

Chapter Two

Confident Faith Comes From the Author of Faith

To receive any of the many (over 900!) promises of God recorded in the Scriptures, we must have more than mere knowledge, such as knowledge of our spiritual authority. We must also have faith.¹ A logical place to begin our study is with this question: how can we learn to have faith in God's healing promises?

We must first understand that faith comes by hearing the *rhema* revelation words of Christ. We hear as we develop the capacity to hear the voice of our Shepherd.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word [rhema = a speaking] of God [Greek = Christos].

The more time we spend with Jesus Christ, the more we hear His voice, and thus the more we grow in faith. Remember, He's the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), and speaking to us in His still, small voice² is how He grows our faith. This mechanism is seen in Ephesians 5:26 where He cleanses the church through the washing of the water of the *rhema* word³ (which is a speaking of words by revelation into the spirit of a born again believer). *Rhema*-driven faith is the same mechanism that Jesus passionately urged the spiritually thirsty to acquire in John 7:37-39 -- to drink from the Fountain of Living Water! All of these are references to building a free-flowing, continuing dialogue with the First Born of all creation.

Rhema words from the throne room of the Lord Jesus Christ are the drink of all who thirst. The spiritually thirsty are to drink from His well, the Fountain of Living Water. *Rhema* words of revelation from Jesus Christ are the words in which we abide in order to glorify God in John 15:7-8. Because Jesus went to prepare a place for you which is in the Spirit, so that "where I am (right now!), you may be also,"⁴ we have constantly available access to the revelation wisdom

¹ *Hebrews 11:6 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.*

² *I Kings 19:11b-12 ...but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind and earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

³ *Rhema* is a Greek word used in Scripture to signify words which come by speaking, such as in a conversation. It is the *rhema* word which Matthew 4:4 declares we are live by as it proceeds from the mouth of God. It is the speaking of the *rhema* voice of the Lord into one's spirit which is the causal increaser of faith in every believer according to Romans 10:17.

⁴ *John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions (dwelling places): If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Kingdom Faith Ministries

PO Box 725

Charlemont, MA 01339 * USA

Tel: 413-339-8630 * E-mail: Kingdom8@juno.com * Web: www.kingdomfaith.org

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words from our Lord for any situation, any crisis, and every comfort. These are the same words which become the substance of miracles.⁵

Health attacks are so often spiritual in origin. What is seen in the physical realm is rooted in the spiritual. We can see this in Ephesians 6:12 where we learn that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against demonic spiritual forces. But to give a common illustration of how physical health is rooted in the condition of one's spirit, have you ever known someone who has crippling arthritis? Have you ever noticed that the afflicted person often holds deep bitterness or even raging unforgiveness toward someone in their life? While perhaps not always true, it is true more often than not. There is a definite connection between disease and the condition of the human heart. No better expression of this understanding comes from a familiar verse in Proverbs:

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Unforgiveness of any kind authorizes satan to gain territory in the human heart. In the context of unforgiveness, the Bible phrases it this way: *Neither give place (topos = territory, geography, marked out space) to the devil.*⁶

My point is this, and may the Lord bring understanding to this essential concept: there is a transfer of spiritual authority to satan when unforgiveness is held in the human heart.

Where unforgiveness is held, a root of bitterness develops. When this happens, the soul of an individual becomes polluted, or as Hebrews 12:15 declares, it becomes defiled.⁷ So many of the serious auto-immune diseases, for example, have such spiritual roots of bitterness associated with them, and where they exist, the physical symptoms of disease will have legal spiritual authority to remain until the individual person repents of their unforgiving bitterness.⁸

⁵ In speaking with the angel Gabriel, Mary learned of her enormous assignment to become the mother of Jesus Christ. In her conversation in Luke 1:26-38, Gabriel declared an astonishing truth – *for with God nothing* (lit. “no rhema”) *shall be impossible*, to which Mary responded as the bond slave handmaid of the Lord, *be it unto me according to thy word* (rhema) ... Revelation *rhema* words from the Lord are the energizing catalyst of nearly every miracle in the Scriptures, and are what engage the Holy Spirit to move from brooding upon the spiritual waters into miraculous action. How marvelous a mechanism to understand when we need a miracle healing!

⁶ *Ephesians 4:26-27 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage (Greek – “pleonekteo” meaning “a superior position over”) *of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

⁷ *Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;* (lit. “polluted”)

⁸ See Mathias, *In His Own Image We Are Wonderfully Made*, chapters one and two noted in the Resources Section at end of this book.

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Even secular medical researchers are finding remarkable health issues arising from negative emotions. For example, one such study found significant immune system suppression during times of negative thinking and emotions.⁹ Put more simply, broken (negative) emotions are a cause of broken health.

⁹ Bhattacharya, Shaoni; NewScientist.com News Service, 02 September 2000; *Brain Study Links Negative Emotions And Lowered Immunity*. See appendix for full article.

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