16 - Trust and Healing

 1 Cor. 12:9

to a different one trust by the same spirit, and to another gifts of healings by the one spirit,

A definition of the manifestation of trust from the gift of Holy Spirit book is your having the confidence or trust that what God or the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to you by a message of knowledge, or a message of wisdom will come to pass at your command.

This is different from regular trust of scripture. In fact, it’s different from all the other forms of trust, faith and believing. (All three English words are translated from the same basic Greek word *pistis*, which is defined as “full persuasion of information to the end of acting on it”. Let’s discuss the different kinds of trust spoken of in the Bible.

Recently one of my wife’s car’s tires developed a slow leak. She lost trust in the car for a trip over 5 minutes. She took the vehicle to the tire shop where they fixed the tire. Now she has trust in the car and takes it all over town. This use of “trust” is the most common use. It is not solely spiritual and is based on senses information received and analyzed by our minds regarding details of our earthly life. Everybody can and does trust - about everything, every day. It’s a function of the human mind like memory or reasoning. There’s nothing special about a person “trusting”. In contrast, someone with irrational trust problems is called “paranoid” and is considered mentally ill.

Another kind of “trust” spoken of in the Bible is “full persuasion of spiritual information (like the scriptures) to the end of acting on it”. This kind of trust is the same as the first kind except that it’s object (the information which is trusted) is not senses based but spiritually based and originates from God. Let’s say I read in the scriptures…

 1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are children of God now, and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know that when it is revealed, we will be like him because we will see him just as he is.

… and I believe it. Do I walk with my head down, depressed? No, I walk around with my head held high with confidence knowing my relationship with the Creator is secure and my future will be like Christ’s. Notice that the mechanics of faith and/or trust are the same. My mind collects information, and I am confident enough to act on it. The difference is the information and its source, God, as opposed to any other source. To reiterate, the process of trust, faith, believing is the same in both kinds of *pistis*, only the source of info varies.

Let’s take an aside to discuss something that isn’t biblical faith. This is something described as “firm belief in something for which there is no proof”. I have heard religious people who have little or no evidence for what they believe say, “You have to take it by faith.” This saying is usually the last vestige of an illogical doctrine. My advice to you when you hear that is to “Run!” What is really being said is, “Shut your mind down and accept what I’m saying even though it makes no sense.” This is not *pistis* or biblical trust, or any other kind of trust. Imagine if my wife when considered her vehicle “took it by faith” and drove it anyways with a bad tire. It could go flat on the interstate floating bridge! What a mess! The Bible calls this “foolish”, as I think we can all agree.

God never tells us to shut our minds down and stop thinking! Let me ask you a question. Who do you think was the smartest person to ever live? Perhaps the answer is a tie, Adam and Jesus. Both had perfect genes. Did God ask either of them to shut down their minds and “take it by faith”? No, He asked them to trust Him. He wants us to not turn our minds off but turn them on - to Him! Trust that He is able to do what He promised. Trust demands our minds turned on, not off. We must be confident in the info we get from God about Him and then we act like it. “Blind Faith” was a nice rock band years ago, but a bad concept. WE TRUST GOD. We look to Him, at Him - not at nothing. We grow in confidence regarding the info He gives us and live it. “Take it by faith” is not a biblical, or logical concept. It’s stupid and why I’ve believed many stupid things that were taught me when I was young.

The Bible also mentions *pistis,* or trust, as a collective of those who trust God, called the “household” or “family of faith”. These are those spoken of that trust Christ for salvation and also look to him for guidance and provision daily. This moniker contrasts with those who work for salvation or righteousness. We are the “believers”, the family of *pistis*.

Now the manifestation is like the other forms of faith, but it also differs in what info is believed or trusted. The manifestation of trust focuses on revelation, not senses info or scripture. When God tells us something directly via MoK or MoW and we need to do something to help bring it to pass, He supplies the power through the manifestation of trust. Let’s look at a Bible record of Jesus operating the manifestation of trust.

 Mark 11:12—14

 And on the next day, as they were leaving Bethany, he [Jesus] was hungry.

And seeing a fig tree in the distance that had leaves, he came to see if perhaps he might find anything on it. But when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves (it was not the season for figs).

And he answered and said to it, “No one will ever eat fruit from you again!” And his disciples heard it.

This is at the end of Jesus public ministry on earth when he was cleansing the Temple from corruption. When he and the disciples were on their way back to Jerusalem the next day, Jesus confronts a fig tree in the morning. If you’re curious why Jesus expected figs on a tree that seemed to be out of season, check the REV commentary. We’ll stick to the trust relevant details. Why did Jesus curse the tree? (Why did Jesus do anything?)

 John 5:19,30, 12:49

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing, for whatever he does, the Son also does in the same way.

I am not able to do anything on my own. As I hear, I judge. And my judgment is righteous because I do not seek to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me, he has given me a command as to what to say and what to speak.

Did Jesus originate his own revelation or was he subject to God like we are? The answer is obvious – Jesus imitated God and did what he was asked and how he was led. Jesus cursed the fig tree because God gave him MoK and MoW. “This fig tree isn’t going to be productive” was the knowledge. The wisdom was to “allow something else to use the soil’s potential to be fruitful”. There are also two other reasons for this happening I can see. The first is that the fig tree was a national symbol for the nation of Israel and Jesus was seeing Israel’s lack of ‘fruit’ in Jerusalem, figuratively speaking. God then pronounces judgment on the nation (the tree), “Let’s give another plant [a people] a chance to produce fruit.” Which plant [people]? The answer is unknown because the Sacred Secret was still that – a secret.

The other reason God led Jesus to curse the tree was that his teaching time was short on earth before he would be gone. He set a great example of walking by the spirit in revelation, trust and miracles. The disciples were there to see and hear it all. After cursing the tree in the morning, he spent the day in Jerusalem confronting the “termites” that were “killing the tree of Isael”.

 Mark 11:19-22

 And whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

And as they passed by the tree in the morning, they saw that the fig tree had withered away from the roots up.

And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered away.”

 And Jesus answered and said to them, “Have trust in God.”

Trees don’t die overnight. It was a miracle because Jesus never poured acid on the roots. He simply told the tree, “You’re done!” Jesus said out loud what God had revealed to him. Peter was shaken because he knew this defied nature. Implied in Peter’s exclamation is the question, “How did that happen?” Jesus answered the unspoken question by saying “Have trust in God.” In other words, “I trusted God. When you trust God, you’ll have the same results.”

Now I’m not being contentious, just clarifying when I say that Jesus didn’t answer Peter, “Have a mind picture of what you want to receive and stay your mind on it. Picture the results you desire and believe that you’ll receive it! Anything you can conceive and believe you can achieve!” Did Jesus say that? No. Why not? Because he didn’t mean that and this type of teaching regarding this scripture is wrong. Look at the above sentences that I pretended Jesus said to Peter. What’s missing? “God” is missing. There are many in the “word of faith” movement or the “mind science” movement that confuse the psychology of mental attraction for the biblical concept of faith, trust and believing. A positive mental attitude can attract good results but cannot wither a tree overnight…or deliver a nation out of bondage as Moses did, or foretell the economic future as Joseph did, or pronounce judgment on others as Samuel did. It takes God… and His revelation...and then the trust in that revelation until it miraculously comes to pass.

The manifestation of trust is exactly what Jesus said and meant when He said, “Have trust in God”. God showed Jesus that the tree (Israel) was basically dead and God told him, “Pronounce their judgment. It’s over for them.” Jesus obediently did what God said, the tree died, and the nation started to have one foot on a banana peel and the other on the grave. In 40 years, Rome came and practically completed what Jesus pronounced.

“Trusting God” is not some ambiguous concept. “Trusting” means to trust information, remember? What information? The only logical answer is the information about a specific tree on a specific day in a specific situation. That’s MoK and MoW. We carry it out by simply trusting that which God told us it true and that it will come to pass. Jesus only had to trust God about 24 hours for that miracle. Elijah had to trust God for 3 ½ years that they’d be no rain. Moses had to trust God for almost 40 years to get Israel to the promised land. The manifestation of trust goes from the revelation all the way to its fulfillment.

How does it work? Who knows? It’s almost as if it comes with the revelation. After God tells you something, you have a choice to make, “Do I believe it or not?” If you choose to believe it, God helps you with the ability to stay your mind on what He said until the final result. You “power through” with His power. After you’re done and God’s promise is fulfilled, I have noticed a natural “let down”, a tiredness like Elijah had after the 3 ½ years of no rain passed. But the point still is that the mental ability to trust God’s revelation is powered by God also. We stay our mings and He provides the juice to bring it to pass.

 Mark 11:23

Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

Is this the power of positive thinking? Hardly. If this “trust” is considered as mental ability, it makes no sense. Our minds can’t move a pound, much less a mountain. And Jesus was probably speaking of the Mount of Olives which is between Bethany (where he was staying overnight) and Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives is half a mile high, so it’s no sand dune! Is this an example of Hyperbole or Exaggeration, a figure of speech where something is said “BIG” to make a point? No, we’re dealing with God and His ability, not ours.

 Josh. 10:12-14

Then Joshua spoke to Yahweh in the day when Yahweh gave over the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the valley of Aijalon!”

And the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation had taken vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the book of Jashar? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and did not hurry to go down about a whole day.

There was no day like that before it or after it, when Yahweh listened to the voice of a man, for Yahweh fought for Israel.

Here Joshua told the sun to not set for about a whole day. What does that mean? It means God stopped the earth from spinning for a while, or something else similarly astounding. So, what’s harder, telling a ½ mile high mountain to jump into the sea or the planet earth to stop spinning on its axis for a few hours? If God says it, that settles it. It’s silly to sell short the One who made galaxies, natural law and the periodic table. Notice that it doesn’t say that Joshua dropped dead from exertion. Why? He was operating spiritually, not physically. Obviously, God did the ‘heavy lifting’. That’s why the manifestation of trust works like this:

 God’s Job Our Job

 Gives us revelation

Say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass,

It will be done for him.

Really? Is it that simple? Of course it is or we would mess it up! We just trust the revelation He gives us and He powers it to fruition as we believe it and agree with Him.

Healing

The Gift of Holy Spirit book offers us this definition of the manifestation of gifts of healing:

“It is you exercising your God-given spiritual ability to heal by the power of God, according to what God or the Lord Jesus Christ has revealed to you by a message of knowledge or a message of wisdom”.

So far the manifestations that we’ve discussed have only two variables – us activating and God’s energizing. Healing moves us into a third variable to consider – those ministered to.

 Rom. 1:11,12

 For I long to see you so that I can impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you.

In other words, so that while I am with you, we can be mutually encouraged by each other’s trust, both yours and mine.”

In ministering to others, it takes more than our activation and God’s energizing. The one ministered to must also activate God’s power by trust. It takes mutual trust in God and the results, in this case healing. Let’s watch how Jesus heals in the middle of a crazy situation.

 Mark 9:14-18

And when they [Jesus, Peter, James and John] came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and experts in the law disputing with them.

And immediately when the entire crowd saw him, they were very excited and ran to him and greeted him.

 And he asked them, “What are you disputing with them about?”

And one person from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, who has a spirit that makes him mute,

and whenever it takes hold of him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and he becomes rigid. And I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not strong enough.”

After being transfigured at the mount of Transfiguration Jesus returns to reunite with the rest of the apostles and disciples. He walks into a situation where a man had brought his demonized son to Jesus to be healed but Jesus was absent. He then asks some of the remaining disciples to heal him and was unsuccessful. The religious leaders, sensing failure, pounce on the disciples, perhaps accusing them of hypocrisy, saying “You said, ‘God heals,’ and yet you can’t heal this poor little boy! You’re wrong, Jesus is wrong, and you’re tricking everybody! Come back to the temple!”

The father thinks that the disciples “were not strong enough” or as some versions say, “were not able”. Let me ask you, were the disciples able?

 Luke 10:1,8,9,17

Now after these things the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every city and place where he himself was about to go.

And into whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you,

and heal the sick that are in it, and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has drawn near to you.’

And the 72 returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!”

Were they able to heal and cast out evil spirits? Yes, they had already been successful, but now the power was somehow “short circuited”. Where was the disconnect?

 Mark 9:19

And he [Jesus] answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how much longer will I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

Jesus responds to the father, “You and your whole generation are infected with unbelief! I can’t wait to escape it. Bring the kid here.”

 Mark 9:20

And they brought the boy to him, and when the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into a convulsion, and after he fell on the ground he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

Holy special effects! Why did this happen? “When the spirit saw him [Jesus], immediately it threw the boy into a convulsion”. Evil spirits are experts at ‘home security’. They consider the body they inhabit to be their home and have various strategies to stay there. One method is to confuse and distract anyone who might threaten to evict them by “special

effects”. What do I mean by that? The son “fell on the ground and he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.” This will usually stop most deliverance attempts! But Jesus was not in any way the “usual” deliverer. He had trained his mind to think spiritually and to not react to irrelevant physical distractions.

 Mark 9:21,22a

And he asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “Since he was a child.”

 And often it has thrown him both into fire and into water to destroy him

Jesus didn’t walk by revelation 100% of the time. He used his physical mind and reason when he didn’t have the insight he needed from God to finish a task. What did Jesus do when he didn’t have the info he needed? Quit? No. He asked the father when the kid’s condition began. Why? He’s trying to ascertain who’s trust (or lack of it) was responsible for the “spiritual open door”. If the kid was old enough to trust God for himself, then his faith toward God was relevant. If the kid’s condition pre-dated his ability to trust God on his own, then the father’s trust toward God was where the short circuit was.

God expects trust for healing. If the person needing healing is able, they must believe God. If they are children or dead, someone can and must believe on their behalf. Yes, healing is a gift, but it must be received by trusting God. Just like the knife analogy I can’t make you accept it as a gift. You must accept it with your free will. Once again, God doesn’t force us to accept anything – even good things. Those of us with adult children know this intimately. Despite our pleading, our kids usually only accept our “gift” of advice when they’re ready for it, normally indicated by asking. Until then, we hope and pray!

So it is with healing and deliverance. Just as we saw in the first chapter of Romans, ministering works with mutual trust. Both the minister and the one ministered to must believe that God loves them and wants them healed. Jesus was asking the father questions so he could determine whose trust was lacking, the father or the son. He didn’t have to wait too long for the answer.

 Mark 9:22b,23

But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

And Jesus said to him, “What do you mean, ‘If you are able to?’ All things are possible for the one who believes.”

Here’s the problem. The father thought “If you [Jesus] are able.” Was Jesus able? Of course. There’s no question that Jesus was able… to us or to the disciples. But to the father and the rest of the crowd, there was doubt. Look at Jesus’ situation. He had a kid in convulsions in front of him, together with a doubting, accusatory father, lurking religious leaders wanting him to fail, a confused crowd, and shameful disciples who had failed to manifest the spirit. Other than that, it was a simple beautiful day!

Jesus responds to the father’s doubt by putting the onus on the one lacking, the father. The disciples who “couldn’t” heal the boy weren’t lacking, the father was, and he ‘blame shifted’ to others. He probably knew in his heart he had fallen short. That’s why he responds:

 Mark 9:24

 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe! Help my unbelief!”

What a confession! What did Jesus do? Did he say, “Get out of here, you lack of responsibility taking knucklehead.”? No. He took charge and did what God wanted.

 Mark 9:25

And when Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering around him, he subdued the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter into him again.”

Diagnosis

Jesus removed the cause of the problem, an evil spirit. Some illnesses are spiritually caused, while others are generated organically, while others are behaviorally induced.

The boy in this record picked up an evil spirit when he was younger and it had weaseled into his brain, affecting his speech, hearing and neurological system.

Now some will say that believing in evil spirits was OK for ancient man, but not for us. We’re smart! We have modern diagnostic methods the ancients never dreamed of. We have eradicated all illness and… . Oh, I’m sorry, we haven’t? We can see through skin with x-rays and through other parts of the body through MRI, CT and PET scans, but do we have an ES scan? What’s that? An “Evil Spirit Scan”. Jesus had one – and so do we! With all our modern technology, has any doctor at St. Jude’s or Children’s hospital ever scanned a kid and detected a demon gumming up a kid’s brain and threw it out, healing him immediately? Don’t think so. Diagnosing and curing are two separate things. And when you think your diagnosing is correct but it’s not leading to a permanent cure, maybe – just maybe – the diagnosis is incomplete and the cause is partially spiritually based and not only physical.

I am NOT saying that research at St Jude or the Hutch is bad. On the contrary, it’s terrific. Why? Because many illnesses are physically based. Sometimes our bodies develop with bad genes or are deprived in the womb or eat bad food or are exposed to bad stuff and get ill. Medical research, diagnosis and treatment are very valuable for those situations. They can treat physical causes with physical, chemical or surgical remedies, bringing health. But so can the manifestation of gifts of healings. One reason that the spiritual energizing of gifts of healings is so terrific is the diagnostic power of God’s omniscience. I’ll never forget the wise words of a physician who looked at an x-ray and found the cause of an illness when all others didn’t. He said, “An x-ray is only as good as the person reading it.” That’s as true in human medicine as it is in the spiritual aspect of life too. With message of knowledge and discerning of spirits, we have God’s all seeing and knowing diagnosis – better than x-rays and MRIs. With message of wisdom and gifts of healings we have God’s diagnosis, prognosis, and cure.

The healing professions – medical, chiropractic, and naturopathic physicians – therapists – pharmacists – care givers, etc. – are all terrific, and yet flawed as any honest practitioner will admit. In Jesus’s story, getting revelation on the cause of the boy’s problem, then adjusting the dad’s trust to expect healing, and then evicting the demon is better than giving the kid medication and masking the symptoms, but not addressing the cause. God’s diagnosis always addresses the cause and promotes the cure. And there are no co-pays and deductibles! Why? Because Jesus had already paid for them in full!