

Healing Through the Word – Week 1 Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind

What to expect/what not to expect –

Romans 12:1, 2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Understand Vs. 1 in the context of the requirement of O.T. sacrifices to be spotless, and without blemish or infirmity as it pertains to His will for our bodies presented as living sacrifices.

Luke 13:10:17 *“¹⁰ Now He was **teaching** in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. ¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” ¹³ And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

¹⁵ The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?

¹⁶ So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

Sickness and disease are bondages from which we should be loosed. Our Sabbath is no longer a day, it is a Person.

Matthew 28:18-20 *“¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the*

Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

Prologue -

We are going to confront what we say we believe with our actual words, thoughts, beliefs, and actions. Belief and faith not the same. We often consider Scripture unattached to or without the context of the rest of Scripture.

We are going to be challenged: Do we really believe the Bible? Is God’s Word the final determination and arbiter, the last word of what we believe ...and what we do? God can heal, but will He heal me? Has He healed me?

THE BASIS:

Does God love me? Ponder that, no pat, trite answers out of our heads because it’s what we’re supposed to say as Christians How much?

John 15:9 - “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

John 17:23, which Jesus prefaces this with the statement that He’s praying for all who believe in Him, stating about the Father “²³ ...and have loved them as You have loved Me.” The next verse does not show the Father telling Jesus that was wrong or correcting Him.

Is God a respecter of persons? “*With God there is no respect of persons*” – *Romans 2:11.*

What does God respect? ...faith, and faith is accounted to us as righteousness (*Romans 4:19-23*) and faith only works by love (*Galatians 5:6, 1 Corinthians 13*).

God gave us brains. We’re going to do a lot of thinking versus feeling and then contrast God’s thinking against ours until we flow in His.

Did God love the women with the issue of blood more than you? ...the Centurion? ...the Canaanite women who remarked that even the little dogs eat crumbs from their master’s table? ...the crippled man at the pool? ...blind Bartimaeus? ...Naaman? ...maybe the lepers? Point made?

We are going to have our faith challenged. Do we believe that God, that Jesus loved the early church more than He loves us? ...that healing is by God’s whim? ...or that healing ended with the last Apostle?

If so, where is that written?

Is *2 Corinthians 1:20* true – “*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us?*” or are they “Maybe He will and maybe He won’t?”

By the way, consider Phillip a mere deacon; look at what he ministered in Acts 8 with deliverance and healing. Kind of defeats the last Apostle argument when a non-apostle taught and ministered healing. So many times, Jesus’ responses were words along the line of, “...such great faith, or according to your faith, be it unto you.” Has faith ended?

If God’s will is **not** to heal, why then do we go to the doctor? ...to get out of God’s will?

When we come to the Lord for healing, do we come in faith or in hope so? What is the source the basis for our healing? Love!

Anecdotally, I believe that most people come in hope, sometimes double minded at best. Now the context here in James is asking for wisdom but the basic truth transcends anything asked of God:

James 1:6-8 - “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

We’re going to get single-minded; we’re going to get brain washed by the Word.

If we approach healing doubting, double-minded, thinking maybe He will and maybe He won’t, we’re unstable and we shouldn’t be surprised when we don’t receive anything.

What is our faith? What is our basis to believe for healing? That God just might, or that God has already provided?

Are we looking for miracles which by the way, don’t require our faith, or are we operating in faith which requires our partnership with God concerning His Word and Spirit? My experience tells me that most people are looking for miracles ...or they’re looking for the minister’s faith.

There’s nothing wrong with miracles, but I believe God has a higher standard for His disciples, because the just shall live by faith, their faith, not the faith of the minister or others, but by our own faith. We will find truth.

Throw away out of context favorite: “Oh the truth will set you free!” *John 8:32*, “...you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” This is not stand-alone Truth.

John 8:31: “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And...” This we will do.

Romans 1, *Galatians 3*, and *Hebrews 10* all say that the just shall live by faith. The Bible tells us that out of the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses a thing is established.

Into my 4th decade of ministry, I have seen, and experienced signs, wonders and miracles and I have seen and experienced acts/works of faith. Anecdotally, most of what I have seen was last chance desperation driven. In the western world that is understandable as we live in unprecedented times where our minds, our ears, and eyes are under constant attacks against faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God – *Romans 10:17* But what are we hearing today?

I’ve seen tumors fall off bodies.

I’ve seen blind eyes opened.

I’ve seen a paralyzed man on a cot carried in by 4 men walk out.

I’ve seen incurable cancers healed.

I’ve seen demons come out of people.

I’ve seen a man bleeding out his ears in the ICU expected to die shortly leave the hospital under his own power 3 days later.

I’ve prayed over handkerchiefs that were sent out to distant areas by which multitudes believed they would be healed.

I’ve seen pregnancies that doctors said if carried to term would kill both the baby and mother who are alive and thriving 14 years later.

I’ve seen a sex offender delivered.

I’ve seen my father who needed transfusions every 2 weeks go 6 months without one.

I’ve seen my daughter born whole when doctors said she would not be. I’ve seen her healed of a diagnosis of sickle cell anemia and healed of a diagnosed pelvic malformation. Among other things, she teaches ballet today.

The origin of sickness/disease:

Sin entered the world by the fall of man. In the fall of man Adam gave his dominion over the earth to the devil who Paul described as the prince of the power of the air and Jesus referred to 3 times as the ruler of this world. After the fall the earth is cursed. We live on a cursed, fallen planet where there is a ruler of this world. This and free moral agency explain why bad things often happen.

Therefore, we must learn to think and live as Christ said in *John 14:30*, “*that the ruler of this world... has nothing in me.*”

Believing we’re personally redeemed from sin and its effects:

Again, sin entered the world through one man, Adam (*Romans 5:12*). The Law came because of sin and sinners.

(*1 Timothy 1:9, 10*). *Galatians 3:13, 14*, “*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*”

Remember the woman, the daughter of Abraham in *Luke 13* bowed over with a spirit of infirmity for 18 years and Christ said it ought not be so. Healing was part of the blessing of Abraham even under the Law and we’re redeemed from the curse of the Law but still subject to the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus.

The Law had a blessing and a curse, but even under the Law there was provision for healing. Now Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law having literally become sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21, ”²¹ *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*”

Christ was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law because the law was made for sinners. Sin was destroyed in Christ.

The Readers Digest version of the curse of the law from Deuteronomy 28 was poverty, sickness, disease, and the 2nd death. The curses of Deuteronomy 28 are the least edifying section of Scripture.

We are redeemed from the curse of the law... I am redeemed from sickness and disease. Choose to believe!