

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

A Teaching on the Spiritual Roots of Disease

The Ministry of Pastor Henry Wright

When I began a ministry in the early 80's, I was part of a church that believed that God did get involved in people's lives, and that there was something happening between conversion and heaven. But even in that church of over 1500 people, coming week after week, the elders anointing them with oil, praying the prayer of faith, fasting and prayer, and standing on the Word, people were not getting well from incurable diseases.

I observed that as I crossed America, regardless of denomination, regardless of the church, less than 5% of all of God's people (forget about the world) were getting healed of their diseases. It is even worse than that today. I don't know if you have ever been prayed for because of a disease and didn't get well. If you went before God and believed Him, believed that He loved you and He would heal you and it didn't happen, that is a staggering attack on your faith and your trust in the living God.

Scripture tells us that God loves us, that He came and died for us in the person of the Lord Jesus. He healed the people of their diseases, cast out all their evil spirits. The disciples did it, the 70 did it, and the early church did it. Then we entered into a Dark Age of time from which I don't think we have ever recovered.

When I began a ministry, I wanted to know why God said in Psalms 103:3 that He not only forgave us of all our iniquities but He healed us of all our diseases. In the Old Testament they raised people from the dead, people were healed, and many other miracles were done. In the New Testament, I found that we had a new and better covenant. In 3 John: 2 it says, *"Dearly beloved I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers."*

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, we're told *"May the God of Peace sanctify you **wholly** in **spirit**, in **soul**, and in **body**."* Well, I didn't see much sanctification of the body, I didn't see much sanctification of the soul and I found little sanctification of God's people in holiness. You know I am sure every one in here is holy by faith but I have found that God's people struggle with the things of life. Paul did. Read Romans 7:14 to the end of the chapter. You'll find he had a major struggle with his own spirituality. In fact, he said he had **sin that dwelt within him**.

When I began to become involved with people, getting involved in their lives, I prayed for people, and I believed God would heal them. Less than 5% of anyone I prayed for got well. I preached a gospel that got people saved and got them to heaven, but left them stranded between conversion and heaven. Would that be the gospel I would preach? Would I come up with a doctrine that would establish it? It would be easy to say, "Sorry no help for you, no hope for you." But in my heart, the Scriptures I read seemed to indicate differently.

I went to God one day and I said, "You'd better talk to me, Boss, because if you have called me to represent You to Your people, and to those yet unsaved, You'd better show me a little more fruit. If it's not happening, You'd better tell me why or else I'm going to

go back into sales and marketing. I'll go to church, I'll love you, I'll be a good Christian, I might even be a deacon, but you can forget about me speaking for You if my words are not being honored because that is fraud."

In James 1:5 the Bible says - if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God and God will give it to him liberally - and upbraid him not because he has the audacity to ask God for a little information. I went before God in the early 1980's and God began to show me His truth about disease from the Scriptures. It wasn't that He *could not* heal. It was that we had to become sanctified in certain areas of our lives before He *would* heal. **Diseases in our lives are the result of a separation from Him and His word in specific areas of our lives.** God would have had to become double minded, would have had to become evil in condoning evil, in order to bless us in our sins. Except for those times when He would "have mercy on whom He would have mercy," (Exo. 33:19; Rom. 9:15) disease was an issue to do with circumcision of the heart.

A lot of people struggle with the supposed "gaps" between the Gospels, the book of Acts and the other Epistles. After Acts, there is little further discussion about healing and deliverance. Thus some have said, "Well it passed away because you don't find it." "Healing was only for Christ or the disciples and not for us." I struggled with that. I'll be honest with you.

One day my eyes were opened and I saw something and I have never looked back from the ministry God set before me.

The Lord came and He demonstrated the love of God and power over the devil, over sin, and disease. He demonstrated it in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and His disciples and the early church also demonstrated it in Acts. Then, from Romans all the way through Jude, you will find the Scriptures teaching us about sanctification. You can't have Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts until you have dealt with Romans to Jude. You cannot expect God to bless us if we are separated from Him in an area that needs to be dealt with. I like to say it this way; **"We have been taught so much about God's promises and not much about His Spirit of discernment and the consequences of sin."**

If somebody came to me as a pastor with simple arthritis, and asked me to pray for them, I would say, "No, I'm not going to do it." If they said, "but the Word says to come before the elders and be anointed with oil and be prayed for" I responded, "No, I've been there, done that!" Do you know how many times I'd prayed for people with arthritis in the past? None of them were healed. I quit praying for them; it was a waste of my time.

But one day God opened my heart. I was ministering in 1985, when five ladies came up to me. Each of them had arthritis. Two of the ladies had gnarly disfiguration. I said to them, "You know there is a responsibility before God for healing."

I want to tell you, healing, and things you get from God, to a degree, are conditional to your obedience. I am not into legalism. I'm into grace and mercy. **But I want to tell you that with freedom comes a degree of responsibility.**

As you study through this teaching, I'm going to touch the very fabric of your lives. If you're interested in your lives and your families' lives, this is a good time to listen. I'm going to sow seed. Just as the rain comes down and waters the crops and returns to the clouds, the Bible says the Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). I'm going to seed (plant) **KNOWLEDGE** into your life.

The knowledge I have is not only accurate scripturally, but it's also accurate medically. Coast to coast in America, I deal with disease. A number of doctors consult with our ministry regarding their own lives. Doctors across America call me, and I consult with them about their patients. I have doctors who send me their patients by phone and consult with me about the spiritual roots of disease.

I sense the tide shifting across broad denominational lines. Our ministry is a trans-denominational ministry. What is a trans-denominational ministry? It is one that believes that in spite of denominations, God is still on the throne. The Lord Jesus is still the Word that came in the flesh, and the Holy Spirit is still on the earth today - *One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism, until we come into the unity of faith.* (Ephesians 4:5, 13).

If I stumble over your sacred cows of theology, I'm sorry, it's not in my heart to do that even unintentionally. I ask you to thoughtfully listen to what I have to say. You'll find that what I have to say may bear witness and answer a lot of your questions.

I told the five ladies with arthritis that there would be a condition to their healing. I asked them to think about the people who have injured each of them in their lifetime, either through word or deed. Someone who didn't treat them right, victimized them, lied about them, abused them, either emotionally, physically, verbally, or maybe even sexually.

I asked them, "When you think of their name, or their face, whether they're living or dead, what do you feel? Do any of you have that high-octane ping going off?" They all said, "Yes, there is somebody I have not had resolution with." There was bitterness and unforgiveness. I told them that in exchange for your healing, you are going to have to get that right with God right now or else we are wasting our time. You're going to have to forgive that person.

The scriptures say, in Matthew 6:15: *"If you from your heart do not forgive your brother his trespass, your Father which is in heaven will not forgive you yours."* Has anyone ever read that Scripture? Do you think it is there just for the fun of it? Do you think it is a situational scripture that only applies to some and not to all?

People ask me, "Pastor, does God forgive all manner of sin?" NO, but He wants to. That's His nature. He said He does in 1 John 1:9: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

How, then, do you resolve the Scripture in 1 John 1 with the other one in Matthew that says, *"If you from your heart do not forgive your brother his trespass, your Father who is in heaven will not forgive you yours"?*

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any many should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

When you take a good look at these Scriptures you'll find that, yes; you can go to heaven with sin because it is by faith we're saved, not by works. But the consequences of unforgiveness may bind you to a disease that is the result of this sin of bitterness and unforgiveness.

Christians for the most part, believe we are saved by grace and by faith. But because you are born again and because your spirit has become alive in God, does not mean you have resolved the consequences of the sin issue in your life. Otherwise, we wouldn't need sanctification, would we?

I told these five ladies that an exchange would happen for their obedience. I said, "If you, from your heart, will forgive that person of their trespasses, sincerely, whether you feel like it or not, I'm going to ask God to heal you. But, if you just do it because you want the healing for selfish reason and you are using this kind of like a mechanism, or a system, or a mantra, we're still wasting our time." The Bible says, "If you, from your head" ... from your spirit, forgive.

"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." (Eph. 6:6)

"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one of his brothers their trespasses." (Matt. 18:35)

Your head might still be pitching a fit about what they did to you because that's in your memory. The Bible says, *"As many who are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* (Romans 8:14)

Are you being led by your psychology (soul), or is the Spirit of God leading you? Who lives within your human spirit and makes you sons and daughters of God? Are you being led by the Spirit of God, or by the intellect and by other thoughts? I ask the question because it's an important question.

I led them into a prayer of repentance and forgiveness. I am here to tell you that when I finished the prayer, I looked up to them and said, "How's your arthritis doing?" All of a sudden, it dawned on them they had no more pain. Fingers had straightened, the pain was gone, and all five ladies stood there totally freed from crippling arthritis and its pain. *I never ministered healing one time.*

When they met the conditions of HIS nature, He was there to heal. That's the reason I am not too impressed by (and I say this carefully) healing crusades that don't take into account that disease may be a result of sin that has not been dealt with.

I don't know if you are aware of this but **fear is a sin**. Fear is a sin. Fear is the #1 plague of America, and it's the #1 plague of the world. Fear of tomorrow, fear of death, fear of man, fear of dying, fear of disease, fear of mother-in-laws, fear of your neighbor, fear of yourself. We are a people of God who are in bondage. We're paying an incredibly high price. God's people are being sent back into the world for help, when the answer is waiting in His Word to set you free.

I am more interested in getting you into a better life, not just getting you into heaven. The Lord's Prayer says: *"Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven."* When I read 3 John 1:2, it was over for me: *"Dearly beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers."* **God's perfect will is not to heal you. God's perfect will in the Word is that you don't get sick.** In Deuteronomy 28, God has promised, if we are obedient to him, that none of the diseases of Egypt will fall upon us.

"...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exo. 15:26) (See also Deut. 28:1-14)

Editor's Note: Deuteronomy 28:60 makes mention of the diseases of Egypt coming upon us because of disobedience: *"Moreover, He will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee."*

Newsweek magazine, in an article in 1990 called "The Power To Heal", said: *"The fate of the spirit is relegated to religious specialists who have little to say about their followers' physical well being."* Most pastors in America today don't understand diseases. They don't understand disease and they don't understand psychological problems. They know how to get you born again. They know how to balance a budget. They know how to visit hospitals, marry people and bury the dead. But they don't know what to do with disease. So they'll send you out into the street to an unregenerate, unrenewed, heathen who is a specialist in a disease and maybe even call them the anointed of God.

In the Old Testament, if somebody had leprosy and later said they were clean, to whom were they sent to determine if they were healed? The priest! The New Testament says, if there be any sick among you, call who? The Elders of the Church. (James 5:14) *If I have anything to do with it in my lifetime, I intend to bring the pastoral ministry back to where God wanted it from the beginning.* The way that happens is if God is honoring what ministers are teaching by healing diseases as the Word is applied to the lives of the people.

Last year, I taught in a Baptist church in Houston. A member of that church had been healed of multiple chemical sensitivity. She had not been able to go to church for over 20 years. She was isolated, could only eat 2 to 4 foods, suffered from electromagnetic sensitivity, chronic fatigue syndrome, and multiple allergies. God healed her. He healed all the peripheral diseases around MCI/EI (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity - Environmental Illness). That little Baptist church is really rocking because she is back singing in the choir every Sunday. They asked me to come and teach on roots of disease and so I got behind their nice Baptist pulpit and taught. I came back again that evening and taught for another 2 hours on the spiritual roots of disease and the consequences of sin.

The next morning they brought a lady to me privately that had cancer of the lung and cancer of the bone. She had been to all the doctors and had all the bone scans and X-rays. She was the mother of two children. Because I knew the spiritual root of her disease, I just kind of laid it out. This is your disease; this is what I see. It took about 3

seconds and she was bawling like a baby. I had touched her pain. I had touched her spiritual dynamics. God opened her up with discernment and I put my hand right on that thing that had been festering for years, causing eventual destruction of the two parts of her immune system that protect us from cancer, called anti-oncogenes. When those enzymes are destroyed in our bodies, the cell is compromised and cancer cell mitosis can begin at any time.

I told her, "I don't know what God's going to do but I do know you are going to have to get right with God in this area of your life." She said, "Pastor, I've known that all the time but I just couldn't get to there, I just couldn't get over it." I said, "Would you like to go there and get over it?" She said, "Yes." We led her into a place before the Lord and before the Father, a place of soul searching, a place of repentance, a place of getting right with God. I just ministered to her and broke the power of the spirit of death, that power of cancer, and commanded his power to be broken.

Thirty days later, I got a phone call. She had been back to the doctor and had bone scans and X-rays. There was no evidence of lung cancer or bone cancer.

Her pastor has already sent me two letters, asking me to train his deacons, train his teams. He was ready to start taking a new kind of care of his sheep, **a more excellent way**. He said, "Pastor, thank you for coming and allowing the Lord to speak through you about the connection between sin and disease."

See, we think sin is robbing banks, we think sin is maybe prostitution, we think sin is maybe lying and stealing. Would you consider fear to be sin? Would you consider bitterness to be sin? Would you consider self-hatred to be sin? Would you consider these things to be sin? The Word says it is. I think certain sins have become socially acceptable. We are paying too high a price for these areas of unrecognized sin in the area of disease.

About 30% of all cancers have a spiritually rooted component. I specialize in cancer to some degree, but I don't have all the answers. We are very familiar with uterine, ovarian, breast, and prostate cancers. We know exactly why they happen. In the section on the spiritual roots of disease I will go into this in detail.

About 80% of all the diseases of mankind have a spiritual root with various psychological and biological manifestations. I am not a doctor. I am not a psychologist. I do not mix psychology with ministry. I am a servant of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. No man has taught me, but He has taught me.

Spiritually Rooted Disease

Spiritually rooted disease is the result of separation on three levels:

1. Separation from God, His Word and His love.
2. Separation from yourself.
3. Separation from others.

1. Separation from God, His Word and His love.

Mankind is diseased because first of all we are separated from God and His word and His truth and His love and that includes members of His church. You know how many of

the wonderful believing saints I talk to are not sure God loves them? They had an earthly father that did not represent God their Father in their life. God the Father is now guilty by association. He's a mean, bad dude.

Religion teaches that God the Father is sitting on the throne with lightning bolts waiting to strike you dead if you're bad today. That's not what I read in scripture. Our God is a loving God who says, "God is love" (1 John 4:16) and *"For God so loved the world that He gave."* (John 3:16) Jesus said, *"You've seen Me, you've seen the Father."* (John 14:9)

I like to have a little fun with religion. I love relationship, but to me religion is a killer. I try to bring people into that place of healing - that place of receiving. You see, healing doesn't ultimately come from Jesus. It comes from the Father. Jesus says, *"I only do the things I saw My Father doing. I only say the things I heard My Father saying."* (John 8:38). James 1:17 says: *"All good things come down from The Father of Lights where there is no variableness of turning."* Psalms 68:19 says, *"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits...the Lord of our salvation."*

I get a real kick out of these "Jesus is Lord" signs on churches. I wondered what happened to the Father. He's not Lord? The Lord's prayer says: *"Our Father who art in heaven."* (Matt. 6:9-13) Jesus said, in John 16:23, *"In that day you will ask Me nothing, but you will pray the Father in My name and He shall give you what you ask."* I like to see these "Jesus is Lord" signs, but I'd like to see "Father is Lord" just above it. Jesus said, *"My Father and I are One, but He is greater than I."* (John 14:28) The order of the Godhead and the government of God is first, the Father; second, the Word that came in the flesh as Jesus; and third, the Holy Spirit.

2. Separation from Yourself

Do you know how many people do not like themselves? Do you know how many people struggle with self-hatred, lack of self-esteem and guilt? It's a massive plague. How can you not love yourself if God loves you? He's greater than you are. He who is greatest and holiest of all, God the Father, says He loves you. Under what gospel do we have the audacity to say we do not love ourselves? If we do, we make ourselves in opposition to God. We make ourselves a God unto ourselves¹ deny His statement of love, and open ourselves up to the enemy to agree with us. Instead of hearing God speaking to you by His word, and by the Holy Spirit telling you that you are loved and that you are "OK," you are going to hear this voice coming into your mind telling you how rotten, or stupid, or worthless you are.

In this ministry, we deal with many autoimmune diseases: lupus, Crohn's, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and MS, to name a few. All autoimmune diseases have a spiritual root of self-hatred or self-bitterness. Diabetes can be defeated. Lupus or rheumatoid arthritis can be defeated. All autoimmune diseases can be defeated and/or prevented.

Do you know what really irritates me? When somebody says, "That's incurable, they are just going to die anyway." Do you know what that does in my spirit? I am so grieved. That means to me that person believes that Satan and death are greater than God and the Lord Jesus and His Word. I do not agree.

Do you think God needs a disease to get you to heaven? Do you think that God needs to torment you so you can get over the great divide? Why have we become so acclimated to this kind of thinking that we have to die and move into Glory because of a disease? I think we've been had! I think we've been bewitched! I think we're following another gospel! Where did euthanasia come from, anyway?

In Psalm 90:10-12, God, through Moses, prophesied that your lifetime should be 70 to 80 years. Anything less than that is a curse. Where did this term "retirement" come from? Moses was 80 years of age before he even started his ministry.

3. Separation from Others

Separation opens the door to spiritually rooted diseases. Unforgiveness, or bitterness toward others, contributes to separation.

When you think of someone who has wronged you, do you feel it in the pit of your stomach? We need to start looking at those high-octane pings. You will always remember that individual and what they did to you, but you do not have to carry the emotions of hate, or bitterness. If you have truly forgiven them from your heart, these emotions will be gone. You will still have the memory, but God will heal the pain and so you can have victory over the situation. It doesn't need to ruin your life.

We are not only into healing, but we are into disease prevention. Would you like to avoid certain diseases in your lifetime?

Newsweek magazine Sept 24th 1990, says, "The future of medicine does not lie in the treatment of illness but in preventing it. Throughout the 20th century, medicine has advanced primary care by improving curative care. Curative care has its limits. Psycho-immunology, (the science that deals with the mind's role in helping the immune system to fight disease) will become a vitally important clinical field in the 21st century. Perhaps this will be the most important medical field, supplanting our present emphasis on oncology and cardiology. Healthy thinking may eventually become an integral aspect of treatment for everything from allergies to liver transplants and prevention of disease."

Family trees are a very important diagnostic tool. Behavior and health problems tend to repeat themselves. We see patterns that repeat from mothers and fathers to their children. This is true in both biological and spiritual disease. Ex. 20 teaches about the sins of the father being passed on to the third and fourth generation. Psychologists also have told us that certain personality characteristics and behaviors, such as rage, anger, or molestation, roll over to the next generation(s).

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." (Exo. 20:5) (See also Deut. 5:9)

Would you like to prevent disease in your children? Do you think it's possible? That would be **a more excellent way**.

When I get involved with people, people who are about to be married, I look at the family trees from both sides to see what we're bringing into this family package. If we

don't deal with what's happened in the family tree, and if you don't deal with what's in your personal lives, your children will inherit your curses.

If you want to do something for our children; let's go before God and get our lives straightened out so that we can break the power of sin so genetically inherited diseases no longer exist. In our ministry, nationally, we have documented evidence of genetic code changes. When a disease was diagnosed through the genetic investigation by an oncologist, after ministry and healing, the genetic pattern had changed and no longer could this person have that specific disease again. Do you think that's possible?

Are we just going to go on this toboggan ride from generation to generation and do nothing about it? Look into your families and you will see some of the same diseases, personality traits, and characteristics of relationships repeating; mothers and daughters not getting along, fathers and sons fighting with each other. Broken relationships of some kind are passed along until someone decides that is enough and breaks the cycle.

In an article in *USA Today*, a number of women were asked: "Where do you go when you are sick? Who do you talk to?" About 50% of all women said that their primary care doctor is their main source of health care information. The other half reported as follows: 24% of all women learn about their problems and solutions from magazines and newspapers; the other 7% from TV and radio; another 5% from a relative or a friend; another 5% from self-help books; 4% from school courses and 2% from a pharmacist.

Not even in a fraction of a percentage is a pastor ever mentioned. Yet God is the Creator. He is our Savior. He is our healer and He is our deliverer and if He created us, He knows what's wrong with us! Would we dare go there and ask Him to reveal that to His children? I have; I'm just foolish enough to believe He will answer me. Or smart enough.

I am not against doctors but I believe, in our ignorance and our separation from God, that we've asked the medical community to do something they are not qualified to do - that is to pastor us and deal with spiritual issues. I don't find anywhere in Scripture, especially in Ephesians 4, where a doctor and a psychologist are considered to be a gift from the Lord Jesus to us. I have found the five-fold ministry mentioned which includes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are a gift to the body, but I did not find doctors or psychologists.

These two professions are many times the result of the failure of the Christian Church and its leadership to execute its scriptural mandate in pastoral care.

Psychologists have become the pastors of America, and God does not anoint them to be such. We have asked our medical community to be our healers of spiritual diseases, and they are not qualified. That's why allopathic medicine is failing. The medical community does not know the etiology of over 80% of all diseases. If they don't know the cause, how can they cure disease? They can't. The best they can do is a little management of the disease with drugs that often have terrible side effects.

Because the church has failed in this area, people are running to alternative and New Age modalities of management. But these too are failing, because again they only offer "management" of the disease. People are beginning to come back to the Church and the Church should have the answers.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and power in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." (Eph. 3:10)

I head up a ministry that has people coming from coast to coast; 45% of the people seeking help are unchurched and unsaved. I have them coming in the back door, "Pastor, can you help?" The world is turning the corner, coming back to God, but the church is turning the corner away from God. *I think it is time to let God be God in our midst with understanding and discernment.*

In our Ministry Brochure there is a statement that is worth repeating:
The true etiology of many diseases reveals an often overlooked, spiritual dimension. This dimension, more often than not, goes unaddressed by the afflicted, their health care providers, and even their spiritual leaders.

MY PURPOSE AND INSIGHT

Disease prevention, not disease management is my goal. My parents were ministers. I'm a third generation spiritual leader. I grew up with the knowledge that God heals because of my mother's miraculous healing.

My mother was dying with fibro sarcoma cancer, fast growing and fatal, which had wrapped around her jugger vein. Just two months after my birth, she was dying. She was paralyzed. Masses of cancer had grown around her jugger vein and up into the base of her brain; they were up and down her whole neck area. She made a Hannah type covenant that if God would heal her, she would raise me, Henry, in the knowledge of God.

In this private moment of prayer while others were praying for her, God healed her instantly. When checked by the doctors, they were amazed to find no evidence of cancer. No medical treatment had been given and yet the masses of cancer were gone, evaporated. Even more remarkable, *her healing broke a pattern*, a genetic curse from her past. You see, her mother had died of cancer within 2 months of giving birth to her. With this curse defeated, my mother lived another 33 years.

In my later years, you noticed I said, "Later years" ... I dedicated my life to God and the study of the Scriptures. The Bible says, "Teach a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he shall not depart from it." (Prov.22: 6)

The Scriptures seemed to indicate that the Lord wanted to heal *all* of our diseases:
"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." (Ps. 103:3)

Yet I observed that only a small percentage of people have ever defeated incurable diseases, including those that looked to churches for their healing.

I understood the frustration of Carl Jung as he observed his minister father preach a gospel that offered no solutions for the diseases of the soul and the body. Today's psychology is the fruit of that frustration as an attempt to manage the diseases of the soul through therapy and drugs. I observed the church, religions, alternative medicine, spiritual groups, allopathic medicine, chiropractic, and eastern mysticism, trying to decrease the effects of disease through various methods. **In the end, all I really ever saw was disease management.**

I want to say something to you; the best you have going for you in American medicine are HMO's. The insurance industry recognizes that disease is on the increase and they're going to cut their cost, cut their risk for the benefit of the stockholders, and you're going to pay the price. They are going to pay what they want to pay for your medical care, and no more. **I suggest that there is a more excellent way.**

I did a seminar in New York City, held in an off Broadway theater that was donated to our ministry for two days. In my audience was a doctor from New York and at the end of two days he came up to me and said, "Pastor, I am a member of the medical community here in NYC. I have been here listening to you for two days. When you say that disease management is the best that the medical community can offer, you have been very generous to our industry. *The best we could only hope to achieve is disease management.* It would be good if we could do that."

National statistics from the past two years show that with all modalities with treatment for cancer including surgery, chemotherapy, vitamins, supplements, and all the various types of therapies, the average life extension was only one year. That one year of prolonged life came at great expense and with tremendous pain and suffering."

I don't know about you, but when I read Psalms 103:3, it said the Lord not only forgave us of all our iniquities but He heals us of all our diseases." It doesn't say: "He helps us manage all our diseases."

Let me say something to you; I couldn't heal a fly with a toothache. I don't have any powers; I'm just a shepherd. I'm not a healer; I'm just a guide. I know He who is God, and I know His word. As a minister, I cannot teach a gospel that makes God less than *omnipotent*. I have to hold out for that. I also have to hold out that God is *omniscient*. He knows everything; He knows the past, the present and the future. I also have to hold out that He is *omnipresent*. He's available world wide, all the time, everywhere.

The fourth area that I have to hold out for is something you have probably not heard a lot about; **God is also omniscient**, all creative, ever able to fix that which needs to be fixed. *Being omniscient makes Him magnificent.* King of Kings and Lord of all lords. He is God of all gods. He is the Creator of all flesh. He is the sustainer of all of mankind. He is in love with you and I am in love with Him. I hope you are too!

Over the years, God has shown me many insights into why mankind has disease. **It is not that God cannot heal you, or that He doesn't want to. The problem is that man does not understand disease.** We have gone into captivity and are perishing either because of lack of knowledge or just no knowledge at all. In Isaiah 5:13, God said to the prophet Isaiah, *"My people have gone into captivity because they have no knowledge.*

Hell hath enlarged itself and swallowed them up into all of their fame into the depth of hell." He is not talking about heathen. He is not talking about Gentiles. He's talking about MY PEOPLE, called by My Name, set aside by My covenant. My people in the earth are going into captivity because they have no knowledge. In Hosea 4:6, the prophet says:

"My people perish because of lack of knowledge." So whether it's lack of knowledge or no knowledge, *"We have become like sheep who have gone astray, each of us according to our own ways."* (Is. 53:6) We would like to make sure we change that, if we can.

My investigation over the years, from the Scriptures and practical discernment, has unearthed many spiritual roots and blocks to healing. **In fact, the basic principles that, when applied, will move the hand of God to heal, are the same principles that, when applied, will prevent disease.**

The very same principles that you can apply in your life to move the hand of God to sustain you, to heal you, and to deliver you - if you start applying them now in your life (even if you don't have a disease) - will keep you from getting that disease in your lifetime.

Remember Deuteronomy 28 and Exodus 15:26 - because of our obedience to God in His Word and our fellowship with Him in the covenant, He will put none of the diseases of Egypt upon us. *That is a valid promise even today. Now either we are going to continue in promise or we're going to teach bondage.*

God's Perfect Will is Not to Heal You. His Perfect Will is That you Don't Get Sick.
Today, I stand 100% not for disease management but for disease eradication and prevention on a regular basis if at all possible.

Jeremiah 3:14-15: *"Turn, oh backsliding children, saith the Lord. For I am married unto you and I will take you one of a city, two of a family, and I'll bring you to Zion. I will give you pastors according to my heart which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."* It is my prayer that you will and could receive this. As a Pastor, I consider this to be my ministry, and a gift to you. I desire to feed you with knowledge and understanding.

II Tim 2:24-26 says: *"A servant of the Lord must not strive, must be gentle unto all men, patient, apt to teach in meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves. that God per adventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth that they may recover themselves from the snare of the devil. Having been taken captive by the devil at his, the devil's, will."*

In this teaching I can give you enough information and enough knowledge that you will be able to come before God, so that the work of sanctification, healing and deliverance could begin for you and your loved ones, your friends or your families. *Remember I told you my purpose is to sow seed - to leave behind a foundation for God, by His Spirit, according to the Word of God and according to knowledge that's available both from the science community and from the Word. My purpose is to bring you to a place where you may recover yourself from the snare of the devil.*

The other day someone said, "Pastor, I believe God gave me my disease. I'm closer to Him because of it." I had someone else say, "Well, I just believe my disease is from God, it just teaches me how to be humble. It's my thorn in the flesh; His grace is sufficient for me." Could be, but I asked him if he was going to a doctor. He said, "Oh, yes." I asked, "Why are you going to a doctor?" He said, "So I can get well." I said, "You hypocrite! How dare you interfere with God's will in your life by going to a doctor?"

I was ministering in a Church of Christ in southern Maine many years ago and the head deacon came up to me after the service. It had been a powerful service that lasted 3 _ hours. This deacon had injured himself. He was moaning, groaning, and complaining and I said, "Would you mind if I pray for you? Maybe God would heal you of that pain." He said, "Oh no, brother, I don't want any prayer, this pain reminds me of the sufferings of Christ, what He did for me on the cross. It is a constant reminder of what He did for me." I looked at him and said, "Suffer on brother!"

I think that sometimes we create theologies based on our lack of knowledge. **The beginning of all healing of spiritually rooted diseases begins when you make your peace with God, and accept His love once and for all, accepting yourself and accepting others.** Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "*You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and all thy might and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Leviticus 19:18 says -- ...but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord." And then again it says in Matthew 22:37-40: "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*"

If you do not love yourself, you cannot love your neighbor. You may pretend you do. If you do not love yourself, than you cannot love your neighbor because you are unable to receive their love.

People's inability to give and receive love today is a tragedy. If somebody were to come up to you, give you a big hug, give you a million dollars, and say you were the best thing since peanut butter, could you receive that? Could you receive it without feeling guilty?

We have been so tragically victimized in the family that it is amazing we are even here today. **The failure in all family problems begins with the man.** The salvation of all family begins with the salvation of the father and husband in the home. God did not create woman to be the spiritual leader of the home. He created the man. The Bible says the head of the woman is the man. The head of the man is Christ and the head of Christ is the Father.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." (Eph. 5:22-24)

Many women today are having real problems. Eighty five to ninety percent of my caseload nationally is female. God has used me to heal more females than you can

imagine. God's first ministry is to the fatherless and the widows; not to how many scriptures you can read in your Bible today (even though that is important to be in the Word to build your faith). James 1:27 says: *"Pure religion, undefiled is this: that you shall visit the fatherless, take care of the widows and keep yourself unspotted from the world."* That is sanctification. Pure religion is where you begin taking care of the fatherless, taking care of the widows and keeping yourself unspotted from the world.

I deal with many people whose fathers are still alive but they are fatherless. I deal with many women whose husbands or ex-husbands are still alive, and yet they are spiritual widows. The fallout and the diseases that have come upon us because of these sins are of great magnitude.

I think the world will come to a well church faster than it will come to a sick church. There's more to salvation than saving your proverbial butt from hell. The gospel message includes day by day blessings. I believe that it's God's will that He blesses people.

Faith vs. Fear

Many people struggle with faith. Maybe you're sick, you have a disease have been told you don't have enough faith. Maybe you have been listening to these people teach that you need to do something to get more faith.

The Bible says in Romans 12:3: *"To every man and woman has been given a measure of faith."* You have enough faith. You could always pray, "Lord, increase my faith," however, you have enough if you only believe. You're going to have to determine the difference as to whether you're following God from your head or your heart.

If we follow God out of our head, we're all in trouble. My poor head pitches a fit most of the time. If I didn't have the Word of God down in my spirit, mixed with faith by the Holy Spirit that lives within me, my life would be a wasteland. My poor head pitches a fit with the Word of God sometimes.

We need to be continually renewed by the washing of the water of the Word (Cor. 4:16, Eph. 5:26, Col. 3:10). Romans 10:17 says: *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."*

In Hebrews 11:1 we're told; *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence not yet seen."* Do you have hopes? Is everybody here hopeless? Do you have something burning on the inside that represents hope about something in your life, about you or somebody else? Do you? Then you have faith, because faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. If it's already come to pass, do you need hope? Do you need faith?

I was hungry this morning; I am no longer hungry. I ate. I no longer need hope or faith regarding my lunch. I am dreaming about dinner.

Fear is the substance of things **not** hoped for, the evidence **not** yet seen. Do you know how many of God's people are in "fear faith;" not real faith? You may be in fear faith and think it's real faith but if you were in real faith, you wouldn't have the problem unless you

didn't understand why you had the problem. I deal with fears such as phobias, paranoia, delusions, projections, anxiety, panic, panic attacks, phobic realities, agoraphobia, claustrophobia, and mother-in-law phobia.

Fear projects into the future. Faith also projects into the future, does it not? Fear involves projection, number one, and then displacement, which is avoidance. God has taught you in the word of the Old Testament all the way through the New Testament that you do *not* run from an enemy. When you study the warfare garments in Ephesians, there isn't anything for your backside! You don't run from an enemy in your life, and you don't hide from your mother-in-law. You don't hide from your enemy. You don't hide from fear of disease. You don't hide from your disease. You don't go disappear down inside.

It's time for you to come up and take your place in the land of the living once and for all because what's the worst that can happen to you anyway. You can die and go to heaven, so what's your problem? What are you afraid of?

In the Church, we sometimes attack each other too. That's an autoimmune disease! The sign out in front of your church, the one you see as you walk in the front door, says, "Hallelujah, Love One Another." You'll know them because of the love they have one for another. In Isaiah 58, the people of God were saying: "Hallelujah Lord, we love you. You are our Father and You have redeemed us from Egypt.

Yes, we come and we worship You with the songs of David, and we come before You, and yes, You are our Lord, our God, and we love to come, we love to pray, we love to fast, we love the law, we love, love, love but why haven't You healed us?" That's the question of God's people in Isaiah 58:1-4. Do you know what God said? "Yea, I've watched you fasting and praying, but you pray for strife and eat each other alive. I have caused My ears to become deaf to you."

What is Isaiah saying? God is saying, you want My blessings but you don't want My friends; you don't want My sons and daughters.

I was talking with somebody the other day that was kind of chewing about somebody ...you know, gossiping. I looked at them and I said, "How dare you say that about a friend of Jesus. Do you realize that person is a friend of Jesus? What do you think Jesus thinks about you talking that way about His friend."

Do you think Jesus is our friend? Do you think I have a scripture to stand on? He said, "*I no longer call you servants, I call you friends.*" (John 15:15 among many others) Friends don't talk about each other. Friends build each other up. Friends cover with love. "*Perfect love covers a multitude of sins.*" (1 Peter 4:8) In Gal 6:1, we're told "*If a brother be over taken in a fault, those of you who consider yourselves spiritual, restore such a one.*" It does not mean to stone them by sundown. "*Restore such a one in a spirit of meekness and consider yourself also, lest you be tempted in like manner and fall away in the same type of bondage.*" Verse 2, "*Bare you one another's burdens and so you thus fulfill the law of Christ.*"

My purpose is to sow seed into your hearts. Whether God gives the increase or not, I don't know. I don't know you. I don't live inside your body, you do. I don't know if you're going to get lost in the desert between Egypt and Promise or not. I'm sure going to lay some stuff on you and I'm going to bring you some insight and I'm going to bring you some discernment.

This is the first part of a seminar given by Pastor Henry Wright to Wycliffe members at Waxhaw, NC in June/July 1998. The tapes from that seminar were transcribed and edited by Art Mathias of Anchorage, AK, has been edited and is available as the book, "A More Excellent Way." Pastor Henry Wright can be contacted c/o Pleasant Valley Church, 4178 Crest Highway (74 West), Thomaston, GA 30286. Phone: (706) 646-2074 & 1-800-453-5775; the website is www.beinhealth.com. "A More Excellent Way," other books and many teaching CDs & DVDs can be ordered via their website.

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