

No 2. Healing Through the Word

In the last study we ascertained that by the fall mankind came under the control of Satan, and the power of sin and death. Sickness and disease entered the world, and man was subject to the law of sin and death.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Rom 5:12.

Because mankind had fallen captive to Satan and the law of sin and death, the only way that man could be set free was for him to be REDEEMED.

REDEMPTION

Strong’s definition -- “to tear loose,” “to rescue,” to pay a ransom price to release from bondage.”

In the Old Testament men could redeem property, animals, and individuals (slaves, prisoners, or indentured relatives) who were in bondage or debt to another person. For example, to redeem an enslaved person, a ransom of an equivalent price of the slave had to be paid to procure his freedom.

In our case, man was in bondage to Satan and the law of sin and death. Our redemption has two aspects

1. Our Eternal Destiny.

We had to be redeemed from Satan’s rights to enslave us, so that we might be transferred to God’s kingdom, with the restoration of our eternal destiny of everlasting life.

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Col 1:13-14.

2. Set Free From Satan in Our Daily Lives

We had to be redeemed from Satan’s right to hold us in bondage in our daily living. In the light of this study, our mortal bodies had to be redeemed from bodies of sin and death and made bodies of righteousness and life. This is the foundational truth for healing.

Scriptural References to the Redemption of Our Mortal Bodies

**“Surely He has borne our griefs [literally, sicknesses]
And carried our sorrows [literally, pains];
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.” Isa 53:4-5.**

That Isaiah was talking about Christ bearing our sicknesses and infirmities, is borne out in this reading from Matthew:

“When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled WHICH WAS SPOKEN BY ISAIAH THE PROPHET, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities.”” Matt 8:16-17.

And also in this reading from Peter:

“...who Himself BORE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY [with their consequence of sicknesses and pains] on the tree [cross], that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24-25.

What These Readings are Saying

In their unredeemed state, our bodies are in bondage to the law of sin and death. Without claiming the redemption of our bodies that Christ procured for us, we have bodies of sin and death. This is evident in the following reading from Romans.

“And if Christ is in you, THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN, but THE SPIRIT IS LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” Rom 8:10.

The first part of the reading states that, **“THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN.”** That is the state of our bodies without redemption.

The second statement is, **THE SPIRIT IS LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.** What this means is that when we claim the redemption Christ acquired for us on the cross, our bodies are made “righteousness,” and Satan’s claim against us are negated. Because our bodies have been made RIGHTEOUS, God promises that the Holy Spirit will “**give life**” to our mortal bodies.

HOW WAS OUR REDEMPTION BROUGHT ABOUT?

Of course we are not talking about the ultimate complete redemption of our bodies, where **“the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this * mortal must put on immortality.”** 1 Cor 15:52.

We are looking at a ‘down payment’ of the full redemption of our bodies, which enables us to receive a portion of Christ’s resurrection life in our bodies here and now, so that we might overcome the power of sickness and disease working in our bodies.

How Did Jesus Justly Bring About the Redemption of Our Bodies

According to justice, we have bodies of sin and death because of the Fall. Any change in the state of our bodies had to be in accordance with God’s justice and righteousness, for **“righteousness and justice are the foundation of (His) throne...”** Ps 89:14.

Jesus had to fulfil the demands of justice – sin must be punished. For man to be set free from his burden of sin and death, someone had to pay his debt by bearing the punishment for his sins. As the representative of mankind Jesus accepted the

responsibility for our sins, and agreed to bear the ultimate punishment for sin - that of death - even to submitting to the horrendous torture of the cross.

In effect, Jesus was mankind on the cross, bearing its label of sin, and receiving its punishment.

“For He[God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Cor 5:21.

Jesus received the punishment for our sins in HIS OWN BODY on the cross to set our bodies free. The suffering of His body is prophetically portrayed in Psalm 22.

**“I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.
For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They pierced My hands and My feet;
I can count all My bones.
They look and stare at Me.
They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.”** Ps 22:14-18.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE WHAT JESUS PROCURED FOR US ON THE CROSS?

By Testifying to Our Redemption

Psalm 107, which largely concerns God’s healing, starts off with the command, “let the redeemed of the Lord say so.”

**Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”** Ps 107:1-2.

To gain the fruit of our redemption, we must testify with our mouths to the truth we have received in our hearts. In healing, our testimonies are the main weapon of our overcoming.

“...they OVERCAME him by the blood of the Lamb and BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, and they did not love their lives to the death.” Rev 12:11-12.

Speak to the Mountain

When Jesus taught His disciples how to exercise their faith, He actually spoke directly to the mountain which is a symbol of any obstruction standing in our way, as in a sickness.

“...assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Matt 17:20.

A sample testimony may be, “Jesus has borne my sicknesses and carried away my pains, and so I rebuke you headache and reject you from my body in the name of Jesus Christ.”

The Holy Spirit expresses His agreement to our testimony by releasing His power to heal.

“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.” 1 John 5:7.

FAITH FOR HEALING

Faith COMES from hearing the WORD

Many are perturbed that they do not have enough faith to receive healing, and in resignation they give up praying. But smallness of faith is common to nearly everyone, and it is not an unsurmountable deterrent, for the bible says, **“FAITH COMES.”**

“So then faith COMES by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom 10:17.

1. “faith comes by hearing”

Faith comes through the physical act of hearing, but the manner of hearing is vastly important, as we see from the following readings.

“He said to His disciples, “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying...” Luke 9:43-45.

“So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;” Prov 2:2.

“Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today...” Deut 32:46.

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness,” Acts 17:11.

“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Luke 8:18.

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” Heb 2:1-2.

“If you DILIGENTLY HEED the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.” Ex 15:26.

“My son, give attention to my words;

INCLINE YOUR EAR TO MY SAYINGS.

**Do not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart; .”** Prov 4:20-22.

2. **“and hearing by the word of God”**

The “**word**” used here is not the Logos, or the Scriptural representation of the knowledge of God. It is the ‘rhema,’ word, or the personal subjective word of truth directed into an individual’s spirit by the Holy Spirit. It is subjective because it is presented to each person in a form that he can best understand and receive into his heart. Take for example how we receive this reading.

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.”
Rom 5:10.

We can peruse it lightly or thoroughly. By further examination, we find that the word ‘saved’ has additional connotations, as seen in the following ‘*Srongs*’ definition:

“saved” -- to heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be made whole.

As we meditate on the word, we may ask that the Holy Spirit will reveal its truth to us, to the end that it might become a ‘rhema’ word that we may receive into our hearts. This may happen in many ways or forms. Some may say that it was as if a light was switched on in their understanding, others that one or two words were impressed on their spirit, or yet again an intuitive knowing, or again, an actual insight spoken into their spirit. Whatever its manifestation, faith comes from a personalised spiritual revelation of the truth by the Spirit. Psalm 107 says, “He sent His word and healed them.”

**“And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.
Their soul abhorred all manner of food,
And they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
And He saved them out of their distresses.
HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM,
And delivered them from their destructions.”** Ps 107:17-20.

What word did God send? It was the rhema word. It may be in the form of a scriptural quotation, but it becomes a rhema word when it is made alive to us personally, with a ‘knowing’ attached to it.

Faith comes from diligent HEARING.

Faith comes from a PERSONAL REVELATION of the word.

Faith comes from God: **“For by grace you have been saved through FAITH, and that not of yourselves; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** Eph 2:8-9

"ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; seek, and you will find; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.” Matt 7:7.