

GOD'S HEALING PLAN



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Every true Christian throughout the Bible was taught and inspired by God to trust in Him alone for their financial needs, as well as the health and protection of their bodies. It not only brought about a great spiritual result, but it was also the cause of all growth and development in their Christian life and character.

There is no growth and development in any life that rejects God's plans to be trusting in Him alone in these two areas. That is why it is of greatest importance for us to be placing our lives fully into His hands to take care of.

It is a great privilege to have the Creator of these bodies as their healer, for He is the only One who really knows all about them. And the only One who can restore any lack or cure any trouble in any part of them.

Since God was able to create a body like ours out of dust or dirt, He certainly knows all about them and surely knows how to heal and protect them.

When we consider the great lack and spiritual loss that comes from trusting in man, it makes it extremely valuable to have such a One as God for our Healer. The great spiritual results that come from trusting God for our bodies is the most valuable thing involved.

It is the same with money. That was always a test for Christians throughout the Bible. Every true Christian had to learn these two lessons---and had the great privilege of having God as the supplier of their needs and as the Healer and Protector of their bodies.

The importance of this makes it all the greater when we realize that Jesus Christ died so we can have our every need supplied, for our spirit, soul, and bodies. This makes it our Divine Blood-bought right.

God made the rule that if a man did not provide for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. God made the rule, and He holds Himself just as liable and just as responsible for His children's needs, as well as the great spiritual blessing that comes from trusting in Him alone, for our healing and the supply of our needs.

When we accept God's plan for our healing and His financial plan, we are striking at the very foundation of sin, of trouble, and the power of self and the devil in our lives. Because if the devil can get us to depend on some human source for our healing or in our financial supplies, he will take advantage of it and grasp a very firm foothold on our lives. Trusting in something human in these two areas of our life will give Satan full charge of our life.

In the Bible, if one professed to be a child of God, and they rejected God's plan for healing and finances, it was obvious they were controlled by Satan and self. But those who accepted them right, struck a death blow at sin, self, and the devil in their lives.

A Christian's attitude toward God's healing and financial plans is a perfect way to expose the devil in them and to show if the devil still controls them. Outside of that, no one would know that they had the devil in them, and that their religion was controlled by the devil. When you test it with God's healing and financial plans, then sin, self, and the devil are fully exposed.

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth, His hometown. They asked Him to read the Scripture lesson on that Sabbath. Jesus took the parchment, or the roll of Scriptures, unrolled it, and began to read from the 61st chapter of Isaiah,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Notice how healing is put right out in front in that Scripture. Jesus said, "He sent me to heal the broken-hearted."

In the original it is written this way, "He has sent me to heal the contrite in heart." The contrite in heart is a heart that is expressing remorse or a repentant heart. We could say, "He has sent me to heal those who have expressed remorse and repented in heart."

After Jesus read these verses, He closed the book and sat down. He then began to preach and explain the Scriptures that He just read. He said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." They all wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth.

That was the Holy Spirit working and blessing that Truth to those who heard Jesus speak. It sounded so good, and they all appreciated it.

But, their master, and that would be Satan himself, would not stand for that. He immediately came on the scene---like the wild birds of the air, waiting to steal the seed that falls by the wayside. He immediately began to put his word in their minds.

This is one of the best illustrations of how the devil robs people and how the wild birds pick up the seeds that falls by the wayside.

These thoughts began to flash into their minds, placed there by Satan himself. "This doesn't fulfill Scripture. This man is not the divine Son of God, He is just the Son of Mary, He is just another man like we are. He's Joseph's Son, the carpenter. We know His brothers and sisters."

Jesus at once realized their change of attitude. He knew that this was robbery, straight from the devil. Jesus answered the questions that were going through their minds and told them the reason why.

Jesus said, "*You will say to me this proverb, 'physician heal thyself'.*" (That was a test they would put the doctors to in that day. If a doctor could not heal himself, they would not try to get healed by him which would be a good rule to have because doctors would be out of business today if that rule would be applied.)

Jesus continued, "*But I tell you of a truth, that no prophet is without honor, except in his own country, and among his own people.*" He meant that is one of the reasons why the devil is fooling you. It is because

you know me so well. You have been brought up with me and have lived in the same town as me.

One saying that they use for all it's worth in religion is, "Distance lends enchantment." In those big evangelistic meetings, they always try to get someone from a distant place, and the reason for that is because people swallow their false teaching much easier if they are a stranger giving it out.

But God doesn't work that way. God never drops someone down in the midst of a congregation that you have never heard anything about, nor ever heard of before. That is fallen man's plan.

Then Jesus told those people in His church at Nazareth the real reason why they were under the control of the devil. He exposed the devil and his works in those people. He knew what they were like, but nobody else did.

Jesus said. *"I tell you of a truth, that there were many widows in Israel, in the days of Elijah the prophet—but unto none of them was Elijah sent, but to a widow woman in Zarephath."*

That was testing them on financial trust. He meant, they were in the same spiritual condition that the children of Israel were in in Ahab's time when they were governed by the son of a murderer.

Then He tested them on the healing plan. Jesus said, *"There were many lepers in Israel, in the days of Elisha the prophet. But none of them were healed, save Naaman the Syrian."*

When they heard these truths, it says, *"They were filled with fury."* The devil in them was fully exposed, and they rose right up and tried to murder Jesus Christ.

That was some exposure of the devil. They took Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built and tried to throw Him down headlong, but He escaped because His time had not yet come. That was a real exposure of their real spiritual condition, and we find it just the same in all the religious world today.

When you look into that example that Jesus used on that church, it becomes more remarkable every time you look into it—because of the truths it reveals and of the great spiritual light it gives.

The case of the widow of Zarephath is of great value. It is one of the most remarkable examples along

financial lines that there is in the entire Bible. It does not leave a shadow of doubt about God's will concerning finances, and about depending on any human source for any part of our support.

It is of the greatest value for that reason. It shows how God's plan works out, just what needs to be done. It shows the passageway into God's plan and the spiritual results that come with it.

That widow was living like all the Gentiles were, depending on everything and everybody, something human instead of God for her support. She was living in the very center of Adam's sin, without knowing it.

Those two deadly enemies, self and Satan, had a stranglehold on her life, which caused her to trust in a human source for her supplies and brought her to a place of grief and distress.

We do not know how long she had been living on ground up meal mixed with olive oil, but that was all she had, and she was glad to have that. Finally, she didn't even have that. She came down to a place where she only had a spoonful of meal and a little oil in a cruse, just what you could put in the palm of your hand.

But God had been dealing with her, just as He had tried to deal with the other widows in Israel. God found deep down in her heart and unknown to herself, a responsive chord.

God told Elijah to go there and board with that widow during the rest of the famine, which was to last for nearly three more years. When he got there, he asked her for a drink of water. As she went to get it, he asked her to bring him a cake in her hand. And then, the whole story came out.

Just think, Jeremiah said *"cursed is the man that trusteth in man."* Here is that example. The curse was on that poor widow, she had been trusting in everything and everybody, and she was going faster and faster to death by slow starvation.

Elijah said to her, *"Have no fear."* This widow had been overwhelmed with fear. Many nights she must have stayed awake, could not go to sleep. Worrying, burdened down, and in deep despair, over her terrible plight.

Just think about waking up in the morning with hardly a mouthful of food in the house for that day. Dying by slow starvation and having an only son dying with you.

Elijah then told her God's entire plan for the death of self, and for the complete breaking of the devil's power. He said, *"Make me a cake first and then make one for yourself and your son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, 'the meal shall not waste, nor the oil fail, until God sends rain on the earth'"*.

That is God's whole plan for getting back to the conditions of the Garden of Eden and His whole plan for our preparation for Eternal Life. That whole plan of getting rid of those two terrible hidden and deceitful enemies, self and the devil. It is the one absolutely necessary thing to be done if we ever expect to escape an eternity of torture and anguish in that terrible lake of fire.

God's plan is to get rid of the human things that could be trusted in, forever—give them up—and transfer that confidence to the living God alone. We will not suffer any real harm to follow that example exactly as it is written. When we have the great God of Heaven, the Creator of everything, we surely need not be afraid of the future nor can we jeopardize our welfare here and our eternal life hereafter, by refusing to do as this poor widow did.



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**Be on our free mailing list—contact:*

PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org

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