

Chapter Twelve

Exercising Authority Over Pain

Pain can be commanded to leave in the name of Jesus Christ, and it must bow. The Word of God is literally true, and very employable in gaining deliverance.

Philippians 2:11-13

[emphasis and bracketed remarks are not in the text]

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. [How? By using the name of Jesus Christ!]

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Things that must bow and submit to the authority of Jesus Christ include the physical body that you were given by God. Remember, the body must obey the command and authority of our soul, and our soul must obey the commanding authority of our spirit. What we have faith to acquire from among the promises of God, we have the authority to receive in the natural. Jesus Christ is our complete Savior, having redeemed us fully, not just partially. This includes enabling our healing whenever we choose to look to Him, and appropriate it.

Jesus knew He would be God's agent for the healing of His people as they learned to look to Him. He used Moses' brazen serpent as an illustration of how such healing works.

In Numbers 21:9, God told Moses to fashion and lift up a brass serpent on a pole, so that all who were afflicted might look at it and be healed simply by gazing at it. Jesus Christ connected this incident with the healing we have in Him when we lift Him up and "gaze" at Him spiritually with believing faith today.

John 3:14-17

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth [is believing] in him should not perish, but have eternal life

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [is believing] in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved..

The eternal life that we receive from believing in Him is more than just physical, but it does include the physical too. "That we might be saved [sozo]" employs the word "sozo" to include not just future salvation of the spirit, but literally this means "wholeness" in every category of life. In making us saved, the Lord makes us whole – in spirit, soul, and body. Matthew 8:17

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How Can I Get My Healing From God?

shows this wholeness specifically as it pertains to the physical realm. Every believer needs to understand that Jesus was lifted up not just for our sins, but for our physical healing as well.

Matthew 8:17

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet¹, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

He bore our sicknesses and infirmities on the same cross on which He bore our sins. How is it that we so believe the Lord took our sins to the cross, but have trouble believing that He also took our sicknesses and infirmities on the very same cross? How do I know this? Because nearly every Christian in western cultures today has more faith in doctors and pills for their healing than they do in the Lord. This is unbelief, and such unbelief is sin. If you are party to it, there is no better time than now to repent of having medical idols.

I Corinthians 10:13 is also true -- that God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear, and will show us the means of escape. How? By learning to hear His voice, and obey what he tells us to do about the crisis. We use our God-given spiritual authority to speak (or accomplish) what the Lord says to us. Many times, this will involve calling into being those things that are not (i.e. not yet in the physical) as though they are (i.e. that are already true in the spiritual).²

I have always been inspired by a precious older lady in our church. Her name is Eleanor, and she recently turned 80 years young. Up until just one week ago as I am writing these words, she and her husband were the sole custodial cleaning crew for the church. Every week for the past seven or so years she vacuumed the entire church, did all the cleaning, etc. She decided she would stop doing this work, not because she couldn't work, but because she simply decided that 80 years old is as good a time as any to put it down and relax. They both refuse to get sick because they cling to the Scriptural truth of I Peter 2:24 – *by the stripes of Jesus Christ we were healed.*

Sometimes Eleanor has had to demand that her doctor adhere to the Word of God. For example, for the past six or more years, her doctor has said that she has diabetes. She has a way of getting her New England Yankee dander up and this feisty lady is not shy about telling her doctor, “No, I do not have diabetes, nor any other kind of sickness. I give all my sicknesses to Jesus. He takes them from me. If you want them, you will have to ask Him.”

Eleanor is deadly serious (toward the devil) and adamant in her position. So typically the doctor would get mad, and try to avoid swearing under his breath. He would declare that he was the doctor and he was a trained medical professional. Eleanor does not budge. So the doctor angrily

¹ *Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, and smitten of God, and afflicted. 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.*

In quoting this verse after the day of Pentecost, I Peter 2:24 declares that we were healed, because of the cross of Matthew 8:17.

² *Romans 4: 17b ...even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

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orders her to take a blood test to prove to her that she has diabetes. But every time for the last several years, the tests have all come back negative, and the doctor has gone away muttering. This doctor is a relatively young man in his early 40's. Eleanor must have worn him out because he recently announced his retirement from medical practice.

In another incident of calling things that are not as though they are by revelation, I recall a pastor in Canada who asked me to pray for his heart. He was due for an angioplasty in two weeks for clogged arteries, and he was afraid. As I began to pray for him, the Lord gave me a word to give to him: "Tell him that he will not need this operation." I hesitated, thinking about how much I was going out on a limb! "God, are you sure?" But I've learned from experience with Him that God really knows what He is doing. I told this man exactly what the Lord was telling me, that he would not need this operation.

The two weeks went by, and I had forgotten the timing of his operation, until late one night I received an excited phone call. "You'll never believe what the doctors told me as they were checking me over before the operation. They told me to go home, that I no longer needed the operation!" It has been several years since, and the man is still doing well. How awesome our God is! But that's not the end of the story.

Within a few days of this incident, I learned that a relative of mine was due for a triple by-pass surgery for blood vessels going into his heart. He's a scientist, and over the years I have known he did not have faith in God's active part in a person's life. But I knew I needed to call him and offer prayer, especially now armed with the miracle of the pastor from Canada.

I made the phone call, and it went like this after telling him the story from Canada. "So, would you like me to pray for you?" "Well, I guess it couldn't hurt," was his luke-warm reply. Wouldn't you know it, the Lord gave me almost the same message that He had given me for the man in Canada. "Tell him that he will not need this operation." I was flabbergasted. It's one thing to step out when you are praying for a believer. But, wonderful as this relative is, he is not the Bible-believing type. "Are you sure Lord?" No question, and I spoke what the Lord gave me to tell him.

The operation was scheduled for the next morning. But, in amazing surprise to everyone, the doctors sent him home early. In making their final preparations before heart surgery, they discovered that he suddenly had "grown new plumbing!" They sent him home, saying that he no longer needed any operation.

This is precisely what I mean when I say that with God, no *rhema* revelation is impossible, and that the Holy Spirit is hovering upon the spiritual waters, ready to energize what the Lord gives you to speak into a situation. God is not slack concerning His promises, and it is up to us to search out how He works. This is one way that I have seen Him work over and over, and He is no respecter of persons.

Will God do things this way every time? Yes, no, and yes. Yes on giving us revelation, no on it being the same revelation for each situation, and yes each time we hear and obey what he tells us to do or say. That's the best I can tell you – start walking out your own relationship with the Lord. You've got about forty years to get it done His way – by learning to hear and obey his voice to you.

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