

February 2019 Newsletter - Health and Healing

These 5 tenets clarify how God deals with man.

True Christianity teaches that man is saved solely by the grace of God excluding all of man's merits, works, or personal good. While the counterfeit Christianity always adds something to the grace of God, or redefines it to mean something else. The true Church has been very careful to demonstrate how man is saved through the 5 solas:

Sola fide, by faith alone; salvation comes to us through faith alone in Christ alone.

Sola scriptura, by scripture alone; all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture.

Solus Christus, through Christ alone; all works or acts of religion are insufficient to save us. Salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone.

Sola gratia, by grace alone; grace excludes all of man's works, activities, or merits.

Soli Deo gloria, glory to God alone. When God does all the saving, then he alone gets the glory, otherwise man would glorify himself. #22 1-27-19 #23

3. *“And it did not rain on the land for three and one half years” - kai ouk ebrexen epi tes ges eniautous treis kai menas ex*

Both events, not raining and then raining, came about as the result of two prayer requests prayed in faith by one man. **Both events were supernatural, in that they altered and controlled the events of nature. Both events came about because of the will of one man to accomplish a spiritual purpose. Both events demonstrated that the prayer of faith can change the natural laws of nature and the course of human events!**

Once again we see how this works. **It is only Yahweh who has the power to control nature, matter and the universe; man by himself does not!** But we also see that it is faith that unlocks the power of *Yahweh* to accomplish what we desire. We also see that it must be in line with his will.

And we see that this faith must be contained in a prayer request delineating what it is that we would like done. In faith we have an idea; in faith we form our prayer request to God; in faith we believe that he will grant it when we're praying to him; and then God grants it and then in his power does it!

S. Elijah's Second Prayer of Faith.

“Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

James 5:18

1. *“Again he prayed” - kai palin proseuxato*

We have another reference to 1 Kings 17 concerning rain on the land. The first prayer was that it would stop raining on the land, and the second one was that it would start raining again.

2. “And the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops” - *kai ho hueton edoke kai he ge eblastese ton karpon autes*

Here we have a change in the words for rain. When he prayed that it would **stop raining** the word for rain was *brechas*. But when it came to him praying the second time for it to **start raining** the word changed to *hueton*, which is the word for showers, to pour down rain. 1 Kings 18:43-46.

After the spiritual purpose was accomplished with Ahab and the prophets of Baal, Elijah climbed to the top of Mt. Carmel with his servant to pray to *Yahweh* concerning the land. While he was praying, he sent his servant seven times to look toward the sea to see if anything was happening. Finally, on the seventh time, (talk about persistence in prayer), the servant came back to tell him that he saw a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea. From this one cloud the sky grew black, the winds arose and **showers fell on the land.**

We know that this was a **prayer of faith**, that it was **intense prayer**, and that it was **persistent prayer**, **but why did he go up to the top of Mt. Carmel to pray?** He could have prayed anywhere, so why did he go there to pray? Was it to get a visual perspective of the sea, or was it something else?

Could it be that he climbed Mt. Carmel so he could get as far away as possible from the negative energy of negative people?? Israel was so apostate at that time, from the people to the leadership, (as indicated by the 450 prophets of Baal), with all the negative energy that come with unbelief, arrogance, anger and demonism, that it could have made it very difficult, or would have had a detrimental effect on Elijah's faith! So he had to remove himself as far away as he could from the negative energy of people so that his prayers and faith would not be influenced and hampered!!

T. Willingness, a Key Factor in Healing and Healthy.

One cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is **to want to be better in this matter of healing and health!** And remember, **wishing** you weren't sick, or **wishing** that you didn't have this problem or that problem, or **wishing** you felt better **is not the same as wanting to be healed, or wanting to be healthy!**

To want something means that your desire is so strong toward that end that you will make the decision to go after it, commit yourself toward it, pursue after it and do whatever you have to do to get it! As one can see this is not the same thing as just wishing you felt better, or wishing that you didn't have this problem.

A young man has the love of his life living near him in a town close by. He loves her; he misses her; and he **wishes** that they can be together, but he's sitting on his rear playing video games. He just sits and wishes; sits and wishes, while he plays his game. If he **really wanted** to see her what would he do? He would get up off his rear and **find a way to get there!** Drive his car, take a bus, and if they aren't available, hitchhike, or walk! **If he wanted to see her, he would find a way to get there!**

Now, **do you just wish that you felt better, wish** that you weren't sick and tired, or do you really **want** to feel better? **Do you really want to be healthy?** If you're sick and tired of being sick and tired, then you're going to have to do something about it, because no one is going to do it for you, and nothing is going to happen until **you make a decision and go after it! That's wanting something!**

And this **begins with prayer**. We must go before the throne of God and ask him for health. Now many believers do this because they want to stop feeling bad. The problem is that they are fooling themselves because they don't want to change! They don't want to do anything different! They don't want to seek out the people, the treatments, or approaches that can help[them. They just keep doing the same old thing; living their lives the same old way; wishing they felt better, but not wanting to do what needs to be done to be healthy! Does that make any sense?

Nothing is going to happen; nothing is going to improve; they will keep on having no healing and no health, until **they want to get well**; until they see that **they have to change**, and that **they have to seek healing and health!** They have to want to get better; they have to want to change; they have to want to seek after anything and everything that will help them. They have to **want to do anything to be well and healthy; make a decision to be well and healthy; pray to God to be well and healthy; commit themselves to the course of health, and then pursue after it the rest of their lives!** Now, do you really want to be healed and healthy, or do you just wish that you weren't sick!

Until you get to that place, **your desires are just a wishing in the wind. They mean nothing and will come to nothing.** As we look at all those people that Christ healed, we will find that they all had one unifying factor and that is **they all wanted to be healed**; they wanted to be well; they wanted to be made whole **and they came to him to be healed!**

We see their faith in this matter of healing. **We see the power of God** operating in their healing. **We see the authority and agency of Christ** healing them. But the one thing that is so often overlooked is that **they wanted to be well; they wanted to be healed, and they did whatever they had to do to get well**, even if it meant leaving their homes and coming down to see the Healer! It wasn't just a matter of faith, but willingness also! They wanted to be well so bad that **they were willing to put themselves out to go down and be healed.**

Many believers today are looking for divine healing from God, when the solution for most of them lies in making simple changes in their lives. The problem is they don't want to change! They sit around on their couches eating food that isn't good for them, eating too much food, then they want God to fix them up!

What this does is sets aside personal freedom and personal accountability. They neither understand nor appreciate the fact that God has given us all freedom, but **with that freedom comes accountability and consequences.** We have the freedom to make good choices and bad choices. But remember, **with those choices come consequences**, both good or bad! We can stuff ourselves like a Christmas goose, but with that comes the bad consequences of a digestive system having difficulties, the weight gain, etc.. But also **with that freedom to choose comes the freedom to change!**

When people complain about their lives, their health, their being overweight, etc., what they are **complaining about is the bad consequences that come from our bad decisions! Do we realize how insane that is! We make bad decisions, then complain that there are bad consequences! Can we not see that the one follows the other, it's the law of the universe.** It's like the guy who got drunk the night before, and then complains about the hangover the next day! That's kind of nuts! If you don't want the consequence of a hangover, then don't make the decision to get drunk! **What we really wish is that our bad decisions had good consequences! And that's even nuttier!** The abiding principle from God is, *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap."* **Here's a novel thought: If you want to start having good consequences in your life, why not start making good decisions!**

The problem with most believers is that they don't want to change! They just wish that their bad decisions, (that they don't want to stop doing), had good consequences! But this is not going to happen. We can't have it both ways. **If we want to have health in our lives, the good consequences, then we are going to have to change and start making the good choices that will bring about health in our lives!** The path of health comes about as the result of making the decisions to go for health. And until we do this, we should stop complaining about our lack of health. And here's another novel thought: **Does complaining about our lack of health make us healthy?**

God respects our decisions, even if they do not promote our health. That's the essence of the freedom to choose that he has given us. We can choose for the good, or we can choose for the bad; we have the freedom to do this. But note full well, that we will have to live with the consequences! He will still love us, but we will have the consequences to live with. And he is compassionate toward us because we misuse our free will. But, if we want to get well; we will have to choose for health and be willing to go after it, and in his grace he will help us get it. **Now if we make the bad decisions and have the consequences of bad health. Don't you think, can't you see, that if we make the right decisions, we will have good health? That's encouraging!**

“That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.” Mark 1:32 By the fact that they brought their sick to Christ **showed that they wanted to get well.** *“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’” Mark 1:40* The fact that he came to Christ showed that he wanted to be healed. The fact that he begged him showed how **desperately** he wanted to be healed. **He was willing, but he didn't know if the Lord was willing to heal him.**

“Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.” Mark 2:1-5. But when they got to the home he was staying in they couldn't get in! It seems that there were a lot of people wanting to be healed also. So they tore the roof open to let him down. Again, acts that demonstrate willingness. **How much would we put ourselves out for to be healed?** *“For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.” Mark 3:9,10*

Mark 5:23, *“And pleaded earnestly with him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’”* Here we have one of the synagogue rulers had heard that the Lord had come to their area so he went to him, fell on his feet and pleaded with him. See also v.35-43.

“When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak.” Mark 5:27 A large crowd had been following the Lord, among them was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. She wanted to be well, this was evidenced by her spending all her money on doctors, but to no avail for they were unable to cure her. So when she heard about the Lord she sought him out! She wanted to get well and this is what willingness is all about, where you want to get well so bad that you will do anything, try anything to be healed. She tried the doctors and that didn't work, and she went to the Lord. Why? **Because she wanted to get well!**

“They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.” Mark 8:22 Over and over the idea of willingness is brought out in wanting it so bad that you will make a decision, and put yourself out in the follow through to be well, to be healed, whole and healthy.

As mentioned in the beginning of our study, health is an extremely complex issue that covers so many areas of our life, and **the first thing we need to see and believe is that God wants us to be healthy!**

Once we can get that concept into our thinking our lives will start down on the path of health. And not only does God want us to be healthy; **he will help us to become healthy!** And because God respects our freedom to choose, though, **we will have to make the decision to become healthy/healthier in our lives!** And because God has made all believers in Christ priests, and because of the way he has established the protocol for receiving blessings, where we must ask him for whatever it is that we would like him to do for us, **then we will have to go to God in our prayers asking him for health!**

And because God has established in this Age of Grace, that he will deal with us on the basis of grace, which on our part takes faith, then our life of pursuing down the path of health will be **a walk of faith!** **So there we have it once again: grace, faith and truth, all integral in the life of health.**

Pastor Mike