The Motive and Intent of One's Heart

The motive and intent one's heart, as we see in the following scriptures, is a big factor for a believer when they need to receive divine healing and walk in divine health.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Acts 5:1-11

1But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 8:18-25

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. 25And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

How people handle their money and what they do with it says a lot about their heart. It prematurely cost Ananias and Sapphira their lives. Simon tried to buy his way into the ministry. Money is a very private matter; we don't know too much about other people's money-only God would. But people don't often realize how it reflects their heart. I've preached and traveled and done a lot of meetings over the years, and in the process of time, I have ministered personally to people who were sick and afflicted in their homes and hospital rooms. I have never seen a person that withheld from God what they're supposed to give, and still receive divine healing. And, I never have seen these people receive divine healing in a terminal condition.
To many people, whether they realize it or not, their money can be an idol, and even a god. God tells us and leads all of us to give, and when we ignore God's leadings, we limit Him in protecting us. It isn't that He's going to cause something bad to happened to us; it's just that He's set spiritual laws in motion and when a person doesn't cooperate with the laws of life, they reap the consequences. As God said in Galatians 6:6, 7& 8:

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Proverbs says that, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" ( Proverbs 11:24 ).

Selfishness and greed can take a real toll on one's life. We can't buy divine protection, healing, or health, but we can sow a seed in faith and love, and in the process of time, we can reap a miracle.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

Ananias and Sapphira withheld what they knew they were to give, and that says a lot about them and what kind of people they were inside. It's easy for a person to become cynical and critical about giving. This was the drastic difference between Cain and Abel: Abel gave what he should have given, and Cain did not. Giving what we are supposed to give when God leads us to give takes faith, obedience, and a willing heart. And, what we give is going to come back to us far greater than what we gave. Giving is Galatians 6:9 the way we prevent ourselves from becoming selfish and self-centered. When we give with the right motive, in faith and love, and with a cheerful heart, and believing that it is better to give than to receive, we will reap the benefits of divine health and healing.

We can't buy good health, but we can sow good seeds and reap blessings back, which protect our life and our loved ones. When Jesus told a rich young ruler in Mark 10:21, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. The next verse said, And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. When God moves on your heart to give, He has a purpose in mind. If He can get us to release our possessions unto Him, He can work a miracle in our life.

I once heard of a man who was very wealthy. He had started out as a young man, tithing and giving, because his mother had taught him to do so, as a child. The story had it that he was stricken with a disease and was withered away in his mid-50s. The doctors gave him no hope. As he lay there, on his bed, he began to ponder his life. He remembered how he used to give and how he had gotten away from it. So he thought, before he died, that he would help people financially as much as possible. He gave to organizations; he gave to communities, and he gave to the poor, and sometimes all day long, he would walk around his city and give money to unemployed people. When this man was in his 80's, he was still giving.

Did you ever notice that people who are givers always have a way of bouncing back? It's because they live by the law of sowing and reaping. Our lives are a direct result of our giving. It reflects our hearts. Many people have missed out on God's best, because they did not realize that when they said, "No" to God, they were saying no to God's help, as well. God created human life, and He knows what makes it function. When we ignore what our Creator asks of us, we're saying that we can make it without Him. We all have needs, and the greater need is needing to obey God.
I have gone to minister to people who have been given up by doctors, and yet when I went to minister to them, I knew in my heart that God was going to do something for them. He said it was because many times, He told them to do something and they obeyed Him and did what He asked them to do.

On the other hand, I've gone to minister to people who took the things of God lightly. They never really took what God asked them to do seriously. And when I prayed for them, it was just words, and I knew that they weren't coming out of their situation. It all boils down to one individual always doing their best to obey God, and the other one doing as little as possible, and never sacrificing. They always put their needs and family first—*and folks, we can't do that—we have to put God first!*

God looks in our heart and He sees our motive and intent. Satan waits for the opportunity to attack an individual through disobedience. It's like waving a red flag in front of the enemy, and saying, "*Here I am; I am in disobedience. Come and get me, and all those whom I love.* " When we make promises to God, we must fulfill them and He will help us. All we have to do is go to Him and ask Him and He will make a way. Obedience to God always brings blessings to our lives that far surpass what we did for Him.

When God moves on our hearts, let's obey Him. God knows the body of Christ doesn't need any more casualties like Ananias and Sapphira. I can't speak for anyone else, but I know for myself that I don't want to miss God and my protection. I'm going to do everything I can to make sure I always obey God, for I want to please Him and walk in divine health. So, whatever the Lord leads you to do, realize that He's got a blessing for you and He can take better care of us than we can of ourselves. We need to always remind ourselves how good God has been to us and how everything we have came from Him, and He will always bring us more as we're generous to share with others.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow night.

**Brother Rich**

Remember, *God wishes above things to you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2)