

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 05.10.10

"HEALING – HOW TO GET IT • PART #5"

James 2:26 Indeed, just as the body without a spirit is dead, so too faith without actions is dead.

This is our final week on how to get healing. We have covered from scripture how we can receive the healing that Jesus paid for through the Word of God. Realize that there are other avenues that God can use at times such as the gifts of healings manifested through a believer, but it is imperative that if we want to walk in health we must learn how to receive and walk in health through God's Word. As we have already discussed in this series disease and sickness does not come from God, but from the devil. We also showed through scripture that God is not only able to heal, it is His will for all to be healed. Then we discovered the importance of getting this truth in our hearts, not our heads. Finally last week we talked about once God's Word gets in our hearts we must confirm God's promise through our words.

This week we are going to cover a final and very important truth as well when it comes to receiving healing. As our foundation text from James 1:26 reveals to us this week the other vital key to seeing faith operate is actions. For example when our spirit leaves our body our body will cease to function, it will simply fall lifeless. So it is with faith. If one has faith but does not have corresponding actions that follow, faith falls lifelessly to the ground. One translation says that faith without actions that correspond to what we believe is devoid of power. This is a problem for many who are trying to receive healing.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

Acts 3:3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

Acts 3:4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

Acts 3:5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

Here is an example of faith and action at work and the result was a lame man totally healed. Take note that Peter declared to Him in the name of Jesus to rise and walk and then took him by the right hand and lifted him up. It was then that this man's feet and ankle bones received strength not before, and he was completely healed. It may seem as if Peter is the reason for this miracle but not so. He had a part to play as God used him to reach out to this man, but the man could have resisted Peter lifting him up or could have not even tried to walk and therefore could have just fallen back down to the ground. But instead he responded with action and did not resist but stood, and then walked into the temple leaping and praising God.

I remember some 22 years ago when I had first gotten a hold on healing. I had been studying for quite some time on the subject looking up healing verses and reading all the healing accounts in the Bible. I had been meditating on verses of scripture about healing when finally it came alive in me. I knew that I knew I was not going to be healed, I already was. I had finally gotten it in my spirit. The very next day I awoke and had every system of the flu. Many at my work place had missed work due to the flu. When I woke up I knew I had two choices. Call in to my boss sick because in my body I didn't feel like going to work, or get up and act upon what I now knew to be true.

I got up and got ready for work quoting the scriptures over my body all throughout the day. Initially I did not feel better but worse. I just continued to declare my body healed according to the Word of God. I was still riding bulls back then and I was entered at a rodeo in Mesquite that evening. When I got home I didn't feel like going, but I went anyway declaring the Word of God. By the time I was headed home from that rodeo every system was gone. I had now learned a valuable lesson. The devil is going to challenge what you believe. The only way to defeat that challenge was to declare God's Word and act upon what I already knew was true in my heart. The actions did not bring faith, the faith was already there but without some corresponding actions faith falls lifeless.

Realize if I had stayed home called in sick I would have therefore been accepting what the enemy was trying to give me. It is important to stress that you cannot produce faith through your actions. As we discussed a couple of weeks ago you must, through feeding on God's Word, develop your faith in the promises of God.

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

I want to draw your attention to the last part of this verse, but I also want to point out why the reference is given here to Jesus having passed through the heavens. Jesus having done so has completed all that needs to be done for us to receive what He has bought and paid for through His blood being shed for us. Because He has, we must hold fast to our confession. A vital truth to healing is understanding that as we talked about last week we must confirm with our mouths what the Bible says about healing to receive it, but it is also important to understand that often times the enemy is going to bring about symptoms again to get us to speak the problem and not God's Word.

This is a part of us also acting on God's Word. If I truly believe I am healed and have confirmed it through my words, then I am not going to go back days later saying that I am sick even though symptoms may persist. Remember faith without action is devoid of power or lifeless. That action includes what I then continue to say even when symptoms come back or persist.

Prov. 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, ...

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

By the words of our mouth we release death, (separation from the God-kind of life) or life, the type of life God desires for us. Take a look here at James 3:2. How does a jockey bring his horse who is much stronger than he is under his control? Through a bridle that has a bit attached to it. James in this same chapter tells us that just like that little rudder on a large boat determines where that boat goes, so does the tongue do so with us. Think about the comparison in the sizes of these different items. Notice here in James if we get control of the words that come out of our mouths guess what, we can **bridle the whole body**. This includes overcoming sickness and disease or whatever comes against our bodies.

Far too many Christians talk constantly about the physical problems they have. They will say they are believing to be healed, but the truth is if they truly do believe God's Word they are going to declare it is already so. They will also guard their words and not walk by sight but by faith with actions, which includes what we say. The more we confess and talk about our physical problems the more we will think about them and as scripture says as a man thinks of himself, so is he.

When symptoms persist thoughts will come, but I like something I heard Kenneth E. Hagin say a long time ago. Thoughts that are not spoken nor acted upon die unborn. Even in his own life after learning of the healing that was his and acting upon that healing rising up off of a death bed, people who would see him would ask how he was doing. Often then he would feel the symptoms coming back. When he would talk about how he

"felt" they would persist and get worse. He finally realized that part of his acting on the Word had to do with what he was saying as well. Then as people asked him how he was doing he would tell them the Word of God declares that whosoever believes what they say will come to pass they will have whatever they say, therefore he would declare I am healed because that is what God's Word says. The symptoms would then go away.

You must see yourself healed. Many would say but I am not because of what I feel or see in my body, but if you will stop looking to that and look to God's Word you are not lying by declaring what the Bible says because God's Word is truth. His Word says by the stripes of Jesus you are healed. So act in line with what you believe and you will walk healed, for faith with action releases great power.