

He Is Our Healing Balm

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

When He was on earth, Jesus Christ was despised and rejected. He was a Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. We hid our faces from Him and esteemed Him not. And though He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed Him smitten, stricken, and afflicted (see Isaiah 53:3-4). Though foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, the Son of man had no place to lay His head (Matthew 8:20).

Jesus is no longer on the earth in the flesh. Jesus ascended into heaven, but He sent the Comforter to minister to us in His place (John 14:16-17; 16:12-14). He lives within every believer through the Holy Spirit and through the Word of God and the Father.

“We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

Understand what these good works are.

First of all, they are not works of the flesh. “Good” is *agathos* in the Greek—speaking of divine good. Good works are actions motivated by love (2 Corinthians 5:14), under the government of grace (Romans 6:14), in the action of faith (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

As this booklet will examine, these divine works are given by God to heal and restore those in need, like the healing balm in Gilead. As we receive its unction, we can’t help but bring it to those in need.

Chapter One

KNOWING THE GOD WHO GIVES

In my early days as a pastor, a psychiatrist and his wife faithfully attended the services. They always sat down in front. One day, he came to me privately and asked if I would counsel his wife. They were planning to be separated, but after I counseled her for a year, their marriage was saved. Later, I asked him to speak at one of our services on the subject of psychiatry and the Bible, but he politely refused, saying, "With your insight into the Word of God, you know much more than I do about psychiatry!"

At another time, the head counselor for a major mental health institution called me. "My wife just left me. I'm brokenhearted. Can you counsel me?" he said.

The Word of God gives us a picture of the demon armies that attack the human nervous system. Our nerve center responds to feelings, responses, and decisions made in the conscious

mind, which is influenced by the unconscious and subconscious mind.* These psychiatrists didn't understand that their central nervous systems were married to unconscious wounds that had never been healed.

Certain demon armies attack the unconscious mind by the process of hypnosis, affecting so many people. Other demons attack the body through hypnosis of the memory center. This creates cognitive dissonance, which means that actions and behaviors don't line up with the knowledge of the truth we have received. This creates a sense of something being wrong, uneasiness, yet without knowing what it is.

The Hebrew word *shama* for "hear" appears in Deuteronomy 6:4. It means "to hear the Word of God by faith precisely because of the permanent consequences throughout eternity." It speaks of rightly dividing the Word of God precisely to God's divine authoritative standard of thinking and acting. These terms indicate the importance of understanding the permanency of the consequences of hearing the Word of God properly.

The Power of Salt and Light

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt

have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

The Lord tells us that we are the “light of the world.” But first He says, “You are the salt of the earth.”

“Salt,” which had to be part of every offering according to Leviticus 2:13, speaks of the resurrection grace as a channel of love. We are the salt of the earth. We are the resurrection power of grace, which is the channel for God’s love to come through us to others. But, “if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith is it salted? Henceforth it is good for nothing, and men take it and tread it under their feet.”

A city that is set on the hill cannot be hid. Neither do men take a candle and put it under the bushel where it will not receive oxygen. Rather, they put it on the candlestick so that the

whole house may have light." So, "Let your good works go before men, be seen before men, that you may glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Fire in the Human Spirit

During a number of wedding ceremonies, the couple will individually take lighted candles, and together they light another larger candle, so those three candles remain burning. This reveals an historical aspect of weddings from the Bible. Our human spirit, according to Proverbs 20:27, is the candle of the Lord. With the candles in a Christian marriage ceremony, the husband is saying: "I'm going to live by God's Spirit through my human spirit." Likewise, the wife is saying, "I'm going to live by God's Spirit through my human spirit." Together, they are saying, "We are going to be people who do not live in soul power, but in the Holy Spirit's power of God's grace and His Word through our human spirits."

In reality, many couples who light those candles don't know what it represents. The ceremony speaks of a husband and a wife becoming one in God's provision for their marriage forever.

God is saying, "You are on the earth for My pleasure (Revelation 4:11). I created you for My glory (Isaiah 43:7), and I want you to be the salt of the earth. I want you to be the light of the world. I want all men to see your good works so that your Father can be glorified."

**For more about the influences upon the conscious mind, read Imaginations of the Heart and The War against the Mind, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Two

OINTMENT FOR THE SOUL

“Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?”

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

“For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

“Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?” (Jeremiah 8:19-22)

“Balm” is an ointment, an oil that heals wounds. Besides that, it has a beautiful fragrance as it heals. We need to have this balm in our churches.

When Joseph was sold by his brothers, the Ishmaelites who bought him and took him into Egypt were carrying balm and spices (Genesis 37:25). Apparently, balm was an expensive commodity, used for trade. In Genesis 43:11, “balm” is mentioned again—this time, when Jacob sent “a little balm” along with other precious items to gain the favor of “the man” in Egypt (his long lost son, Joseph).

God asked in Jeremiah 8:22, “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?” So He is asking today, “Is there balm in each local assembly?” There must be a physician. God knows, because He sent one—and His name is Jesus Christ.

Several years ago, a young woman told me that night after night her stepfather molested her. She would hear his steps approaching and great fear would overcome her. She was terribly wounded and hurt by the abuse she suffered for so long. But there came a time for healing (Ecclesiastes 3:3*b*). It didn’t happen overnight, yet through the Word of God she was gloriously healed—I mean *gloriously* healed. Through the investment and love of the Body of Christ, through the Word of God, there was a balm in Gilead. There was a healing of the unconscious

wounds. The Holy Spirit through the human spirit began to control the ganglionic process,* establishing new patterns of response in the nervous system of this young woman.

“Ganglia” are well-defined masses of fibrous nerve tissue throughout the body that transmit sensory messages to and from the brain via the central nervous system. Simply put, the unconscious mind is “married” to whatever is in that system—whether from childhood experiences or from genetic predisposition. So the unconscious mind, which influences the subconscious and conscious mind, is attached or married to those negative, demoralizing things until the cleansing comes. When the blood of the Lamb covers us, the Holy Spirit can come in to cleanse us and anoint us with His healing balm. New thoughts replace old lines of thinking, as God’s Word permeates our being.

Works, Work, and the Workman

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was

a stranger, and ye took me in:

“Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

“Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

“When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

“Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:34-40).

This passage is so important. It means that Jesus is not on earth physically, and yet every single thing we do through love and grace, we are doing unto Him. When we hear the pastor preach the Word of God, we are hearing *God's* Word. God sent a man to speak His Word.

It is so crucial that we understand that God has ordained these three things: work, works, and the workman.

This is how it goes: We were created for His pleasure, for His glory. We are not our own

(1 Corinthians 6:19). So when we go out and minister to the Bible club children in their neighborhoods, Jesus sees the work and the workmen and says, "There they are ministering to Me today."

When we minister to any man or woman who needs help, Jesus says, "They are ministering to Me today." Furthermore, He writes down that we were ministering to Him. That is what it means to be the salt of the earth. That is what it means to be the light of the world. We were created in the Lord Jesus unto good works, which He foreordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

God has ordained us to be on earth just to bless people. Every time we take the opportunity to redeem the time and accept what is before us, we are doing it unto the Lord Jesus.

If you buy someone a suit of clothes, you bless Jesus. You do it unto God. If you help support some of the young people going to Bible college or Christian high school who otherwise could not afford to go, you are ministering throughout eternity to the Lord Jesus Christ. When you receive the preacher, you receive the preacher's reward. When you receive the righteous man, you receive the righteous man's re-

wards. When you give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, you will always be remembered, because Jesus sees it as you doing it unto Him (Matthew 10:41-42).

Our most recent outreach explosion into the city of Baltimore is bringing many beautiful souls to Christ. Hundreds people go out from our congregation on Saturday mornings while many others are praying. Each one is doing his part unto the Lord.

Whether you are a professional or a laborer—whatever your position is—do everything unto the Lord. When a husband loves his wife, he loves unto the Lord. Parents who love their children do it unto the Lord.

If we love God, we will want to spend time with Him and to respond to His initiations. But He is here only through the Holy Spirit, through the Father and the Son living inside of us (John 14:23; Romans 8:11). That is why we come to be a part of the corporate Body of Christ, as members in particular. And we serve as unto the Lord, not as a duty, nor as an emotional response. We do it as unto the Lord.

Psalm 37:23 tells us that God ordains the steps of those who have His righteousness. If we have something that another person honestly

needs, God may ordain him to be in our path today so that we can do something for Jesus. We do not do it through works but through the motive of love, in the channel of grace, in the communion of mercy, and in the light of God's Word.

We are on earth for His purpose. We are on earth for His pleasure. We are on earth for His honor. Each day Jesus says to us, "I will ordain your steps today. And, if you will let Me, I will bless you with My thoughts today (see 2 Corinthians 10:4)." He says, "You will have My mind. You will walk in My steps."

**Other booklets that define this process are Breaking Carnal Connections and Defining the Warfare against Relationships, both by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 2001.*

Chapter Three

THE FATHER'S PLEASURE, THE FATHER'S GLORY

As Christians, we have the Creator of all things living in us. And spiritually, a Christian who keeps being filled with the Holy Spirit and studies the Word of God is eternally intellectual. That means, he loves Jesus and lets the Word of God dwell richly in him. He teaches and admonishes others with love while he sings with grace in his heart to the Lord. Whatsoever he does, he does in the name of Jesus, unto the Father, by Him. The Holy Spirit teaches him so that he can have a ministry that reaches and goes forward.

In Matthew 15:36, Jesus took seven loaves and gave thanks to the Father, then He gave the bread to the disciples, who gave it to the multitude. The Greek word *eucharisteo* means to "give thanks." In the same passage we see the Greek word *didomi*, which means to give a gift volun-

tarily that will benefit the receiver. Thanking someone is gratitude, but giving him the things he needs is “thanks-giving.” God has an amazing plan to heal any unconscious wounds we as Christians may have, through Jesus Christ, who is God’s gift of thanksgiving to us through Calvary.

Jesus is not here today for us to thank Him in person, but certainly His presence is here, and He is in every believer. Still, it is precious when we begin to understand that the emphasis in thanksgiving is not in thanks, but in giving. I can give many things without love; but if I have love, I will always give. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Every time we minister, each time we witness, each time we help with someone’s physical needs, that is called thanksgiving. Jesus Christ is God’s thanksgiving gift to us. Can you see how vital this is? How can we withhold that Gift from a lost and dying world?

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

“I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

“Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

“Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:41-46).

A Very Present Help

A gentleman took care of his wife after she was in a terrible accident. She was twenty-three. They loved each other dearly, and they had a wonderful marriage. One day she asked him to pick up something from the store. While he was in the store, someone broke into the house, shot the woman to death, and robbed the house. Her husband came home to find her.

I went to visit the man and he was sobbing uncontrollably. He said, “We were both Christians. Why did God do this?”

“God didn’t. That wicked person did it. God

gives us free volition. God didn't do it," I said. "You need time to be healed. You are going to mourn, and you will have this grieving time. But God will comfort you and love you. He will hold you when you cry, and He will understand in the middle of the night when you miss your wife. He is very tender, and He will—in time—heal you."

This man came through so beautifully. We never forget our loved ones, and we miss them greatly. Yet, in spite of his heartache, He met with me three times a week, always saying, "Just give me some more Scriptures. Give me more Scriptures. Say some of those things that you have told me before. I have got to hear them."

Later, he became a pastor, and he began to serve people in the most gracious way. Inasmuch as we do something unto the least, we do it unto Christ. There is a joy that comes to us when we minister to somebody's needs and somebody's wounds and somebody's hurts. There is a balm inside of us that heals the wounds of people. It comes through the love of God.

The Joy of the Lord

Keep this in mind: God is extremely patient. He understands the times when you need to be healed. He understands your wounds and your hurts. Being hurt isn't a sin. God sees that as a need—a time for Him to enter into thanks by giving you what you need.

Jesus had so much joy. It made Him so happy to say to the woman who was a prostitute, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has made you whole" (see Luke 7:47-50).

Consider how happy Jesus was when the woman with the issue of blood received her healing just by touching Him. She had a blood disease that made her an outcast, untouchable. She wasn't supposed to be out in public, but she went to him and touched Him in the midst of the multitude—and He stopped (Luke 8:45-46).

There was God Almighty stopping and asking, "Who touched Me?"

Peter said, "We've all been pressing against You."

But Jesus said, "You don't understand, Peter. Somebody has touched Me because of a need." He knew it because virtue went out of Him.

Trembling, the woman came forward and

said, "I touched You, and I was healed that second."

Virtue went out of Him because of His life of thanksgiving for the Father.

Jesus said, "He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I always do those things that please Him" (see John 8:29). Romans 15:3 says, "Even Christ pleased not Himself." He was here for the Father's pleasure, for the Father's glory. He is our healing balm.

CONCLUSION

Oh, I hope that we understand these words: *We are not our own!* We are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are here for the Father's glory. We are here for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11). Let us continue to live in a spirit of glorifying God. Bring pleasure to Him with thanksgiving, supplying others with what they need.

Consider this: Jesus Christ bottles our tears (Psalm 56:8), He numbers our steps (Job 14:16), and He numbers the hairs on our head (Matthew 10:30). If Jesus is that intimate with us, certainly He can keep track of the times we have given a cup of cold water. He notices each time we share His healing balm with someone in need. He records the moment, because we did it unto Him, forever.