

Chapter Fourteen

Learning to Have Faith, Not Fear

Two incidents come to mind that illustrate how the Lord worked within our family to have faith for our health. In 1997 the Lord returned me to full time ministry. I had left a large, full time worldwide ministry work with military personnel, and moved back to the northeast of the United States in order to start a home church ministry. To support my family, I began working as an engineer full time while continuing to minister part time. Within a few short years I became an engineering management executive with various Fortune 500 corporations (God is truly amazing) until the Lord called me back into full time ministry work again ten years later.

Returning to full-time ministry meant no corporate employer health benefits. This was a minor problem to the faith of my wife and I, but we knew the Lord is faithful. We really liked the joy of stepping up in faith.

That faith became tested one day when my oldest son was twelve. One day, he broke his arm playing with his friends. It was broken right through. My wife Rita is a registered nurse, and she knows a broken arm when she sees one. She prayed for our son in the midst of his pain, and the pain immediately left. A few hours later I came home for supper, and the pain had tried to come back. I spoke to the pain, and told it to leave in the name of Jesus Christ. Immediately it left again.

We splinted the arm for the night. The next morning, pain tried to come back once more, and again we prayed. The pain left, and we knew in our spirit it would never come back, and that God's healing work was done. We discussed the progress with our son, and he felt confident that God's work was done. We took off the splint a day later and my son felt the tell-tale inner itch that accompanies healing bones. His arm was totally healed by the end of that day.

After that incident, we have never had worries again over whether or not God could or would heal when the need is up close and personal. It's His very nature to heal, and it is part of His covenant to heal every time we claim our I Peter 2:24 blessings. Like the incident with Carl Fox's atrophied arm – we do not look at what we see with our eyes. We look at what the Word of God says, and what the Spirit of the Lord is telling us, and we rest upon it.

The second incident involves my brother. He waltzed into the doctor one day to get a stomach ulcer checked out. So he thought. But instead you can imagine how shocked he was to receive a diagnosis of esophageal cancer. Stunned, he asked for the prognosis. It wasn't good – only five months to live, and it was inoperable. He was only 45 years old.

I flew out to Colorado to minister healing to him. When I prayed, at that moment he knew God had healed him. He had tears misting in his eyes, and felt God's work within. But as with all of us, the weight of medical opinion and the enormity of the circumstances weighed on his heart and overwhelmed his faith. For the next three months he endured chemotherapy treatments, and the healing was stolen.

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How Can I Get My Healing From God?

But God was still at work. My brother began to realize that medical science has its limits.¹ He began to research alternative methods such as building up the immune system through nutrition. He began to see that God built our bodies in such a marvelous way that it has its own defense mechanism in its own immune system.²

At the fourth month, however, another major piece of understanding began to come into His heart – “only God can really heal me.” He had tried the medical options, the nutritional options, and a host of other options researched with increasing frustration. He began to realize that if he was going to live, it would not be because of the works of man, but because of the work of God.

Nearing the fifth month, as I was going to sleep one night while at a conference in Florida, the Lord told me out of the blue, “Paul, I’ve healed your brother.”

I was excited! I called my brother the next chance I got, which was the next afternoon. He was just as excited, because the Lord had told him exactly the same thing at about the same time.

From that moment, he knew God’s work had been done. God worked with his faith until that trust threshold was able to be crossed. It has been over fifteen years since that diagnosis, and his doctor has been a close friend and skiing buddy ever since.

¹ The rule of thumb for success with chemotherapy is said to be about 30%. Radiation and other such treatments may have advantages and applications, but God never meant for them to replace Him as our healer.

² Here’s where the spiritual connection with disease becomes very evident. The human body’s immune system is built to deal with cancer just as well as it is built to deal with virus, or any other enemy. But wounded emotions, stress, and especially unforgiveness toward one’s self, others, and God all have remarkable negative impact on one’s immune system. Did you know, for example, that studies have shown that five minutes of anger or strong negative emotion suppress the immune system function for as many as 20 hours or more? Can you imagine the impact of continuing negative emotional stress (such as strife in the home or at work) has on a person’s immune system over the long term?

Although a healthy immune system is as fully capable of fighting cancer cells as it does for virus and harmful bacteria, when unforgiveness issues linger in the human heart (even issues from years ago), satan is able use those issues to bring about stress, and from that, suppress immune system health. Cancer is said to be one of the results of an improperly functioning immune system. Issues of the heart involving unforgiveness are among the greatest contributors to immuno-suppression because they bring continuing stress. There is a spiritual dimension to healing that is only sometimes noticed, but understandably unaddressed by modern medical science.

Once again, the reader is encouraged to read Dr. Art Mathias’ powerful book on this subject: *In His Own Image: We Are Wonderfully Made*, available through the Resource section in the back of this booklet.

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