

Jesse Rich Ministries

August '05 Newsletter

"Called to reach the World with the Word of Faith"

...By Whose Stripes Ye Were Healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Dear Friend and Partner,

In this month's newsletter, I'll be teaching and discussing the subject of faith for divine healing. I want to show you from the Word of God that not only does God want you healed, He wants you to have good health so that you never have any sicknesses or diseases.

I want you to see how important it is to guard your faith. Don't allow your faith to be contaminated with false teachings and doctrines, religious beliefs, peoples' experiences or opinions, or the guilt trips and condemnation they would try to put on you.

You'll see how important it is to avoid anything that would attempt to rob you of your New Covenant benefits and blessings that God intended for you to have in this life through Jesus Christ.

So, please hear me out. Follow along with your Bible and allow the Word of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to give you fresh inspiration and revelation from God's Word.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:31,32

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

My purpose is to help you grow and develop spiritually so you can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. You'll be able to act on His Word and get results, and you'll be able to recognize anything that tries to talk you out of your blessings.

It's important that everything we believe and practice is backed up by the Word of God. God wants you to have an abundant, healthy life.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

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

I trust the teaching and scriptures I share with you will challenge you to step out on God's Word and enlighten you as to what God has promised you. I encourage you to obtain the promises of God and fight the good fight of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit through the anointing of God, standing on the Word of God and using the Name of Jesus. Enjoy your New Covenant blessings. *Praise the Lord!*

Brother Rich

FACT: IT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE

One of the most important facts in God's Word is the past tense of God's Word, and the fact that Jesus has already paid for our salvation.

The word "salvation" comes from the Greek word, "sozo." In Strong's Concordance, it is word #4982. It's also in Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words and in Young's Concordance. The word sozo means *saved, healed, whole and delivered*. This is backed up with God's written Word, even if you didn't have a Greek or Hebrew concordance to study.

1 Peter 2:24 tells us we've already been healed: **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

Galatians 3:13,14 tells us we've already been redeemed from the curse of the law: **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Colossians 1:13 tells us we've already been delivered from anything that would harm us, control us, or bring us into bondage: **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

We have been delivered from Satan and he has been defeated: **And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.** Colossians 2:15

When the Bible talks about the law, it's referring to the Ten Commandments, Old Testament, but primarily the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 lists many of the curses of the broken law that would come upon an individual if they sinned and disobeyed God, which began when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's Word.

In other words, it's saying that if you don't keep this book of the law, anything that is a curse, such as poverty, sickness, disease

and madness (*mental illness*) and plagues would overtake you, as well as the conditions of drought and famine, where no one could save you.

So, not only could the curse destroy you physically and emotionally, it could also destroy you financially. (*And keep in mind, this happened because Adam and Eve didn't resist the devil. Genesis 1:26 - 28; 2:15 - 17; 3:1- 14*)

But thanks be to the Lord Jesus Christ and our Father God, we've been redeemed from all the curse of the law, according to Galatians 3:13, 14:

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

2 Corinthians 8:9: **For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**

We've been redeemed from sickness and poverty. This means not just *some* sicknesses, or *some* diseases, and not just *some* poverty and *some* lack, but we've been redeemed from every sickness, every disease and every bit of poverty and lack to the point that every child of God is to live in divine health, divine prosperity and divine protection. In this lifetime, no believer is to ever be sick, poor, or dominated by sin.

CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THE WORD, NOT WHAT YOU'VE HEARD

We do not base our beliefs or our doctrines on present or past experiences or religious teachings, but only on God's written Word - His promises. There's no such thing in our New Covenant that says we're *going to get healed*, whether it's in this life or in heaven, any more than *someday were going to get forgiven* or *get redeemed* or *get delivered* or *get freed*. Our redemption has already been purchased!

We're already healed, we're already forgiven, we're already redeemed, we're already freed and we're already delivered. It's not enough that God's Word says this. You have to renew your mind to God's Word to the point that you wipe out and eradicate all religious teachings, all unworthiness, all doubt and all unbelief, because as long as you think that you're unworthy and that you're still paying for your past sins, or that God's going to heal you in *His good time*, or as long as you hang in there, you're *going to get it* some day, you'll never live and walk in victory.

You'll stay defeated, unhealed, unhappy, disenchanted, undelivered and unfree because of unbelief.

The Perfection of God's Creation

We have to get rid of these old religious ideas, that for some reason or another, God doesn't always answer our prayers and maybe He wants us to be sick or physically uncomfortable, tolerating pain and/or having a body that's not functioning perfectly – or rather, one that's malfunctioning.

God created your thyroid to function and He intended for you not to have any malfunctions with any parts of your body. Everything He created was good and pure and perfect. **Then God looked over all that He had made, and it was excellent in every way. This ended the sixth day.** Genesis 1:31 TLB

But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and He shines forever without change or shadow. James 1:17 TLB

Jesus Provided Us With All That We Need to Live in Victory

And, as soon as sin brought on sickness, disease and poverty, God already had a plan, in His wisdom: **A redeemer, Who is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

According to the Word of God, you are more than a conqueror: **Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** Romans 8:37

God has already given you all things that pertain to life: **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.** 2 Peter 1:3,4

These blessings don't need to be prayed about. Instead, they are promises from God's Word that need to be believed, accepted, received and acted upon as though you already have them, because technically, you do. God's not withholding any blessing that's already been purchased and paid for. Not only has God purchased your spiritual life and welfare, He's also purchased your physical life and welfare. **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your**

spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20

Don't be Deceived by Devil's Doctrines

You're not pleasing God by being sick and afflicted. God's not going to heal you *someday in the future*. He didn't raise up doctors, medical science, or healthy eating habits to take the place of divine healing and divine health. In our New Covenant, God did not give us an eating diet, or a dietary plan to go by. He said in Mark 16:18, ... **if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them...**

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. 1 Timothy 4:1-6

Stay Out of Ditches and IN the Word

Some people get in a ditch on health food. They study every book and every exercise program they can. Their error in this is that they're getting off the Word of God, and their faith and focus has shifted *from* the Word of God *to* their dietary plan and their exercise program.

Thank God for doctors, medical science, vitamins, healthy foods and exercises, but one must know that none of these can guarantee that you'll have good health. They are man's ideas, programs and sciences. They are man-made.

When people get involved in excess and extremes to the point that they believe they're not going to get sick or die prematurely because they're not eating anything that has toxins or preservatives or anything that is processed, they fail to realize that Satan is the god of this world.

If the Good News we preach is hidden to anyone, it is hidden from the one who is on the road to eternal death. Satan, who is the god of this evil world, has made him blind, unable

to see the glorious light of the Gospel that is shining upon him, or unto understand the amazing message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is God. 2 Corinthians 4:3,4 TLB

Scriptures Proving it's Satan Who Afflicts

Satan is a murderer: **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.** John 8:44

Satan came to steal and kill and destroy: **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** John 10:10

So went **Satan** forth from the presence of the LORD, and **smote Job** with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. Job 2:7

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan** hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? Luke 13:16

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were **oppressed of the devil**; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy **him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**; Hebrews 2:14

Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour**: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8,9

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

Practicing the Word Defeats Fear

So many believers today have a fear about what's in the food and drink, and that fear is taking them over and controlling their minds and actions to the point that they're limited as to what they can eat and drink. And they are living in bondage. Job said, **For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me** (Job 3:25).

You cannot have a fear of food, or of anything else, because fear brings you into bondage (**For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.** Romans 8:15).

Remember- your faith has always got to be based on God's Word, for it is then and only then that we have a guarantee of having good health, long life, financial protection, prosperity and whatever else one would want and need.

Because, no matter how much you exercise and eat right, you cannot afford to become weak spiritually because Satan is in this world to steal, kill and destroy.

Just as there can be extremes and excess in health food, (*like only eating nuts, berries and fruits*) there can be extremes in undisciplined eating habits. The person who is given to and controlled by gluttony is always controlled by what they're going to eat. Their whole life is geared around mealtime. The other side of the ditch is the person who is so fearful that they may eat the wrong thing.

When Jesus was here physically, there was no processed food, and none of the preservatives or toxins that people say we have today. But, even though there were no processed foods that we know of, or preservatives, or toxins, there was still every sickness and every disease among the people, as we read in Matthew 9:35: **And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**

Every Sickness is from the Devil

Every sickness and every disease originated from Satan after the fall of mankind.

1And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

⁶But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, ⁷And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. ⁸For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

⁹And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. ¹⁰And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. ¹¹Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. ¹²And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. ¹³And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

¹⁴And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. ¹⁵And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. ¹⁶And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. ¹⁷And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

¹⁸And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. ¹⁹Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. ²⁰And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel. Mark 5:1-20

And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; ¹⁸And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

¹⁹He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. ²⁰And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

²¹And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. ²²And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. ²³Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

²⁴And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. ²⁵When

Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

²⁶And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. ²⁸And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁹And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Mark 9:17-29

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. Matthew 12:22

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: ¹²So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. Acts 19:11,12

In each of these incidents, we can see Satan is the one that caused these people to be afflicted. Health food would never have cured them, nor would exercising. All the exercise in the world wouldn't have gotten these people better. It wouldn't have delivered them and it wouldn't have healed them, or made them whole.

You have to make up your mind and decide that you're a Word person and you get your answers from God's Word. You have to put all your faith into God's Word. Choose to be a Word person who is led by the Holy Ghost.

Choose God's Word Above Your Circumstances

Eating healthy is not enough. Pray over your food and believe God that it is sanctified (1 Timothy 4:5). Follow your heart when it comes to eating. If a medical doctor has you on a health plan, or a medication, or an exercise program, fine and good! **But** - your faith must always **say** what the Word says about you, and your faith must always **be based** on what the Word of God says about you.

And you never, ever believe what man says more than what God says. Your circumstances may say you're sick - **THE WORD SAYS YOU'RE HEALED.**

Your bank account may say you have no money. **BUT THE**

WORD OF GOD SAYS: Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. Psalm 35:27

Before you eat, exercise, take medications, visit the doctor, go to the bank, pay your bills, or any other thing, practice thanking God first. If you're sitting in a doctor's office, say, "*Lord, I want to thank You that the Word says by His stripes I was healed.*"

If you are taking medications, just before you take them, lift up your hands to God and say, "*Father God, I thank You that according to Your Word, I'm healed.*" If you're going to the gym, or if you're going out jogging, find some place before you start and bow your knees and lift your hands and thank God that your good health comes from Him.

Thank Him that you can exercise, thank Him that you can go to the gym, thank Him for everything that you enjoy doing. Thank Him that you're able to eat and your body is able to digest the food. Thank Him for the food.

Don't Cope With the Curse, or Live with It

As a child growing up, I threw up almost every day of my life. I wet the bed every night. I'd get scared and I'd wet my pants. My parents, bless their hearts, were so concerned, as you can imagine! Any parent would be.

It was so embarrassing and it limited me in so many ways. I'd been to doctor after doctor, I'd been to specialists, and I was getting no better. I was trying to live with it. What else could I do? I'd be with some of my friends and eat something and then throw it up. So you think, "*I just won't eat that kind of food anymore.*" I was eliminating everything that I thought would cause me to throw up.

Then, I ended up being hospitalized when I was a senior in highschool. When I came back to school, I'd lost so much weight and was so skinny, that I scared teachers *and* students. Then one day, I got born-again. God sent someone to teach me the Word of faith. They taught me 1 Peter 2:24:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

I always believed and hoped that someday, I'd get healed until one day I heard, for the first time in my life, 1 Peter 2:24. I found

out from the Word of God that BY THE STRIPES OF JESUS I WAS HEALED. Later, I found out that you could pray over your food and it would be sanctified:

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:3-5.

Until that point, I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I thank God for every medical doctor that did everything they could to help me. They tried so hard to get me better. Many times, they never even charged my parents for their services. My family doctor would come to our house and visit me to see how I was doing. He sometimes sent his nurse to give me a shot and check on me. And then, when I was hospitalized, there were all my doctors and the hospital staff. Those dear people did all they could to help me.

Normally, physicians as a whole, want you better. They want you out of the hospital as soon as they can get you out. A doctor wants to hear that you're progressing and you won't need medication anymore. I thank God for all those people! But we always must remember that all doctors and all treatments have no 100% guarantees, (nor does anything else) unless they're based on God's written Word.

Religion Doesn't Care about You

The strange thing was, the doctors wanted me better. My nurses wanted me to be healed and whole. It was the **religious** people that wanted me to stay sick. It's the religious world that tells you that God doesn't always heal and that 1 Peter 2:24 doesn't mean physical healing. They say it means spiritual healing.

They tell you that God put sickness on you to teach you something and that sickness is just your cross to bear. They tell you sickness is something you suffer for the Lord and God's going to heal you some day. They will tell you to always pray, "*God if it be Thy will, heal me.*" This is so they can save face if you don't get healed. The dangerous thing about praying "*If it be Thy will*" is that it is unscriptural and never works to heal cancer or some terminal disease.

You ought to be shouting and praising God right now that those Words of God are the past tense of God's Word that dictate your present circumstances !!!

Imaginations Contrary to God's Word

And then, as if that wasn't enough, you've got the devil talking to your mind, bringing thoughts and imaginations to you. If you don't know the Word, he'll tell you such things as it's God's will that you be sick. If you do know the Word concerning healing and you get sick, **he'll tell you that you haven't read your Bible enough, - you haven't prayed enough,**

- **you haven't been good enough,**
 - **God's mad at you,**
 - **God doesn't care,**
 - **God doesn't love you,**
 - **and God isn't listening to you.**
- You'll get the feeling you're unworthy !**

The Power is in God's Word

It doesn't matter *what* you feel or *who* says *what* about *anything* concerning your healing. (*What they say may be true or may not be true, and what you feel may be true or may not be true.*)

All the logic and all the reasoning and all the do's and all the don'ts **don't** have enough power in all the world and in all the universes to overcome 1 Peter 2:24: **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

There's more power in **BY HIS STRIPES YE WERE HEALED** -in these words of God - than there is in *all the sickness, all the disease, all the pain, in all the world put all together.*

And, all the sickness and all the disease, all the pain, in all the world put all together at one time cannot overcome BY HIS STRIPES YOU WERE HEALED.

Why? Because all that God is backs His Word. He spoke it. He'll bring it to pass. **...for I will hasten my word to perform it.** Jeremiah 1:12

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Your body is healed, whether you realize it or not. You cannot stay healthy just because you eat healthy or take medications. But you can live above sickness and disease and enjoy divine health and long life. You can live until you're 120 years old and then just go home and be with the Lord if you're satisfied and have finished your course.

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. Genesis 6:3

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation. Psalm 91:16

If God didn't want us to have divine health and long life, there would be no scriptures in the Bible providing you divine health and long life. God's Word is His will for you. But it's all up to you and what you choose to believe. **Jesus said... If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth** (Mark 9:23).

All these blessings are yours, because God purchased them for you. It is His desire and expectation that you enjoy them. Amen?

The Recipe for Health

If you want to please God, you are going to have to want divine health, because you're not going to please Him by staying sick and afflicted any more than you'd please God by staying in sin. God told us in His Word how to have divine health. The recipe is in Proverbs 4:20-22: **My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

Attend to His Word. Put it first place. Speak the Word only. Don't talk your aches and pains or talk to people about what you're going through or what the doctor said, or how bad you had the flu. Don't tell how critical your condition was/is. Just say, *'According to the Word of God, I'm healed.'*

Your flesh likes attention, so if you let it talk, it will glorify the sickness. Your flesh just loves to brag and gloat how sick it is. The next thing you know, you've opened up the door to the devil to bring on the curse. **Neither give place to the devil. Let no**

corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4:27,29,30

We're not to grieve the Holy Spirit and we do when we allow corrupt communication to proceed out of our mouth. God instructed us from His Word to speak His Word, speak to mountains and call those things which be not as though they were. When we speak the Word to our bodies, we enable God to manifest His power.

When they asked the lady in 2 Kings 4:8-37 about her family, she said, "It is well." At the time, her son was dead, but God raised that boy up because of her faith and determination to call those things that be not as though they were (Romans 4:17).

**IF YOU WILL GIVE GOD YOUR MOUTH
FILLED WITH HIS WORD,
HE'LL GIVE YOU A MIRACLE!**

If you will give God your mouth filled with His Word and stop praying about your healing, and instead, begin to speak to your body and call it "healed," your body will have to change and conform to God's Word!

When a believer refuses to say what the Word of God says about their condition, they're not submitting to the Word of God. They are being stubborn and rebellious.

Jesus Got What He Said

Jesus said in John 2:19-21, Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Romans 8:11

God used the power of the Holy Spirit to raise Jesus from the dead through what Jesus had spoken. **JESUS GOT WHAT HE**

SAID! Even after Jesus had been crucified, the Words that He had spoken came to pass.

We Can Have What We Say, Too

Words are so much more powerful than we've realized. It is important that we watch what we say. You keep your mouth filled with God's Word, and God's miraculous power will always be in constant manifestation in your life!

Life and death are in the power of the tongue: **A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.** Proverbs 18:20-21

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Matthew 12:37

And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: Isaiah 33:24

Don't talk about your body- **TALK TO YOUR BODY.** It's not what people say about you and your condition that's going to determine your outcome, **IT'S WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT YOURSELF.**

Are you going to accept the evil report by dwelling on it, glorifying it, crying over it and blaming God for it, or are you going to refuse it, reject it and change it?

Are you going to side with the devil and what he's telling you, or are you going to choose to say what God has said about you? Remember: your faith in God's promises can and will change any circumstance that is contrary to God's Word.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Think About It -

If God wanted us to be sick for some mysterious reason, as some would have you believe, why did He put your sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus?

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4,5

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matthew 8:17

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:24

It's not natural for your body to be sick. It does what it can on its own to fight off sickness and disease. Sickness is foreign to your body. Your body doesn't want to accept it and does all it can to reject it. (*It's called your immune system.*) Therefore, when a person talks negative, whines and complains, their own mouth is working against their own body, whether they realize it or not.

God's Word is health to your flesh (Proverbs 4:22). Your body will begin to respond in a positive way when you speak faith-filled words to it and about it. Then, what your body can't do on its own, faith in God's Word will do.

God's Grace and Free Gift Frees us from Sin

Jesus became sin for us so we would be made the righteousness of God in Christ: **For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** 2 Corinthians 5:21

He took our physical sicknesses and diseases so we could have

physical health. It is in our Covenant. Jesus became poor that we might be rich: **For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.** 2 Corinthians 8:9

So, Jesus took our sins, our sicknesses, our diseases, our chastisement, our poverty and the judgment we deserved so we could be sons of God, ruling and reigning in this life in Christ Jesus:

For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Romans 5:17 AMP

As sons of God, we are not to have a sin conscience. Being made the righteousness of God in Christ means that we are in right standing with God as though we've never sinned (2 Cor.5:21). It's as though we've never sinned; we are no longer sinners, but born-again children of God. **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** Ro. 3:24

We're no longer servants of sin and are not to sin, because sin is not lord over us. **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** Ro. 6:14

Don't Let Religious Ideas Get in Your Way

Some would argue, "*Well, I don't believe that way. I believe we are supposed to be sick.*" Really? Then, why do you go to the doctor? You believe that way because your mind is not renewed to God's Word (Romans 12:2). You are not New-Covenant minded and fail to realize that sickness is not a blessing, nor is it a promise of God to you. On the other hand, healing **is** a blessing, and it **is** a promise of God to you.

"Yeah, but Brother Rich, I know somebody that loved the Lord and they were a good person and they never talked bad about anyone. People will tell you they never said one unkind thing about one person. They'd give you anything they had and they always read their Bible and went to church. They came from a good family and everybody liked them. They got sick and everybody prayed for them and God didn't heal them and they died. So you see, Brother Rich, that's why I believe God doesn't

always heal.”

My response to that is : Are you implying that because they were a “good person” and “loved the Lord”, if anybody ought to be healed it, it ought to be them?

It’s usually ministers and other Christians who tell you how good someone is to appease your emotions. They will be quick to say, “Well, they loved the Lord!” That’s just a carnal answer for a spiritual problem. It’s a human opinion about someone else. Did God tell you that they were a good person and that they loved Him? Or is that just your opinion? The bad thing about believing these statements, is it can spiritually handicap you to the point that you’re not growing and developing spiritually.

It’s According to Your Faith

There are many examples in scripture of people receiving healing from God because of their faith.

And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. Mark 5:34

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. Matthew 9:29

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. Matthew 8:13

The people in these scriptures are people that got their healing because they believed God for it. It wasn’t because they loved the Lord. For some reason, when the expression is used, “Well, they loved the Lord,” we’re expected to just give them a free pass. How arrogant some people can be to put the blame on God when someone doesn’t get healed!

You fail to realize that we are not trying to get God to heal someone. We are trying to get the person who needs healing to receive it. God has already provided it. We’re working on the **receiving** and not the *sending*. **He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.** Psalm 107:20

You don’t try to get God to save someone, you get a sinner to **receive** Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. **You** know it, but they don’t know that Jesus has already paid the sin price.

Some seem to believe that when they face God, He’s going to

tell them something other than His Word. I have people tell me personally, “Br. Rich, when I get to heaven, I’m going to ask the Lord why He didn’t heal me.” But again, this is just another kind of an unrenewed mind to God’s Word. They still don’t know their healing has already been paid for. They’ve got to renew their mind to God’s Word. God is going to stay with His Word.

God Sticks With His Word

For that person who can hardly wait to get to heaven and ask the Lord face to face, “Why didn’t you heal me or my loved one? After all, I loved the Lord, I went to church, everybody prayed for me...”

God is going to give them His Word, not some other book, not some other reason and not some lame religious excuse. He’s going to say, “**I did heal you when Jesus went to the cross and by His stripes you were healed. Why didn’t you believe it? Why didn’t you receive it? Why didn’t you accept it? Why didn’t you act upon it? Why didn’t you meditate on My Word day and night? Why did you let the Word depart from you mouth? Why did you go to the wrong church? Why didn’t you believe the servants I sent you to teach you healing?**”

And then He’s going to tell them what their mouth had been saying about their condition and what they really believed and why they didn’t resist the devil and why they allowed this to overtake and overcome them.

How can we be so sure God is going to say this? Because He says it now in His Word. And, too many Christians don’t know that God is not two separate individuals. He is not a different God in heaven than He is on earth. It’s not going to be different when you get to heaven. God is not different from what His written Word says about Him. God is going to stick with His Word. He will not depart from it, just as Jesus didn’t depart from the Word in the gospels when people asked Him questions.

Further proof of this is that Jesus used the Word when He came from heaven to this earth. He didn’t use something that people had no access to. He taught the Word, He preached the Word, He cast out devils and healed the sick with His Word. He spoke the written Word and according to the gospels, people came to hear Him preach the Word. So, what Jesus used was what God had already given His people – His Word.

¹⁴And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. ¹⁵And he taught in their synagogues, being

glorified of all. ¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. ¹⁷And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

¹⁸The 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, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

²⁰And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. Luke 4:16- 20

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. Luke 5:1,15

¹⁷And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; ¹⁸And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. Luke 6:17,18

Weak Christian or Strong Believer – Which are You?

The difference between a strong believer and a weak Christian is the strong believer has more faith in God's written Word than they do in anything else. They believe the Word more than they do other peoples' prayers or other peoples' experiences. That's all that God has requested for you to believe: **It's all He's asked you to say, all He's asked you to do, all He's asked you to meditate on, and all He's asked you to believe. All He's asked you to preach is His Word.** But the sad thing is many dear believers don't know what God has promised them and have little faith in the written Word of God and have chosen to believe something else, other than His Word.

Not all Churches are Word Churches

When it comes to the things of God, all you hear from Christians is what their church preached on Sunday, what their church is doing and how great their pastor is.

If you try to talk to them about the Lord, they bring up their church. You bring up the Word, and they bring up what their

church believes. The reason this happens is:

**#1: They are not being taught how to use the Word of God
#2: They do not spend enough time in God's Word
Consequently, they are not going to be talking God's Word.**

A pastor has got to train his congregation how to use the Word of God effectively. Most sheep are spiritually and physically weak (**For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep** 1 Corinthians 11:30).

No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 9:35-38: ³⁵And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

³⁶But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

³⁷Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

It's sad, but nevertheless the truth: Far too many pastors are more interested in building a church than they are in feeding the sheep. It isn't a good sign when a person has been saved for a number of years and they're still not talking the Word.

God wants His sheep - *His people* - to be Word people. We need to stay hungry for God's Word and feed on God's Word every day, for Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Word People

Every church may read some scriptures in their services and teach subjects from the Bible, but that does not make it a Word church. A believer who is attending a Word church, or is linked up with a ministry that teaches the Word – is going to be trained to always go to the Word first. When under attack, they ask, "What does the Word say?" When sickness, poverty or lack try to come, they ask, "What does the Word say about this?" They think, "I don't accept this – I'm redeemed from it!" A Word person can always find the scripture that they need. They know how to stand on the Word and get results.

People Not Trained in the Word

pastor, but I also travel and preach. In almost every town I go to, some dear Christian will come up to me after my service and tell me, "Br. Rich, you preach just like my church preaches." Right away, I know they didn't hear anything I taught.

You locate people by the way they talk and conduct themselves. When people don't have their Bible, it's not a good indication. When people tell me they're believing God for their healing, I ask them what scripture they're standing on. If I think they are playing me, I'll ask them to show me in their Bible where the verse is.

When you're in a service, and the preacher is preaching the Word and you are not following along with him, or marking the scriptures in your Bible, – **How come? What's the problem?** Sometimes, I have stopped my service and told some individuals to open up their Bible and follow along with me while I preached. It doesn't make them very happy, but I'm not there to entertain them.

I'm a minister of the gospel, and I work for the Lord. He told me that I was to teach His people His Word and teach them how to find the place it is written. He doesn't want any of His children to become a casualty. When I have people in my meetings who aren't following along, or not paying attention to what's being taught, my anointing begins to lift until I address the issue. Therefore, my meetings and services are not entertaining, but they are informative. People have to know the only guarantee they have is God's Word.

Make the Word the Only Voice You Obey

God is going to deal with people who don't believe His Word just as God did with the children of Israel when He told them why most of them failed to possess the promises or the promised land, *the land that flowed with milk and honey*, which was God's perfect will for them so they wouldn't be slaves or have a taskmaster. He wanted His perfect will for them so they would not be sick and afflicted, poor and impoverished. He didn't want them to have to have the same pair of shoes for forty years.

But, because they wouldn't believe what God had said, they died without obtaining the best God had for them. They wouldn't walk by faith and not by sight, and they wouldn't rejoice over what God had promised. Instead, they complained, they murmured, they went by what the majority said, they cried and blamed God for their condition. (*Boy, if you didn't know any better, you'd think this was describing Christians today!*)

Today, believers who take a dim view or have a lukewarm

opinion about divine healing and health are believers that are ignorant of their New Covenant. They've been taught religion, man's ideas, and traditions that have no power over the devil. They have not been taught New Covenant promises.

So for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect]. You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably and truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: These people draw near Me with their mouths and honor me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far away from Me. Uselessly do they worship Me, for they teach as doctrines the commands of men. Matthew 15:6-9 AMP

It's easy to become deceived and you don't know you're deceived. If you're not building your life on God's promises, then you are deceived. You're on sinking sand and not on the solid rock of God's Word.

²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:24-27

Failing to Believe and Receive God's Promises

²⁵And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. ²⁶And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

²⁸Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

³⁰And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. ³¹But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

³²And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. ³³And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. ²And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! ³And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? ⁴And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Numbers, chapters 13:25 - 14:1-4

¹Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ²And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

⁵But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. ⁸Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

⁹Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. ¹⁰Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. ¹¹Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

¹²Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. ¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ¹⁴Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

⁷Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, ⁸Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in

the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. ¹⁰Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. ¹¹So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

¹²Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

¹⁴For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; ¹⁵While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. ¹⁶For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

¹⁷But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? ¹⁹So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

¹Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ²For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Heb. 3:7-4:2

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, told us that what happened to the children of Israel is an example of what could happen to the church today. He said if we make the same mistake they did, what happened to them could happen to us.

⁵But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 1 Corinthians 10:5,6

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. Heb.3:12

Judging Ourselves and Discerning the Lord's Body

Sometimes, we need to take the time to examine our hearts and judge ourselves. This is always a prerequisite before taking communion. Nonchalantly partaking of the elements before one judges himself is a reason why many born-again children of God are sick and have not received healing, or are habitually afflicted with whatever seems to be going around at the time. Either that, or they have died prematurely.

God said in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32, **23For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

27Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

These Christians Paul was addressing were sick and not being healed. They were dying with sickness because they weren't judging themselves or discerning the Lord's body. (*And remember what happened to Jesus' body – By His stripes you were healed.*) Not discerning the Lord's body causes people not to be healed. It wasn't because they didn't love the Lord, or because they didn't read their Bible. It was simply because they didn't discern the Lord's body and judge themselves.

The Bottom Line:

Just going to church is not going to heal you, nor is reading your Bible, or being a good person, or eating right, or exercising, or going or not going to the doctor, or taking medications, or not taking medications, or taking vitamins or not taking vitamins, nor is getting every one to pray for you, or not getting anyone to pray for you.

Whether you live or die with sickness or whether you live or die without sickness has to do # 1 with what you believe in your own heart, and what you're saying with your mouth, and what your mind is really thinking about, and what your ears are listening to.

No one really knows anyone, or why they may not have received their healing. Only God knows the intent of one's heart. But if you cannot make Satan obey you, and make him leave you and flee from you, he's going to stay until he can kill you. It could all

start out with a hangnail or ingrown toenail, a loose tooth, and then it snowballs into destruction! That's why you've got to get into the Word 24/7, 365 days a year.

Read Word of faith faith-building books, listen to Word of faith cassette tapes and CDs, go online and listen to Word of faith materials and meditate on the Word day and night. Only say and acknowledge what the Word says about you until you get so you're strong in the Word and bold with the Word.

So, in other words, you're practicing what the Word of God teaches you to do. It's not enough to simply read the Bible; we have to get it in action by becoming a doer of the Word of God. **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** James 1:22

You should get to the point that other Christians think you are arrogant and are hoping and praying that something bad will happen to you to teach you a lesson. They'll hope you'll calm down and become status quo. A better way to say it is they will want you to become lukewarm like they are.

Because when all you do is say what the Word says about you, and you don't tell other people what they want to hear, they're not going to like you. Therefore, they'll gossip about you and make fun of you because they don't know what else to do with you. *Love those people, but don't compromise your confession of faith to please them.*

Because when all you do is say what the Word says about you, you irritate them and they'll become impatient with you. They will accuse you of not facing reality, but really, **when you speak God's Word, you are not only FACING reality, you are CHANGING reality to conform to God's Word!**

If you think all your Christian friends and relatives are going to accept what you are doing with God's Word, and understand what you're doing, and be pleased that you are standing on God's Word, it isn't going to happen unless all your Christian friends and relatives are turned on to the Word also.

If you are going to walk in divine health, you have got to be very careful who you're around. How you answer their questions, what you say on the phone and how you treat and respond to the information they give you will determine a lot. An example of this would be if your family and relatives tell you about the family genes, or the family DNA.

They will tell you everybody in our family has “it”, has always had “it,” and they’ll tell you that you’re going to have “it,” too. They’ll say your uncles were bald, and you’ll be bald, too. They’ll say your parents had heart trouble, and you’ll have heart trouble, too. Your family is overweight, you’ll be overweight, too.

They’re going to talk about all the allergies and what happens when you get older. They’ll say, “*You just wait and see – you’ll get that way...*” They’ll try to put all this stuff on you and your children and they’re hoping it will happen, just so they can be right. They like for their “prophecies” to come to pass.

You can do what you want with what they tell you, but I chose a long time ago that I’m not going to entertain it. I’m going to boldly, and out loud, tell anyone that I’m redeemed from “it.” I’m not signing up for the curse. I’m not going to be bald just because my uncles were bald. I’m not going to have “it” because my mom, or dad, or brother had “it.” They don’t know what I know. I know that Jesus took my infirmities, bore my sicknesses, and by His stripes I was healed. I know that Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law.

Always Bring Them Back to the Word

Listen to me now: people just think that things have to be the way they are because people say that’s the way they are. They fail to realize you’re not going by what people say. You’re going by what God says about you. You are going to have to stand up to your loved ones, no matter what they may think of you. And, when they talk the curse and sickness and disease, **you talk the Word.**

They may get upset and offended, but they’ll get over it. You’re not responsible for their feelings. You’re responsible to believe God’s Word. If you’re going to be all concerned about what people think about you, and if you get upset because people get upset at you for believing God’s Word, you’ll live a compromised Christian life. You’ll be a poor witness.

No one respects someone who compromises the Word of God in order to submit to the religious people who want you to be like them. Nobody respects a weak Christian. Have the attitude, “*Hey- I’ll be like you! – If you’re getting results with the Word. But I’m not going to be like you for the sake of pleasing you.*”

People’s Control Tactics

If you permit it to happen, people will keep you weak spiritually through the guilt trips they put on you, condemnation, and their cultural traps and tricks. These are just ploys to get the believer

off the Word. Whenever anybody asks, “*What would Jesus do?*” have them go read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and see what He did.

You’ll find out no one controlled Jesus or guilt tripped Him into doing anything. Whether they stayed with Him or left Him, or agreed with Him or disagreed with Him, His number-one priority was to please His Father and meet the needs of the people by healing the sick.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. John 6:38

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. John 9:4

You’ll notice the people in the New Testament who got Jesus to do what they wanted Him to do were the people that put a demand on God’s power in faith, believing.

They made faith statements such as, “**...but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed**” (Matthew 8:8),

“My little daughter lieth at the point of death. I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live” (Mk. 5:23),

“...If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole” (Mk. 5:28),

“...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief” (Mk. 9:24).

So, stay with the Word. No matter how your feelings feel, stand on the Word. No matter what others say about you, you say what the Word says about you. No matter what others think about you, you think about what God’s promises say about you.

Don’t allow your feelings to be hurt. It is your responsibility as a believer to control your own emotions. Do not permit yourself to be hurt. Don’t be afraid of taking an uncompromising stand for God’s Word. You cannot allow yourself to hang around with people, gossiping, getting into jealousy, strife and unbelief. Don’t be afraid to stand up for what you believe.

No matter how others receive it or don’t receive it, **you** stay with the Word. Don’t cower down to the one that always gets their feelings hurt or always gets their way. There are many people in hell today because some Christian didn’t act courageously in standing up for Jesus because of being afraid they’d hurt someone’s feelings, or offend them, or run them off. God doesn’t need any more compromising Christians who are afraid of upsetting someone.

If people do get upset, let them! You cannot allow yourself to be halted between two opinions (1 Kings 18:21). Christians are to be bold, and not weak. We are not to be afraid of what others say about or think of us. The God-kind of love never lies or compromises in any case or situation.

So, don't be afraid of other people's feelings. Fear is never from God. It is only from the enemy, so resist it and stay built up in God's Word and pray in the Holy Ghost so you can always be strong (Jude 20). This way, you will be much more effective for God and in helping others.

Don't Follow the Majority

You never want to be in a predicament that you're in an emergency room situation and you're promising God, *"I'll never do this again. Oh God! Get me out of this! I'll do whatever You told me to do. I'll go where You told me to go,"* and on and on and on...

You lose your protection and health when you begin to go people's way and not God's way. We all get tempted, we all get tested, we all get tried. But, we always have to remember it's always better for us and our loved ones that we obey God and not man (**Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men** Acts 5:29). It's better that we stay with His Word and stand upon it (...**and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...** Ephesians 6:13,14). No matter how things may seem, or feel, or appear, we can't afford to allow ourselves to become weak spiritually, nor can we afford to compromise the Word of God in order to appease ourselves or others. God never intended for any of us to stay babies. Instead, He intended for all of us to grow and develop spiritually.

When you get the devil stirring up persecution against you, that's an indication that you've got a hold of the Word and he's coming to take it out of you, as Jesus said he would try to do in Mark 4:13-20:

13And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14The sower soweth the word. 15And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they

are offended. 18And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

19And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. 20And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Beware of Emotions, Even in Church

A spiritually strong believer never allows their emotions to get the best of them and never allows their feelings to interfere, or for their tears to persist. If a believer does not maintain control of their emotions, Satan will deceive them, trick them and eventually defeat them. Our emotions and feelings are not to be trusted. They're part of the flesh and carnal nature of the soulish part of man. We live in a day when too much emphasis and time in our church services is wasted on things because they appeal to peoples' emotions.

In many church growth seminars, pastors and ministers are taught to make the people feel good and happy so they'll come back. The people may go home happy and feeling good, but if that sheep, *or that believer*, is not taught how to skillfully use the Word of God, they will be unable to resist the devil when he comes to steal, kill and destroy.

A true shepherd of God will always feed the sheep on the Word of God, teach them to follow God, to be led by the Holy Ghost and walk in the God-kind of love, and to do the Word of God to the point that the believer is no longer governed by their feelings and emotions, circumstances, or present situations.

Many dear people may go to church faithfully, but if they're not being taught who they are in Christ and the authority of the believer in the Name of Jesus, they will not live in divine health. They had better find a good physician, because they're going to need him. If a person is not taught to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, they will become vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.

10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye

may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Ephesians 6:10-17

Weak Christians

Weak Christians are always taken out first ...**your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour** (1 Peter 5:8). Satan got in Job's life because of fear (Job 3:25). He got in Ananias and Sapphira's life because of lying (Acts 5:1-11). He got in Judas (John 13:27). He's our enemy, and he looks for ways to get in: **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** Luke 11:24-26). It's easier for Satan to get into the lives of weak Christians.

An indication that a believer is weak is that they are ruled by their emotions and feel and say they cannot control them or help themselves from crying and acting like babies. They're easily offended, they make statements that you hurt their feelings, they are moody when they don't get their way and they have symptoms of jealousy, envy and pride. They become very defensive about their church and worst of all, they sow discord among the brethren.

Being a Strong Christian

Since the day I first heard 1 Peter 2:24, I made my decision that I never wanted to be sick again. To be able to achieve that, I was going to have to get in God's Word day and night, plus do everything else I had to do, as well as all my other natural responsibilities. I also had to learn, of course, to walk in love, walk by faith, and obey God's Word and voice.

A big issue I learned early which became very, even extremely, beneficial to me personally obtaining the promises of God, (*such as divine health and healing*) was avoiding foolish questions (Titus 3:9) and lukewarm church services. Any time a minister ever began to compromise the Word and make statements such

as, '*God doesn't always heal,*' I shut them off. Whenever a commercial comes on television about sickness, medicine, old age, dandruff or balding, I mute the television. That's why you've got a remote control!

I became, and still am, dogmatic that I am redeemed from the curse of sickness, disease, poverty and anything else that's from the devil. I deleted all the four-letter words from my vocabulary that were negative, such as *sick, pain, need, lack* and *can't*, and replaced them with faith confessions like '*I am healed,*' '*I am prosperous,*' '*I'm redeemed,*' '*My God supplies all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,*' and '*I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.*'

Your vocabulary of faith talk and speaking the Word may not please your friends, relatives, or fellow Christians, but it will please God and isn't that what it's all about anyway?

– *And let me make this point also* - when I began speaking the Word only about my life, I had no idea how many other people would someday be helped! If you will just stay strong in God's Word and grab it and hang onto it with bulldog-like determination, the day will come in your life (*if it hasn't already*) that you'll be a help to so many people with the Word of God and what it's done for you.

Your Assignment to Become Strong

I want you in faith building books and tapes every day. I want you to get to the point that worldly news does not affect you and that your whole conversation is based upon the Word of God. Every day, I want you to tell somebody about Jesus and pray for someone. Email scriptures and share the Word over the phone, and mail books and tapes to other people.

I want you to the point that every day, you're ministering to the Lord first, so you can minister to others. We minister to the Lord in praise and worship and pray in the spirit and meditate on the Word. At the same time, we are ministered to by the Holy Spirit, Who strengthens and encourages us to go on for God. We get built up and then we build up others. We make an impact on those around us.

As an example of witnessing, I love asking people how they are, because I know they're going to ask me how I am and then I can tell them I'm saved because of Jesus. Just doing simple things like that is a way we can be a witness every day. We do not talk about our needs or problems to others. That's not a good witness. We go to God's Word and we stand on His promises.

Someone once asked, “*How long do I stand?*” My answer was, “*Forever.*” The more we stand, the stronger we get. And we know when we’re standing on God’s promises we are pleasing God the whole time we’re standing. He told us, “Having done all to stand, stand therefore.” He’s telling us don’t let anything or anyone move you off the promises of God.

The Litmus Test

Let me say this again: As long as you’re standing on God’s Word, you’re pleasing God. We all want to please God, and faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). So, when you tell somebody, *According to the Word of God, I’m healed, I’m prosperous, and I’m blessed* – in so doing, you’re pleasing the Lord.

That removes all the struggle in life, because if you know what to say, you know what to do.

And if you know what to do, you’re doing the Word.

And if you’re doing the Word, you can’t fail or lose.

And that’s something that the devil’s *never* going to tell you.

Satan will let you go to some ding-dong church your whole life and he’s never going to want you to be around somewhere they teach the Word of faith because the day you begin appropriating the promises of God is the day that Satan begins to lose control over your life.

Don’t allow anything or anyone to control you with guilt trips, religious teachings and customs, condemnation or fear tactics. People who do that are not your friends. Your friends are the people who will encourage you to pursue God and get in His Word. They are the people, that when they come, they bring the Word. They lift up Jesus and magnify God and **not** their pastor and **not** their church.

When you begin to talk about the Lord, the Word of God, and all the other people can talk about is *their church, their pastor, and their beliefs*, you know right away you’ve got somebody that has not renewed their mind to God’s Word.

Beware of the one that says they’re a believer but doesn’t talk the Word. If you’re not talking the Word and the conversation is pertaining to God, but not centered on the Word of God, you’re talking nonsense and foolishness.

It’s Your job:

It is your job to bring the conversation back around to the Word of God.

The more you and I talk the Word, the more we’re going to believe it, and the more others are going to hear it and the more God has to confirm in our life!

**And they went forth,
and preached every where,
the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word
with signs following. Amen.**

Mark 16:20

And remember:

By His Stripes, You Were Healed!

1 Peter 2:24

Note:

**For church service and itinerary updates,
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www.jesserichministries.com

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES
Post Office Box 237170
New York, NY 10023

or

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES
Post Office Box 2250
Hartford, CT 06145

PHONE: (212) 501-7999