

## Healing Through the Word – Session 7 – Brent W. Doyle, Jr.

This class is called Healing Through the Word, but of necessity it is broader, more contextual, and balanced than just focusing exclusively on healing.

*Romans 12:1, 2*

*Luke 13: 10-16*

*Hebrews 7:22*

*Hebrews 8:6*

*Acts 1:6*

**1 Corinthians 1:16, 17** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the \*Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

(\* See Matthew 15:21-28 – The Canaanite woman whom Jesus told that He was “...sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** “<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

We are to live in the power of salvation by faith, from faith to faith revealing God’s righteousness in the process. The goal of our speech and preaching is to be a demonstration of the Spirit and power that our faith should be in the power of God and not man’s wisdom.

Remembering our recap of the beginning of Mark 11 last week -

**Mark 11:20-26** – “Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter, remembering, said to Him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.’ <sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.’” We’ll come back to vss. 25, 26 in a bit because these verses we just read hang entirely upon them.

**\*\*\* Believing that you receive a thing precedes you having it. \*\*\***

Remember last week that I asked God what **believing I received** meant. His response to me was, “Act as though you already have it.” In the case of Alice, I wanted a *Proverbs 31* wife, so I began to treat her like the *Proverbs 31* wife even though she still acted like Jezebel. I believed I received it, and I had it.

Again, risking being repetitive and not caring, believing we’re healed when we see it is not faith. When we see it, we don’t need faith. We need to see it in the Spirit and bring that into the natural realm. This is the fruit of “Thy will be done on earth, in this earth as it is in heaven.” Do we expect or hope? Remember that even the lame man laid at the gate beautiful expected to receive something.

*Acts 3:4, 5* – “And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”  
<sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, **expecting to receive something from them.**”

We need expectation, to be fully convinced and act like it, to conduct our lives as though we possess, that we already have, what we’re praying and saying. Heart faith, not head faith – head faith gets us out too far over our skis. Faith expects, heart faith isn’t surprised when it receives because heart faith believes it already received because the One who promised is faithful.

Faith, foolishness, or presumption? – **Mark 11:25, 26** – Without this, it is not Bible faith is it?

The next verses in *Mark 11* concerning forgiveness are the essential aspect of faith only working by love and there is an enormous reason it is recorded here in the context of this great faith lesson. We are going to belabor it so that our faith will work. We are all subject to vss. 25 & 26 –

But First – In all the ways you’re special, you’re also “not” in one regard:

*1 Corinthians 10:12, 13* – “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

No one is special when it comes to temptation. Temptation is common to all of us and the universal temptation of unforgiveness will derail our receiving healing and everything else by faith because unforgiveness is devoid of love. Faith only works by love. **Galatians 5:6**

The whole “cancel culture” thing is built upon offense and unforgiveness.

The temptation of unforgiveness is so insidious and demonic because it is the hellish reciprocal; the counterfeit to the real of what Christ provides – forgiveness, justification, and righteousness. The reciprocals are unforgiveness, self-justification, and self-righteousness – unaffordable fakes. They lead to roots of bitterness whereby many are defiled.

**Mark 11:20-26** – “Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter, remembering, said to Him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.’ <sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” These verses hang entirely upon the next two:

<sup>25</sup> “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup> But **if** you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

That sounds rather conditional, doesn’t it? Rather frightening to even consider that if we do not forgive, our Father in heaven would not forgive us our trespasses. He won’t because He can’t, because He is just. Whenever we think or say that someone doesn’t deserve forgiveness, remember that neither do we, but He gave it to us anyway, because of love.

**Proper Perspective & Balance** – When we stress one Bible truth to the exclusion of another, we make the truth a lie. We can have faith that moves mountains, but without love, without our own provision of forgiveness because of love, we are nothing:

**1 Corinthians 13:2, 3** – “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” Without true agape love I am nothing, zero, and I am without profit, bankrupt. Love forgives.

People get confused regarding forgiveness as being one dimensional rather than two dimensional as it is. The fulness of forgiveness has two sides or parts to it. There is the provision of forgiveness and then the access to that forgiveness.

It is rather like, “*Behold I stand at the door and knock*” – will we open the door to what is already there? Whether anyone repents or not, forgiveness is there, it is provided and knocking at the door. Only repentance can, will open that door and grant access to the provision of forgiveness.

Have you ever noticed in that old artwork depicting Christ standing at the door – We’ll call that the provision of forgiveness– that there’s no doorknob on His side, He’s there, forgiveness is there knocking, but will we open the door? Accessing forgiveness is on the other side of the door; again, will we open the door?

We need to live in righteousness consciousness and not in sin consciousness. We need to know and live in the fact that we are forgiven for all sins we have and will ever commit, BUT – We need perspective, context and balance because it is simply too easy to take forgiveness for granted, too easy to forget the horrible awful price of that forgiveness; to live carelessly, dangerously, recklessly, to even sin more that grace abounds.

It is easy to be cavalier with sin because, “Hey I’m already forgiven!” In response to a rhetorical question on sinning more that grace would abound, Paul’s responds, “God forbid!”

The balance, the perspective, is found in:

*1 Peter 4:17, 18 – “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”*

We the righteous are scarcely saved not because of God, but because of us. Living recklessly, sinning with the expectation of grace and forgiveness isn’t love of God at all. Anyone who practices that is on the road to falling away, to eventually denying Christ in works and deeds no matter what their mouths may say.

What can the following statement by Christ mean? What does it imply? ...say? This is Jesus talking to the 7 churches in Asia Minor. Here Jesus brings charges against the church at Sardis and instructs them to repent and then:

*Revelation 3:5 – “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

Does that statement not carry the implication that Jesus *can* blot out names from the Book of Life? If not, why even suggest it?

If receiving forgiveness is unconditional, we do not need missionaries or evangelists, we do not need to preach the gospel – No one needs to pray the sinner’s prayer because they’ve already received forgiveness? ...and there’s no need for repentance?

I guess Jesus might have been wrong in the book of Revelation instructing 5 of the 7 churches to repent, I mean they believed already, all the sins they would ever commit were already forgiven, right? All of those churches had their lampstands removed – they no longer exist in modern day Turkey.

Repent to receive what has already been provided in mercy by grace. John the Baptist and Jesus preached repentance, but the modern church preaches “receive Jesus,” and we rarely hear anything about repentance. No wonder anything goes.

Repentance and forgiveness are “All Access” passes. This is faith working by love-

Yes, I believe Jesus has forgiven us, but if we hold unforgiveness it keeps us from accessing, from opening the door to His forgiveness. Kind of like the monkey with his hand stuck in a jar grasping a banana. If he wants to get loose, he has to drop the banana.

It is like electricity at the switch in the off position, the electricity is there but the light doesn’t go on until we flip the switch on and the current flows. On the cross Christ asked the Father to forgive His murderers because they didn’t know what they were doing. At the cross Christ provided forgiveness for all, but only those who flipped the switch accessed that forgiveness.

**Start by telling ourselves the truth...**

Many people say they “can’t forgive” when the truth is they don’t want to forgive. If God commands us to do anything and we are not able to, then God is unjust, but we know that He is not unjust, but He is rather the **only** just One. Believing in faith, believing we have received, cannot be separated from our continual provision of forgiveness.

We must be honest with ourselves because we're not fooling God. The truth is we don't want to forgive because we feel we have a right to feel like we do. "You don't know what he did to me?"

No, maybe not, but Jesus does. ...Do you know what you did to Jesus? Anything and everything you might have experienced cannot even begin to be compared to what Christ suffered because of us. We need to deal with that, period.

Maybe we do have a natural right to feel the way we do, but not spiritually. Defending and exercising rights come at a cost and just maybe here, we can't afford the cost of unforgiveness and unforgiven trespasses. Forgive us our debts as we forgive others' debts... Doesn't the sentence structure of the Lord's Prayer itself teach that forgiveness of our debts is dependent first upon our forgiveness of others' debts?

*Matthew 5:7 – "Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy."* What does that mean? Same principle. Again, want mercy, give mercy.

1<sup>st</sup> we must want to forgive, and that comes from a submissive heart attitude, our free will bowing the knee that produces the action of obedience, which the power of the Holy Spirit will then enable and empower. Anyone **can** forgive, but will they? Holding on to unforgiveness mutates into self-pity and self-pity is a form of idolatry, elevating, even worshiping our own pain and suffering above Christ and His passion and suffering. There is a path out of this wilderness.

This act of providing forgiveness opens up to us the ability to say to mountains, not doubt in our heart, but believe that those things we say will be done, we will have whatever we say. Then when we pray, whatever things, healing, whatever within God's perfect will, if we believe that we receive them we will have them.