

*Chapter Eighteen*

*... Yet His Days Shall Be 120 Years*

In Genesis 6:3 we are told that the Spirit of the Lord shall not strive with man forever, yet his days shall be 120 years. God has not changed, and His promise is clear. Every believer highlighted in the Old Testament has lived this long with the exception of Joshua, who died at 110.<sup>1</sup>

What has happened to this 120 year promise from God? The same thing that happens whenever faith is compromised. The promise does not come to pass.

You might say, “Now just wait a minute,” and go on to reason about how many zillions of believers you know who have not even come close to living 120 years. But the answer is simple – the truth of God is not changed by experience. The truth of God is eternal, and it is immutable (unchangeable). Our faith is the variable. And God did not qualify His promise with exceptions for poor nutrition, bad genes, lack of medical care, bad air quality, or other such reasons for which believers yield their otherwise strong faith. The God who created the heavens and the earth made the promise of 120 years knowing full well it would have to apply to all generations in all the ages to come. He set only one condition....faith, specifically that man would not live by bread alone, but by every *rhema* word of revelation that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

I believe that if God says 120, it is available. Therefore, what about the following verses (written by Moses) that seem to indicate that 70 or 80 years is the best we can expect, and certainly better correlates with our experience?

*Psalm 90: 8-12*

(Parenthetical definitions from Strong’s)

*8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.*

*9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.*

*10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast (pride) is only labor (wearying effort, toil, sorrow, wickedness, perverseness, etc.) and sorrow (trouble, vanity, falseness, iniquity, etc.); For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

*11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.*

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<sup>1</sup> I had the privilege of learning much of the information in this chapter from a dear sister in Christ named Jean Petersen. Jean was 75 years old when she taught this lesson in a seminar, and she had just begun the sport of roller-blading two years earlier with her grandchildren. To say that she is vivacious and full of the Holy Spirit is an understatement. She currently serves as an emotional healing counselor with Wellspring Ministries in Anchorage, Alaska, a ministry which has pioneered a powerful manner of teaching and counseling to help enable believers to understand the connection between disease and the spiritual condition of the human heart. I highly recommend this ministry to anyone struggling with emotionally rooted stress, which is often indicated by chronic health conditions. See contact information in the Resource Section appendix.

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## *How Can I Get My Healing From God?*

*12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

The context of the 70 or 80 year lifespan is sinful pride, and the iniquity of “doing your own thing” instead of submitting to God. Life gets shorter when lived unto itself.

Although life gets shorter with sin, it gets longer when lived in obedience to God. Our lives are lengthened as our faith and our obedience develop through our intimacy with Jesus Christ. Long life, health, and peace is reserved for those who obey Him. Consider these verses, for example:

*Proverbs 3:1-2*

*My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;  
2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.*

*Psalms 91:15-16*

*15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.*

*16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."*

*Ephesians 6:1-3*

*Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

*Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;  
That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

You might well ask how it could be that wonderful, faithful believers still die early? Let me try to answer in a way that will not offend.

The truth is, life from God hinges on the personal relationship that we keep with the Lord. By relationship I mean friendship, communion, and conversational intimacy. This personal relationship with God has application to long life. For example, Jesus spoke of the life-quickenning spirit that is given to those who hear His voice. Though most often viewed with respect to the future resurrection from the dead, note carefully in the following verses that there is nevertheless a release of life-enhancing, life-quickenning, life-energizing spiritual authority when we hear the voice of the Son of God, who gives life because He has life in Himself.

*John 5:24-27*

(Parenthetical emphasis and comments are not part of the text)

*24 Verily, verily ( or “Truly, truly.” This is the figure of speech asterismos which draws special attention to the truth that follows), I say unto you, He that heareth (a present participle in the Greek = is hearing) my word, and believeth (is believing) on him that sent me, hath everlasting life (zoe = life in all of its manifestations now and for all eternity), and shall not come into condemnation (krisis = judgment, i.e. final judgment); but is passed from death unto life (zoe).*

*25 Verily, verily (again this is the figure of speech asterismos, spoken for a second time to further dramatize the truth being spoken by Jesus here) I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live (zao = be quickened, vivified, aroused, come to life).*

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*26 For as the Father hath life (zoe) in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life (zoe) in himself;*

*27 And hath given him authority (exousia) to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

Notice that hearing the voice of the Lord enables both eternal life (“zoe” verses 24 and 26) as well as physical life (“zao” verse 25). In a similar duality, life is given not only to the physically dead, but to the spiritually dead who learn to hear the voice of the Lord as well. That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every revelation *rhema* word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4) is not figurative and it is not confined only to spiritual life. It also relates to physical life as well.

*John 7:37-38*

[Bracketed remarks are added for emphasis]

*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*

*He that believeth [lit. “is believing”] on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow [“rheo” from the same root word as “rhema” meaning “shall speak”] rivers of living [“zao” meaning to be quickened, vivified, aroused, come to life] water.*

The life given by learning to hear the voice of the Lord includes the full realm of spirit, soul, and body. There is life in the presence with the Lord, because this is the place of hearing the word from Jesus Christ, Who is The Word, and the way, the truth, and the life. For our purpose in this book, we must recognize that the more time we spend in the presence of the Lord, hearing and obeying His voice, the more of His quickening spirit we receive. Our health is thus positively enhanced by the quality of our intimacy with The Great Physician, Jesus Christ. If we have the faith to go the distance, 120 years is the promise God has given to man.

For too long, Christians have thought that adherence to the Bible, and church ministry are what the Kingdom is all about. This is only a small piece of the Kingdom! The Kingdom that Jesus Christ came to preach, and to which Matthew 24 declares he will not return until it is preached throughout the whole world, is the message of His presence, (i.e. the presence of the King reigning in His kingdom in the human heart). This occurs when His church has developed intimacy with Him.

By definition, intimacy is relationship, and relationship is characterized by two-way conversations. Furthermore, in Hebrews 3 and 4, the reason why believers fail to hear the voice of the Lord is due to a hard heart. Hardness of heart is caused by pride, whose companions are unwillingness, and lack of spiritual hunger enough to set aside all else and pursue one’s First Love. Pride is the single reason why God’s people either do not hear the voice of the Lord, or they hear only occasionally. Pride is always the static on the telephone connection.

In light of the foregoing information, notice what God has to say regarding hearing His voice, gathering wisdom from Him, and the resulting length of life on the earth:

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*Deuteronomy 30: 19-20*

*19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;  
20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.*

*Proverbs 3:7, 8, 13-18*

*7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.*

*8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.*

*13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;*

*14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.*

*15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.*

*16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.*

*17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.*

*18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.*

It is a curious fact that the medical profession identifies 120 years as the designed duration for all of the human body. One day I typed “120 years,” “medical,” and “lifespan” into the internet, and found out that the prevailing medical opinion around the world is that the body is literally designed and built to last 120 years.

It is curious that although the average human lifespan in the United States is currently about 74 years old, the average lifespan of practicing medical doctors is only 59 (and some reports say only 54). How can this be? I believe that when medicine replaces faith in God, curses follow. Praise God for Godly, faith-filled medical professionals! But to those who are without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His healing sacrifice, trouble lies in store the same as it does for pagan practitioners of the healing arts – witchdoctors, shamans, alternative medicine healers, new age therapies and “ologies”, and other such spiritual sorcery.<sup>2</sup>

### *Let's Raise Our Expectations*

I want to at least help raise the level of understanding and expectation for each one of us to grow more into the ministry that we are each called to do. That ministry is the same ministry of Jesus Christ. I am expecting to raise people from the dead. Jesus did, and John 14:12 declares that we are to do what He did and even greater things because He went to His Father. My Father's Word makes this promise! I did not invent it. I expect to keep growing in Him to grow into the place

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<sup>2</sup> It must be understood that many curses arise from even exploring and dabbling with spiritual powers and methods which are not Biblically sanctioned. Biblical terms for such practices include witchcraft, sorcery, enchantments, whoredoms, etc. All healing outside from God and the natural laws and principles for healing that He devised comes with a price. Even when temporary relief may have been achieved by such practices, long-term consequences from accessing ungodly healing sources often surface within a surprisingly short time. Participation in such activities are severely prohibited in the Scriptures because healing from false theologies or spiritualist powers causes severe spiritual consequences. But even legitimate medical practice without God, can engender similar consequences. When our faith does not please Him, we are in trouble, and health consequences can result. Hence there is an urgent need to ask God for wisdom in matters of health, and one's health decisions.

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of walking as Jesus Christ, our boss, walked. So can each one of God's children as they grow in their spiritual authority and power of the Holy Spirit.

Now we see that our spiritual knowledge, experience and faith are indeed as seeing darkly – there is so much we don't know. But, lest I belabor the obvious, the more we spend time alone with Jesus Christ, the more He will teach us, and then send us forth into the Body of Christ to do as He did. God has given the same full measure of the Spirit to every man. We are not to chase anointings. We are to chase the Anointed One, Jesus Christ. The degree we become like Him is the degree to which we will become "specially anointed." Our joy is to learn to get to know and learn from Him. Then we can be like Him if time allows before His return, and we stay meek to His instruction, and loving toward others.

People sometimes get offended when their faith is challenged. They think that being a long-standing believer automatically means they have faith for health crises. But the truth is, believers in Christ can have practiced, confident faith in some aspects of their lives, and little faith in others. The key to **having** the faith of Jesus Christ is the key of having an intimate relationship **with** Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

The words in this book may not be easy words to receive. Nor are they easy words to write. It is always easy to cry and ask God where he went to, and why He doesn't seem to listen. But doing so fails to recognize how God has already done His job handsomely, and is willing to invest in our training for eternity, rather than our comfort in the present. So I praise God for His mercy and grace to allow us to grow more into Him.

We'll have all eternity to enjoy the good fruit of our faith and our First-Love pursuit of Him in this life. As we draw near to Him, He draws wonderfully near to us, and we can enjoy the blessing of His divine favor each day. We literally live, and move, and have our being in Him, for we are created for His glory, and designed to walk in health as our soul prospers<sup>4</sup> in Jesus Christ. May this book be a trigger to help propel us more deeply into His arms, the arms of the Great Physician, and loving Savior.

We need never condemn ourselves for where we are in our journey toward Him, nor for the health challenges we face. We need only to learn the sound of our Shepherd's voice, so that He can gently guide us to the place of rest in Him, where He will heal and minister to us beside the still waters, and give us both the counsel and the healing that we need. If we have made mistakes, He will still cleanse us and heal us as we draw near to Him, for He is the One who still leaves the ninety and nine to find those who call out to Him in yearning faith. May His joy and healing be upon you as you rest in Him each day.

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<sup>3</sup> *Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the (rhema revelation) word of God (Christ in the Greek texts).*

To have a conversational *rhema* dialogue with the Lord pre-supposes an intimate relationship exists with Him.

<sup>4</sup> *3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

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## *Resources for Understanding*

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## *Recommended Books For Additional Study*

Besides the two books I noted in the body of this book on page , I want to suggest some other books that I have found to be very helpful for those who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord. Some I have written, and some are from other wonderful men and women of God. There are many good books written by the Spirit of the Lord, and here's a list that I sincerely know has helped many others gain their healing through God's blessing:

1. ***Turning Curses Into Blessings*** by Carl Fox ([www.CFIM.net](http://www.CFIM.net)) shares powerful truths about dealing with stealth weapons of satan against God's people. Generational curses are a small part of his arsenal, but there are many others and they are still with us today, as noted in Revelation 22:3. This book teaches how to deal with them using one's authority and relationship with Christ.

Other books by Carl Fox:

- ***Breaking the Authority of the Bastard Curse*** (Fox/Norcross)

2. ***Dining At the Master's Table: Learning To Hear The Voice of the Lord*** by Paul Norcross ([www.kingdomfaith.org](http://www.kingdomfaith.org))

Also available by Paul Norcross:

- ***In the Secret Place***
- ***Succeeding In Spiritual Warfare: Lessons From Joshua***
- ***The Voice Upon The Waters***
- ***Acts 29: How To Walk In The Power of the Holy Spirit***
- ***Breaking the Authority of the Bastard Curse*** (Fox/Norcross)
- ***Marriage Seminar: How To Walk By The Spirit In Your Marriage***
- ***How To Get Your Healing From God: Keys To Receiving And Keeping Your Healing***

All of Paul's books deal with the practical walk in the supernatural by learning to hear the voice of the Lord. They help equip the saints and help develop confidence in their personal relationship in the Lord. Many churches are using these books for Bible studies to help their congregations and intercessory prayer groups increase the fruit and spiritual firepower of their ministry.

3. ***Biblical Foundations of Freedom*** by Dr. Art Mathias ([www.akwellspring.com](http://www.akwellspring.com)) These books document the astonishing connection between spiritual roots of disease, and the condition of the spiritual heart. As with all of the recommended books above, Art's books also draw one near in their relationship with our precious Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Also by Art Mathias:

- ***In His Own Image We Are Wonderfully Made***
- ***The Continuing Works of Christ***

Each of these books are very helpful in building a relationship with the Lord, and each website has additional bookstore materials that are well worth investigating.

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