

Chapter Thirteen

Hearing The Voice of the Lord In A Crisis

In recent years I was teaching another seminar that I love to teach called “How To Walk By The Spirit In Your Marriage.” I drove seven hours to the home of some dear friends in the state of Pennsylvania where the seminar was to take place. The day I arrived, I became doubled over in pain in my side. Deep down, I knew my appendix had burst.

I asked the Lord what was going on. He told me not to worry, that he was taking care of me. He reminded me that I had been asking him to teach me how to hear His voice even in the midst of a crisis. But I didn’t want to ask the Lord for more details – perhaps out of fear but it was also out of confidence in what His voice was saying to me. He assured me that He was taking care of me, and that was all I needed (and wanted) to know. Because of the many conversations with Him in the past, I knew by experience that I could trust His words to me, even in my extreme pain.

So, chilled to the bone with fever and unable to do anything but crawl into bed, I stayed asleep in bed all day until the Marriage Seminar was due to begin downstairs. As soon as the saints began to open the meeting with singing, my strength returned and I was able to preach for the whole three hours. God did such a wonderful work! I ministered healing prayer to several of the guests, and God touched each one in powerful ways.

I got into bed after midnight feeling great. But I wound up sleeping for the next 18 hours straight, right up until the class started again the following evening. Fever and chills came and went the whole time. Unbeknown to me, the saints were praying greatly, and even now tears well up in me as I write this – God was taking care of me, and many saints in many places were covering me in prayer. The time came for the evening class session and again I was energized supernaturally by God. That night we went even deeper in the Spirit than the first night.

The seminar closed, and I went back to bed where I remained the next two days before feeling strong enough to make the seven hour drive home. All the while in times of being awake, I’d ask the Lord what was going on and what I was to do. He kept telling me He was taking good care of me and not to worry. I’d drift off to sleep again.

For the next two weeks after arriving home I functioned fairly well, but felt that I was operating at about three quarters’ speed. I was up on scaffolding painting our church, and getting ready for a Holy Spirit Seminar we were doing with a precious brother, Rev. Kevin Porter, at week’s end. My wife said I looked a little yellow, but otherwise seemed fine.

Friday morning of the class I rolled out of bed full of joy. As I did, the Lord calmly told me, “Paul, today I want you to go to the hospital.”

My wife and I obeyed, and we headed out the door in deliberate, orderly fashion.. We were in total peace. We knew we were doing exactly what the Lord wanted and that He had everything covered. After some medical checks, I was wheeled into surgery and woke up several hours later.

Kingdom Faith Ministries

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How Can I Get My Healing From God?

The doctors were appalled. They had never seen anyone survive a burst appendix for three weeks.

Let me assure you I have much appreciation and thankfulness for the medical profession. Many of them are committed Christians, and most every health professional that I have ever known has been dedicated and has a commendably self-less heart of a servant. But I want you to also know that when we depend upon medicine instead of the Lord, spiritually speaking we create an idolatrous situation which has disastrous consequences for our continued health.

This is not a cut on doctors. They are marvelously trained and they are needed when our faith in God is impaired. I don't know why I had the burst appendix. I was in the will of God the whole time and enjoying wonderful, deep times of fellowship each day with Him. But this I do know, He delivers His kids when they hear and obey every *rhema* word that proceeds out of His mouth. This time, and by revelation, He told me to go the hospital.

And that is precisely the point. If Jesus is truly Lord, then He is our boss. He should be the One with whom we counsel, and He should get to make the decisions. We do what the boss says. Otherwise, how is He really our Lord?

What? You haven't yet learned how to hear His voice to you? Then quit wasting time and go find a quiet place to learn to hear, and don't leave that place until you do.¹ It took Paul three years in Arabia to do this, Moses about forty years along with a burning bush, and Samuel on his bed at night. The Lord gave His people Israel forty years in the wilderness to learn to live by every word that proceeds out of His mouth (Deuteronomy 8:1-3). So, the clock is ticking for your life as well if you have not yet developed the kind of relationship with the Lord that enables Him to communicate His health and life-purpose decisions into your spirit.

As my brother Carl Fox mentions to illustrate how overly trusting we have often been in our view of medicine, he likes to ask this question -- how often do you remember to pray over your pills before putting them in your mouth?² After all, we pray over the food we eat in order to bless it

¹ This is the way the famous great awakening revival evangelist Charles Finney learned to hear the Lord's voice in the early 1800's. He went into the woods and determined that he would not come back until He learned to hear the Master's voice.

² The Greek word for "witchcraft" is *pharmakeia*, an obvious root of our modern word "pharmacy" and "pharmaceuticals." A great deal of spiritual witchcraft occurs through the effect of drugs, hence the association of the two. The modern notion that most any medical problem is fixable by the correct drug, together with the aggressive drug manufacturing industry's influence on medical school training, television and media advertising, modern medical reliance, and even direct monetary payments to doctors using their drugs is well known. Such practice falls squarely into the realm of witchcraft (which always involves forms of controlling influences) and bribery. This may be why, for example, Western medicine remains heavily invested in some practices, such as relatively ineffective chemotherapy treatments, despite methods that have proven to be much more reliable. This is not to say that all drugs are bad, nor even that all drug companies are bad. It is simply to say that corruption of motives may be more widespread than we would like to think in the medical profession, and their effects far more sinister in both the physical and the spiritual realm.

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and improve our health, why do we not apply at least the same faith to any medicine we might take?

Be on watch. Idolatry has overtaken over our culture's faith when it comes to health. For example, how many people become full of fear in western countries if they don't have access to emergency care or medical insurance? God is not hindered by not having medical professionals, and we all know the story of the woman with the issue of blood who wasted all her substance for twelve years on physicians until Jesus healed her when she pressed in to seek Him. Jesus is still actively doing this very thing today. The problem with people today is that when they have access to medical care, they don't think they need to press in to the Great Physician. They have an alternative to faith. So their efforts become token attempts when they pray, and God is not consulted except as an afterthought.

While rushing to the hospital, believers will often remember to throw up a prayer. But will it be of faith when God was not involved in the decision to go to the hospital in the first place? The miracle God may have ready is always compromised without faith. Was He involved in the emergency decision? If we have a sweet relationship with the Lord, it takes only moments to ask Him for wisdom on what to do. *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not... Jeremiah 33:3.* Forty years of self-reliant wandering into man-made solutions without God's intervention can go by very rapidly.³

There is a principle here – when we acquire alternatives to faith, we often lose our faith. So realize that amidst the many blessings you may have at your disposal, don't let them replace faith in God for your healing. How do you do this? For starters, get in the habit of running to God and ask Him first what to do. This need only take seconds, not hours, if we have developed a vibrant relationship with the Lord. If you haven't, good luck to you as you seek your own physical salvation. I would rather have the sure guarantee of the Lord's promise to heal that is noted in Psalm 107:

³ It should be understood that hospital-induced deaths (from causes such as negligence, mis-diagnoses, hospital-acquired viruses, improper dosages and unanticipated multiple drug effects, understaffing errors, etc.) have reached epidemic proportions. According to the US Center For Disease Control (CDC), hospital infections alone are the fourth leading cause of death in the US, behind heart disease, cancer, and strokes (Associated Press report of 21 July 2002). And according to a HealthGrades Patient Safety study of 37 million US hospital patient records for the years 2000 through 2002, an average of 195,000 patients died each year in hospitals due to potentially preventable, in-hospital medical errors (HealthGrades, Inc. article of 9 August, 2004 at www.healthgrades.com). The same article documented from the three years of study data that 81 percent of the 323,993 Medicare patient deaths resulted from patient-safety incidents.

A great deal of focus is being given to addressing these problems among healthcare professionals around the country today, but these statistics are nevertheless frightening. We must realize that hospitals take in the sickest people, and in fairness to hospital personnel, it must be realized that the full extent of dangerous viruses and other contagious problems is often not known immediately when a patient is admitted. This is all the more reason to consult God before automatically accessing man-made health solutions. My point is this – now more than ever, we need God involved as our first resource, and not as a token or last resource for health decisions.

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Psalm 107:20

He sent His word [in Hebrew this word is “dhavar” which specifically refers to a spoken word. It is an equivalent to “rhema” in the New Testament] *and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

This verse underscores the truth of Matthew 4:4, wherein the Lord declared that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every revelation *rhema* word which proceeds out of the mouth of God.

When seeking God for healing, we should be prepared to obey God rather than our fleshly thoughts. In this way, we will prevent idolatry from spoiling the perfect health solution God has for us. His way is always perfect, and His solution includes perfect health. Man’s way is imperfect, and it will keep an individual wandering in their wilderness.

Can God work through doctors? Of course! He did through my own illustration in the previous incident. But should we automatically assume that He will? No. To think so is to trust something else other than God first. In this way, such actions can become faithless, much like people in other cultures have faith in pagan witch doctors and shamans rather than God. In our culture, we tend to trust doctors and pills more than we trust God. Absent prior revelation wisdom from God, in God’s view there is little difference. There is no pleasing God when there is no faith behind our actions (Hebrews 11:6). And faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the *rhema* word of Christ (Romans 12:17).

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