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**AUGUST, 2023**

**“WHY DOESN’T GOD HEAL ME?”**

I know for a fact that Jesus has given to believers the authority to heal the sick and cast out demons because I've seen him do it even through me for the past 50 years. I've seen him do it in my local church and in prisons and on the mission field - in Mexico, the Amazon, and Haiti. In a few cases I have seen things that are similar to The Book of Acts, and it thrills me to remember those things.

But there were many that I prayed for who were not healed. At present I am in a wheelchair, and I have some uncomfortable physical conditions that have not been healed. You can probably say the same thing. My daughter has MS even after much prayer. So why aren't we healed? Why do God's answers to prayer seem so random and confusing?

I don't have the answer to these questions. If I had a dollar for every time I've said "I don't understand," I would buy a nice Lear jet and fly to Hawaii.

But God does shine some light into our darkness, so let me share some helpful things from the Bible.

Jesus came into history (1) preaching the Good News, (2) healing the sick, and (3) casting out demons. These were what I call "the big three" in His ministry. In Mark, chapter 1, Jesus preached about the kingdom of God, He drove out an evil spirit from a man in the synagogue, and He healed "many who were sick." In chapter 8 it says that "When evening came many who were demonized were brought to him and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick."

Stop! If you heard that some man was down at the park healing everybody of any disease they had, you would probably strain yourself getting up and getting down to the park. Right? And that's what happened. Such great

crowds came to be healed that Jesus had to go out in a boat and preach to the multitude.

In Luke chapter 9 Jesus gave this authority to His disciples. The marvelous television series, The Chosen, has a scene where Jesus is telling the disciples that He is giving them this power. They are sitting around a table and Jesus says, "Tomorrow I'm going to send you out in teams of two to various parts of Israel and you are going to do the same things that I've been doing." Peter says, "Wait a minute Jesus, what do you mean, 'The same things.'" Jesus says, "You're going to preach as I have been doing, and you're going to heal the sick and cast out demons." The disciples stopped breathing and stared at one another. Peter said, "Hold on Jesus. you're not going with us and you want us to do what you have been doing?" "That's right," Jesus said. "I'm going to give you that power."

I'm sure nobody slept a wink that night. They were probably shaking as they marched off to their assignment the next day. But Luke 10 says that they came back dancing on air. "Jesus, you should have seen what we did! We saw people healed, and even the demons were subject to us!"

And then in Matthew 28, in Luke 16, in Mark 16, and in Acts 1 and 2 Jesus gives to us, the church, the believers, power and authority to do the things He did!

In Acts chapter 3 Peter heals a crippled beggar, and in chapter 9 he even raises a woman from the dead. In chapter 5, "The apostles performed many mighty signs and wonders among the people."

In Acts chapter 19 Luke reports that, "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them."

But something changed. In 2 Corinthians 4:20 Paul relates, "I left Trophimus sick in Miletus." Then there was Paul's own

experience. In Galatians 4, Paul writes, “As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. And I believe that if you could have done so you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.” I believe, along with many others, that Paul was referring to an eye disease that made his life and ministry very difficult and may have made him very unattractive to look at as well.

In 2nd Corinthians 12, Paul says, “I know a man who was caught up to heaven and experienced things I can’t tell you about.” (Paul is apparently referring to his Near Death Experience when he was stoned to death in Lystra, as he reported in Acts 14 and in Galatians.)

. Paul says, “There was given to me a thorn in my flesh” This may have been the eye problem that Paul talks about in Galatians, and he says, “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me but He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”

In the church today there is a group of Christians called “secessionists” who believe that all the supernatural gifts performed by Jesus and the apostles and the early church ceased at the end of the first century. They use the Scriptures quoted above to “prove” that all these supernatural gifts faded away by the end of the first century. They believe that none of these gifts - such as healing, miracles, tongues, prophecy, and casting out demons, are valid today and that anyone who attempts to do them is operating outside the authority of Scripture. These folks may be wonderful Christians, but I believe that they are mistaken - - - - refer to the first paragraph of this article.

Healings and miracles have been experienced by some part of the church in every century since Christ as church history clearly reveals. And there have been occasions such as the Azusa Street Revival and the Jesus Movement when these gifts became widespread. As I said, I have personally seen Jesus do some of these amazing things.

But if you do not believe in these things you are not going to see them. If you don't believe in healing and teach about healing you are

probably not going to see anyone healed in your church. If you don't believe that we have the power in Christ to cast out demons you are certainly not going to see that happen. If you do not believe that people are lost and that faith in Jesus Christ is the way to salvation then you're not going to see anyone saved. What you believe and what you preach and teach is what you're going to get in a church and it's what you're going to get in your life.

My friends Lynne Cumming and Fred Feller accompanied me for 30 years on mission trips. They are very anointed by the Holy Spirit and their success ratio in casting out demons and praying for healing is extremely high. I am not nearly as gifted, but I saw many people healed and set free. But in the States the percentage of people healed has not been nearly as high. Why do you think that is?

I can't explain these things, but I'm going to continue to preach about Jesus and His love and His salvation. I'm going to teach about healing and pray for the sick as I have the opportunity. And the same about casting out demons. I believe we're supposed to do what Jesus told us to do and leave it to Him to do the hidden work of saving and healing and setting people free. I encourage you to believe and to be faithful.

Some final thoughts:

- Our bodies are temporary: “Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed.” (2 Cor. 4:16) Healing is temporary.
- Whether we are healed is not contingent on whether God loves us. That question was settled when the Father sent His precious Son to die for you on the cross. You are loved with an everlasting love.
- I believe that a part of the reason for our sicknesses and pains is so that we may learn to trust Him more deeply. I hope you have memorized Proverbs 3:5:  
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

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## **IMAGINE HEAVEN - Part 3**

“Dr Samuel Long reports what 17-year-old Valerie recalled when she “died”: during surgery. ‘I remember looking at my hands and they were translucent. Then an angel appeared. She had a glow to her. She comforted me, telling me I was safe. I told her I wasn't ready to die. She said she knew that, then she pointed down and I could see the doctors doing CPR on a little girl, not understanding that it was me. I watched the whole operation, CPR and all.”

Dr Richard Eby seemed to notice more about his body. Dr Eby and his wife were helping clean out a relative's Chicago apartment. Richard leaned down against the second story railing to drop boxes down. He did not know that termites had destroyed the wood anchoring the railing. The railing gave way and Richard plunged head-first two stories to a cement sidewalk below.

Dr Eby recalls: “The eggshell of my skull completely broke apart and broke the large blood vessel in my brain. My eyes popped out. I was dead on impact. I miraculously revived in the morgue.”

While “dead” Dr Eby noticed: ‘I was the same size, the same shape as the person I had seen in the mirror for years. I was clothed in a translucent flowing gown, transparent to my gaze. In amazement I could see through my body and note the gorgeously white flowers behind me. This seems perfectly normal yet thrillingly novel. My feet were easy to see, no bifocals needed. I had instantly noted that my eyes were unlimited in range of vision - 10 inches or 10 Miles. The focus was sharp and clear.

There were no bones or vessels or organs, no blood. I noted the absence of genitals. The abdomen and chest were organless and transparent to my gaze though translucent to my peripheral vision. Again my mind which worked there in heaven with electric-like speed answered my unspoken query: ‘They are not needed. Jesus is the life here. He is the needed energy.’”

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### **Addendum:**

During the first week of August my son Chet went to his gymnasium here in Grand Junction, and he told me about a fascinating conversation he had there. He was sitting in the hot tub and was joined by a couple in their 60's. He noticed that the man had a long scar down the center of his chest and asked him what had happened to him. The man said that last year he had been helping build a house for Habitat for Humanity and fell over with a heart attack. He said he died at that time.

Chet asked him to tell him what happened. He said, ‘I experienced myself, my soul I guess, rising up in the air and looking down at my body. I saw the guys giving me CPR. Then I saw the ambulance arrive and they used paddles to start my heart again. I think I was dead for 5 minutes or more.’

Chet asked if that experience had made any difference in his life. “Oh yes, I am not such an idiot since that experience, and I don't think I'm as selfish as I was before.” His wife said, “Yes, that's true. He's different, he's a better man than he was before.”

Apparently these near-death experiences are far more common than I ever imagined. It seems that God has given a lot of people these experiences to get their attention.

If you or someone you know has had such an experience, would you send me an email and tell me about it so I can share it in my Newsletter.

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## **COUNTRY PREACHING**

I heard about a long-winded country preacher who got carried away one Sunday and went on and on. He paused to take a drink and looked at his watch. A man in the back said " Preacher, if your watch has stopped there is a calendar on the wall back here "

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## GOOD SHEPHERD VISIT

(This report is from my Semi-Ancient Files of March, 2012, eleven years ago. Since it includes another Near-Death-Experience, I thought I would share it again.)

I was very blessed to attend a missionary get-together on the week of February 20, 2012, at Good Shepherd Church in Loveland, the church I formerly pastored (or pestered).

Every three years or so they bring home their missionaries from all around the world for a week of fellowship, prayer, good food and fun. Among those who attended was Marcel Destine who is a pastor and apostle in Haiti. He has started 12 churches and 8 schools. He invited me to come and hold a seminar with his leaders during this coming September. (Lynne, Fred and I went that September and had a warm and wonderful time with Marcel.)

Another of the missionary couples serves in a Muslim country in Asia. They have beautiful spirits and a beautiful family. They could at the whim of their government be put in prison or worse. Jacob (not his real name) told us an amazing story.

This past September he and two other pastors, one American and one African, went to hold a big meeting of pastors in Nigeria. There is much witchcraft there, and they heard that many curses were being placed against them and their meeting. They stayed in a hotel, and when they looked in their closet there were six huge snails, each as big as your fist.

Someone told them that these were "snails of death" that had been placed as a curse on them. (Yikes! The Snails of Death!) The African pastor, Daniel, pointed at the snails and cursed them, and after a few hours they looked in the closet again and the snails had fallen over and were shriveling up. (I want that guy on my team.)

The next day they went to the big conference. There were 2,500 pastors there from all over Africa, from many denominations, and a few were in robes and big hats, like the Pope. There were also television cameras from many news stations in Africa. This was a big

deal. Pastor Jacob and his friends felt under a lot of pressure.

On the first day, only an hour or so into the meeting, a woman screamed. A big man named Charles Chejma had stood up, grabbed his chest and fell over dead. There were medical people in the meeting who examined him and confirmed that he was gone. They carried the man to a room downstairs and laid him out on the table.

One of the pastors on the platform came over and whispered to Pastor Jacob, "This is very bad. This is going out to the whole nation and we are going to look bad. It looks like the witches have ruined our meeting." He also said he was afraid there might be a riot and they had better be ready to get out of there fast.

In the meantime, Pastor Daniel went downstairs and started praying for the man. After about 30 minutes, the man opened his eyes, sat up and asked what had happened. Pastor Daniel led him by the hand upstairs and onto the platform. The congregation erupted in shouts of praise and joy to God. Hundreds of pastors rushed forward in tears, cast themselves on the floor, and started repenting. The preachers in big hats also came forward and said they wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior.

That's what I call Church.

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God bless you,

Glenn