiven of his sins and in effect healed—except for one other stipulation; the prayers of the brethren are also required.

The vitally needed fervent, effectual, and persistent prayers of the brethren have not been accentuated in the past. But, from this point those prayers will become a loving part of the instructions for healing in the Church of God's Faithful.

This is the lesson of love and kindness of which James is informing us, as true members of the Body of Christ, which should be practiced among loving brethren. Every detail of how the paralytic's friends convinced him (*converted him*) to be brought to Christ is not told. The poor man was most likely terrified of being carried upon the house top, and then lowered inch by inch to where Jesus was standing. However, as James brings to a close his instructions, we should internalize that example of love.

We must realize that the soul (physical life) of our brethren, for whom we sincerely intervene, *will be saved* (#4982) *from death* (by being healed), *and a multitude of sins will be hidden*.

Proverb 10:12 is also quoted in I Peter 4:8: **And above all things have fervent charity²⁶ among yourselves: for charity²⁶ shall cover the multitude of sins.**

True Christians are very special to God! We are called and chosen to be *Firstfruits*—to be the very wife of Jesus Christ. God and Christ are deeply concerned for us and we must be deeply concerned for one

another.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal.6:1-2).

If a person is sick—he has a burden that he needs help to bear!

Be of the same mind one toward another [Do unto others that which you would want done unto you]. **Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits** (Rom. 12:16).

We have gained wonderful understanding through examining the complete instructions James has written. His inspired writings more firmly establish the truth that God is our Healer and we must faithfully and obediently walk in His way. And, so importantly, we must love our brethren and help them to follow His ways.

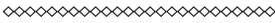
I Corinthians 12:26-27 sums up our responsibility to one another: **“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”**

This brings us to another vital subject we have not fully understood!

Chapter Five:

Discerning the Lord's Body—

The Church



Each year, at the exact time as our Lord set us example, we partake of the Passover. In humble remembrance we take and eat a small piece of unleavened bread that represents His ripped and beaten body that provides the way of forgiveness of our sins. We solemnly drink of the wine that represents His spilled blood that washes away every sin. Through the total sacrifice of the Son of God we have direct access to the Father in heaven who hears every prayer, forgives our sins, and heals us through the *stripes of Christ*—and gives us eternal life!

In John 6:48-51 Jesus spoke the following deeply spiritual words:

I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if 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.

Christ took the penalty of all of our sins upon Himself. He gave His life for the life of the world! Sin is the transgression of God's perfect Spiritual Law that includes the breaking of the laws of physical health—the cause of sickness, disease, and ailments. And it is through the ripped and torn flesh of His body that we can come directly to our Father to ask forgiveness and know that *through His stripes we are healed*.

The apostle Peter explains how our lives were purchased through Christ's sacrifice:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed [bought back] with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your

vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you... (I Pet. 1:18-20).

Jesus poured out his blood—He gave His life for the life of the world!

Now continue with John 6:52-58:

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. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

Jesus' last Passover, beginning that night 24-hours before the Jews Passover began, was the time *between the two evenings* exactly as it was with the original Passover where God killed the firstborn of Egypt and *passed over* those who were *under the blood of the lamb*.

Paul has also written in I Corinthians 5:7-8 that Jesus is our Passover.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast [of Unleavened Bread], not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Paul expounds further in I Corinthians 11:27-32:

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 discerning¹²⁵² the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge¹²⁵² ourselves, we should not be judged²⁹¹⁹. But when we are judged²⁹¹⁹, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Many different versions of the Bible omit the word *Lord's* in verse 29, stating only *discerning the body*. However, from what we have learned in our study in this booklet, the **body**—and the **blood**—of the Lord should most certainly be *discerned* and appreciated. And surely, the *body of the Lord*—the Church—must also be *discerned*. We must consider that due to the lack of perception of the needs of the Body, *many are weak and sickly and some have died!*

Has the Church been lacking in love?

Notice I Corinthians 12:12-14,20,25-27:

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

But now are they many members, but one body.

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.
[See also Ephesians 4:11-16.]

We are the Body of Christ and members in particular! When one suffers we all suffer! Is this true in the Church of God's Faithful? Are we deeply concerned about the sufferings of each other? Do we love one another?

The sacrifice of the Lamb of God was the greatest act of love ever! In Jesus' own words he tells us: **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”** (John 15:13). And the preceding verse leaves no doubt as to Christ's expectation of us: **“This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.”**

We should now understand the instructions given in James 5:14-20 and realize that verses 19-20 especially are speaking to us as brethren—brethren who are part of the Body of Christ—and *members in particular*. Therefore, we must be involved with one another; perceiving each others needs and quickly reacting to our brethren's call for help. We must respond in prayer, fasting, and whatever else that might be necessary for a *roof-ripping* type fervency that is effectual and avails much. We must be well aware that if a member is sick—if *one member suffers, we all suffer*—we must *discern* and respond to *the Body of Christ*—then healings will result.

Going back to the Old Testament and an example from King David, we read in Psalm 35:13: “**But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.**”

The apostle John clarifies our responsibility to the Body of Christ very succinctly in I John 3:22-23:

And whatsoever we ask, [we ask, seek, and knock that we may bring our brothers problems directly to our Father] **we receive of him** [that is a definite promise—and why?], **because we keep his commandments** [We walk in His way of life], **and do those things that are pleasing in his sight** [Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father (John 8:29) and leaves us example that we should too]. **And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ** [We believe and ask in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sin that we and our brethren may be healed], **and love one another** [We are all one body and look after the needs of one another through fervent, effectual prayer and fasting], **as he gave us commandment.**

In John's gospel Christ's commandment is recorded in chapter 13:34-35:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Understand what our Lord is telling us! If we follow His teachings and truly LOVE one another—whatsoever we ask—whether it is for

healings, raising the dead, casting out demons—all of those signs in Mark 16:17-18 shall follow us—and all will know we are His faithful disciples and the true Church of Jesus Christ.

His true Church has been kept hidden until now. God has held back the miracles, signs, and wonders we are expecting until this point in the Day of the Lord. He had also reserved the complete instructions of the *Plain Truth about Healing* until now!

Before Jesus' ministry was to begin, His mother requested of Him that He would provide some needed wine for a wedding feast they were attending in Cana of Galilee (John 2). Jesus respectfully replied to His mother that *His time had not yet come*. But, as you know, he granted her request.

The point is that there was a set time for His earthly ministry to begin. Now in the Day of the Lord there is a set time for the conclusion of the Church age and the True Church must be identified. *The Midnight Cry* to the ten virgins of Matthew 25, symbolic of our brethren trapped in the synagogue of Satan, has just begun as a wee, small voice.

Christ plainly informs us that if we love one another—as He loved us—ALL will know we are the True Church. Therefore, we have been *sighing and crying* for our brethren trapped in Laodicea and in the synagogue of Satan, but only a few have recognized us. Truth is our identifying sign at this time, we are set apart by truth, but the example of our LOVE for one another is the vital key. Our love and care for one another will result in *dramatic healings* and other miracles within the CGF. The many New Truths along with signs, miracles, and wonders that will follow us are what will truly attract our lost and scattered brethren. And Christ will make them come to learn at our feet.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, [they say they are the Churches of God] and are not, but do lie [God has only one true Church]; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee (Rev. 3:9).

The Church is the Lord's Body and we are *members in particular*, therefore, we each have our roles to perform as God intends. The time is upon us for persistent, fervent, and effectual prayer with fasting for one another—and our scattered brethren. God is placing His Church on a higher spiritual level; we must *grow up into Christ in all things*.

Let us truly cry out to God in fervent and persistent prayer for Him

to fill us with His Spirit and the fruits of the Spirit—love being the foremost. God is love!

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [Christ] laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him (I John 3:16-17)?

Christ gave His life for us. We must grow in the *mind of Christ* and be willing to literally lay down our lives for one another. Therefore, we must submit to Jesus Christ, to live his life within us that we may do all we can to please God. And whatsoever we ask will be answered according to God's will and way. Astounding miracles are ready to happen! The *gift of healings* will be ours to compassionately use for the help of multitudes of people!

Tender mercies and loving compassion are great benefits from our Father as He molds us into the image of His beloved Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

To end this presentation let's quote King David's inspired words in Psalm 103: 2-3:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Amen!



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