

**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 unpack point C above (continued from session 6).

### **God Sends a Specific Instruction to be Obeyed that would bring Healing**

The principle of **obedience is key to a life of health and all other blessings in God**. As you continue reading, listen out for the ONE THING that God would say to you - listen for that ONE THING that you must OBEY to activate your breakthrough.

### **The Example of the Healing of the Ten Lepers**

#### **Luke 17:11-19**

- 11 While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.
- 12 As He entered a village, **ten leprous men** who **stood at a distance** met Him;
- 13 and they raised their voices, saying, **"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"**
- 14 When He saw them, He said to them, **"Go and show yourselves to the priests."** And **AS THEY WERE GOING, they were CLEANSED.**
- 15 Now one of them, when **HE SAW** that he had been **HEALED**, turned back, **GLORIFYING God with a LOUD VOICE,**
- 16 and he fell on his face at His feet, **GIVING THANKS** to Him. And he was a Samaritan.
- 17 Then Jesus answered and said, **"Were there not ten CLEANSED? But the nine - where are they?"**
- 18 Was no one found who returned to **give GLORY TO GOD**, except this foreigner?" And He said to him,
- 19 **"Stand up and go; your faith has made you WELL [or 'WHOLE' : KJV]."**

## 1. SIGNIFICANCE OF LEPROSY

**Leprosy, a dreaded and infectious skin disease, at its most serious state, grossly affects the condition of the skin.** It mainly affects the skin, eyes, nose and peripheral nerves. Symptoms include light-coloured or red skin patches with reduced sensation, numbness and weakness in hands and feet. Leprosy causes severe disfiguring, skin sores, lumps or bumps and nerve damage in the arms, legs, and skin areas around your body. If untreated and not cured, it can lead to serious disabilities.

**Leprosy is symptomatic of sin, that mars the image of God in man.** Leprosy, untreated and uncured leads to severe disfigurement. Symbolically, it points to sin and the repercussions of sin.

### What is Sin?

[Before proceeding, I encourage you to read through the ADDENDUM at the end of this study – an extract from my teaching series on RIGHTEOUSNESS. It concerns distinguishing between ‘sins that lead to death’ and ‘sin which does not lead to death’. Hear the audio of my explanation on this via these links as well : [http://randolphbarnwell.com/grace\\_parth.html](http://randolphbarnwell.com/grace_parth.html)]

**Rom. 3:23**    For all have **sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

The Greek word for ‘sin’ is ‘**harmatia**’ which means ‘**to miss the mark**’. Missing this mark is further described in Rom. 3:23 as ‘**falling short of the glory of God**’.

The **glory of God** refers to the **His exact representation or nature**. This representation of His nature and character is only possible within a son of God.

**Heb. 1:3a**    And He (*i.e. Jesus the son*) is the **radiance of His glory** (*i.e. the Father’s glory*) and the **exact representation of His nature**, (*i.e. the Father’s nature*) and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Thus, falling short of glory, is to negate the very medium, viz. son of God, designed to carry and exhibit God’s glory. So sin, in its original state, was not the practice of anything morally unacceptable to God, but was a **movement away of man from the pre-eminent reason for his creation, viz. to exactly represent God, his Father, and so reflect His glory.**

This demands that man maintains a vital relationship with God, his Father, by consistently hearing and obeying the voice of His Father. Adam's first sin was not essentially something immoral, but a refusal to believe and obey God's word on a specific matter. Moral and ethical violations are symptoms or outcomes of a departure of man away from his responsibility to accurately represent God, his Father, as His son.

When we move away from the understanding, attitude and behavioural responsibility to function as the sons of God in creation, we have sinned. No one can pluck us out from God's hand, but we can, of our own stubborn will, elect to leave Him. Adam's sin was a disconnection from reliance and dependance on God, his Father, and he sought to direct his own life, independent of his Father, using his fallen soul (rational mind) as the main instrument to guide him.

As God's sons, we cannot sin, i.e. we should not deliberately practice sin (refer to the addendum at the end of this study for clarity). We should never venture out from the state of being God's son. We may fail from time to time, but we are never disconnected from God, our Father, as His sons. In this respect, the sin that has outcomes of ethical and moral violations does not lead to spiritual death, i.e. eternal separation from God, because an authentic son, although failing occasionally, would never practice sin habitually, since he knows that this will have a negative impact upon his soul and erode his capacity to exactly represent God, his Father.

**Prov. 24:16** For a **righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in time of calamity.**

When man disconnects from God, the Father, and in this respect sins, he will become prone to and susceptible to a whole range of expressions of disobedience. Many cite the first sin in the Bible as the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. No it was not! The first sin was a disconnection of man (Adam) from God, his father. This man degenerated into functioning as an orphan, uninfluenced and not directed by God. Left to his own devices, he employs the fallen and corrupted soul to attempt to live life successfully without God. Jesus Christ came to reinstate man as sons of God, just as He is. When reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ, we are re-configured as human beings to function as God's sons. Now, as God's sons, being empowered by the Grace of God within us, we subscribe to standards set by and depictive of God's nature in our bid to live life successfully.

**Now, back to our story on the ten lepers:**

Original sin is 'mixing the mark' of sonship - it is moving away from one's sonship identity in Christ. In a sense, we could perceive of the **leprosy of these ten men as that which 'separates' them from proximity and intimacy with God - note they kept their distance because of the contagious nature of leprosy and cried out to Jesus for MERCY.**

Man was made in the image and likeness of God. When God gave dominion to man to rule on earth, it was given specifically to the **image** of God in man.

**Gen. 1:26a** Then God said, "Let Us make **man** in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; and let them **RULE** ...

When man, through sin, moves away from expressing this image and likeness, he starts to lose dominion and authority, even over sickness. A restored authority and dominion in man will naturally result from a restoration of the image and likeness of God in man.

## **2. DESIRING GOD'S CAPACITY BUT NOT HIS COMMAND**

As indicated in an earlier session, Jesus' mercy is deeply empathetic and resultantly, is quickly responsive. However, in this narrative, His response seems lacking in urgency and compassion. One would have expected Him to walk towards the lepers and touch them or even speak a word of healing over them. Jesus, earlier actually stretched his hand to touch a leper who requested healing. He breached all protocol governing interacting with lepers in that day.

### **Matt 8:1-4**

- 1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.
- 2 And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "**Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.**"
- 3 Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "**I am willing; be cleansed.**" And immediately **his leprosy was cleansed.**
- 4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and **present the offering that Moses commanded**, as a testimony to them."

(This account also recorded in Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)

Instead of touching the ten lepers, or even at least commanding their leprosy to be cleansed, Jesus issues what seems like a cold command, "**Go and show yourselves to the priests.**"

To understand why Jesus said this without first cleansing them, we need to understand the Greek term '**MASTER**' used here.

**Luke 17:13** and they raised their voices, saying, "**Jesus, MASTER, have mercy on us!**"

**Master = Epistátēs** = One set over, a prefect, master, as a king.

There are **seven different Greek words translated 'master'** in the NT, all which have slight differences in nuances . 'Epistates' is used in addressing someone, "**in recognition of His authority rather than His instruction.**" (W.E. Vines). The lepers wanted the benefit of the authority and power of Jesus, without being willing to submit to His Words of instruction. There are many people like this today. Many want ...

- The **Healing**, not the **Healer**
- The **Blessing**, not the **Blessor**
- God's **Performance**, not His **Person**
- **God's Hand**, but not **His Face**
- God's **Expression**, not His **Essence**
  
- God's **Power**, not His **Principles**
- God's **Works**, not His **Word**.
- God's **Impartation**, not His **Instruction**
- What God can **Do for them**, not what God **Requires of Them**
  
- God's **Hand**, but not willing to give God their **Heart**
- God's **Powerful** Hand with a **Partially** surrendered Heart

Many want **Divine healing**, but are not willing to embrace the **Divine will of God** for their lives.

**HENCE, Jesus would test their willingness to submit to HIS WORD OF INSTRUCTION.**

They did obey Him and received their cleansing from leprosy. At times, God sends His Word to HEAL by issuing an instruction that must be obeyed to secure healing.

Many are self-centred in their relationship with God. The relationship is only as significant to the degree that it benefits them in reference to their personal needs being met. These individuals never live above their own pressing needs. We must migrate to positioning ourselves in relationship and partnership with God, to using our time, energy, resources, etc.

to facilitate and fast track aspects of God's purposes or issues of His heart. Jesus, the Son, existed only to do His Father's will. He existed and considered His life as the agency through which His Father's purposes are facilitated for the benefit of the whole of humanity (outside of Himself). We must live like this. So then, even when we are sick, our healing is focussed not so much on our well-being (while it is), as much as it is focussed upon our restored bodies being of greater service to God as the vehicle through which His purposes might flow powerfully.

Hannah's personal need for a son, when this was provided, actually proved to have transcended to fulfil a corporate need in Israel. The son she desperately cried out to God for, was given back to God to be used for greater Kingdom purpose.

Many people seek God's HAND (what He can do) but not His FACE (Who He is).

**2 Chron 7:14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and **SEEK MY FACE**, and turn from their wicked ways, **then I will** hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and **HEAL THEIR LAND**.

### **3. IN THE PROCESS OF OBEDIENCE, THE POWER AND BLESSING OF GOD IS RELEASED**

If you desire the **IMPARTATION** of God's **POWER**, simply obey the **INSTRUCTION** vested in God's **PRINCIPLES**. Note that it was **in the process of their obedience to Jesus' words, that they received their healing - AS THEY walked**. Obedience to God's principles is the gateway to access the miraculous power and provision of God.

**Luke 17:14b** And **AS THEY WERE GOING, they were CLEANSED**.

Obedience to God's word brings healing. For some, their healing may be conditional obedience to some specific aspect of God's commandment. One must discern this imperative of the Lord on your life, and seek to obey quickly.

God's **Word of Instruction**, not just His **Word of Promise**, is a **Word of Breakthrough** and **Provision**. Your breakthrough and blessing lies not just in **believing a promise**, but in **obeying an instruction**.

#### **4. GOD'S PRINCIPLES ARE PREGNANT WITH GOD'S PROVISION WHEN PRACTICED**

In the command of God, is encapsulated the potential for healing, breakthrough, provision, etc.

**The command of Jesus for the lepers to go and show themselves to the priest is literally a decree that they are already cleansed from leprosy**, for in most instances, no leper could go to the priest to show himself to the priest unless they were convinced that they were cleansed from leprosy.

In the OT, for the most part, a leper would have to 'SEE' his cleansing - to personally assess himself and determine that he has been cleansed - before going to the priest. In the case of the ten lepers, they had no immediate proof of their cleansing. All they had was a Word from Jesus. As they went (obeyed), they were cleansed. In taking the first step, and the following successive steps in the process of journeying toward the priest, CLEANSING naturally resulted. Initial acts of obedience must be sustained and followed through with successive steps of obedience.

**Obedience must not just be to fulfil the current present demand, but also further directives from God that might ensue, as a result of those initial steps.** For example, when God called Abram, He told him to leave his people and country and simply proceed obediently, not knowing where he was to go. In the process of obedience, his destination was made clear. Further clarity is always given as we faithfully take the initial steps. (See Gen. 12) I encourage you to take the first step in whatever God is requiring of you to obey. Healing, breakthrough, provision, clarity, etc. will result.

The ten lepers had to have FAITH and BELIEVE in the Word of Jesus. We too, must have faith in God and His Word of instruction. Faith in God for healing will be dealt with later in this series. The lepers probably still saw that they had leprosy as they started to obey Jesus. But as they continued to walk in obedience, they noticed the leprosy being cleansed. Faith was required to obey. They had to regard themselves as cleansed even before they began to walk towards the priests. Do not regard the contrary circumstances that militate against what you are trusting God for. Believe the Word of instruction and obey.

## 5. PERCEIVING THE GREATER WORK OF GOD IN US

Note that ALL Ten LEPERS were CLEANSED. One of them SAW that he was HEALED. All experienced the same power of Jesus, yet only one was able to **perceive the fullness or depth of it**.

**Cleansed** = **katharizō** = To cleanse, free from filth

**Healed** = **iaōmai** = To heal, cure, restore to bodily health.

This one leper saw beyond the cleansing of his skin, to the complete restoration of the entirety of his body in every other respect. In the NT, the term **‘healed’ is never used in respect of leprosy, only the term ‘cleansed’**. So this healing that the one leper ‘SAW’ or perceived was some **Divine work of restoration way beyond the physical. It was spiritual**. I personally believed he was **healed in soul - in mind**.

There might be something more that Jesus is intent on doing in you, way beyond the pressing need of the physical healing of your sickness. To a paralyzed man, Jesus said “Your sins are forgiven” - see Luke 5. He looked way past the obvious and apparent need for physical healing from paralysis, and addressed a greater and more urgent need. At times, in our sickness, we must discern the possibility that God would use the sickness to address deeper issues within our lives that need remedying.

Allow the Lord to discern the most urgent need in you. **What is most obvious might not necessarily be what is most urgent**. Allow God to decide what is your most urgent need.

A Shunammite woman honoured Elisha by building him an upper room onto her house, so he could stay there whenever he visited the city. Elisha wanted to do something for her - he gave her an ‘open cheque’ - she could name anything. But, she did not suggest a single thing. He then prophesied that she would have a son by the following year. God scanned her life and determined she needed a son. (Read the account in 2 Kings 4 :88ff.)

We must JUST OBEY, without any strings attached. Then allow God to scan our lives and let HIM decide what areas of need or deficiency needs to be filled.



**Your sickness might be your most obvious need – but not necessarily the most urgent.** The lepers thought their most obvious need was physical cleansing, but Jesus determined it was WHOLENESS - and only one achieved this. **At times, God would also heal your obvious need, in the hope that this would be a ‘sign’ to you that He intends to do something far greater that is more urgent in His mind.**

**Miracles and healings are sometimes called ‘SIGNS’.**

**Mark 16:20** And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

**Sign = sēmeíon =** Sign, mark, token, miracle with a spiritual end and purpose.  
Miracles which lead to something out of and beyond themselves; finger-marks of God, valuable not so much for what they are as for what they indicate of the grace and power of the doer

Signs confirmed the Word - they were not an end in themselves.

When travelling by road and you see a ‘sign’ indicating that that you have 100km more to go to your destination, you do not stop at the sign, but continue on towards the destination. A sign is not the destination - it points to the destination.

Jesus used bread and its multiplication as a sign pointing to His Person as the ‘Bread of Life. This depicts GRACE inherent in the Word of God, which is akin to bread. Do not camp at the sign and think you have arrived at the destination. Healing of the sickness could highlight the deeper things God desires to do in you.

Jesus’ statement, “I am the Bread which has come down from heaven”, was the greater goal in the feeding of the five thousand as a sign. Those purely focused on their self-centred need for hunger, would miss this greater goal of Jesus.

Ask God what He is trying to show about Himself or His purposes, by how He heals you or provides for you. **In your ‘need’, migrate from what Jesus can do for me, to what of Himself is He trying to reveal to me.**

**An Aside :** In the light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, what is needed is both physical and mental or emotional healing. Perhaps the latter is a greater need than the former. As lepers, they practiced physical distancing. This naturally created feelings of ostracisation and rejection from society . There are deep emotional and mental scars that are at times inflicted upon people who suffer physical illness and disease. I sense even in writing this, that God wants to heal you **physically and emotionally/mentally.**

**Prov. 18:14** The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But as for a broken spirit who can bear it?

### **God's Word Strengthens a Weak Soul Beset by Negative Emotions**

**Psalms 119:28** My soul weeps because of grief; **Strengthen me** according to **Your word.**

Grief is a negative soul emotion that can only be overcome by the strengthening of God's Word. The soul, which has the Word of God IMPRESSED upon it (Deut. 11:18), is able to overcome the negative consequences of emotional turmoil that we may sustain because of painful or difficult experiences. Grief, disappointment, hurt, betrayal, etc. can be quickly overcome **if** one's soul is saturated in the Word of God. What your soul needs is STRENGTH in these times - and this only comes through God's Word.

**We have to be WHOLE in the area of our spirit and soul.**

**1 Thess. 5:23** Now may the **God of peace** Himself **sanctify you entirely;** and may your **spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,** without **blame** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word '**complete**' means '**complete in all its parts; in no part wanting or unsound, entire, whole.**' To get our entire spirit, soul and body 'complete' demands responsibility on our part. The previous verse says:

**1 Thess. 5:22** **Abstain** from every form of evil.

To attain a whole and healthy soul demands an active participation on your part. But also the verse following 1 Thess. 5:23 is very important because it sets forth **God's part and His determination to fulfil it.**

**1 Thess. 5:24** He who calls you is **faithful**; he will **surely do it.**

The faithfulness of God can be depended upon. If God promised it, He is faithful to do it. But just because He is faithful does not mean you and I must act irresponsibly.

## **6. THANKSGIVING AND HONOUR**

As a result, the leper who SAW he was HEALED, returned to Jesus, bowing in humility at His feet and with aloud voice, gave THANKS to Jesus. Jesus then asked whether the other nine lepers were cleansed. He expected that they would have all returned to give thanks to the Lord. Only one returned to give thanks, and he was a Samaritan, implying the other nine were Jews.

**Perhaps, being Jews, their identification with Jesus as 'Jew' made them familiar'.** Familiarity breeds contempt. Never lose your sense of fear, reverence, honour and respect for God, and His servants, especially when God heals you or does something significant in your life. OPEN YOUR EYES. Do not let God, your Heavenly 'Father', or your spiritual 'father' be your 'familiar', such that you fall short of appropriately responding to them in honour and gratitude.

**When you familiarise, you equalise, and thus neutralise the potential flow of further grace.**

**Jesus respected the priesthood, their representation and function in His day.** He told the lepers to go to them as the final process validating their healing. I encourage you not to side-step God's chosen and delegated leaders in your life. Many times, healing and wholeness in your life will come from your subscription to principles governing relationship with one's spiritual leaders. I will demonstrate this more fully in a future session.

Humility in you and gratitude and honour for God is significant keys to your healing.

## 7. WHOLENESS IS THE GOAL

**Whole = Sozo =** Safe, delivered. To save, deliver, make whole, preserve safe from danger, loss, destruction.

This word, **in twenty of the fifty-four occasions of its usage in the NT**, has reference to **spiritual salvation**. It is closely related to the Greek word for salvation, **soteria**. I believe the leper received spiritual salvation as well, not just cleansing of his leprosy.

## 8. GIVING GLORY AND GRATITUDE TO GOD.

This leper gave GRATITUDE and GLORY to Jesus.

v. 16 and he fell on his face at His feet, **GIVING THANKS** to Him. And he was a Samaritan.

v. 18b Was no one found who returned to **give GLORY TO GOD**, except this foreigner?"

**Gratitude** is usually in appreciation for what God does. **Glory** is given out of a revelation for who God is. Gratitude opens the mind to receive a revelation of who God is – His Glory. GLORY REFERS TO THE EXACT representation of God's nature and power.

**Heb.1:3a** And He is the **radiance of His glory** and the **EXACT representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

**Glory** must be perceived **or SEEN**. It must be **'BEHELD'**

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we **BEHELD His GLORY**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

You cannot regard nor respect a glory that you cannot **SEE or RECOGNISE**.

Now, we are to **GIVE God glory**! We are to **ASCRIBE glory** to Him.

**Psalms 29:1,2** Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty, **Ascribe** to the Lord **glory** and strength. **Ascribe** to the Lord the **glory** due to His name;\_Worship the Lord in holy array.

Really speaking, we cannot GIVE GLORY to God, because He already has it. In Scripture, we read of the "God of Glory" and the "Glory of God". When the Bible says, **GIVE GOD GLORY**, it refers to the degree to which, in your mind, you reckon or accord honour, weight, dignity and worth to Him. **You have to SEE it first to GIVE it back to Him**. Give God glory is really what

happens internally within you when you see by revelation the immense grandeur and awe God carries.

The one leper came back and gave glory to Jesus when he saw **WHO JESUS REALLY WAS**. He first “SAW that he was HEALED” – this was the ‘SIGN. Now he sees the PERSON of Christ in Jesus and simply GIVES or regards that He is GLORIOUS – the exact representation of His Father. Once he came to this revelation, he was ready for the next great thing God wanted to do in his life, viz. lead him to spiritual **WHOLENESS**.

This is important in our engagement with receiving healing or any other thing from God. The leper who gave God gratitude and glory went from CLEANSING to HEALING to WHOLENESS.

**CLEANSING**  **HEALING**  **WHOLENESS**.

CLEANSING and HEALING, whilst important, is not the ultimate end in and of itself. The issue is why be cleansed or healed? What then? What have you learnt from the sickness or the sufferings?

**Psalms 119:67** **BEFORE** I was **afflicted** I went astray, But **NOW I KEEP Your Word**.

**Psalms 119:67** I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word. **(NLT)**

**Psalms 119:71** It is **good for me** that I was **afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes.

**Psalms 119:75** I know, O Lord, that Your **judgments are righteous**, And that in **faithfulness** You have **afflicted me**.

It was the expressing of his gratitude and recognition of God’s glory that activated Jesus to take him from healing to wholeness. **Wholeness implies spiritual health as well**. The other nine lepers who did not give thanks, only received cleansing. **This Samaritan received cleansing (physical cure), healing (implying an inner healing of the soul - not just of the external physical skin) and also spiritual wholeness**.

Gratitude paved the way for God to deal fully and completely in his life. Do not cut short the work of God in your life by a posture of ingratitude. The attitude of gratitude will ensure that the

intended fullness of God's work in your life will reach its maximum effect. GRATITUDE prefaced GLORY. The unthankful and ungrateful will never see God's Glory, and thus never come to a place of 'wholeness' or completeness.

### Lazarus

Some sickness, like that of Epaphroditus, was not unto death. Some deaths, like that of Dorcas and Lazarus, were cancelled and reversed, all for the glory of God.

**John 11:4** But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This **sickness is not to END IN DEATH**, but for the **GLORY** of God, so that the **Son of God** may be **GLORIFIED** by it.

Martha knew Lazarus would be raised at the resurrection on the 'last day'. Jesus shifted her thinking from **perceiving of the resurrection from the dead as an event, to perceiving it as a Person, viz. Himself**. Christ is the sum total of everything. Every event in our experience, now and in the future, finds its ultimate expression in Christ, the Person. Healing is not an event per se, but a person, Jesus Christ. In experiencing healing, we experience the Healer, Jesus Christ.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "**I AM the resurrection and the life**; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Resurrection is not so much an EVENT as much as it is a PERSON. Your healing must not be an event without leading to a greater revelation of the Person of Christ.

All that God does must point to who HE is.

Thanksgiving prefaced and precipitated the raising of Lazarus from the dead. If the raising of Lazarus from the dead resulted in people seeing the GLORY of God, then gratitude must first ascend from us to God.

**John 11:41** **So they removed the stone**. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "**Father, I thank You that You have heard Me**."

Give thanks in anticipation of your miracle in the name of Jesus. Do not wait for the outcome of what you are trusting God for. Give glory to God while in the process of waiting. **Abraham**

did exactly this: whilst waiting for his wife to conceive and become pregnant, he 'glorified' God. Giving glory to God with gratitude focuses your faith and keeps it strong.

**Rom. 4:19-21** Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, **giving glory to God**, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform

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### **Conclusion**

God does SEND HIS WORD to HEAL. What specific WORD of INSTRUCTION is God communicating to you right now? In what area do you need to obey immediately? Your obedience to the SENT Word will heal you and do far more for you than what is immediately obvious to you right now. Receive what God does for you but ask HIM to show you the much deeper thing He desires to do through. Ask Him to reveal HIS GLORY - His essence and WAYS to you - as you continue to offer Him gratitude for what He has done and that is still yet to come.

**Remember:** Israel KNEW God's WORKS, but Moses KNEW God's WAYS. God's works must always reveal God's Ways. Do not just be focused on "GOD'S WORKS". Be fixated on "GOD'S WAYS"!

**Psalm 103:7** He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.

**A Challenge:** Study Psalm 78

Israel generally never allowed the DEEDS of God to enlighten them of the WAYS and PERSON of God, such that they constantly went astray.

**Psalm 78:11** They forgot His deeds And His miracles that He had shown them.

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**ADDENDUM: Compare 1 John 3:5,9 with 1 John 1:8-10**

**1 John 3:5,9**

- 1 **No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.**  
9 **No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

**1 John 1:8-10**

- 8 If we say that we have **no sin, we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us.  
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

On the one hand John says that we cannot say we are without sin, and yet on the other, he is emphatic that we cannot sin if we abide in Christ, since we are born OF God and His seed is in us.

There is no contradiction here. We cannot sin when sin IS understood in reference to the original sin, i.e. disconnection from Father God as his son. If we have an authentic and vital relationship with God, we can never be disconnected from God - and in this respect we cannot sin, since the SEED of God, the genetic code of Divinity, pulsates within us.

Now, where John says that we deceive ourselves if we say we have no sin, he is not referencing original sin, but the outcomes of that original sin (e.g. hatred, lies, adultery, fornication, murder, theft, etc.). In respect of sin as indicative by these 'symptoms', we cannot say that we have no sin, for we all at times fail God in one respect or another. BUT - we do not do so deliberately and as a matter of habit, such that it defines our character or lifestyle. Also, although failing occasionally, we have a conscious desire within to overcome these tendencies.

**1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God PRACTICES sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (NASB)**

**Practice = poiéō =** To make, do, expressing action either as completed or continued.



Other versions of Scripture help to clarify the meaning of this verse:

**NIV :** No one who is born of God **will continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

**AMP :** No one born (begotten) of God [**deliberately, knowingly, and habitually**] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.

**MESSAGE:** People conceived and brought into life by God **don't make a practice of sin**. How could they? God's seed is deep within them, making them who they are. It's not in the nature of the God-begotten to **practice and parade sin**. Here's how you tell the difference between God's children and the Devil's children: The one who won't practice righteous ways isn't from God, nor is the one who won't love brother or sister. A simple test.

The seed of God referred to in this passage is the incorruptible seed of God's word, by which we are born again, the agency through which we are sanctified, the means by which God's presence and revelation of His person is progressively unveiled to us, the medium by which we overcome the world and satan and the vehicle through which we partake of God's Divine nature.

**1 John 5:18** We know that no one who is **born of God sins**; but He who was born of **God keeps him**, and the **evil one does not touch him**.

**1 John 5:18** We know [*absolutely*] that anyone born of God does not [*deliberately and knowingly*] practice committing sin, but the One Who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him [*Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil*], and the wicked one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him or touch [*him*]. **(AMP)**

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