

**Reminder:** The principle, 'God SENDS His Word to heal' can be understood to mean the following:

- A. God's Word itself has in-grained Healing Power and Potential**
- B. Obedience to the General Word (Logos) Heals us.**
- C. Obedience to a Specific Instruction (Rhema) Heals us.**
- D. An Uttered Command or Decree to Heal.**
- E. Appropriating the Promises of Healing in God's Word by Faith.**

In this session, we continue to unpack points A and B above (continued from session 5).

### 1. IMPORTANT NOTE

**- Some sicknesses result from disobedience.**

Healing will take place because of obedience. For God's Word to heal us, requires our being obedient to the Logos and Rhema Word of God. Logos is a reference to the general Word of God and 'rhema' refers to a specific word highlighted or directed to you.

**- Some sicknesses are not as a result of disobedience or sin.**

God permits sickness in us at times for very specific reasons (to be discussed later). Do not fall prey to the inaccurate conclusion that all who are sick are so because of some sin in their lives. Some sicknesses, although not from disobedience, can be cured by obedience to a specific command as determined by the wisdom and sovereign mind of God.

**- Not all sickness in the life of an individual is a result of disobedience.**

- ✓ Job's boils had nothing to do with his spiritual state.
- ✓ Pauls' thorn in the flesh had nothing to do with any violation of spiritual principles, but was permitted by God to keep him humble.
- ✓ The blind man in John 9 was blind not because he or his parents had sinned, but that the works of God would be displayed through him.
- ✓ Trophimus, an incredibly spiritual man, was left sick at Miletus by Paul.
- ✓ Epaphroditus too, became sick because of risks associated with his zeal for God's work.
- ✓ Elisha's sickness was simply to serve as a means for him to exit this life.

Never be rash and rush to make negative spiritual judgements about the spiritual state of someone, simply because they fell sick or even succumbed to death.

For some, God permits to become sick, because He wants to lead them into repentance and departure away from some sin or rebellion. The cure to their sickness is obedience to the principles of God's Word, from which they have departed, or obedience to God's specific command that is designed to test the devotion of their heart. In these cases, healing of some

## 2. HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM, AND DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DESTRUCTIONS.

### Psalm 107:16-22

- 16 For He has shattered gates of **bronze** And cut bars of **iron** asunder.
- 17 Fools, because of their **rebellious way**, And because of their **iniquities**, were **afflicted**.
- 18 Their soul **abhorred all kinds of food**, And they drew near to the **gates of death**.
- 19 Then they **cried out** to the Lord in their **trouble**; He **saved them out of their distresses**.
- 20 He **sent His word** and **healed them**, And **delivered** them from their **destructions**.
- 21 Let them **give thanks to the Lord** for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!
- 22 Let them also offer sacrifices of **thanksgiving**, And tell of His works with joyful singing.

The healing spoken of here is far more physical. Take the time to very slowly and meditatively read Psalm 107. Israel sinned against God repeatedly, as is communicated throughout this Psalm. Each time they cried unto the Lord for help, He delivered them from the oppression which resulted from their sin.

The verse, "Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He **delivered them out of their distresses**", is repeated four times (verse 6,13, 19 and 28).

Their sickness, which was part of their distresses, is a direct result of their departure away from the Lord. They became rebellious and abhorred the quality and provision God afforded them. Destruction visited them, but God was gracious to deliver them as He responded to their cries for help. The point I want to emphasise here is that their sickness was fruit of a deeper internal problem of rebellion and stubbornness within them. God sends his Word to Heal them, by expecting them to be compliant to the principles of His Word. What is healed here is the

spiritual state or condition of the nation, not physical healing per se, although it could include it. The 'destruction' is redemptive not punitive. God hopes for us return unto Himself.

**Healing will come from an appropriate obedient response to a Word which God sends to you.**

**Case in point here: NUMBERS 21** - Israel murmured against God, Moses and the provision of God. God sent fiery serpents among the people. Many people died. Moses interceded for the people. God instructed him to make a serpent and display it on a standard (pole). Anyone who was bitten, but who looked at the serpent, would live. The serpent was a symbolic representation of Jesus. Looking to the serpent = looking to Jesus in repentance.

Healing required the people to look at the bronze serpent. This was the Word sent through Moses. Obedience to this Word would secure healing.

### **3. OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD EVIDENCES OUR LOVE FOR THE WORD**

It is not good enough just to love God's word. Your love for God's Word must be evidenced by obedience to His Word. Your love for God is evidenced by your attitude towards His Word, specifically, your level of obedience to His Word. Jesus said that if we love Him, we must do/keep His commandments.

**John 14:15** "If **you love Me**, you will **keep My commandments**.

The degree to which you are obedient to the commandments of God is the degree to which you love Him. There is no other yardstick by which to measure your love for God, except by how much you obey His commandments in His word.

### **4. OBEDIENCE HEALS WOUNDS AND RE-INSTATES DESTINY**

Although Jeremiah loved God's word (Jer. 15:16), his sickness (wound) did not heal (Jer. 15:18). God indicated to him the reason, viz, he was not thoroughly compliant to some of God's principles (Jer. 15:19).

**Jer. 15:16** Your **words** were found and **I ate them**, And Your **words became for me a joy** and the **delight of my heart**; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

**Jer. 15:18** Why has my **pain been perpetual** And my **wound incurable, refusing to be healed?** Will You indeed be to me like a **deceptive stream** With water that is unreliable?

The perpetual pain and incurable wound could be physical or emotional.

**Jer. 15:19** Therefore, thus says the Lord, “**If you return, then I will restore you** - Before Me you will stand; And if you **extract the precious from the worthless**, You will become **My spokesman**. They for their part may turn to you, But as for you, you must not turn to them.

God promised Jeremiah that if he returns (i.e. repents) by completely separating the precious from the worthless, not only will he be healed (‘restore’), but he would also indeed be God’s spokesman or prophet. The healing of Jeremiah’s wound would allow him to give himself more greatly to his destiny and calling as a prophet.

Your healing has far more to do with merely healing your physical sickness only. It could also prophetically point to a restoration or re-instatement of calling and destiny.

## **5. I AM THE GOD THAT HEALETH THEE - WHEN YOU OBEY ME**

God promised His people that if they gave earnest and close heed to His voice and do what is right in His sight, that none of the diseases experienced by Egypt would be theirs. He declares His nature to them as HEALER in the same breath, saying, “I am The Lord Your Healer”

**Exod. 15:26** And He said, “If you will **give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God**, and **do what is right in His sight**, and **give ear to His commandments**, and **keep all His statutes**, **I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians**; for **I, the Lord, am your healer**.”

When God sends His word to heal, everything attached to His word must be obeyed. The power of God’s nature as Healer is unlocked, activated and given to those who obey His Word. Healing is promised to, accessed and activated by a life of obedience to God’s Word.

## 6. DISOBEYING GOD IS HOW YOU FORGET GOD

**Prov. 3:1,2** My son, do not **forget my teaching**, But let your **heart keep my commandments**; For **LENGTH of DAYS** and **YEARS OF LIFE** and peace they will **add to you**.

“Length of Days” and “Years of Life” are promises to those who keep God’s commandments and do not forget His teaching. When is God forgotten? God is forgotten whenever His principles are no longer adhered to.

**Deut. 8:11** “Beware that you do not **forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments** and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today

The non-subscription and non-adherence to God’s principles in His word, equates to actually FORGETTING GOD. The promise made to the person who does not forget God is LENGTH OF DAYS and YEARS OF LIFE.

### A CLOSER LOOK AT PROV. 4:20-23

The promise of LIFE and HEALTH in verse 22, is conditional of us fulfilling the emphasis in verse 20, 21 and 23.

#### **Prov. 4:20-23**

- 20 My son, give **ATTENTION** to **my words**; **INCLINE** your ear to **my sayings**.  
21 Do not let them **depart from your sight**; **KEEP THEM** in the midst of your heart.  
22 For they are **LIFE** to those who **FIND them** And **HEALTH** to all their **BODY**.  
23 Watch over your **heart with all diligence**, For from **it flow the springs of life**.

#### **The Conditions for Life and Health are:**

- (a) Give Attention to God’s Words
- (b) Incline Your ear to God’s Sayings
- (c) Do Not let God’s Word out of Your sight
- (d) Keep God’s Word in the midst of your heart

**Attention = Qāṣaḅ = To listen carefully, to pay attention, to give heed, to obey.**

When you show disregard for something which God highly esteems, you cannot expect Him to favour you.

Your meditation on God's Word is your medication for your mind and body.

**Incline = nāṭāh =** To **stretch out**, to **extend**; to pay **close** attention.

We must be disposed towards, lean into and show preference for God's Word.

**Do not let them depart from your sight =** Let God's words colour your eyes and shape your perception and perspective of life, people, events and circumstances

Insisting upon your own carnal or immature perception and perspective of people, events and circumstances, will result in you not living a life of health and healing. Allow God's Word to determine, shape and configure your view of everything.

**Cf. Gen 49:12a** – “His eyes are darker than wine”.

This implies that Judah's sight or perception is intoxicated with the revelation (wine) of God's Word, and he sees and interprets everything through the lenses and filters of the principles of God's Word.

**“KEEP THEM in the midst of your heart.”** = Out of the heart flows the issues or extremities of life. Hence, let the Word in your heart determine the limits and boundaries of your attitudes and activities (Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin again you).

**The words, “FIND THEM”**, suggests that God's word must be **searched after as though one in mining precious minerals**. Do not adopt a tourist mentality when you study God's Word; have a mind-set of a miner of gold. Go deeper. Do not just swim and float or frolic leisurely on the surface of truth; start to 'scuba dive'.

**Prov. 25:2** It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the **glory of kings** is to **search out** a matter.

Kingship here implies dominion and rule, and is defined by your ardent searching out for and deep enquiry into the things which God has hidden in His Word. What you uncover – arms you to rule and reign in life.

**Jer. 15:16** Your **words** were **FOUND** and I **ate them**, And Your **words became for me a joy** and the **delight of my heart**; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

**Result?** “For they are **LIFE** to those who **find them** And **HEALTH** to all their **BODY**.”

This is not promised to the casual peruser of God’s Word, but to the one who deeply loves God’s Word, has a reflexive esteem for and prioritises God’s Word, delves deep to understand it, constantly meditates on it and actively obeys it.

## **7. LONG LIFE PROMISED TO THE OBEDIENT ONE**

Let us trust God for **LONG LIFE**. This is promised in His Word. Let us appropriate and believe God for it by faith, so that we may devote our time and energies to facilitating His will on the earth. But, all this is subject to God’s predetermined will for our lives. Yet, nothing stops us from pressing into the reality of long life, because it is a biblical promise that all believers may appropriate by faith. In scripture, there are important preconditions attached to this promise.

Serious sickness and disease can be fatal, shortening one’s life span. The promise of ‘long life’ must be understood contextually. Here below are some well know scriptures related to long life and the attached condition.

### **(a) Obedience to God’s Word Leads to Long Life**

**Prov. 3:1,2** My son, do not **forget my teaching**, But let your **heart keep my commandments**; For **LENGTH of DAYS** and **YEARS OF LIFE** and peace they will **add to you**.

**Prov. 4:10** Hear, my son, and **accept my sayings** And the **years of your life will be many**.

### **(b) Living Life Primarily For the Will of God**

Jesus’ prioritisation on ‘living’ was for one singular purpose, viz. to represent His Father, to do His work (purposes) and to bring it to fulfilment (completion).

**John 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My food is to **do the will** of Him who sent Me and to **accomplish His work**”.

There was no greater purpose for living. Life had meaning only to the degree that it served to facilitate His Father’s image and purpose in the earth. This too must be our quest, especially in our desire to live long. May we live long enough to be facilitators of God’s image and likeness and purposes in the earth. I believe if this is our goal, that God will graciously extend our lives, because our lives are not lived unto our own selfish or carnal desires, but for His purposes.

Part of the Divine purpose behind our suffering is that we would resolve to cease from sin, from living unto our own carnal desires and personal self-indulgent ambitions, and resolve to more aggressively and faithfully live only for God’s Will.

**1 Pet 4:1,2** Therefore, since Christ has **suffered in the flesh**, arm yourselves also with the **same purpose**, because he who has suffered in the flesh has **ceased from sin**, so as to **LIVE THE REST OF THE TIME** in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but **FOR the will of God**.

At times, during sufferings, including sickness, God tweaks our ambitions and desires. What facilitates our healing is a renewed commitment in us not to live casually for our own self-preservation, protection and provision, but for God and His will alone. Saul’s desires and ambitions were realigned to God’s purposes for PAUL, the apostle. But God did this by striking him with blindness first. Jonah had to be submerged into the depths of the ocean in a fish’s belly before repenting and setting his focus on God’s purposes. Nebuchadnezzar’s pride was dealt with when God struck him with mental derangement. Afterwards, he was restored because of his humility in repentance.

**(c) Honour of Spiritual and Biological Parents leads to LONG LIFE**

**Eph. 6:1-2** Children, **obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. “**Honor your father and mother**,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Honour of your biological parents and spiritual father in the Lord, lengthens your life; dishonour shortens your life. Honour causes things to go well with you. Dishonour results in things not going well for you. You cannot ignore these requirements.



(d) **The Fear of God Lengthens Your Life**

**Prov. 10:27a** The fear of the Lord prolongs life, ...

Fearing God includes having a sustained attitude of reverence, respect, esteem and honour for Him. This is reflected in compliance to His Word. Never lose your sense of fear of the Lord.

(e) **Loving Intimacy With God Lengthens your Life**

**Psalms 91:16** "With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."

This promise here in Psalm 91:16, is founded on the conditions of Psalm 91:1,2,15

Conditions : Dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and setting your love upon God.

(f) **Divine and Common Wisdom Lengthens Your Life**

**Prov. 9:11** For by me (*i.e. Wisdom*) your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

It is pointless having the faith in God for a 'long healthy life', and yet not observe some basic wisdom and common sense with regard to one's eating habits and physical fitness. I encourage you to adopt sober eating habits and sustain a reasonable level of physical fitness by exercising at least three times a week. These things will facilitate your goal for a long, healthy life.

(g) **Accurately discerning the Lord's Body in the celebration of the LORD's SUPPER (Communion or Table of the Lord), lengthens your life.**

**1 Cor. 11:23-30**

- 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;
- 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "**This is My body**, which is for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me."
- 25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "**This cup** is the **new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in **remembrance** of Me."

- 26 For as often as you **eat this bread and drink the cup**, you **proclaim the Lord's death until He comes**.
- 27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner**, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.
- 28 But a man must **examine himself**, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
- 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself **if he does not judge (or discern - KJV) the body rightly**.
- 30 For this reason many among you are **weak and sick, and a number sleep**.

The regular observance of the Lord's Supper is encouraged. Every time we do, we 'SHOW' the Lord's death until He returns. Showing the Lord's death means, amongst other things, to appropriate all the blessing associated with His death. Healing from sickness is one of the blessings of Jesus' death on the cross for us. Sickness and premature death are consequences of partaking unworthily of the Lord's Supper (Communion). So, there are powerful exchanges that take place whenever we celebrate 'communion'. We must then be careful not to celebrate it unworthily, which is defined as 'not discerning the BODY OF THE LORD'. This means celebrating it with a heart and mind disposition of authentic and demonstrable love and high regard for each of the members of the Body of Christ (the Church).

We must not partake with unforgiveness, malice, anger, hatred, etc. towards any of the members of Christ's body. We remember His body each time we celebrate this sacred sacrament. His body is still present on the earth, viz. the church, the Body of Christ. When we celebrate the Lord's supper in high regard for all relationships within His Body, HEALING (instead of sickness) and LONG LIFE (instead of premature death) can be asserted.

The Lord's Supper or Table is a transactional sacrament. The grace of healing and life is imparted. If negative results like sickness and premature death are consequences of unworthy participation, then the positive outcome of healing and long life must be asserted when we do partake worthily.

#### (h) **ASK God for Long Life**

David requested long life from God, and God gave it to him.

**Psalm 21:3** He **asked life of You**, You gave it to him, **Length of days** forever and ever.

On the basis of a faithful and obedient life, Hezekiah requested God to extend the length of his life. God answered him by giving him 15 extra years.

### **2 Kings 20:1-11**

- 1 In those days Hezekiah **became mortally ill**. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, '**Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.**'"
- 2 Then he turned **his face to the wall and prayed** to the LORD, saying,
- 3 "Remember now, O LORD, I **beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight.**" And Hezekiah **wept bitterly**.
- 4 **Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court**, the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
- 5 "**Return** and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "**I have HEARD YOUR PRAYER, I have SEEN your TEARS;** behold, I **WILL HEAL YOU**. On the third day you shall **go up to the house of the LORD**.
- 6 "I will add **fifteen years to your life**, and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"
- 7 Then Isaiah said, "**Take a cake of figs.**" **And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.**
- 8 Now Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?"
- 9 Isaiah said, "This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten steps or go back ten steps?"
- 10 So Hezekiah answered, "It is easy for the shadow to decline ten steps; no, but let the shadow turn backward ten steps."
- 11 Isaiah the prophet cried to the LORD, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten steps by which it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

God can do the same for us. Let us desire long life.

Trust God that you will see at least your second or third generation of sons – in your desire to consolidate the generational transfer of grace and truth.

**Deut. 6:1-4**

- 1 “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might **do them** in the land where you are going over to possess it,
2. so that **you** and your **son** and your **grandson** might **fear the Lord** our God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, **all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.**
3. O Israel, **you should listen and be careful to do it**, that it may be **well with you and that you may multiply greatly**, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey

**Job** lived to **140 years** and saw his fourth generation.

**Job 42:16,17** After this Job lived **one hundred and forty years**, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. So Job died, old and full of days.

**Moses** died at **120 years old** - still full of natural strength and vigour.

**Deut. 34:7** Although Moses was **one hundred and twenty years** old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigour abated.

**Jehoiada** died at **130 years** old.

**2 Chron 24:15** Now when Jehoiada **reached** a ripe old age he died; he was **one hundred and thirty years** old at his death.

In the original Hebrew, the phrase ‘**reached**’ is read as followed “**became old and satisfied with days**”. Jehoiada, although a priest, was buried amongst the kings, because he devoted his life to God and for the execution of His purposes, even to the point of potentially losing his life. From God’s perspective, he was kingly in the levels of obedience and faithfulness he displayed towards God’s servant and purposes. Long life is only meaningful when it is lived unto God and for His will. Otherwise, why live? And why live long?

**To Be Continued**

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