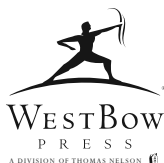

His Healing Wings

His Healing Wings

EXAMINING
THE TRUE SOURCE
OF HEALING

SHERRI A. ROGERS



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The Hebrew names, YHVH, YHVH Elohim, Yeshua, Yeshua the Messiah, and Messiah Yeshua have been inserted everywhere God, Lord our God, Jesus, Jesus Christ, and Christ Jesus appear in the Scriptures, respectively.

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For the wounded, the battle weary, the hopeless.

May you be blessed with understanding that strengthens and encourages you to seek out and tear down the strongholds that have held you back from your true purpose.

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In Appreciation

All honor and glory to YHVH who has created me for His purpose and directed my life. I am saved because of Him. I am healed because of Him. I am useful because of Him. This book is not something I could have done apart from the inspiration and discernment of His *Ruach haKodesh* (Holy Spirit).

I want to recognize and thank Peder Olsen to whom YHVH gave the vision and empowerment for the season of the Leadership Training School, and Kehilat T'nuvah for allowing its implementation. LTS was critical in clarifying the call on my life not only through education but also in requiring practical application of the training.

I am especially grateful for those who have upheld this project in prayer and brought prophetic words and encouragement in times when it was desperately needed. Thank you, Menorah, for allowing yourself to be used as an instrument of my healing and encouraging me to continue to write.

Carolina and Cindy for helping in the infancy of the book with definition, description, and flow issues. Wendy, your “professional” editing was invaluable.

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To my fellowship group, mentors and prayer partners, your reward is very great!

Special thanks to my sons and their wives for keeping it real and not disowning me during the rough years of “getting it together.” I am indeed blessed!

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About the Title His Healing Wings

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says YHVH of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But, for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. (Malachi 4:1, 2)

This prophecy is comparative. The first part of this word speaks of a judgment like fire that completely consumes. The second compares Yeshua to the sun, another fire, but one that brings life and healing. The last prophecy of YHVH spoken through the prophet, Malachi, was about a Messiah who would come with healing in His wings. This word “wings” is the Hebrew word *kanaph*. It means the outermost corner, as in the tip of a wing on a bird. This is the same word for the placement of the fringes (*tzitzit*) commanded to be worn by Israelites in Numbers 15:37. As the last prophetic word for many centuries, it was clung to with tenacious hope for the One who would come.

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no

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better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Yeshua and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even (the border-hem/tzitzit of) his garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Yeshua, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” (Mark 5:25–34)

This Israelite woman was in a do or die situation. Hebrew law did not allow anyone with an issue of blood to mingle among the people. There were specific regulations that governed behavior under these circumstances, for protection and holiness. This woman had spent all she had on the physicians to help her and was no better. She had nothing left. As she heard about this man, Yeshua, who brought life and healing everywhere He went, she made a decision. She was dying anyway so the punishment for breaking the rules about going out in public couldn't be worse than that. She realized that what she was hearing about Yeshua matched up with this prophecy about the Messiah and she thought, “If I could only touch the hem (*kanaph/wings/tzitzit*), I can be healed!” She believed the word of YHVH through the prophet. She did not feel the need for Him to touch her or even to talk to Him. She literally stepped

out with faith in YHVH's word about the Coming One with healing in His wings.

When Yeshua felt power go out of Him, He wanted to know who had received it. The woman was afraid because she was not supposed to be there at all due to her affliction, but she came forward and told Yeshua her story. He blessed her, called her His daughter and rewarded her faith. She left rejoicing just like the prophecy said.

Perhaps you are in her place. Perhaps you don't want to end up there. If you abide in Him and His words abide in you, *as with this woman*, then you will know the truth and it will set you free.

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Introduction

For years, I wrestled with the fact that what I read in the Scriptures and what I was doing in church did not match up. The pastors and leaders whom I asked for help would ultimately direct me to the volumes of commentary on their library shelves to explain away the discrepancies. I knew I did not have the kind of training they did, but I also believed it should not be so difficult to make sense of something as critical as eternal life and how we are expected to walk in this one. I took my heavenly Father at His word and began asking for understanding and wisdom (James 1:5).

Many years ago my diligence was rewarded as I discovered a community where I lived that recognized Yeshua as the Messiah and followed the Scriptural instruction to keep the Holy Days of YHVH. These are the holy days outlined in Leviticus 23 and reiterated throughout the Scriptures. These established times are not “Jewish.” Leviticus 23:1 states plainly that these are *YHVH's* holy days, *His* appointed times for *His* people—all of them. They are the same holy days Yeshua Himself and His disciples followed and are the same holy days that the world will ultimately participate in again (Zechariah 14:16). I sat under the teaching of Scripture purely as Scripture instead of proof for a denominational theology. For the first time, things were making sense. What I was reading and what I was doing matched up.

Since then, I have continued my search for truth. It has been an amazing journey and it will not end until Yeshua returns to retrieve His bride, a bride who is without spot or wrinkle, who is not defiled by mixing the holy and the profane.

In Romans 11, the Apostle Paul explains that we have been grafted into Israel through faith in Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus). Israel, as the root, supports the branches, not the other way around. I have had to make adjustments in my faith and in my life that line up with this truth. It is not my intent to alienate anyone or discourage the reading of this book by using terminology that is unfamiliar to you or may be considered irreverent based on religious background. I choose to use the memorial name of my God, YHVH, because it has meaning that identifies Him for who and what He is. It comes from the four Hebrew letters—yod, hey, vav, hey (יהוה) known as the tetragrammaton. The name means the ever-present, ever-faithful one, the one who was, who is, and who is to come. I use the name out of respect and remembrance of who He is and whose I am. In this book, I will use the English letters YHVH, to refer to Yahweh Elohim, the same God who created the universe and man, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

On a more personal note, you will also see times when I refer to YHVH as Abba, the Hebrew equivalent of our English endearment, *Daddy*.

There is plenty of documentation regarding the transition to the name Jesus from the Hebrew Yeshua, so I will not belabor this. I use the Hebrew name of my Savior—Yeshua. Yeshua is the

Hebrew word for salvation. Yeshua is a contraction for the name Yehoshua which means Yahweh is Savior. I find that Matthew 1:21 makes perfect sense when the actual name is read. “And you shall call his name Yahweh’s Salvation (Yeshua in Hebrew), for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”

The Hebrew words, *Ruach haKodesh* have been translated correctly into English as the Holy Spirit. When referring to Holy Spirit, I will use the Hebrew transliteration and the English translation interchangeably.

Torah is the Hebrew word for instruction. Most versions of the Bible translate the Hebrew word Torah as *law*. This is unfortunate because of the negative connotations associated with *the law* from years of doctrinal misunderstanding. Entire doctrines are built around the evils of the law. What we call the Old Covenant (Old Testament) is the foundation of the Scriptures. The Renewed Covenant (New Covenant) is built on this foundation and cannot be understood apart from it. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that *all* Scripture (Torah) is given by inspiration of YHVH (God-breathed), and *is* (present tense) profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof (showing one that he is wrong), for correction (removal of errors in thought and practice), and for instruction in righteousness (upright behavior that honors YHVH). I believe the *entirety* of Scripture was given for these purposes. My use of Torah includes all of Scripture, and both covenants will be referred to throughout the book as Torah.

This book is written primarily to those who would call themselves believers in Yeshua. “Come out of her, my people”

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is the cry of YHVH to those in the body of Messiah who have been seduced by the counterfeit systems. Some of these systems openly declare themselves to be anti-YHVH/Messiah, but many others simply mix the holy and the profane, making the message more comfortable—more palatable to the flesh. We have participated in this mixing by not following the ways established by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This includes participation in both Catholic and Protestant church traditions as well as the traditions of Judaism and so-called Messianic Judaism, which do not conform to the written and infallible word of YHVH.

There are many pastors out there with a heart for truth. They correctly proclaim that the holy days observed in mainstream churches (Sunday, Christmas, Easter, etc.) have origins in paganism. A quick perusal of most any encyclopedia or an online search of the internet will establish this fact. Sadly, however, they do not stand in repentance for continuing in this and they do not lead their followers to repent. I will share what this double mindedness causes later in the book. YHVH prefers that we are either hot or cold, as opposed to the lukewarmness of *mixing* hot and cold. Mixing and fence-sitting are repulsive to Him. He declares that those who participate in this kind of indecision will be literally vomited out of His mouth (Revelation 3:15-17).

The Hebrew roots movement has caused many to reevaluate their religious practice. Careful study is made so that anything of pagan origin is carefully separated out to enable one to walk in obedience to the instructions of the Torah concerning Sabbaths and such. We work to free ourselves from debt. We

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put away paganism from our religious practice. We homeschool our children. Why is it so difficult to look at the sacred cow of medicine with the same scrutiny? Why can we trust YHVH with our salvation and eternal life, but not our health? Why do we “spend all that we have” for something that has already been bought and paid for? Why do we insist on trusting the arm of flesh when it can only fail? Why do we give awe and reverence to those who stand, walk, and sit in the council of the ungodly?

This book is focused on healing and it is my conviction that getting back to the foundational Truths of YHVH’s Word is critical for healing to manifest. It is a watchman’s call to return to the truth of YHVH for healing. One cannot live a lie and expect to be blessed for it.

I believe the information in this book will do two things. It will answer questions about divine healing and health, and also raise questions for you to research and explore.

It is not my purpose to speak with absolute authority where healing is concerned. There is documentation as well as personal testimony to get you to think about what is said and ponder it. I stand where I do because I have experienced first hand what the power of YHVH can do to disease. You will have to choose for yourself. YHVH admonishes us to test all we hear and believe by the truth of His Word. My hope is that the information in this book will start a discovery process for you. I certainly do not have all the answers and I welcome you as a companion on the journey!

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Chapter One

The Counterfeit Systems

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Fraudulent imitation is designed to deceive. Matthew 24:24 says that false (bogus, lying, dishonest) messiahs and prophets will arise and be such good imitations that if it were possible they could deceive the very elect—the saints of YHVH. We are also told in Deuteronomy 13 how to discern between a true and a false prophet. If the prophet comes with miracles, signs, dreams and visions that come true, then you must also examine the direction the prophet is leading you. If he induces you to follow the ways of other gods with their particular religious philosophies, traditions, customs or theologies, which do not agree with Torah, that prophet is false. He is not speaking for the one true living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Throughout Scripture, YHVH uses analogies to help us grasp ideas and principles. Egypt is used to symbolize sin and the world's way of doing things. When YHVH physically delivered the Israelites from Egypt, this was the shadow of a future event that was cast backward in time. That event was Yeshua's one time sacrifice for the spiritual deliverance of all of humanity. The beauty of the Passover is remembering the

physical deliverance of YHVH's people from Egyptian bondage and relating it to our redemption from our own Egypt of sin, shame, and man's corrupt ways. In contrast to the pagan world kingdoms, Tzion always represents the kingdom of YHVH and the land of promise.

Satan, the enemy of our souls, is a master of deception. He is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). He masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14; Isaiah 14:12). The mere definition of masquerade confirms that this is a form of deception. Lucifer means "Light Bearer." Because he was once the premier angel of light, he knows very well what this looks like. He also knows the ways of Torah established by YHVH that keep us close to Him and out of the enemy's grasp. Satan took the spiritual principles of YHVH and counterfeited them. They are dressed up in costume to look like the real thing, and too many of us are more interested in *looking* like the real thing than *being* the real thing.

Everything YHVH has promised to be to us has been reproduced by the enemy as a world system masquerading as YHVH's provision. The financial system becomes the supply for our needs. The educational system, with its lies and twisted facts, is seen as the repository of knowledge and truth and overrides the Word of YHVH as the source of wisdom. Religion, the ritual observance of a set of beliefs, is substituted for a personal relationship with the God and Creator of the universe. The legal system is welcomed as our defender and the government as our protector. Faith in the medical system has supplanted faith in YHVH as Healer.

Satan's counterfeit systems all have common goals and common messages. If you can be convinced that the counterfeit is all you need, then you do not need YHVH. The primary goal of the counterfeits is to render YHVH unnecessary. Once we put faith in one of the counterfeit systems, we have compromised our soul. There is now an open door for demonic access and this provides Satan with the means to accomplish his mission to steal, kill, and destroy. The messages the systems transmit are as old as the garden of Eden. YHVH isn't enough. He is selfish and indifferent so we must find our own way. It also seduces us into believing that the physical realm is more important than the spiritual. We end up spending more time taking care of and indulging our flesh than our spirits. This becomes the foundation for everything that opposes YHVH's word of truth to us.

The focus of this book is true healing. The healthcare industry is one of these masquerading systems. We will see what YHVH has to say about it and how it has deceived us into believing a really big lie. My hope is that this book will help identify and examine the ways in which the enemy has succeeded in persuading us to trust this particular counterfeit system.

It is one thing to buy a cheap knock off, knowing it is an imitation. It is quite another to pay full price for what you believe is the real thing only to find out you have been deceived. Familiarize yourself with your Creator and His word. He is the Healer. He is the real thing.

Chapter Two

Discovering the Truth

One basic truth can be used as a foundation for a mountain of lies, and if we dig down deep enough in the mountain of lies, and bring out that truth, to set it on top of the mountain of lies, the entire mountain of lies will crumble under the weight of that one truth. And there is nothing more devastating to a structure of lies than the revelation of the truth upon which the structure of lies was built, because the shock waves of the revelation of the truth reverberate, and continue to reverberate throughout the Earth for generations to follow, awakening even those people who had no desire to be awakened to the truth.

—Delamar Duvaris

Anyone who has the power to make you believe absurdities has the power to make you commit atrocities/injustices.

—Voltaire

Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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What Is Truth?

Is what YHVH says true? Is He my healer (Exodus 15:26)? Does He forgive *all* my iniquities and heal *all* my diseases (Psalm 103:3)? Am I healed by the stripes of Yeshua (Isaiah 53:5)? If I believe this is true, why am I still sick? Why haven't I been healed? Hmmm. Good questions! Maybe there is something else at work, another dynamic that hasn't been addressed. Perhaps there is truth that has been ignored or just not learned yet. Let's see if we can discover some answers to these questions.

You will be a judge who is required to make a decision based on the evidence you hear. YHVH said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6) and "Study to show yourselves approved ... rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV). Scripture requires you to search for your own evidence to make sure what you are being told is true. I want to bring your attention to facts and information that can help in your search.

The starting point is always truth. What is truth and can it be trusted?

- "Thy word is truth." Ps 119:160; John 17:17
- Yeshua said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6
- "*If* you abide in my word, *then* you are my disciples, *and* you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." John 8:31, 32
- We are "sanctified in truth." John 17:19

Scripture, as the word of YHVH, is truth and therefore determines what is true. We will look at what Scripture has to say regarding healing, sickness, disease, doctors and drugs. I want to say up front that I am not against doctors. Doctors have knowledge that is helpful for diagnosis. They are not, however, equipped to offer healing. Treating symptoms is not healing. Reducing pain is not healing. Managing or coping with disease is not healing. What's more, they do not treat the whole person. We are tripartite beings. This means that we have more going on than just the physical. We have bodies, we have minds, *and* we have spirits. The soul is the part of us that contains our thoughts, our will, and our emotion. It is connected to, but is not the spirit. It is our spirit that connects us to our Creator. The medical system focuses solely on the physical body and the mind. It does not recognize, at any significant level, the spiritual aspect of healing. It does not take into account that the Creator of the universe is "*the Healer.*"

To discover truth, we must begin with knowledge. YHVH says that His people *perish* for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). He says that His people have gone into *captivity* because they have no knowledge (Isaiah 5:13). The Hebrew word for knowledge here is *daat* and indicates knowledge of YHVH obtained through experience, relationship, and revelation. What is this *captivity* that Isaiah talks about into which we have entered? According to 2 Timothy 2:22–26, it is the snare of the devil and only the knowledge of truth, and obedience to it will allow us to break free from its fierce grip.

We are commanded to handle accurately the word of YHVH (2 Timothy 2:14–18). Mature believers are able to discern both

good and evil because they *put into practice* what they learn (Hebrews 5:14). A sign of discernment is being so familiar with YHVH's instruction that we know immediately when we come up against something that is not of Him, or in other words, a counterfeit. This involves *practicing* or using YHVH's principles over and over until they are literally part of us.

YHVH's blessings are conditional. When we claim the blessings without the conditions, discernment is not at work because we are not acknowledging the whole truth. It is then that captivity, bondage, and sickness gain victory. On the other hand, YHVH's love is *unconditional*. Yeshua died because He loves us all, but YHVH's blessings and many of His promises are conditional. "If you, then I" are *His* words. Obedience and blessing cannot be separated, just as disobedience and cursing cannot be separated. Deuteronomy 28 is as concise a passage regarding the conditionality of blessing and cursing as any in Scripture. I would challenge you to notice every time you come across the phrases *if you* and *then I* as you read His Word. It is quite a revelation for those of us who just assume we automatically have rights to certain blessings or promises.

Sanctification and Justification

Appropriating godly wisdom is the process of sanctification. It is establishing obedience to YHVH's instruction (Torah—both covenants), which sets you apart from the world. To sanctify is to set apart for a specific use. As believers in Yeshua, we are separated *from* the world's ways and dedicated *to* the purpose(s) of YHVH. We are called to sanctification: "Come out from

among them and be separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17); “Purify yourselves” (Isaiah 52:11); “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12); “Be holy for I am holy” (Leviticus 11:44, 45; 1 Peter 1:16). Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge (facts) correctly (discernment) in order for the blessings to manifest.

- Knowledge is information gained from your senses, observation, instruction, experience. Knowledge alone is amoral, that is without inherent goodness or badness.
- Wisdom is insight regarding knowledge that allows you to apply or put into practice the knowledge for a purpose, which can be either benevolent or malevolent.
- Discernment/understanding is spiritual perception to distinguish between good and evil, right and wrong, to use knowledge and wisdom for the advancement of YHVH’s kingdom.

Salvation is not, nor has it ever been, the goal. It is only the beginning. With salvation, we are justified. Justification is based only on Yeshua’s sacrifice. It is the recognition of His death as the substitute for what we deserve as sinful beings. When we exercise faith to believe that He died and suffered the penalty for our sins (instead of us having to do it), that faith justifies us and declares us righteous or free from the penalty of separation from YHVH (1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 6:23). It is a gift and cannot be earned. We are told in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that when Yeshua became sin for us, He enabled us to become

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the righteousness of YHVH *through* Him. This righteousness is imparted to us because we choose to believe. At the moment we choose to believe, we become *complete* in Messiah, but we do not become *mature* in Him. A fertilized egg in the womb of a woman is a complete human being, but it is not mature. Sanctification is the process of obeying His instruction to grow up or mature spiritually.

It has been said that justification is what gets us out of Egypt and sanctification is what keeps us out of Egypt. “All Scripture is breathed out by YHVH and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness ...” (Timothy 3:16). Sanctification is achieved through this training in righteousness which is found in Torah.

I must make a choice to walk according to faith. That involves letting Holy Spirit be my guide/teacher so that He can bring the changes which set me apart or sanctify me. This choice involves taking responsibility. Sanctification is what moves me into the place of being able to receive the blessings and promises YHVH wants so desperately for me to have. So, sanctification is tied to justification, but it is not the same. Sanctification is a progression, a process, and is not instantaneous. It is the renewal of my heart and mind being transformed daily into the image of Messiah Yeshua (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Past	Present	Future
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification

We are to be concerned with the present, laying aside those things that are in the past and pressing on today to what lies ahead (Philippians 3:13). Do not worry about tomorrow, it has enough troubles of its own (Matthew 6:34). The purpose of sanctification is to establish deeper and more intimate connection with our heavenly Father through Messiah *here and now*. Life was never meant to be a cruel joke to endure until Messiah returns. Where did this thinking come from, and why aren't we able to get past the lies and take hold of the *truth*? The answers to this and many other questions are found in the process of sanctification, of being transformed into who and what you were created for. YHVH says when we seek Him with our whole heart, we *will* find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29) and He is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19).

One of the most painful ordeals I have had to overcome was the revelation that I was a poser. I have always been a God-chaser and at any given time YHVH is dealing with me on some issue or other. "You are worshipping idols," said YHVH. *NO! Not me, Abba, I love you, only you.* He replied, "You have set up images that you polish and protect." *Abba, what do you mean?* "You are portraying the *image* of the perfect Christian woman, wife, and mother. You believe what has been established by the traditions of men and are conforming yourself into their images." *OUCH!*

He was right, of course. I read all the books about how to be a better wife, mother, person, friend. I had done a spectacular job of incorporating what they said and was considered a good example of the perfect Christian woman. There is nothing

wrong with bettering yourself and seeking help from those who have been there and even putting their suggestions into practice, but I had neglected to ask YHVH what *He* created me to be. I asked the church, the leaders, my husband, the authors of the books, friends, etc., and none of them ever told me I needed to ask YHVH.

What I am talking about is the *process* of sanctification. Salvation is the primary goal of the organized church. Not much is ever said about sanctification. Sanctification is the process of becoming who YHVH created you to be. For many of us, this requires changes and healing from lies we have incorrectly believed, or wrong teaching. Other's ideas of who or what we should be, our own perceptions about ourselves based on our experiences, or words and actions against us all play a part in who we think we are or should be. The truth can be hard, but in order for YHVH to begin transforming us into the image of the Messiah, we must be in a place to receive it and then walk it out. In my case, most of what I had learned was nowhere near what YHVH had established for *me*. It was not necessarily bad or wrong, just not right for me, and that can do the most awful things in your spirit.

The justification of the past is where we receive salvation. This is the starting point of a life of submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. The obedience of sanctification is not merely a performance that mimics an idea or an image of what righteousness looks like. It is that which is acceptable before YHVH because it is His work in and through us and not our work for Him. This is so crucial, beloved. YHVH does not

call us because we are equipped, He equips those whom He calls. We do not obey to gain His approval, we obey because we are *already* approved. Be careful that you do not fall into the trap of presuming that because you are doing all the right stuff outwardly, that the motive of your heart is pure. We have been entrusted with an amazing task: to *wait* on YHVH for *His* revelation of what *He* wants from us. We must stop simply accepting what we have been taught and isn't working, what makes us feel good, or what we want it to be. We must be still and listen to His voice. Even Yeshua did not do or say anything unless He heard from the Father. Should it be any less for us?

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Chapter Three

The Truth about the Big Lie (Where it all Started)

When the evil one came to Eve in the garden, the temptation was not the fruit of the tree, it was the forbidden fruit of the *idea* that she could decide for herself what was right and wrong, good and evil. The act of taking the fruit and eating it in disobedience was only the physical manifestation of what she was already thinking. It is the same lie we fall prey to when we think our way is best. It is “becoming as YHVH” and deciding for ourselves what is true and what is not. It is going against what YHVH has already established and He calls that sin.

We will all have some measure of sin working in us as long as we exist in this flesh. YHVH tells us that the flesh opposes the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:17). The choice is ours—will the flesh or the Holy Spirit rule? YHVH’s intent is that we constantly work toward being transformed into the image of Messiah Yeshua by the renewing of our minds through the washing of the water of the Word. As we allow the Light of Truth to expose the lies and sin and we do what is necessary to

be free of them, we are transformed from one degree of glory to the next! HalleluYAH! It is YHVH's faithfulness that seeks us out where we are, in whatever state we are. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). His love and mercy prepares hearts to accept truth, confess sin, repent, and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:9). It is His purpose that we grow and mature and change on a daily basis.

Changing Me

Years ago, I became what would be clinically diagnosed as depressed. All I wanted to do was cry and sleep. I was a mess trying to hide it and still function in life. I spent agonizing months crying out for answers. Over the course of my life, YHVH has proven Himself faithful. He is my source for help and answers. I love getting into the Word and always read it expecting my heavenly Father to reveal something new to me. I seek to have the words come alive for me and change something in me by the power of *Ruach haKodesh* (Holy Spirit). One day, while I was sitting at my kitchen table reading and studying the book of James, I read these words:

“You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:3).

Immediately, I heard Holy Spirit say, “You can't forgive.” I knew exactly what He meant. A particular person in my life was at the center of all this. I responded (and not at all kindly), “What do You mean I haven't forgiven? Of, course I have. I

have said it over and over.” Again, the assertion came quietly, gently, “You can’t forgive.”

Talking to YHVH

You may gasp at my boldness in responding to YHVH like this. I have a long history of trusting YHVH for healing and spending long hours in discussion with Him. We should each develop a relationship with Him as we do with a close and trusted friend. He created each of us and I don’t think He is offended when we ask Him questions. Asking questions is not the same as doubting. Dialoguing with the Father this way is a form of prayer. I love talking to Him. Prayer is a conversation between you and your heavenly Father. In a conversation, there is talking *and* listening. Listening involves being quiet and still and absorbing what you are told. Some people hear Him as I do. Some get a strong impression or sense of knowing, others may see pictures, and some have dreams or maybe visions. He may choose to reveal Himself to you through the parables and analogies of His Word. Once, while driving and listening to the radio, I heard a talk show host say that YHVH spoke to him in a country and western song! YHVH has established many ways to speak to us and it is very important to cultivate your particular way of hearing Him so you can grow, heal, and be transformed into the image of the Messiah.

You may say, “But I don’t hear Him like that or at all.” You need to assess what Scripture tells us. Yeshua says, “I know My sheep and they *hear My voice*” (John 10:27). If you know Him, you hear His voice. Have you ever had a thought that surprised

you and made you a little uncomfortable? Not necessarily a bad discomfort, just different. We are admonished in Scripture to take our thoughts captive to the obedience of Messiah Yeshua (2 Corinthians 10:5). Why is that, we wonder? Before a specific deliverance in my life, I was bombarded every waking moment with all kinds of thoughts. I assumed this was part of who I was, since I had never been free of it. In not asking Abba about this, I continued in it and suffered under a demonic influence. Your mind is the playground of the devil. Sin gives him the right to afflict you and he will whisper to you or lead you to certain thoughts which you then assume are yours. YHVH does the same thing, we often just do not recognize it is Him. It is vital to spend some time getting this principle down. He does speak to His children! He speaks to you!

I speak out loud with the Father, especially if I am alone. So, sitting in my kitchen, after a time of discussion, I blurted out, “You are right! I haven’t forgiven and the truth is I don’t want to forgive. I want this person to hurt like I do, to feel the same kind of pain they caused me!” Wow! Several words come to mind and none of them at all flattering, especially for a lifelong, born-again believer. So I mustered everything in me to do this act of forgiveness ... and it wasn’t there. Again I hear, “You can’t forgive.” In desperation I cried out, “You’re right. I can’t forgive and if you want me to do this, you are going to have to do it for me.”

More gasping! There are many examples of saints of old who had this kind of rapport with the Father: Abraham, Moses, David, Job, Isaiah, Paul, Peter to name a few. Not that I put

myself in their league, but I do believe that this is the kind of relationship Abba wants with all His children. We are created for *fellowship* with Him. He established it to work this way, beloved, and He is pleased and excited when we come to Him in spirit and truth desiring this kind of intimate, *honest*, one-on-one interaction with Him. That moment of pure unadulterated truth between myself and my God, removed the barrier of the lie and made way for the Truth. Understand, *He* already knew it—I was the one who had believed a lie.

I was shown that forgiveness is not just a willful assertion, but also a letting go. In my case, I had said the words and even convinced myself that I had forgiven this person, when in reality the unforgiveness not only still existed but was manifesting itself in the physical symptoms related to depression. Remember, the depression is why I began this conversation with YHVH, in the first place. When Holy Spirit spoke to me that I couldn't forgive, it was because I wouldn't let go. You can say you will do something, but until you actually do what you say, the words are meaningless. Remember the old adage, "The road to hell is paved with *good intentions*?" Saying you will do something or intending to do it does not get it done.

I had believed the lie that I had forgiven this person when I was hanging onto the desire to punish them and make them hurt like they had hurt me. That is definitely not forgiveness. Vengeance is *mine*, says YHVH (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19). Oh, how easy it is to reconcile two opposing views: Abba, I want you to punish this person for what they did, but ... just let me have the satisfaction of getting in a couple

of good licks, kicks, punches, snide remarks, etc. I hope you are beginning to realize that unforgiveness is all about vengeance and punishing, and wanting to inflict pain as a form of retribution.

What this produces is a divided heart; one that says it honors YHVH, but does its own thing. This is the definition of hypocrisy. Scripture says it this way, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me” (Matthew 15:8; Isaiah 29:13). Truth can be a bitter pill to swallow. It strips away self-deception, tears down carefully erected barriers of separation, and brings into the light what is hidden. It showed me that there was anger, bitterness, and vindictiveness at work in me. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness meekness, faith and self-control. Note that there is no vengeance or punishment on that list. Sweet water and bitter water cannot flow from the same spring. You can have one or the other but not both. In this instance I could not expect my heavenly Father to work on my problem as long as I was playing god and punishing this person (or so I thought) by wanting to see them hurt. I could not expect YHVH to heal me without first admitting my sin. I remembered Matthew 6:15: *But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.* Well, that’s uncomfortable.

The real question is: Who was being punished by my unforgiveness? Why, it was me, of course! I could not receive forgiveness for this sin, because I couldn’t forgive. Sin will bring destruction and I was reaping the wages of the sin of unforgiveness in the form of depression. You may be

experiencing something similar in your life. The sin may not be unforgiveness. Maybe it is resentment, anger, hatred, bitterness, fear, jealousy, criticism, gossip, greed, pride, or immorality. I will tell you that Scripture bears witness to the fact that what is held in the spirit will eventually break forth into the physical. If you are harboring sin in any form, whether you are aware of it or not, your physical body and/or your mind will become sick because they were never created to bear the weight of sin. We were created without sin and that is how we were intended to stay. That ended with the fall and out of love YHVH made provision through Yeshua's substitutionary atonement for sin to be confessed, repented of and forgiven. There is no need to hang onto it—ever. If we excuse the sin, that is self-justification and that is also sin, which must be confessed, repented of and forgiven. And round and round we go.

Let Go!

I got up from the table where I had confessed my unforgiveness, to make myself a cup of tea. As I reached up into the cupboard to get it, stabbing pain in my chest brought me to my knees. I lay on the cool tile floor writhing in excruciating pain, grabbing my chest, with my knees pulled up into a fetal position. Even though I was only thirty-five years old, the thought crossed my mind that I was having a heart attack. Then I knew. I knew this was YHVH. It was as if someone had taken my heart in their hands and was literally wringing it out! It seemed to last for hours, although it could only have been minutes. Eventually the pain subsided and a blanket of warmth began to envelop me. Waves of love for this person who had hurt me

came crashing through. I believe I hadn't truly loved this person until that moment. This wasn't me. It was YHVH. He did this. He squeezed out the unforgiveness and left His love in its place. He did it because I *agreed* with Him. "You can't forgive," He'd said. He knew. Once I accepted the truth and allowed Him to do what needed to be done, I was free. The depression was gone. Just like that! No drugs, no psychotherapy. Gone!

This kind of emotional wounding that is not dealt with appropriately by using scriptural principles at the time the wound is inflicted creates an oozing, festering, pocket of puss that begins to poison your entire system, much like an uncleaned physical wound that scabs over but never heals. Hurt such as this, whether real or perceived, hinders the process of sanctification. It manifests itself in unsolicited responses that shock you when they suddenly appear. Sometimes, this hurt can be so deeply hidden you don't even realize it is there. Except for the seemingly unrelated outbursts or physical symptoms, you don't have a clue that anything is wrong. Most often these symptoms are dismissed or excused for reasons of weariness, illness, frustration, or personality make-up, etc.

Many times, we stay locked into these places of hurt because we truly believe that they are part of who we are. They go unhealed because we don't pursue them as sin that needs to be removed. Primarily, we don't go there because of fear. Fear of feeling more pain. Fear of looking imperfect. Fear of rejection. Fear of loss. Fear keeps us in bondage and gives the devil a legal right to afflict and damage us, causing more hurt. (We will discuss this legal right later in the book.) It can manifest

in something as innocuous as insomnia or it can rage in your body as a life-threatening illness or disease.

The Truth

Healing is not about a particular way of doing things or a formula for success. It is about a *principle* that YHVH intends us to live out. He wants us free from the debilitating effects of sin—any sin. He gave Yeshua to save us from separation from Him by accepting His sacrifice as the only way to Him and then it becomes our job to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is about sanctification or becoming holy. YHVH tells us to be holy as He is holy. This is not unreasonable or He would never have commanded it (1 John 5:3). A god who demands from you what you are incapable of giving or doing is not a god of love or forgiveness or protection or faithfulness. YHVH has carefully, lovingly provided all we need to do what He says (2 Peter 1:3). Part of sanctification is the process of uncovering the lies we believe for whatever reasons and exposing them as sin so that we can be increasingly competent to serve in YHVH's kingdom.

I will be honest with you, until the hidden sin of unforgiveness started showing up in my physical body as depression, I had no idea there was anything wrong. Remember, I convinced myself it was all taken care of. "I'm good. I'm cool. No unforgiveness here."

We are awesomely and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). When sin entered humanity in the garden, physical death became

a part of life. The effects of sin that manifest as problems and sickness in our bodies are Abba's red flags saying, "Something is wrong. Look for the cause." YHVH says that when we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29), and I was seeking answers *from Him*.

At this point, and for years to come, I would not make a connection between what happened that day and the Scripture in James which triggered it. I just know that when I read those words that day, the revelation of my unforgiveness was instantaneous and the subsequent healing miraculous. My relationship with that person was forever changed, not because they changed, but because I did.

There are teachings in the body of Messiah that leave out vital pieces of truth. One says that forgiveness is an act of the will. We must be willing to forgive, for sure, but, simply willing it does not necessarily make it so. Forgiveness also involves letting go of offense, giving it up. Another of these teachings says the supernatural or miraculous things of YHVH are dispensational, which is to say that these things no longer occur because they were only for a specific time and place. What I experienced that day in my kitchen was a supernatural intervention in my life establishing that the miracles of YHVH are absolutely for today!

More Lies and Wrong Thinking

Fast forward many years down the road. Change is inevitable and my life is no exception. After almost 25 years of marriage,

mine ended in divorce. I began a business to support myself, and my grandmother, who was a mother figure to me, passed away. All this took place within the course of a single year. I found myself trying to handle the many relational difficulties presented by these stresses. I spent some time in seclusion—away from community life. I would not say that my relationship with the Father suffered. There were both positive and negative results of this time and one of the positives was a very strong reliance on Him and His direction. Some time later, I heard a clear directive that I was to again become involved in community life. I joined a vibrant, growing community.

I attended a women's conference sponsored by that community. My heart was a mess. At the time, I was engaged in a renewed struggle with a life long battle against unworthiness. Have you ever fought a battle and come out on top only to have the same battle crop up over and over? It's as if you do everything you know how to do and it seems to work for a while and then one day, *bam*, there it is again! I knew without a shadow of a doubt that my heavenly Father loved me and had all kinds of plans for me that were good and not evil. I *knew* this and yet I was overcome periodically with an overwhelming sense of failure that I could never be or do anything that was good enough.

Where does something like this come from? I *knew* the Truth. I did spiritual warfare. I proclaimed the truths of Scripture. The problem did not go away. This was not abundant life, this constant fighting off these feelings of failure and worthlessness which came back and only served to increase the sense of

failure because, well, once again ... I failed. I remember trying to figure this out. "Abba," I cried, "what is the deal here? You said you came so I could have life and have it abundantly, so where is it? You said the victory is already won. You said I am a child of the King and your provision is more than enough." Clearly, YHVH is never the problem. So I set out to get some answers.

False Teaching Revealed

There is debate in Christian counseling circles about the validity of certain types of spiritual healing. One particular view takes the stand that your past has no bearing on your future as a believer since once you are saved you become a "new man," a "new creature" in Messiah. It is true that we become new creatures in Messiah in the sense that we are now translated into the kingdom of Light (Ephesians 5:8). We are indwelt by Holy Spirit who empowers us to continue to "work out our own salvation in fear and trembling" (Ephesians 3:20). Our spirit-man, once dead or separated from YHVH, is now alive and has been reconnected to our Creator. However, there would be no reason for the command to become (present and future) holy if this "new creature" had reached perfection at the point of salvation.

For instance, consider how many people have been justified through the blood of Yeshua and still must face the battle of addiction, which was established before they gave their life over to Him. Praise YHVH that He takes us as we are! Coming to Him is about exercising faith to believe Him, it is not about

cleaning ourselves up to be acceptable to Him. While we were still sinners, Messiah died for us (Romans 5:8). Glory!

This working out your own salvation with fear and trembling is about living a holy life through obedience to the commandments. “For this is the love of YHVH, that we keep His commandments; *and His commandments are not burdensome*” (1 John 5:3). John is quoting from Deuteronomy 30:11, so this is not a new idea, nor did it change when Yeshua came (Matthew 5:17). The fact is, the only “commandments” John had to tell us to keep were those of the first covenant. The Word of YHVH tells us this obeying is accomplished by the power of Holy Spirit. Obedience to the commandments is what sets us apart (makes us holy, sanctifies us). Holiness is established when anything is set apart from something and dedicated to something else. In this case, we are set apart from the world, sin, shame and their mandates and are dedicated to YHVH for His use.

We also understand that salvation is not an end in itself, but the beginning of a life that has been changed and should continue to grow and mature on a daily basis. Working out your own salvation with fear and trembling is not about saving yourself. It is about doing what YHVH has commanded once you have made a decision to trust Yeshua as Lord of your life. We are back to making choices. Lord means master. How can we call Him Lord/Master, and not do what He says (Luke 6:46)? The key here is trust or faith. If you say you are justified by Yeshua and yet refuse to do what He says, then He is not master and you do not trust Him. We are told in James 2:20 that faith

without works is dead. Faith is not made active until it does something. You can have faith that a chair will hold you up, but until you just plain sit down on it, you have not *exercised* faith in that chair.

I labored under the “new creature myth” for a time. It made me feel even worse since the problems never seemed to go away and the only conclusion was that there must be something in me that can’t be fixed because YHVH can’t be wrong. Well, if YHVH can’t be wrong and He says I am more than a conqueror in Him, how is it I can’t be fixed? Perplexing, to say the least.

It occurred to me that perhaps the way the “new man” teaching was presented was faulty. Maybe there is more to a personal relationship with the heavenly Father than spouting memorized passages of Scripture and praying and spiritual warfare. This never-ending, non-overcoming battle didn’t seem like the promised rest at all. I am not saying that proclamations of Scripture are wrong or that spiritual warfare doesn’t have its place. It most certainly does. The word of YHVH will go forth and accomplish that for which it is sent and will not return empty (Isaiah 55:11). It was the Word that exposed my self-deception that day in my kitchen. It was the Word that allowed Holy Spirit to come in power that day and shine the light of truth on the lie that I believed. The difference is in me moving away from doing it my way to allowing YHVH to be master and letting Him have His way.

Time for another choice. Was I going to lay aside my preconceived ideas and assumptions and allow YHVH to bring

the changes I so desperately needed so I could be healed? When we come to Him, it must be on His terms. He was revealing a truth about healing which was extremely unfamiliar to me, one that gave Him preeminence in the process. My sense of failure was connected to a lie that needed to be exposed, a lie that had taken root and was causing problems severe enough to keep me from walking out the fullness of my calling in YHVH's kingdom. There is nothing new under the sun. Satan has been at this a long time. He has established a system that virtually supports and replicates itself. Just like in the garden, if he can get us to succumb to sin by believing lies, all he has to do is sit back and watch as we reap the consequences which steal, kill, and destroy. I decided to take the road less traveled, to open myself up to a new level of trust and to let go of my limited understanding. I was stepping into another dimension of faith and intimacy with my Creator.

Vulnerable Is Good

I was in a dilemma, desperately trying to rid myself of these feelings of failure and inadequacy, doing what I was told should or would work, but didn't. I claimed the promises, I said the words, I *truly* believed. Here I was at the women's conference and it had been over ten years since the incident in the kitchen. I found it difficult to discuss what had happened there with other believers. There was little understanding and even less encouragement to continue along these lines. At times, the opposition was so strong from other believers that I would find myself doubting that what had happened was even from the Father. But, He would remind me of His love and desire for good

things in my life and that nothing but good fruit had come from letting go and exercising forgiveness. A broken relationship was mended and it had opened the doors for YHVH 's love to flow through me to this person. This was *not* the work of the enemy!

At the women's conference, a precious servant of YHVH began ministering to me. YHVH's presence was powerful and it was time for another healing to take place in my life. I allowed Holy Spirit to again have the freedom I had granted Him so long ago in the kitchen. It was a place of vulnerability.

It simply is not true that trauma or hurt, whether real or perceived has no effect on us. It is also not true that coming to salvation through Messiah dismisses the consequences of sin, or that proclaiming Scripture and believing is enough. Satan himself is quite adept at using Scripture. We are told in James 2:19, that even the demons believe in Yeshua and they have enough sense to tremble in His presence. What makes the difference in the believing? It is trust in YHVH as the God of all gods. It is taking Him at His word and *doing* what He says. It is faith *with* works or obedience to His Torah, His instruction.

Hidden Sin

We learn from the first covenant that there is something called hidden sin. David calls it secret sin. Not in the sense that he is trying to hide it from YHVH, but sin he isn't even aware is there. YHVH made provision for this within the sacrificial system of the first covenant. The guilt offering, as explained

in Leviticus 5, outlines the procedure for sin committed unknowingly. Even if the person is unaware of the sin, he or she will still be held accountable. Guilt offerings were brought for those things which were hidden and then revealed as well as for those which remained hidden.

Under the Renewed Covenant of Yeshua's blood sacrifice, we are told to agree with YHVH that we have indeed sinned. This is called confession. We must then repent of the sin, which means making a deliberate decision to turn away from it and return to the ways of Torah. It is at this point that we are able to receive the forgiveness which is available. At the moment of initial salvation, we are established in His righteousness and have access to the very throne room of heaven through the shed blood of Messiah Yeshua. From there, we are asked to live lives of obedience where we are continually putting off sin and putting on righteousness (Ephesians 4:22–24) to produce sanctification or holiness.

For most of us, the hidden sin is manifesting as something that may seem totally unrelated. That manifestation can look like depression, an overwhelming sense of failure, uncontrolled fits of rage, bizarre responses, mental confusion or physical sickness and disease. Remember, these are signals that something is wrong. YHVH makes it clear that we are to have joy and peace and that He desires us to be in health even as our soul prospers (3 John 2). When we are in right standing with YHVH, His spirit provides us with peace that surpasses understanding even in the midst of the most grievous trial. We receive joy from Holy Spirit that is unspeakable and full of glory.

Peace is not the absence of turmoil. It is the assurance of and in the One who knows you better than you know yourself. This is not something we manufacture. It is a byproduct of obedience. We can rest in certainty that the blessing is sure because YHVH is faithful. Blessing is the result of obedience (Deuteronomy 28). If we find ourselves in a place where our peace and joy are being stolen, the enemy is at work. Scripture is clear. Satan's only access to you is through sin, which is disobedience (Ephesians 4:20–27). YHVH *does not* make us sick. Sin opens the door for the evil one to bring death and destruction to our minds and bodies. Instead of despairing, honor YHVH by going to Him and asking for the solution to the problem. Who among you, when your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? How much more will you receive from your heavenly Father when you ask *according to His will* (Matthew 7:9–11)?

Chapter Four

A Closer Look at Sanctification

When you have come to the edge of all the light you have
And step into the darkness of the unknown
Believe that one of the two will happen to you.
Either you'll find something solid to stand on
Or you'll be taught how to fly!

Patrick Overton¹

Overcoming

We are all works in progress. There are times when glorious freedom is experienced from a particular bondage and we will bask in unbridled peace and Father-love. This brings a release to function more fully in our intended purpose, and much fruit is produced in and through us. Scripture bears witness that we are being transformed from one degree of glory to the next when we are in the place of communion with the Father's heart. When we are ready, He will move us on to something else that needs to be exposed to the light of Truth. Whatever is not of Him in our hearts, minds, or bodies will be brought to the surface to be laid on the altar and burned up, a pleasing

and sweet aroma to the Father. I believe this is what Paul is referring to when He tells us to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1, 2).

YHVH has not left us defenseless. He has given His word as the ultimate authority for our every need or problem and His spirit to empower us to use that Word as a sharp two edged sword able to perform supernatural surgery by cutting out the deadly embedded cancer of sin and lies that stop us from accessing our inheritance in the kingdom. “His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness ...” (2 Peter 1:3). The necessity for godliness, holiness, being set apart, *sanctification*, the process of becoming what YHVH intended us to be, is abundantly clear. Remember, this is not what someone else says we should be, what we want to be, and not what abuse, neglect, or rejection have determined we are, but who we truly are in Messiah. This aspect of our salvation has been so neglected in mainstream church teaching that for most of us, trying to discover this can be such a difficult and painful process that we ultimately give up and settle for something that provides a modicum of relief—something that makes it possible for us to cope or manage in a place of compromise.

The root of the word *compromise* is promise. The prefix *com* means together or with. Compromise involves concessions, reduction in value or quality, exposure to danger, suspicion or disrepute, all things that are attached to or come with promise. Compromise requires two opposing forces to meet somewhere in the middle (see Hegelian dialectic;

Appendix B). Counterfeits are always compromise. Setting up a counterfeit or believing in one nullifies the promise of YHVH for your life in that particular area. In other words, a compromise is a lying promise.

Beloved, YHVH has not called us to compromise! “You shall love YHVH your God with *all* your heart and with *all* your soul and with *all* your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37). I believe there is a correlation between these “alls” and the ones that say He died for *all* our sin and healed *all* our diseases (Psalm 103:2,3). Without faith it is impossible to please YHVH (Hebrews 11:6) and faith without works is dead. Obedience to His commandments is the sanctifying work of faith. YHVH wants us completely, and He wants us the way *He* created us. We are each an integral part of the many-membered body, each one with a specific task and purpose established from the foundation of the earth. YHVH did not put us on this earth just to get by. Nowhere in Scripture are we called to be just survivors. We are to be overcoming, victorious, triumphant warriors! Yeshua came that we might have life and have it abundantly—to be who He says we are for His purposes and His glory and to do it from a position of authority in spiritual, physical, and emotional strength!

A New Paradigm

So what happened at the women’s conference? YHVH used the discernment of His precious servant to have me seek out the place of origin of the debilitating sense of failure. (There is a source, usually a buried sin or lie, which gives the enemy

permission to torment.) I was in tremendous emotional pain. It had surfaced and I was out of control, incapable of stopping the wrenching sobs and thoughts of failure. I had to make another choice. It was extremely uncomfortable because I was required to give Holy Spirit total control.

I had to let go of ideas framed by certain teaching about how YHVH works and heals right now today. I know when my heavenly Father speaks to me and so I obeyed when I heard Him say that I could trust what was about to happen.

Fear came in its insidious way and tried to get me to stop the process. Somewhere in me I realized if fear was there telling me to stop this, it had to be a stronghold of the enemy that he was desperately trying to keep. Satan and his minions work like an army. They send in troops to take over territory that is compromised by sin. They bring in reinforcements to fortify their new ground. These reinforcements look and feel like fear, pain, self-sufficiency, anger, etc. They send you into great distress to keep you from reclaiming what is rightfully yours through trust in Yeshua.

I said no to fear and yes to Abba. What Holy Spirit uncovered was the cumulative effect of instances throughout my childhood that conveyed to me the idea that nothing I ever did was good enough. It could have or should have always been better. Because of this, I believed I would never amount to anything. It was a lie, but because I was too young to understand otherwise, I accepted it as truth. The lie became the frame of reference for how I lived my life. I was always striving to be perfect in

everything I did, but, I was never satisfied with any of it. I was forever disappointed in myself. Holy Spirit exposed this as a lie and then revealed the truth to me. YHVH spoke to me in the midst of my pain and said, “You haven’t failed Me.”

The gates of hell came crashing down with that revelation! I had assumed that having failed everyone of consequence in my life meant that I must also have failed Him, and this was at the core of my pain. In that moment of truth, waves of release tumbled over me, freedom and peace and sweet relief from years of trying to overcome what I believed was an integral part of who I was. Glorious light flooded into my being! There was only one thing left to do. I had to remove the ground that had given place to the enemy, the ground of a hidden lie that I didn’t realize existed until now.

Whether you are aware of the lie you believe or not, it is still sin and sin must be confessed and repented of in order for the ground which the enemy stands on to be reclaimed and the effects of the sin to be wondrously removed or reversed. In confession, I agreed with YHVH that I had sinned by believing this lie, and turned away from it in repentance. I then received His forgiveness, which cleansed me from all the unrighteous effects and activity connected with the lie. Now, finally free from the lie that had masqueraded as truth for so long, I could bathe my mind with the Word, washing it and renewing it, letting the power of the Word do the work instead of me trying to make it happen by demanding my rights as a child of the King. Now, with this small measure of truth and understanding about who I was in Messiah up and running,

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I could rest in the knowledge that no one and no thing could ever take it away.

What I chose to do these two times, first in my kitchen and then at the women's conference, was to take responsibility for sin I had committed. The issue is not who is to blame for the fact that you are believing, or have believed, a lie; the issue is getting past the lie to live a healthier and more productive life in Messiah. Certainly, the people who say or do things to others which damage them are at fault, but they are responsible for their own sin. This is how YHVH set it up. It can be as simple as a wrong perception or understanding on our part formed in a state of immaturity which prevents us from being able to process a particular incident appropriately. It can also be devastation brought on from physical or mental abuse. The results of either are damage and destruction. We each have a responsibility to face what is allowing the enemy to function in our lives.

These two interventions of YHVH in my life—at my request—opened up a journey down the pathway of inner and outer healing which continues to this day. The first time, it was just Abba and me in my kitchen. At the conference, I was ministered to by another believer who was gifted and trained to facilitate the process. I am eternally grateful for both times.

Moving, changing, growing, maturing, becoming all you were meant to be is sanctification. Remember that sanctification is being set apart from something, sin and all its resident evils, and being dedicated to something else, the will of the One

who created you. Scripture tells us we are either slaves to sin or we are slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:16). YHVH is righteousness and holiness. His instruction (some translate this as *law*) is intended to show us what righteousness looks like. Yeshua came and “fulfilled” the instruction (law) by doing and saying only what He heard from the Father (John 5:19, 30; 7:16). Perhaps this can help us understand why Yeshua spoke in this place at this time but not at all at other times, or why He went immediately this time but waited another time. The work of sanctification is obedience to the Father’s will. It is not complying with rules and regulations. Doing what you hear Him say will never contradict His word. It may not conform to the *halachah* or catechism of your particular doctrinal position, but then Yeshua’s obedience to the Father turned the existing religious system upside down! Operating out of a heart of love and desire for your Creator is the kingdom of heaven come to earth and will always glorify Him.

ⁱ (from patrickoverton.com, credited as © Patrick Overton, *The Leaning Tree*, 1975, *Rebuilding the Front Porch of America*, 1997)

Chapter Five

YHVH's Plan

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares YHVH, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

It is my belief that in this country, we have so many alternatives to YHVH's established plan in the areas for which He has claimed sovereignty, that we have unwittingly forfeited our inheritance. We go begging Him for healing *after* the medical system has failed. We cry out to Him to supply our need *after* we lose our job and have gotten ourselves so far into debt, we'll never be able to climb out of the hole. It was never His intent to go about fixing our messes. He is in the business of transforming us into obedient, well mannered, healthy children.

Where to Start

We are told in Scripture that when we seek YHVH with our whole heart, He will be found. Hidden sin will be revealed for removal if that is truly our desire. YHVH intends for us to be

whole and that means healing on every level and He says *He* is our healer.

And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of YHVH your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, [then] I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, YHVH, am your healer. (Exodus 15:26)

The Hebrew word for healer in this passage, *raphah*, conveys the idea of making one thoroughly whole in body, mind, and spirit. This is a promise which has a condition. That means it requires you to do something in order for the promise to become effective. The language used says, “If you, then I . . .” In order for the *then I* of the promise or blessing to occur, which is the part we all want to happen, the *if you* must first be operating. This is the definition of faith. Simply believing what YHVH says is not enough. Remember the demons believe and have enough sense to tremble, but they do not *do* what they believe.

Let’s explore this particular *if you*. It is broken into four sections, each sending a similar message, but with a different emphasis.

- **if you** *give earnest heed* to the voice of YHVH—to sincerely and diligently obey what he says
- **if you** *do what is right* in His sight—to actively engage in what is proper
- **if you** *give ear* to His commandments—to hear with intent to respond

- **if you keep** all His statutes—to guard or exercise great care over.

As usual, all the bases are covered leaving nothing to the imagination or any loopholes that we can wiggle out of. We are to obey what He has given through Moses as written instruction governing how we are to live. *If* we do this, *then* we shall be disease-free, for YHVH is our healer. Does this mean that obedience to the commandments and healing are connected? It certainly seems that way. Yeshua even says it in the Renewed Covenant when He heals the physical infirmity of the man at the pool of Bethesda. “Behold, you have become well; *do not sin anymore*, so that nothing worse happens to you” (John 5:14). He also says it when He heals the inner turmoil of the woman caught in adultery. “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on *sin no more*” (John 8:11).

Without an accurate understanding of what sin is, we are at a distinct disadvantage. Obviously, the two Hebrew people in the examples above had no need to be taught about sin. They understood what Yeshua was saying. They experienced immediate release from the effects of their disobedience and were told to quit their specific sin or *disobedience* to remain healthy. As Hebrews, they were aware of the commandments and what Yeshua’s admonition against further sin meant.

YHVH has a plan and a purpose for each one of us. He says that before each of us was formed in the womb, He knew us (Isaiah 44:2). He established your personality, your physical body and your mental ability. It is perfect, because He created

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it. We have a little problem, though. Something called sin. This sin affects us from the moment of conception and distorts and infects our beings. Sin does not change YHVH's plan for us—it *stops us from living it out.*

Satan's Plan

Satan, the enemy of your soul, has been around a long time. He and his minions have vast stores of knowledge about the easiest fastest ways to keep you from fulfilling your created purpose. Once, during a deliverance session led by a humble servant of YHVH, demonic forces revealed the reason they were making me sick. They said it was to render me ineffective. They could not take my kingdom citizenship or my relationship with my Savior, but they could make me miserable, tired, and physically weak as long as they had a legal right to afflict me. They are legalists because that is all they have.

In a ministry prayer session to discover truth, one man was having difficulty understanding the idea of giving ground to the enemy. He said that all he could picture was marking out physical boundaries of real estate. I asked him whose property he was. He replied that he belonged to YHVH. I said, "There are squatters on YHVH's property. They are trashing the place and bringing down the property values. The reason they are there needs to be discovered so they can be legally evicted."

YHVH has established spiritual laws that operate and all created beings are subject to those laws, including the angels—good or bad. So the bad take complete advantage of any sin to

establish squatting rights to stop the advancement of YHVH's kingdom—or at least slow it down considerably.

Revelation 12:10, Job 1:9, and Zechariah 3:1 state that Satan spends day and night accusing us (the brethren) before YHVH. The scene would be similar to our modern day courtrooms with the judge (YHVH), the defense attorney (Yeshua—our advocate), and the prosecutor (Satan). The accusations are leveled based on the established Word of YHVH. If there is disobedience or sin that is not being actively attended to, the righteous judgment must allow for the consequences of the sin. This is where the evil one gets authority to afflict and oppress. Ephesians 4:26–27 instructs us to refrain from sin so that the enemy cannot have an opportunity/place/ground to stand on and bring death, loss, and destruction into our lives.

Yeshua has given us instruction and power through *Ruach haKodesh* to exercise authority over the enemy. That authority is an internal spiritual truth that Yeshua reigns supreme and is our authority. It is *His* righteousness that thwarts the schemes of the enemy. The authority we have is through the indwelling of Holy Spirit that empowers us to make choices for righteousness, which effectively removes the permission we have granted the evil one through sin or *un*righteousness.

This can seem oppressive, but it is truth. Please, understand that again, it is up to us to make choices for and not against YHVH. He desperately wants to bless His children. He will and does fight for us, pray for us, and love us more than we will ever understand. It is about a heart attitude of humility

and repentance and a choice to love Him with all our heart, soul and strength. He will defend this every time, beloved! In my case, physical sickness rendered me less effective than I was intended to be, but the enemy's power was limited by my obedience until the time I was able to be completely delivered. What grace! What amazing grace!

Sin's Plan

Let's return to the garden, which is where we should always go when dealing with sin. We see some curious business. Satan appears as a serpent with human attributes. I have wondered if it was a natural occurrence for Adam and Eve to converse with the animals. I don't believe it was, but think about it. It's you, one other human being, your Creator—and a talking snake? One version of the Bible says Eve was beguiled, or in other words, lured, enchanted, captivated. I suppose a talking snake could cause that.

Next, we find Eve in a conversation with the snake, a discussion of things that had already been established, a deliberate intention by the snake to cast doubt on preexisting edicts. There is a sequential progression that is a scriptural principle: thoughts become words, which become actions. Satan planted a thought in Eve's mind: You were lied to. She translated the thought into words, "We can eat from any of the trees but one *and we can't even touch it.*" With these last words, Eve becomes a liar. With this first sin, a spoken little white lie, Eve boldly moves toward action: When she saw that the fruit would make her wise, i.e., like YHVH, she took it and

ate it. (Hence, the admonition to take every thought captive to obedience in Yeshua.)

As Eve made the choice to decide her own future, she placed herself under not her own authority, but Satan's, thereby giving him dominion over her instead of YHVH. Satan's purposes are utter and complete destruction in opposition to the Creator whose plans are that we have a hope and a future, life abundant and eternal. As I said earlier, once you buy into the lie, as Eve did, the destructive effects begin to take their toll on your heart, your mind, and your body. The lie says you can control your own destiny. It says you can decide for yourself what is right and good and that you can make your own truth. It says no one matters but you, that you are not to blame for anything and sin won't kill you. Sometimes the lie comes with such subtlety that you don't even realize it got in—until you feel the effects of it in your body. And you will, it's a promise.

Because of the fall in the garden, our bodies will undergo eventual death and decay. But YHVH, in His wisdom and unconditional love for His creation, provided a plan that would, as much as possible this side of eternity, give us abundant life. This includes wholeness and well-being in our bodies and minds when we carefully observe the instruction He has given. Instruction that insures strong healthy bodies because we eat foods that do not destroy them. It keeps our minds and hearts from pollution as we guard them by hiding His words there and doing what He says. This instruction says not to hurt one another, and helps us understand that we are not YHVH.

We have been given clear, simple instruction for the well-being of our bodies, emotions, and spirits. These keep us safely in Tzion (the promised land of YHVH's covenant) receiving the blessings and promises. Sadly, many of us covet the greener grass of false promises (*compromise*) for for cures, medicines, reduced pain, and personal care or attention that is so enticingly appealing to our flesh. We have preferred the lure of immediate relief (the drugging and/or cutting or maiming of our bodies) to facing and walking out the truth that has proven to bring true healing.

Every created thing belongs to its creator and we are no exception. He created us, He purchased us with the shed blood of the once-for-all-sacrifice of His only begotten Son, and Scripture tells us it is our reasonable service to offer ourselves back to our Creator as living sacrifices. Isaiah 45:9 says, “Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker ...*will the clay say to the potter, ‘what are you doing?’*” The definition of sin is transgression of the Law (instruction) or in other words, disobedience to YHVH's commands. This disobedience opens the door to the diseases of Egypt. YHVH is not a man that He should lie. We, on the other hand ...

Chapter Six

The Diseases of Egypt

The Word of YHVH is the only one that is backed up by His power, light and life. By not walking in it we end up carrying in our bodies and minds the sicknesses and diseases of Egypt. We were called *out* of Egypt. Salvation is only one aspect of that deliverance.

Defining Disease

And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of YHVH your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, [then] *I will put none of the diseases on you* which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, YHVH, am your healer.” (Exodus 15:26)

But you shall serve YHVH your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and *I will remove sickness* from your midst. (Exodus 23:25)

[B]ecause you listen to these judgments and keep and do them ...YHVH *will remove from you all sickness*; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:12, 15)

For greater understanding, I want to examine the meanings of the words *disease* and *sickness* in these passages. (See also Appendix C.)

Exodus 15, 23: Disease → Strong's 4245 → *mahaleh* → root = holi: to become sick in body, mind, spirit

Deuteronomy 7: Sickness → Strong's 2483 → *holi* = to become sick in body, mind, spirit

Deuteronomy 7: Disease → Strong's 4064 → *madweh* = to be sick; illness, pertaining to the loathsome characteristics of diseases such as dysentery and elephantiasis.

So, what we perceive when we hear the words sickness and disease agrees with the original meaning of the words.

If you are still not convinced that YHVH's way is best, let's look at some of the diseases of Egypt. I compiled this information from books and websites on Egyptology. Historical documents and present-day scientific procedures are used to investigate every aspect of the mummies from this time and area of the world. It is amazing what they have discovered.

The following list of diseases was gleaned from several sources citing world renowned scientists and Egyptologists from studies and experiments of the Egyptian culture dating back thousands of years. This is not an exhaustive list, but will get my point across:

Anemia, arthritis, autoimmune deficiency, cancer (malignant tumors), cardiovascular disease (including hardening of the

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arteries, heart attack, high blood pressure, etc.), cholera, cysts, dementia, diabetes, elephantiasis, guinea worms (see Fiery Serpent at the end of this chapter), leprosy, measles, migraines, pleurisy, pneumonia, parasites (schistosomiasis or bilharzia, which is prevalent today in the Middle East and can be traced back 5,000 years in Egypt), smallpox, tuberculosis.

Who would have thought that the same diseases would still be around after all these years?

Origins of Disease

We are going to take a good long look at fear. First, because YHVH tells us to “fear not” and second, because it is the number one cause of sickness and disease in the world today.

In my research, I discovered that 75 percent to 90 percent of sickness and disease is a physical symptom of a spiritual problem. I didn’t pull this number out of a hat. This is a medical statistic that can be found in any number of medical journals and publications.

Medical science states categorically that 75 percent to 90 percent (depending on which source you read) of illness today is stress related. There you have it. So, what is stress and how does it cause disease? YHVH’s purpose in creating man (Adam) was fellowship, but YHVH wants this relationship to be our free choice. In order for Adam to have a choice, YHVH issued a negative commandment: Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We are each created with the ability to choose and given intelligence that empowers us to

make knowledgeable, informed decisions. In order for justice to operate, there must be consequences. Justice works two ways. YHVH has given many instructions (Torah—translated *Law* in Scripture) to us. Some are positive and some are negative. Attached to the instructions are consequences. Obedience produces good consequences or blessings and disobedience brings negative consequences or curses.

In Genesis, we find a list of results of Adam's disobedience that ultimately led up to the stated consequence of death.

Genesis 3:10: The first negative emotion recorded is *fear*: Adam said, "I was afraid."

Genesis 3:15: There will be continuing *battle with the enemy*

Genesis 3:16: *Pain* will be increased in childbearing

Genesis 3:23–24: The man was driven out of the garden, separated from YHVH (disfellowship and *death*)

Genesis 5:5 tells us that Adam died. Some contend with the language of the original pronouncement which states, "The *day* you eat of it, you shall die." Adam obviously did not physically die that day. I think the *principle* here is that death in the Scriptural sense did occur. Adam and Eve were banished from the garden. The tree of life had to be placed under guard so that its fruit which supplied eternal life could not be eaten. They were separated from the Creator.

Stress is defined in the *Random House Dictionary* as:

Pressure, pull, or other force exerted on one thing by another, strain; any stimulus as fear or pain that disturbs or interferes

with the normal physiological equilibrium of an organism; physical, mental or emotional strain or tension.

The root of the word disease is *ease*. Adam and Eve lived a life of ease. Their lives were filled with all the good things and blessings YHVH could imagine to lavish on them. They were not lazy or spoiled. They were loved with a perfect love and had intimate face to face, one-on-one fellowship with their very Creator. At the moment they exercised their will against YHVH's plan for them, they entered into *dis*-ease. The prefix *dis* causes a word to mean the opposite. In other words, they became stressed! They experienced fear, enemies, pain, and separation, just like YHVH said.

Our bodies were initially created for rest and ease. This was the dynamic of the Garden. The first negative emotion mentioned in Scripture after the fall is fear. Adam explains to YHVH in Genesis 3:10 that the reason he didn't answer His call was because he was afraid. This is not the kind of fear we associate with the awe and reverence of a Holy God and His majesty. It is an emotional state of anxiety or terror produced by the knowledge of impending danger, pain, doom, dread, panic, alarm, worry, distress, grief, or torment. This kind of fear causes stress. Stress tightens muscles. Tightened muscles cause pain. Pain causes more fear. What a nasty little merry-go-round!

When you get a headache, you begin to rub or put pressure at the point of pain. Usually, we will rub our head or neck or roll it around to help loosen up tension and try to get some

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relief. Stress headaches are tension related. Tension is tightness. Tightness in some muscles is good. We spend millions of dollars a year on physical fitness to tighten our abs, gluts, biceps, etc. When it is done right, exercise is an excellent stress reliever. The kind of stress I am talking about is the result of fear on some level that triggers involuntary reactions which produce and release hormones, enzymes, and chemicals throughout your body to get you through the crisis causing the fear.

I am aware that just as there is good tension for proper muscle tone, there is stress that occurs when we get excited or stimulated in other circumstances—seeing your baby for the first time, sexual excitement, getting a promotion, etc. This is not the kind of stress we are addressing here. There is another set of chemicals and hormones that is released in these situations.

What Stress Does to Your Body

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. We function best without fear or stress, but because of the fall, most of us will never realize that level of efficiency. Science calls the normal function and balance in the body *homeostasis*. Homeostasis is the state of being stable or balanced, *unstressed*. I wish to credit Henry W. Wright¹¹ with helping me to understand the physiology of stress.

Inherent in each of us is an involuntary reflex reaction known as fight or flight. It is good. It was put there by YHVH so we could deal with stress. It is triggered by dangerous situations

and can be instinctive as well as observational. When something violates the normal function of our bodies such as fear, danger, abuse, trauma, or lack of love, your physical body reacts to the stress by stimulating the sympathetic nervous system to produce chemical changes in the body sending you into the *fight or flight* mode. This is a built-in survival mechanism, factory-installed by YHVH. It is an amazing aspect of how we were created. A fight or flight response happens when you accidentally bump up against a hot surface and automatically pull back. Your nerves send a message to your brain, which tells the adrenal glands to start pumping adrenaline into your blood. This causes your heart rate and breathing to increase, and involuntary muscle contraction pulls your hand away from the offending source of pain. When the immediate danger is passed, the homeostatic mechanisms neutralize the released chemicals which propelled you into survival mode and everything goes back to normal. The whole process is much more complicated than this and, of course, works at a wide range of levels, but you get the idea.

The chemicals and enzymes that flood the body during fight or flight are designed to produce a temporary effect for a temporary time for a specific purpose. What would happen if those chemicals and enzymes remained in the body for an extended period? Remember what the medical profession says is the primary cause of disease today. Stress, right? Stress moves us from homeostasis to the chemical imbalance of fight or flight. When we maintain a constant state of stress which is any stimuli that disturbs or interferes with the normal physiological equilibrium of the body, the body is kept in the fight or flight mode with all its corresponding chemicals, enzymes, hormones

and symptoms. Since the body is not designed to operate for long periods of time under this influence, eventually symptoms of dis-ease will manifest. These can include an increase or suppression of appetite and sleep patterns, interruption of tissue repair, infection, shutting down of the immune system, and even deterioration of bone (osteoporosis).

People are full of fear. We are afraid of each other, of war, losing our job, planes, buildings, food, rejection, getting old, sickness, death, bugs and on and on. In this state of constant fear the hormones produced by stress and fear stay at the fight or flight level keeping us in a constant state of hyper-readiness.

Getting to the place where stress makes you sick means the body has been out of balance for a long time. There are graduating levels of this stress related state. At first, the lack of homeostasis produces things like depression, high blood pressure and blood sugar levels that the medical system controls with medication. If stress is not dealt with at this level, the second stage affects glands which cause different parts of the body to malfunction. Moving into the second stage is where more serious diseases show up—strokes, kidney disease, thyroid problems, systemic yeast, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, etc. Finally, the body will shut down the immune system, all because we can't stop stressing, worrying, and being afraid. Interestingly, the sicker we get the more afraid we become and on and on. Stress levels are maintained and the sympathetic nervous system stays engaged to manage the problem. What was intended for a

good thing, improperly used, has become the vehicle for our destruction.

This is why doctors are prescribing blood pressure medicine and diagnosing diabetes in record numbers. If the body does not regulate blood pressure and medication doesn't work, heart disease, kidney disease and stroke are next on the list. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 76 million people in the US (one in three) from age twenty and older suffer from high blood pressure. It also states that in 2010 the direct cost of treating high blood pressure was \$76.6 billion including lost productivity.^{III} Diabetes, if left untreated leads to heart disease, stroke, blindness, amputation, and/or renal failure. The number of people contracting diabetes since 1980 has doubled to more than 20 million in 2005 and is expected to double again by 2025. One out of every eight federal health dollars or \$80 billion dollars a year is spent on treatment of diabetes. It is expected that over the next 30 years 62 million lives will be lost to this disease.^{IV}

Doctors are doing what they can by way of slowing down the progression of the stages. They know that in order for their patients to be okay they must stop being stressed. Doctors also know the only effective tool they have against stress is medication like anti depressants and mood enhancers. We will look at medicine in another chapter. Right now, let's revisit some of the diseases of Egypt.

High blood pressure and heart disease: Continuous unresolved stress puts strain on blood vessel walls which can

burst and cause a stroke. Decreased cell capacity to absorb oxygen and nutrients causes the heart to work harder to get the body what it needs to live. Stress also reduces the number of new blood cells being created.

Diabetes: This is the inability of the body to produce insulin, a hormone that regulates glucose in the blood. Insulin is produced in the pancreas, a gland near the stomach that aids in digestion. Damage to the pancreas is caused when white corpuscles attack it; this is known in medical language as autoimmune disease or the case of the body destroying itself. Autoimmune problems can be traced back to forms of self hatred and anxiety. Insulin injections help level out blood sugars, but do not fix the pancreas or stop self-hatred.

Migraines: Of the 16–18 million migraine sufferers, 70 percent are women, and these headaches are stress and guilt related.

Cancer: T-cells in the immune system are one of the body's main defenses against cancer. T-cells are only produced during the body's relaxation cycles. No relaxation/rest/sleep = no T-cells. Put together the reduced amount of blood cells in a stressed body and add T-cell depletion and you have a dangerously compromised immune system which allows abnormal cell activity to go unchecked.

Insomnia: Both overwork and/or over-stimulation can interfere with proper sleep patterns. Over-stimulation produces adrenaline, a chemical released by your brain

into your body that causes heightened alertness and boosts energy which makes you a virtual busybody. In order for you to sleep, another chemical called melatonin has to be released. Melatonin kicks in when adrenaline levels are reduced because of restricted activity or rest. By designating a period of quietness or relaxation before going to bed, you can facilitate the release of melatonin and get a great night's sleep. I used this principle with my sons when they were young by having them take their baths before bed. The warm water was relaxing and it allowed them to unwind from the stimulation of the day: activity, TV, or excitement of whatever nature. Scripture also tells us that a good conscience will help us sleep and confession is good for the soul.

Exercising Faith

YHVH's word is absolutely clear about stress. It simply says don't do it. We are commanded repeatedly, "do not be anxious" and "fear not." In other words, do not worry, be stressed, uneasy, troubled, fearful, alarmed, concerned, disturbed, uptight, fretful, etc. In my Strong's concordance, I underlined every time I found the words *fear not* or their equivalent. I counted over eighty instances. This did not even take into account the admonitions against anxiety and worry. I would say YHVH is really serious about this.

Walking in anxiety/fear or stress is sin. It is disobeying YHVH. "Trust in YHVH with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:6 NKJV). It is

all about exercising faith, trust. Can you trust YHVH with your life—all of it—or not? Can the One who created you be trusted to provide for, protect, heal, and sustain you? Acknowledging in your head that what YHVH says is true and not applying it to your life is faith without works and faith without works (application/action/obedience) is dead. It is impossible to please YHVH without faith (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is a spiritual law that functions, period. When you put your faith in something and couple that faith with action, there will be results. For instance, when drug companies do testing on new drugs, a control group is given a placebo—something that looks like the real thing but is not. An interesting phenomenon happens among the control group. Some in the group will exhibit the actual effects of the drug being tested just because they believe (trust, have faith) that they have taken the real thing. In certain cultures, witchdoctors or shamans are trusted to be able to heal or curse and it will take place. When faith is effective, it is not the faith that is the issue, it is the object of the faith. The control group puts its faith in the placebo to do what they were told it would do. The pagans put their faith in the power of the witchdoctor or shaman and something happens. As believers, Yeshua is the object of our faith. Tragically, we do not seem to have nearly the results that nonbelievers have. Nor do we, as believers, exercise as much faith in YHVH as in medicine, the stock market, our job, or even ourselves. We say we believe, but little or nothing happens. What is wrong that we cannot trust the Creator of the universe, the lover and Savior of our souls, to do what He says?

I am fully aware that chemical compounds which comprise “drugs” can and do affect the human system without faith. What is being discussed here is not the chemical manipulation of the human system, which will be discussed in a later chapter, but the spiritual law of faith.

The Fiery Serpent

According to medical and historical information, it is fairly certain that the “fiery serpent” of the biblical account in Numbers 21:6–9 was most likely the guinea worm or in Latin, *dracunculus medinensis*^v.

These parasites are most common in Asia, the Middle East, Arabia, and North Africa. A person is infected with juvenile worms by drinking contaminated water. The parasite will go through several stages of development before reaching maturity within the host body. Males are absorbed by the female after fertilization. The females make their way to the epidermis where they release their young causing an intense reaction which produces an extremely painful stinging blister. Hence the name, fiery serpent. After the skin ruptures or is cut close to the head of the female, which can be seen underneath the skin, it is removed by winding it onto a stick. Some can reach up to a meter in length. This was so common in ancient times that often “physicians” advertised their trade using a picture of a worm coiled around a stick.

YHVH sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have

spoken against YHVH and you; intercede with YHVH, that He may remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded for the people. Then YHVH said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.” And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a standard; and it came about, that if any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived. (Numbers 21:6–9)

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. (John 3:14, 15)

To say that the verses in John apply only to the method of Yeshua’s death on the stake leaves out far too much. What is meant by the phrase, “as Moses?” If you go back to the text in Numbers, you see that confession and repentance *preceded* the making of the bronze serpent. Once conviction of sin and true repentance was demonstrated, Moses was directed to make the bronze serpent. The language is definite. It says when you look, not if you look. It was assumed that their repentant heart would also lead to obedience. Again, faith with works!

The Hebrew word translated “put” or “set” can mean to direct towards. Moses was to direct the Israelites toward the remedy, not the serpent on the pole but the God of the serpent who gave it as a reminder of His power to those who were *already believing*.

Go back to the words in John: “whoever believes.” The verb tense is present participle which shows continuous action,

referring not only to those who might believe but to those who are already believing. Notice that the Numbers passage shows there was belief already before the serpent was raised up. Yeshua being raised up on the stake became the symbol of redemption for all who would believe on Him, but also for all who had looked to Him already believing. Faith with works!

The Caduceus

The cross and the serpent on the pole are not magic charms. If looking at the snake on the pole is what healed the people, then it would make sense to look at something similar when we need healing. But, according to Scripture, the bronze serpent was only for healing the bite of the fiery serpent. All other diseases would need their own symbols stuck on poles. The idea of looking at a snake on a stick for healing seems absurd, but so is assuming that because the symbol is connected to Yeshua in Scripture, that the profession using it is holy.

[Hezekiah] removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah. *He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it and it was called Nehushtan—a piece of bronze, an idol.* (2 Kings 18:4)

With better understanding of what the serpent on the pole represents, let's look at the symbol that is so venerated, even in the church, as the sign of YHVH's blessing on the medical profession. The depiction of the snake on the pole has long symbolized medical practice. Does the fact that it is mentioned

in Scripture validate the practice of medicine as YHVH's chosen method of healing?

Symbols permeate our society and our institutions. When you go the restroom anywhere, you recognize the room reserved for your sex not only by the letter symbols that form the words “men” or “women, but also by the symbols that depict the male or female form. Symbols have been used forever for communication. An excellent definition of a symbol is: a visible sign of an invisible reality.

Are you “saved”? The word saved comes from the Greek word *sozo* and means to save one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health, and it establishes salvation as that which makes whole. This is the same word used in John 3:16–17 and again in John 5:33–34. Paul tells us in Romans 8:11 that the same Spirit that raised Yeshua from the dead dwells in us to give life to our *mortal* bodies. The serpent on the pole. Yeshua on the stake. Both are witnesses not to themselves, but to the one true living God, YHVH Elohim. It is He who saves. It is He who heals.

ⁱⁱ Wright, Henry W., *A More Excellent Way*, (Thomaston, GA 30286, fifth edition, Pleasant Valley Publications, 2002)

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [High Blood Pressure Home >Facts and Statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/index.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/index.htm>)

^{iv} Emaxhealth Daily Health News, Health and Wellness Section, article: *Diabetes, Symptoms and Care*, (<http://www.emaxhealth.com>)

^v <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dracunculiasis>, article, last modified on 28 June 2011

Chapter Seven

The History of Medicine: The Roots of the Medical System

This chapter was the most difficult, challenging, and time-consuming of the book. Over the years, the Father has had me in places where various bits of information were opened up to me. They swirled in my head and congealed in understanding confirmed by Scripture. It is this vital piece which reveals the true origins of the medical system. Prepare to have your preconceptions shaken!

Remembering

Why is it important to study where things come from? From Genesis through Revelation we are admonished to remember to keep a proper perspective of the God we serve. Also, we are to weigh and test all things according to His Word. This is to be our standard, our plumb line for all things pertaining to godliness. Scripture does not address every minute detail of every minute issue, but it gives *principles* that when applied, produce clear and concise answers for everything including healing. Matthew 7:17–18 tells us very plainly that if the root is

bad the tree is also bad. It is impossible for good fruit to come from a bad tree.

So, let's go back several thousand years and remember. The medical system as it exists today had a beginning. The first mention in Scripture of what looks like our modern medical system is found in Genesis 50:2. It is the account of the death of Jacob in Egypt. The art of medicine was well-established in ancient Egypt. In this passage, we read that the "physicians" (Hebrew: *raphah*) embalmed Jacob. Their accumulated knowledge of the human body along with knowledge of "medicinal" herbs and spices equipped them for their profession. The physicians were Egyptian, not Hebrew. Israel spent more than 400 years in Egypt and it is clear from the wilderness accounts that they had absorbed quite a bit of Egyptian culture. One thing that I do not find in Scripture, however, is any reference to the Egyptian brand of healing being adopted by the Israelites. (What about the midwives and their function, you may ask? First, conception and birth is spiritual activity—it is YHVH who opens and closes the womb and who forms us in it (Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:5; 66:9). Second, giving birth is a natural function of a woman's body. It is not, as today's doctors would have us believe, a medical emergency.)

We are given an insightful promise in Exodus 15:26 just three days after the children of Israel miraculously passed through the Red Sea. They had reached the waters of Marah (which in Hebrew means bitter), located about seven miles inland and noted for its brackish (undrinkable) water. Interestingly, the problem of undrinkable water was something they had just experienced in

Egypt as one of the ten plagues. Having come a good distance and needing something to drink, the Israelites complained to Moses. We are told that YHVH showed Moses what to do to remedy the situation. And then, “There YHVH made for them a statute and an ordinance, *and there He proved them.*”

Proved is a word used in Scripture that means to test. YHVH established a test for the children of Israel in the form of a conditional promise. Exodus 15:26: “*If you will give earnest heed to the voice of YHVH Elohim, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, (then) I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, YHVH, am your Healer [Hebrew: raphah, same word used of the Egyptian physicians].*” We see here that their understanding of the physicians of Egypt was used by YHVH to refer to Himself. The Egyptians were called healers, but there is only *one* true Healer. We also know that the Hebrews had just been through a rather remarkable display of His power to start and stop plagues. YHVH states categorically that obedience to Him will keep them disease-free. Later, He would give specific instruction regarding health related issues to the priests, the holy men of YHVH, who were responsible for the *spiritual* well-being of the people.

I have not uncovered in my research anything in Hebrew history that resembles the practice of medicine as we now know it. The only treatment of disease outlined in Torah is the ceremonial and sacerdotal. We find regulations regarding hygiene, but no one would translate this to mean medical knowledge. As a matter of fact, the medical system refused to accept that hygiene was

even important until late in the nineteenth century. In 1847, Dr. Ignatz Semmelweis, working in a hospital in Vienna observed that maternity patients were dying at an alarming rate. Most of those dying had been treated by student physicians who worked on cadavers during an anatomy class immediately before beginning their rounds in the maternity ward. He suggested changing clothes and washing hands between assignments. For this he was rewarded by being sent to an asylum where he died after being beaten to death by guards. We now understand scientifically that keeping clean is vital to good health, clearly advocated in Scripture long before Dr. Semmelweis or science deemed it necessary. In spite of this, studies reveal today that a large percentage of doctors and nurses do not wash their hands between patients. So much for “scientific” knowledge.

The form of healing practiced by the Egyptians was borrowed from the Babylonians and was further developed by the Greeks and the Romans. Each successive culture left its particular imprint as influenced by their mythology, traditions, pagan philosophies, humanism, and religious customs. The symbology of Scripture equates Egypt with the world and its systems, replete with their pagan, polytheistic rationale. Babylon represents the realm of false religion. The Greeks brought humanism (philosophy elevating human thought, reason and logic to god status) into the mix and Rome’s contribution was the consolidation and dissemination of this information to many cultures. In the field of medicine, each of these pagan cultures has played a definitive role.

The following sections trace a line of history beginning with Hippocrates and showing the development of medicine

as well as its origins. The progression moves steadily forward with each section and culminates in the practice of medicine as we know it today.

Hippocrates

Once upon a time there was a god of truth, light, and beauty, whose son was a healer. The son healed so many people that hardly any were dying and going to hell. This made the god of hell angry so he killed the son, but the father by his power raised the son from the dead and he lives in heaven and still sends healing down to those on earth (source unknown).

If this sounds familiar to you as a believer in Yeshua, it should. However, this is not an account of Yeshua, but a description of Asclepius the mythological Greek god of healing and medicine who was purported to be the son of Apollo, the Greek god of health, a look-alike-counterfeit of the real thing. This was one of the gods of Hippocrates.

Hippocrates^{vi} is considered to be the father of modern medicine. He lived from 460 to 377 BCE, the noted classical period of Greek history. He would have been alive at the time of Xerxes, Ezra and Nehemiah and was born to a family that claimed descent from the Greek god, Asclepius. He was a Greek philosopher/physician influenced by his culture, contemporaries and mythological religious perspective, and driven by the belief that he was descended from the gods. Greek culture viewed all aspects of life as ruled by specific gods and/or goddesses. The primary gods in charge of healing

and health were Apollo the Physician, Asclepius, Panacea, and Hygieia. The Greek mindset is one that compartmentalizes or separates things. The body is separate and apart from the mind and vice versa. The exaltation of knowledge, the activity of the mind—reason and logic, became the foundation of the philosophies of the day. Hippocrates appealed to man’s pride in his own ability to figure things out reasonably and logically. From the moment in the garden when man took the first step to determine his own destiny, the need to know instead of to trust has dominated our world view. Hippocrates succeeded in demystifying sickness to some extent by formulating a theory of creation based on the philosophy of a close contemporary, Empedocles^{vii}.

Slightly older than Hippocrates, Empedocles gained recognition through his creation teaching that man was a composite of four elements—water, earth, air or wind, and fire. These elements were distributed by the gods in different proportions, which in turn determined a person’s physical and emotional make-up. For instance, a person disposed to fits of anger would be said to have a fiery nature. Whereas Scripture calls this sin, pagan philosophers established “reasonable” explanations for certain physical problems or behaviors. I call them excuses. I recall when drunkenness stopped being referred to as sin and became a “disease.” The same thing is being promoted now with obesity, a result of what Scripture calls the sin of gluttony. If there is justification for certain behavior or illness, then we do not have to accept responsibility. Someone or something else is the problem. In the case of Empedocles’ theory, “The gods made me do it.”

True to the Greek mindset of all things separate, Hippocrates was successful in putting a great deal of distance between religion and science, formerly seen as interconnected. During this time, his humoral pathology competed with astrology and magic. He was instrumental in establishing a sharp line between knowledge (science) and belief (religion), thus distinguishing his philosophy from their current practice of tying academia and religion (superstition, mythology) together.

Humoral pathology was the study of character and health from the standpoint of a person being influenced by his body's fluids or humors^{viii}. Hippocrates maintained that sickness of mind or body was the result of faulty mixing of the body fluids which could be corrected through science without having to rely on the capriciousness of the gods. They included: blood, phlegm, black bile (which does not exist), and yellow bile. Each of these fluids corresponded to one of the four elements of Empedocles' teaching.

Blood = fire

Phlegm = earth

Black bile = water

Yellow bile = air

While Hippocrates borrowed from the four elements theory, he carried it a step further bringing the focus of healing into the physical realm. Hippocrates took the four elements theory of Empedocles and carefully separated the physical from the emotional. He took the mythological, spiritual idea of man's makeup being governed by elements that were controlled by gods and

brought it down to an intellectual level. Thus, he insured his place as a new thinker and was sought after as an instructor. Although Hippocrates separated physical traits from the supernatural arena of the mind and the heart, credit for his findings were given to their source, as seen in the Hippocratic oath. These named gods were the gods associated with healing and health and were the gods and goddesses Hippocrates served.

It cannot be said with certainty that Hippocrates wrote the Hippocratic oath, but there is consensus that he definitely inspired it and it was most likely written during his lifetime. The original version begins: "I swear by Apollo Physician, Asclepius, and Hygieia, and Panacea and all the gods and goddesses, making them my witnesses ..."^{ix} (see appendix A).

The oath was generally perceived as an ideal to achieve and was not until the fourth century that physicians literally took the oath before beginning their practices. There are many admirable admonitions in the Hippocratic Oath, just as there are admirable qualities in other literature that is not Scripture. But if *good* does not conform with Scripture, it is a counterfeit. Down through time the particular named gods were substituted with others to fit specific religious or secular affiliation. Hippocrates' humoral pathology laid the groundwork for the next great medical theorist of antiquity.

Galen

The year is 161 CE, and a brilliant Greek doctor with a well-deserved reputation arrives in Rome and finds favor with the

reigning emperor, Marcus Aurelius. The doctor is Galenos or Galen^x. He is the son of a wealthy Greek architect and has a widespread and eclectic education. He had a well known devotion to Asclepius, one of the Greek gods of healing. His contributions to the field of medicine remained a dominant influence until the beginning of the nineteenth century CE (1800s). He is noted as the last great physician of antiquity.

Galen studied Hippocrates extensively. Building on his humoral pathology, Galen contended that each of the four humors (or fluids) displays two of four primary qualities. These were: hot, cold, wet, and dry. For instance, phlegm was considered cold and wet, whereas black bile was cold and dry. It was maintained that all life forms carried one of these attributes and that any illness also exhibited these traits. In theory, any illness exhibiting a trait could be treated with a corresponding medication of the opposite trait. Galen also purported that personality was influenced by the particular mixture of elements, fluids, and traits. His work firmly established potions, tinctures, and medicines as common treatment for physical and mental illnesses. It was the ability of the Roman government to widely disseminate such teachings that brought Galen's work into the limelight and fast tracked the medicine and drug connection throughout the world.

The explosion of technology that began in the mid 1800s led to scientific discoveries such as X-rays, magnetic imaging (MRIs), sonograms, ultra sounds, EKGs, EEGs, etc. These amazing testing methods are used to diagnose an enlarged heart, clogged arteries, tumors, pregnancy, nerve damage,

emphysema, etc. Other methods like high powered electron microscopes identify germs, bacteria, and viruses. What is done with this information? Galen's methods are put into practice. All these diagnoses are teamed up with the corresponding medicine to alleviate the symptoms. For instance, high blood pressure medicine is prescribed to lower blood pressure. Insulin is prescribed for diabetics. Most likely this is a lifelong remedy. Remember, healing is not taking place. High blood pressure or diabetes do not go away, they are just *managed* with medication. This is because the medical system's primary function is to minimize or alleviate symptoms, because they cannot heal by removing the cause.

To be fair, modern medicine does recognize the principle cause, which is stress. It also offers information on how to relieve stress. The problem is that people have to want to take care of the causes of their stress. This means taking responsibility for their own baggage, which seems to be an insurmountable struggle for most.

Time to remember again. What did Adam say to YHVH when they were caught? Well, the first thing he does is blame the woman, "The woman who you gave me" (Genesis 3:12). Now, read the statement carefully. "The woman," he says, "who *you* gave me ...". He finishes up by blaming YHVH. Whoa! When Adam was created, YHVH said He created Adam in His image. But wait, after the fall, we read in Genesis 5:3, "When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son *in his own likeness, according to his image* and named him Seth." What is happening? Scripture tells us that

after the fall, the descendants of Adam are created in Adam's image—sinful, rebellious, blame-casting Adam.

So what is my point? One of the primary causes of sustained illness is refusing to take responsibility for our own root issues, which is sin. Blaming others for your sin removes the necessity of Yeshua's sacrifice. If you have no sin, you do not need a Savior. I concede that modern medicine does attempt to correct root issues. They accomplish this by prescribing psychotropic drugs for psychological/mental/stress that can cause physical problems. They are getting closer to the source, but still only medicating instead of healing. Again, Galen's method of using a corresponding drug for a diagnosed illness is put into practice. Only now, we have the two branches of medicine, physical and mental, that have never fully lost their connection coming full circle to join forces again. This is an attempt to heal the whole person. At least they are on the right track.

Wilhelm Maximilian Wundt and Psychology

Wilhelm Maximilian Wundt^{xi} was born in a small town in southern Germany in 1832. He graduated from Heidelberg University in 1856 as a medical doctor. He spent almost his entire career practicing and teaching psychology. Wundt eventually settled at the University of Leipzig where he was instrumental in creating the world's first psychological laboratory in 1875. Wundt stated the following regarding his monumental work, Physiological Psychology first published in Leipzig in 1874: "The work which I here present to the

public is an attempt to mark out a new domain of science.” With the aid of certain Hegelian (see Appendix B) philosophers of the day, Wundt succeeded in inserting his ideas into the established understanding of “science.” He successfully redefined psychology. Or, did he redefine science? Instead of the study of the mind or soul being a philosophical subject, it became a physiological subject. In other words, instead of these studies being confined to subjective criteria (that which is spiritually ascertained), they became objective (that which can be proven experimentally).

Random House Dictionary defines science as: “a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws.” This is accomplished through the process of experimental testing to determine empirical evidence. When repeated experiments yield the same results, a conclusion is drawn which is supported by the evidence.

Wundt took Hippocrates’ idea of separation of church and science one giant leap into darkness. He attempted to study the mind using the experimental and deductive methods accepted in science. The mind does not lend itself to produce the consistent results demanded of true science, however, drugs are quite another matter. Administering drugs to treat psychological problems and then measuring the results forever redefined psychology as experimental science rather than speculative philosophy.

Carl Jung Ties It All Up With a Bow

The following quote is translated into English from a book written by Carl Jung in 1931—*Seelenprobleme der Gegenwart*. The book was published in German by Rascher Publishers, Zurich, Germany.

The attempt of the human spirit to construct types and thereby create order out of chaos within the individual are ancient. The oldest proven attempt of this nature is that very ancient oriental astrology with its so-called trigons on the four elements—air, water, earth, and fire ... and it is a very old idea indeed that he who is born in these trigons is partaker of their airy or fiery natures, and that he will develop a consequential temperament and lifestyle. Therefore the physiological typology of the ancients, that is, their dividing into four categories of the human temperaments, is closely connected to a still older cosmic view. What was earlier illustrated in the signs of the zodiac is now understood in physiological language as the terms *phlegmatic*, *sanguine*, *choleric*, and *melancholy* ... which are the denominations of the four body fluids.

Jung^{xii} is considered the founder of analytical psychology. He was convinced as a child that he had two personalities. The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), used to establish personality types today, was formulated from Jung's theories. He believed that spirituality was crucial to psychological well-being, but blended together different facets of the religions he studied which included Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Gnosticism and Taoism.

According to Jung, much of what he taught was inspired by a number of spirit guides one of whom called itself Philemon.^{xiii} In the psychic world, these contacts are called spirit guides and believers in Messiah know them as demons. Jung did far more than teach the pure science of observing and theorizing about how humans work. He formulated theories about the ongoing philosophical and religious questions regarding man's origin, purpose, and meaning that opposed Scripture and set man up as the one with the answers. These answers were dictated by demons in rebellion to YHVH. Like his predecessors, the Greek philosophers above, he was influenced by the dark and occultish realm of spirituality.

Medicine and Psychology: A Marriage Made in ???

The trail we have traveled historically leads back to a type of healing that was established out of belief systems and philosophies in direct opposition to YHVH's spiritual instruction to us. Any time man has tried to raise himself up as healer it has been through his own knowledge and understanding. We are commanded by YHVH not to lean on our own understanding but to recognize Him as our caretaker in all situations. In the garden, Satan said, "In the day you eat of it, you shall become like god ...". Man has eaten voraciously from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He has formulated doctrines and philosophies and religions in rebellion to what YHVH has so carefully shown us in His Word. Healing is spiritual activity. YHVH says, "I am spirit and truth ... I am Healer." Without exception, the men referenced above denied the one true living God and

accessed a counterfeit spirituality that produced a way for man to circumvent the responsibility for his own sin.

In Wundt's experimental psychological laboratories (the original was copied many times over throughout the world) mind altering drugs would be introduced to produce specific behaviors or alter others. Psychology became the counterfeit of YHVH's plan for understanding yourself and your actions. Drugs became the preferred course of action for changing behaviors. In choosing this plan, the problem ceases to be sin as defined by YHVH, thus effectively removing the consequences of sin defined by YHVH as sickness, disease, and death of body and/or mind. Without sin and its consequences, there no longer remains the need of a Savior from that sin. Philosophy traveled down the demonic slippery slope of man's own understanding to become science, forever joined to that of medicine or, more precisely, drugs.

Jung's teachings went far beyond the traditional sense of psychology which is essentially the study (ology) of the soul (mind or psyche). This had historically been the domain of religion. The marriage of physical and psychological medicine attempts to work with the whole person. Psyche is the soul (mind, will, emotions), *not* the spirit. A piece of the whole person is still left out. We are tripartite beings and separating our parts demands we be less than whole. YHVH has ordained that we are body, soul, *and* spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Leave any of them out, and your purpose cannot be achieved. We are also an intricate unity. Because of this, what happens or does not happen in one part affects the others. Proverbs tells us that

a man's spirit will sustain him in physical sickness. In Psalm 32, David says his unconfessed sin makes his bones grow old and his vitality to dry up. The interconnection of soul, body, and spirit is carefully documented throughout Scripture.

The following excerpt is mind-boggling! The emphasis in bold italics is mine. As you read, consider what is happening right now in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

“Wundt changed psychology to the current belief that man is a stimulus-response animal without a soul or free will.” Ivan Pavlov (of “salivating dog” fame), a student of Wundt, created a system of what Hall called Russian psycho-politics for use by dictator Josef Stalin. ***Millions of citizens were sent to gulags because of their opposition to the state, many of whom were given drugs or other treatments to cure them of their politically defined mental problems.***

German psychiatrist Ernst Rudin founded psychiatric genetics, the belief that mental health characteristics are passed down genetically, and the German Society for Racial Hygiene, which ***used psychiatric genetics in Hitler's service*** to establish that different races are genetically inferior or superior to others. ***Rudin's theories provided justification for the campaign against Jews***, in which he was integrally involved.

Psychiatry was born out of the eugenics movement of the late 19th century, and was used by totalitarians like Bismarck, Stalin, Hitler, and many more ***as a tool for social control***, explains Kevin Hall, the New England director of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), an

organization opposing psychiatry as it's now practiced. Hall, who has intensely studied the history and development of the profession, provides a terrifying summary of how ***psychiatry has been misused from the beginning, particularly as a tool of state compulsion.***

What you have just read is going on today. We are a society being drugged into submission to a New World Order. Modern psychology seeks to transform our way of thinking and/or acting using lies and propaganda. Failing that, drugs are introduced to achieve the “correct” thoughts or behaviors. Psychiatry is the practice or science of treating mental disorders. Debate continues in medical as well as political arenas regarding what constitutes a mental disorder. The list of symptoms for mental disorders include anxiety, stress, depression, lying, stealing, sexual sin, addiction, insomnia and pain. Check the list. Could you be diagnosed with a mental disorder? Schools are the institutions of choice for this desired change. Pull up Ritalin and Risperdal® on your search engine and weep. Our children are being sacrificed on the altar of social change.

Even churches are playing the hand of political correctness they have been dealt by the government. Some simply do not antagonize the system by refusing to speak out against mandates of tolerance toward behaviors which YHVH calls sin. Others are actually preaching these social doctrines as though YHVH Himself proclaimed them. Do not add to or subtract from the mouth of YHVH. Do not justify your disobedience. Do not say, “Thus saith YHVH,” when He has clearly stated otherwise. Do not call evil good or put darkness for light.

Some of us still think we have the choice (see section on health insurance at the end of chapter 8) of whether we are drugged or not. According to Gregory A. Hession, J.D., who participated in a hearing for a mildly autistic six-year-old boy in 2007, lawyers, a judge, and a jury—not a doctor among them—made the decision to place this child on not one, but five psychotropic drugs. Mr. Hession and the child’s mother were the only dissenting voices, suggesting that his environment, poor nutrition, separation anxiety, etc., could be possible causes of the problem. ^{xiv}

Not only are billions of dollars worth of drugs prescribed to relieve symptoms of physical sickness, psychotropic drugs are prescribed en masse for depression, anxiety, insomnia, bipolar disorder, ADD, ADHD, etc., and they are now being court mandated even to our children. I cannot even begin to address the issue of what the military has done to millions of enlisted men and women through vaccinations, psychiatric manipulation, and chemical exposure in the name of honor and duty.

Hate crimes laws have been passed or are being considered in most states. By definition, a hate crime punishes people for what they think. If you commit a crime and there is reason to believe your motive is hate, that singles you out from “normal” criminals. According to these laws, it is possible a person could also get additional punishment (perhaps psychological treatment or drug therapy) for simply professing that they disagree with politically correct ideologies such as sexual immorality and abortion, among other things. Considering current court decisions, we are a hair’s breadth away from being forcibly drugged into compliance.

It appears that there is an automatic response that kicks in with psychiatry and psychology that perceives drugs as the ultimate, if not the only, treatment for life issues. Finding root causes is not considered a necessity for such scientists or politicians. Getting to the actual cause of a problem would bring one into a place of taking responsibility, which implies that you are capable of making your own choices. This would remove control from the “powers that be” (government, religion, medicine, etc.). Provision for never ending treatment definitely insures job security throughout the healthcare industry and has the added benefits of producing an easily controlled populace for the government’s agenda. There is a dark and occult connection between psychology and government. This brings us to a whole new dimension of Big Brother.

Antidepressants

Serotonin is a neurotransmitter. Neurotransmitters are chemicals that transmit signals in our bodies. Serotonin contributes to our sense of well being. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors or SSRI’s are the current rage for mood enhancers. How do these drugs work? Well, from what I can understand they allow the level of serotonin in your system to stay put longer which in turn is supposed to prevent anxiety, depression, and other symptoms. Earlier I discussed how these feelings are signals that something is wrong. Sadly, we have been conditioned to just pop a pill instead of getting to the bottom of the problem. Who needs Yeshua, right?

Antidepressants have been recognized as potential inducers of mania and psychosis since their introduction in the 1950s. Klein and Fink^{xv} described psychosis as an adverse effect of the older tricyclic antidepressant imipramine. Since the introduction of Prozac in December 1987, there has been a massive increase in the number of people taking antidepressants. Preda and Bowers^{xvi} reported that over 200,000 people a year enter a hospital with antidepressant-associated mania and/or psychosis.

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs), of which Prozac was the first, is just one category of antidepressant. Other SSRIs are Zoloft, Paxil (Seroxat), Celexa, Sarafem (Prozac in a pink pill), Lexapro, and Luvox. Other newer antidepressants included in this list are Remeron, Anafranil and the SNRIs (Serotonin–Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors) Effexor, Serzone and Cymbalta as well as the dopamine reuptake inhibitor antidepressant Wellbutrin (also marketed as Zyban).

The *Physician's Desk Reference*^{xvii} lists the following adverse reactions (side effects) to antidepressants among a host of other physical and neuropsychiatric effects:

- Manic reaction (mania, e.g., kleptomania, pyromania, dipsomania)
- Abnormal thinking
- Hallucinations
- Personality disorder
- Amnesia
- Agitation
- Psychosis
- Abnormal dreams
- Emotional lability (or instability)
- Alcohol abuse and/or craving

- Hostility
- Paranoid reactions
- Delusions
- Sleep disorders
- Akathisia (severe inner restlessness)

On December 13, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration updated the Black Box Warning for antidepressant usage to include suicide for those *under* the age of 25. The Black Box Warning is a notice included on the packaging of a prescription drug which warns patients and prescribers that the drug has potentially dangerous side effects. They are also found in the *Physician's Desk Reference* for drugs.

I had a dear friend who was murdered by her husband who then killed himself. He was on antidepressants. I live in Colorado. The young men who perpetrated the devastation at Columbine High School were on antidepressants. The use of drugs to “cure” problems which they only serve to exacerbate is ludicrous ... unless the motive is control rather than help.

^{vi} (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippocrates>)

^{vii} Parry, Richard, “Empedocles”, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2008 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = (<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2008/entries/empedocles/>).

^{viii} O’Neil, Dennis (http://anthro.palomar.edu/medical/humoral_pathology.htm, 2007)

^{ix} Greek Medicine, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, National Institute of Health, The Hippocratic Oath, translated by Michael North, National Library of Medicine, 2002 (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/greek/greek_oath.html)

- ^x Boylen, Michael, Galen [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy] 2002, (<http://www.iep.utm.edu/galen/>)
- ^{xi} Lionni, Paolo, *The Leipzig Connection*, Heron Books, Sheridan Oregon, 1993
- ^{xii} West, Marsha, *Carl Jung: Psychologist or Sorcerer?*, news with views.com, June 16, 2006, (<http://www.newswithviews.com/West/marsha5.htm>)
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- ^{xiv} Hession, Gregory A. J.D., *Behavior Worth Medicating?*, published:2007-09-17 (<http://www.fixcas.com/news/journal/hession.htm>)
- ^{xv} Klein DF, Fink M. *Psychiatric Reaction Patterns to Imipramine*. *Am Journal Psychiatry* 1962; 119: 432-438
- ^{xvi} Preda and Bowers. *Antidepressant-Associated Mania and Psychosis Resulting in Psychiatric Admissions*. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 2001: 62: 30-33
- ^{xvii} *Physicians Desk Reference 2011* by PDR staff, PDR 65 Edition 2011, PDR.net

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Chapter Eight

Medicine and Money Connection

The sad truth about drugs is that they are addictive. Even if they do not have physical or chemical properties that make them that way, those who take them can easily become mentally or emotionally dependent upon them. This, in turn, creates the means to make money from dispensing drugs, both legally and illegally.

Pharmakeia

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk, and they did not repent of their murders nor their sorceries nor their immorality nor their thefts. (Revelation 9:20–21)

The English word *sorcery* is translated from the Greek word *pharmakeia*. It sounds familiar because it is where we get our English words—pharmacy, pharmacist and pharmacology. The *Strong's Concordance* reference numbers are 5331, 5332, and 5333, respectively.

5331 – *pharmakeia*: medication, by extension magic, literally or figuratively; sorcery, witchcraft

5332 – *pharmakeus* from *pharmakon*: a drug, i.e. spell-giving *potion*: a druggist or *poisoner*, i.e. (by extension) a *magician*—sorcerer

5333 – *pharmakos*: the same as 5332, sorcerer

Paracelsus, the Father of Pharmacology knew this. He stated, “All drugs are poison.” He went on to say that prescribed in right doses, they *could* be beneficial, but nowhere did he address the issue of side effects.

The Scriptures, from beginning to end, are quite adamant in their prohibition of magic, sorcery, and witchcraft. Along with the above Scripture, Revelation 21:8 tells us that sorcerers are among those who will have their place in the lake of fire and brimstone. What exactly is Scripture saying? That medicine and drugs are inextricably tied to magic, sorcery, and witchcraft. Now, don't close the book and write me off. Daring to really look at what Scripture says and not what you have been taught or assumed to be true or what you want it to say can be unsettling to say the least, but if you want Truth, let's take a look at some interesting facts.

Medicine Is Big Business

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:9–10)

Following are excerpts about the financial side of drug companies. This material is included to document what I think you already know, especially if you are taking drugs for any reason. Keep in mind that Scripture states our healing was purchased by the blood from the stripes of Yeshua at the same time He purchased our salvation. Though it could not have cost Him more, it is free for the taking. By His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). The stripes refer to the tearing of Yeshua's skin with the cat of nine tails. The whipping was ordered by Pilate just before His crucifixion.

1 Corinthians 12:9, 28 speaks of spiritual gifts or ministries appointed in the body of Messiah for the "common good." Among these spiritual ministries is healing. Let me repeat that—among these *spiritual* ministries is *healing*. Just as salvation is spiritual activity, healing is also spiritual activity. Treatment from the counterfeit system of medicine deals with physical symptoms. Drugs are used to numb pain, surgical procedures cut out offending disease or destroy nerves to stop pain—both causing an *illusion* that all is right in the world, when in fact, what was wrong is still wrong. Pain, as one of the established consequences of sin (disobedience), is a signal that something is wrong. It lets us know we need healing, but what we settle for is illusion (magic) and pay for it dearly.

There is not a drug in existence that does not also have side effects. These in turn require other drugs to counteract them, which also have side effects and on and on. What we have is a perpetuating system that claims to help but in actuality causes new problems or diseases that require new drugs and total

dependence on the system to sustain life, if you call that life. It is—a counterfeit.

Making money is not anti-scriptural, but exploiting weakness and benefiting from the suffering of the sick and diseased is.

Legalized Drug Pushing

According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, published in 2007, 94 percent of doctors polled said they had direct ties to the drug industry. Drug companies have increased their spending on marketing to doctors by 275 percent from 1996–2004. Drug companies spend about \$7 billion dollars a year to woo doctors and still another \$18 billion on handouts of free samples, according to the Prescription Project, established to try to curb the drug industry’s influence. ^{xviii}

In 2005, 42 million prescriptions were written for sleeping pills, up 60 percent in 4 years. Drug companies spent \$298 million in 11 months to convince consumers they are safe. “You’ve got the patient population being bombarded with advertising on TV,” one doctor stated. “You’ve got increased advertising to physicians. You’ve got a formula for sales going up dramatically.”^{xix}

Does Advertising Affect Drug Sales?

GlaxoSmithKline Inc. of Research Triangle Park, N.C., won approval for the first time to sell the drug, Requip, specifically for RLS (restless leg syndrome). The company spent about \$27 million to advertise the drug for that purpose in 2005, according to TNS Media Intelligence, which tracks advertising. Since the Food and Drug Administration

approval, and the ensuing advertising campaign, U.S. sales of the drug have jumped from \$97 million to \$146 million. ^{xx}

A recent article by David Horowitz talks about the legal requirements for drug companies to present a “balanced” picture of the drug’s risks as well as benefits. Do people tune out the disclaimers on the risks in the ads because of the distraction of the upbeat images? Critics claim the warnings (*you know—the fast talking, low key, monotonous, almost subliminal list of side effects and problems the drug being pushed is capable of causing*, author’s comment) are downplayed and overshadowed by the images of healthy, vibrant, smiling actors. The article goes on to say that in reaction to these charges, the Food and Drug Administration is studying the reactions of people while they view television drug ads to see if they’re blinded by advertising smoke and mirrors. ^{xxi}

Oh, puleeeeeeease! Are we really going to spend tax dollars to see if people buy things they do not need or want after watching advertising which is specifically designed for that purpose? Common sense, where are you?

Drug Use Skyrockets

The front page of the *Denver Post* ^{xxii}, January 17, 2011, ran a story by Michael Booth on hospital disclosure rules stating: “The University of Colorado School of Medicine, National Jewish, and Denver Health are all reviewing and tightening ethics rules as dozens of doctors defy reporting requirements for drug-company payments that can reach well into six figures ...

the hospital system is also reviewing its ethics policies ... given the recent outcry about pharmaceutical spending.”

“Health care costs have been rising for several years. Expenditures in the United States on health care surpassed \$2.3 trillion in 2008, more than three times the \$714 billion spent in 1990, and over eight times the \$253 billion spent in 1980. Stemming this growth has become a major policy priority, as the government, employers, and consumers increasingly struggle to keep up with health care costs.”^{xxiii}

The annual survey of employer-sponsored plans, conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust, has charted the upward trend in healthcare costs for years. “There’s no tipping point at which health insurance becomes scientifically unaffordable,” Kaiser President Drew Altman said announcing the survey results. “But we have reached a point where it’s become more unaffordable for more employers and workers.”” (It is not “scientifically *unaffordable*,” but the workers can’t afford it. Does anybody out there understand what was just said?) This year’s survey found that the average family policy cost \$12,106, a 78 percent increase since 2001. (A friend of mine who works for a national company has not had a raise in four years and continues to lose salary because of the increase in what she is required to pay for health benefits which are increasing exponentially every year.)

In 2008, U.S. health care spending was about \$7,681 per resident and accounted for 16.2% of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP); this is among the highest of all industrialized

countries. Total health care expenditures grew at an annual rate of 4.4 percent in 2008, a slower rate than recent years, yet still outpacing inflation and the growth in national income. ^{xxiv}

Considering this enormous expenditure, we should have the best medicine in the world. We should be reversing disease, preventing disease, and decreasing the cost. However, the fact is just the opposite. As human beings, we are seriously affected by: (a) the effects of stress on the immune system and life processes; (b) the couch potato syndrome or lack of physical exercise; (c) high and empty calorie diets; (d) highly processed foods and depleted and chemically altered soil; and (e) exposure to environmental toxins. The treatment for the diseases caused by these problems creates more illness from medical intervention due to technology, diagnostic testing, overuse of medical and surgical procedures, and overuse of pharmaceutical drugs. This strategy is wreaking havoc on humanity. There is a choice. There is a better way.

*Highest Cause of Death in United
States Is Now Medication*

From 1992 to 2003, the number of Americans who admitted to using prescription drugs for non-medical reasons almost doubled, from 7.8 million to 15.1 million, and abuse among teens more than tripled, according to a survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University in New York. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional poisoning deaths—95 percent of which are [prescription] drug overdoses—increased from 12,186 in 1999 to 20,950 in 2004, and unintentional poisoning deaths

involving other psychotherapeutic drugs, including sleeping pills, antidepressants and tranquilizers, grew 84 percent from 1999 to 2004. Prescription drug sales have soared nearly 500 percent since 1990. “There’s a stigma that’s associated with illicit drugs that isn’t associated with legal drugs.”^{xxv}

July 15, 2010, Gil Kerlikowske, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and Thomas McLellan, Deputy Director of ONDCP, joined Peter Delany, Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Office of Applied Studies, and Michele M. Leonhart, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), released a new study. Governor Jack Markell of Delaware and Chris Kennedy Lawford were also in attendance.

The study, *Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Involving Abuse of Pain Relievers: 1998-2008*, conducted by the SAMHSA, and based on the agency’s Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) reveals a 400 percent increase between 1998 and 2008 of substance abuse treatment admissions for those aged 12 and over. The increase in the percentage of people abusing pain relievers spans every age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, employment level, and region. The study also shows a more than tripling of pain reliever abuse among patients.

“The non-medical use of prescription pain relievers is now the second-most prevalent form of illicit drug use in the Nation, and its tragic consequences are seen in substance abuse treatment centers and hospital emergency departments throughout our Nation” said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.^{xxvi}

In November, 1999, The Institute of Medicine issued a report titled, *To Err Is Human*. According to this report as many as 98,000 people a year are killed by medical errors. One million injuries and as many as 180,000 deaths occur annually from doctor prescribed medication that is *used as directed*. This is because all pharmaceuticals are by definition toxins, but most doctors ignore this fact.^{xxvii}

The high price of prescription drugs has put—and kept—U.S. pharmaceutical companies in the news recently, but Dr. Marcia Angell argues that problems with the industry run even deeper. In her book, (published by Random House Trade Paperbacks in 2005), *The Truth About Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What to Do About It* (reviewed in the current issue of *Mother Jones*), a doctor and a lecturer at Harvard Medical School and the former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* contends that the industry has become a marketing machine that produces few innovative drugs and is dependent on monopoly rights and public-sponsored research.

Angell disputes the industry's reputation as an "engine of innovation," arguing that the top US drug makers spend 2.5 times as much on marketing and administration as they do on research. At least a third of the drugs marketed by industry leaders were discovered by universities or small biotech companies, writes Angell, but they're sold to the public at inflated prices. She cites Taxol, the cancer drug discovered by the National Institutes of Health, but sold by Bristol-Myers Squibb for \$20,000 a year, reportedly 20 times the manufacturing cost. The company agreed to pay the NIH only 0.5 percent in royalties for the drug.

Finally, Angell attacks major pharmaceutical industry—*whose top ten companies make more in profits than the rest of the Fortune 500 combined* [author’s emphasis]—for using “free market” rhetoric while opposing competition at all costs. She discusses Prilosec maker Astra-Zeneca, which filed multiple lawsuits against generic drug makers to prevent them from entering the market when the company’s exclusive marketing rights expired. The company “obtained a patent on the idea of combining Prilosec with antibiotics, then argued that a generic drug would infringe on that patent because doctors might prescribe it with an antibiotic.”

These companies are justifying extremely high prices by saying they need this money to cover their high R&D (research and development) costs, and they’re very innovative, and that we should be willing to spend the money in return for the innovation. In the book, I question those premises. I say that, yes, they spend a lot on R&D, but still they make more in profits, and they spend two to two-and-a-half times as much on what they call “marketing and administration.” If you want to argue that they need the high prices to cover R&D, it would make more sense to argue that they need the high prices even more to cover their marketing costs. I just want to put that in perspective. Also, their profits are enormously high. Until last year, [they were] the number one industry in the U.S. in terms of profits. In 2002, the top 10 American [pharmaceutical] companies in the Fortune 500 made 17 percent of their sales in profits, whereas they spent only 14 percent on R&D. The median for the other Fortune 500 companies was between 3 percent of sales. So, you can’t make an argument that they’re

just eking out a living, just managing to cover their R&D costs.^{xxviii}

Within a decade \$1 out of every \$5 spent in the US economy will go for health care, with annual spending consistently growing faster than the overall economy, the federal government said Tuesday. The nation will spend \$4 trillion on health care—or about \$12,320 *per person* annually—by 2015.^{xxix}

Where do all these dollars go? Maybe the better question is: Where do all these dollars come from?

Are You Involved in Sorcery?

Let's go back to sorcery and Scripture for a moment. In 2 Timothy, Paul shares an important prophecy regarding the coming "perilous times." Chapter 3, verses 2 and 3 says that men shall be ... *incontinent*. Let's look at this word—incontinent. It means without self-control or in other words being controlled by someone or something else. For instance, drug addiction is being controlled by a drug. Another aspect of addiction is dependence. Keep in mind that Scripture does not make a distinction between legal and illegal drugs. Drugs are drugs, period. Whether you are dependent upon heroin, cocaine, or blood pressure medicine, you are still dependent/addicted.

Question: If you take a pharmaceutical drug for a specific illness that you would die or get much sicker without, are you addicted to *pharmakeia*? Yes, it is harsh, but how else would you put it? I do not buy the rhetoric that God gave us *pharmakeia*

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as His gift of healing. First, although it may relieve symptoms, it does not heal. And, for every benefit of any drug, there are multiple side effects. Some of those side effects will require another drug with more side effects to counter the ones from the first drug. Second, why would YHVH give us something to use which He has already commanded us to stay away from? Third, why would He have us enslaved or addicted to that which He says will be judged and cast into the lake of fire? Instant replay back to Revelation 9:21. Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their *sorceries* (magic, witchcraft, *drugs*), nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. Galatians 5:20 lists sorcery as one of “the works of the flesh” that directly opposes the fruit of the Spirit. Revelation 21:8 tells us that sorcerers (directly associated with drugs) will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

I am not advocating that you flush all your prescription medicines (and anything else you can buy without one) down the toilet. I am hoping that you will take a good, hard look at the lie that we have swallowed which says drugs are one of YHVH’s gifts to us. I urge you to ask Him what you need to do to begin the process of “coming out of her.”

The Mark of the Beast and Buying Drugs

I don’t know too many believers who disagree that we are living in the end times before Yeshua’s return. One device currently being perfected is the radio frequency identification device or RFID. This is a computer chip slightly larger than a grain of rice that can be implanted under your skin to monitor

your personal data and movements. One heavy incentive for getting one is the fear of becoming a victim of medical mistakes and misinformation that could be potentially deadly. Many big companies are pushing employees to be “chipped” for ID and tracking purposes. The U.S. government is currently trying to enforce the chipping of all farm animals. Ultimately, chips would replace cards now used for driver’s licenses, credit, check-cashing, etc. Currency will become obsolete and commerce will be done with cards. Cards, because they are easily lost or stolen will be replaced by RFID chips inserted under your skin and supposedly permanent. If you have seen the *Bourne Identity* movie, you know that the chips can be surgically removed. Unlike social security numbers, ID cards, and RFIDs, some things are forever, such as iris and voice patterns and fingerprints. We *will* be marked. Just how is yet to be seen.

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand on their forehead, and he provides that *no one will be able to buy or to sell*, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16–17)

Drugs are bought and sold. If you have prescription drugs that you buy, as a believer in Yeshua, you will have to make a choice when the proverbial excrement hits the fan. Those who seek to save their lives—by taking the mark of the beast so they can buy their drugs—will lose their lives. Those who lose their lives for Yeshua’s sake—by refusing the mark and the ability to buy or sell—shall save their lives (Matthew 16:24, 25). More

hard either/or facts. Despite the namby-pamby, it's-all-good, don't-worry-be-happy mentality of the universal peace and love gurus, YHVH says there is going to be a war to end all wars. It is called Armageddon and the script has already been written. You may believe in a pre-tribulation rapture and I would hope you are correct, but I don't see that definitively laid out in Scripture. So, I am not relying on it to get me out of the line of fire.

Many of the things I am sharing in this book have been shown to me over a number of years. I am not the only one who is seeing them. I believe that I have been instructed to share what YHVH has revealed. It is not hidden. It is right there in Scripture, *if* you want to see it. If you take the time to research, as I did, you will find confirmation of the facts I am sharing. For many of you, drugs are your life and the thought of giving up medicine is wrought with fear because *that* is what you are trusting in. Fear is faith in that which is not of YHVH (2 Timothy 1:7). Fear should be a huge red warning flag.

YHVH is raising up a glorious end time army of faithful, pure in body, mind, and spirit, holy people. People who have chosen to serve Him with all their hearts, minds, and strength, a holy people, undefiled by the world systems and set apart from the world to His purposes for His glory. We have been given a standard and a plumb line. It is the Word of YHVH. He is our sufficiency, our Healer, our protector, our provider. How can you expect your prayers for healing to be answered if you have just taken an aspirin (Advil, Motrin, Aleve, etc.) for a headache?

Drugs in Scripture

Five “drugs” are found listed in Scripture.

Name	Strong’s #	Description
Hemlock	7219	Poison derived from the poppy
Gall	7219/5521	Poison, <i>anodyne, pain reliever</i>
Wormwood	3939	Poisonous, bitter
Myrrh	4669	<i>To embitter as a narcotic</i>
Mandrake*	1736	<i>Aphrodisiac</i>

*Known as *mandragora*, its narcotic content was such that, taken in excess, it could produce nausea, rigor, and general malaise. The mandragora root was of special potency in inducing narcosis (drowsiness or possibly unconsciousness), and in ancient Assyria it was administered as an anodyne (pain reliever). Since there was no means of ensuring a standard strength of the potion, its use was apt to be accompanied by a certain amount of risk. ^{xxx} According to Gwen Shaw, writer of *The Tribes of Israel, (End-Time Handmaidens, Inc. Jasper, AR 1982)* the fruit of the plant was used to induce a state of low resistance to sexual advances. (See the account of Leah’s night with Jacob in Genesis 30.) She also says that during her time in China as a missionary, it was used by prostitutes to lower the defenses of soldiers. What immediately comes to my mind is this was the original date-rape drug.

Whenever these drugs are mentioned in Scripture, the first four are always connected to grief or despair and none of them are ever spoken of with relation to healing. What about Yeshua? Was He ever tempted with drugs? Scripture says in Hebrews

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4:15 that He was “tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” I don’t know about you, but I think of some of the sins in my life and I find it difficult to grasp this about my Savior, but YHVH is not a man that He should lie. I praise Him that there is nothing He cannot relate to regarding my sin and, difficult as it is, there is comfort in knowing this. There are two accounts of Yeshua being offered something to drink when He was being crucified. Sometimes biblical accounts can show differences because of the perspectives of the reporters. In this particular instance, we find two gospels with identical accounts where Yeshua was given vinegar for His thirst.

Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:23 record that just before nailing Yeshua to the stake, He refused a drink of vinegar mixed with gall/myrrh. As He hung on the stake, awaiting His impending death, Matthew 27:48 and Mark 15:36 tell us that He was again offered wine or vinegar, this time without the drugs, which He received. It is supposed that the addition of the gall or myrrh was given to numb pain when the soldiers felt particularly merciful. Knowing the purpose for the gall, Yeshua intentionally refused to drink the cup of pharmakeia and chose instead to suffer every bit of the cup of redemption for the remission of humanity’s sin (Mark 14:36; John 18:11). He refused to allow His mind and body to be desensitized or altered by narcotics. Yeshua “just said no” to drugs.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is a misnomer. It is more about the fear of material loss than it is about insuring health. It only insures that you will get

paid for being sick. Up to this point we have been able to decide for ourselves whether we wanted to pay out money to “insurance” companies so that if we get sick or injured we would not have to lose our life savings or homes due to the astronomical cost of healthcare. It provides coverage for medicine, visits to the doctor or emergency room, hospital stays and other medical expenses. Medicine seems to be mostly about the money. Scripture tells us that physicians have always been paid for what they do. “She had spent all that she had.” It also says that what they do doesn’t heal. “And she was no better but was worse.”

The medical system is more interested in getting paid for its work than truly healing. The definition of a profession is getting paid for what you do. Just like your car mechanic, the electrician, and the lawn care guy. The difference is that you usually get some kind of guarantee for their work. The medical system offers nothing of the sort. Sometimes doctors get sued for malpractice and that is why you have to sign release forms. Doctors pay for malpractice insurance which is one of the reasons they charge you so much. It is why the premium for health insurance is so high.

Health insurance works like this. You pay a premium for the amount of coverage you want. Even if you never use the insurance, you continue to pay. The hook that traps is the idea that your premium is minimal compared to expenses from a potential accident or illness. Those who do use the insurance are collecting the premiums paid in by millions of other people. Health insurance companies are businesses, too. Not only do they pay out money for medical care, they also make money and they make a lot of it.

The current medical system is big business that sustains hundreds of other businesses. It is called the health care *industry*. I believe that the health care industry will soon be one of the major controls exercised by government over our lives. We already have the World Health Organization—WHO—deciding much of what we can and cannot do healthwise. Medicare and Medicaid in the U.S. are the forerunners of socialized medicine seen elsewhere in the world. When our lives are at stake, we are fools unless we are trusting YHVH.

So why are we not trusting Him? Control. Consciously or subconsciously, we want to feel like we are in control. In reality, it is fear. Fear is what makes us sick in the first place and fear is what keeps us sick and fear is what makes us pay for doctors, medicine and insurance that don't do what they say. We are addicted to the medical system out of fear. What this makes me think of is organized crime. You know, the mob. They demand you pay for "protection" and ask you to trust them to keep you from being robbed or beat up when they are the very ones who do the robbing and beating up. YHVH says to trust Him, leave off fear, and *live*.

ObamaCare

Currently, there is a push for mandatory health care in this country. The over 1000 page bill is designed to put healthcare into the hands of government or at least give them a huge say-so. It is interesting that two years after its introduction, the constitutional flaws in the bill are being scrutinized by the courts. The biggest problem is that it decrees that all Americans, unless specially exempted, must have a congressionally prescribed

level of health-insurance coverage. This requirement cannot be issued by *federal* government and as such is unconstitutional. Government lawyers are scrambling to rewrite the law so it can pass muster in the courts.

ObamaCare's defenders have sought to manufacture another limiting principle. They claim that health care is unique because everyone will use medical services, health-care costs can be financially ruinous for uninsured individuals, and others will then have to pick up the slack by subsidizing consumers who do not pay their medical bills. Yet any number of national markets, including the housing market, share these same characteristics.^{xxx1}

Since, "there are limits on federal power and, in particular, on Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce [and] it has upheld those limits in a number of cases, making clear that federal regulation cannot reach into areas too remote from legitimate federal concerns,"^{xxxii} I hope and pray there is still a shred of integrity and respect for the laws that govern this country and that justice will prevail.

^{xviii} "Ties That Bind," *AARP Bulletin* 49, no. 51 (Jan-Feb 2008)

^{xix} "Record Sales of Sleeping Pills Causing Worries," Stephanie Saul, *New York Times*, February 7, 2006.

^{xx} "Marketing the Illness and the Cure," Rob Stein, *Washington Post*, May 30, 2006, A03

^{xxi} David Horowitz, "Don't slip up on these charges," *Costco Connection*. 23, no. 2, February 2008

^{xxii} "Hospital Disclosure Rules-Drug firms, docs on watch..." *The Denver Post*, 17 Jan. 2011, MON, 1A Section:A-1

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xxiv U.S. Healthcare costs

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xxxii *Why ObamaCare is Losing in the Courts*

Chapter Nine

Death and Deception

Another huge deception perpetrated by the medical system is the use of the counsel of the ungodly. The first chapter of the Psalms declares a blessing over those who do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. Isaiah 5:20 gives warning to those who call evil good and put light for darkness. Medical training wherever it is done incorporates many teachings and philosophies that oppose the truth of Scripture. In the chapter on the history of medicine, we see very clearly that most of what is the medical system has been born of pagan-inspired, anti-God, humanistic philosophy: the counsel of the ungodly.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Closer to our times, one of the most respected authorities on death, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, is required reading for medical students. Ms. Ross “made an important contribution to the treatment of dying patients (hospice care, etc.) in an age of increasingly mechanized medicine (and medical doctors), she also contributed to a kind of cult-like reverence for the allegedly superior truth-telling wisdom of the dying (and later the dead

as well). [S]he had ‘discovered’ the five stages of death and grieving. She got to people when they were most wounded, scared, and vulnerable, and gave them a secular religion of death. Staging death had a remarkable appeal and gave an illusion of control over the uncontrollable. She became a saintly icon, the Queen of Death.”^{xxxiii}

Ms. Ross was deeply engaged in the occult and declared repeatedly that death doesn’t exist, that it is only an extension of life and it is not to be feared. What does Scripture say about Ms. Ross’ counsel? Is it godly or ungodly? What does Scripture say about death? It says that death is our enemy and not our friend. It is the *ultimate* consequence of sin. For those who have rejected Yeshua’s atoning death as a substitution for what is required for sin, death is not a beautiful experience or the next stage of life. Death as defined in Scripture is separation from YHVH and that is definitely to be feared. These Scriptures on death are a sampling of how YHVH defines it.

I will *ransom them from the power of the grave*; I will *redeem them from death*. *Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?* (Hosea 13:14 NIV)

We know that we have *passed out of death into life*, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. (1 John 3:14)

But God raised Him up again, putting an end to *the agony of death*, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. (Acts 2:24)

Jack Kevorkian

Jack Kevorkian was the foremost proponent of euthanasia in the world. He started advertising in Detroit newspapers in 1987 as a physician consultant for “death counseling.” In 1991 the state of Michigan revoked Jack Kevorkian’s medical license and made it clear that given his actions, he was no longer permitted to practice medicine or to work with patients. Between 1990 and 1998, Kevorkian assisted in the deaths of nearly one hundred terminally ill people. According to his lawyer Geoffrey Feiger, two deaths were assisted by means of a device which delivered the euthanizing drugs mechanically through an IV. Kevorkian called it a “Thanatron” (death machine). Other people were assisted by a device which employed a gas mask fed by a canister of carbon monoxide which was called “Mercitron” (mercy machine). This became necessary because Kevorkian’s medical license had been revoked after the first two deaths, and he could no longer have legal access to the deadly drugs required for the “Thanatron.”

Here is another medical and political connection: On March 12, 2008, Kevorkian announced plans to run for Congress in Michigan’s 9th Congressional District against long term Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) and (Central Michigan University) Professor Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township). He will run as an independent.^{xxxiv} Kevorkian lost to Democrat Gary Peters.

I find it particularly interesting that the same medical system that cannot cure is more than willing to terminate the

evidence of their failure under the guise of “mercy.” The mercy that YHVH offers is never death but the right to choose life through repentance. When are we going to wake up to the glaring inconsistencies of this so called profession?

Margaret Sanger

Margaret Sanger was the sixth out of eleven children and became a public health nurse. Her influence in the field of medicine from a eugenics standpoint is profound and must be considered. Eugenics is the science of selective breeding, the process used to improve breeds of animals or races of men. Margaret Sanger is the founder of Planned Parenthood, the world’s largest abortion provider. She promoted the antichrist ideals of the New World Order as precisely and passionately as any. The following is a direct quote from Ms. Sanger: “The most merciful thing that a large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.” (Margaret Sanger, *Women and the New Race* [Eugenics Publ. Co., 1920, 1923])

Although, it was played down, the eugenics theme was prominent in Sanger’s work. She founded *The Birth Control Review* in 1917 and wrote articles connecting birth control and racial purity. She established the rethinking of eugenics and though similar to Darwin’s “survival of the fittest,” her conceptualizations raised it to a level of human society using the emotional issue of unwanted pregnancy, stating that the genetic makeup of the poor, and minorities, for example, was inferior.^{xxxv}

The Woman Rebel—No Gods, No Masters, was a periodical written by Sanger in 1914. The ideas she promoted were so radical and anti-YHVH that the Post Office suppressed its distribution. Consider this when realizing that it was her work which was instrumental in bringing the sex-education agenda into public schools. Problems stemming from her work include: sexual promiscuity, increased pregnancies outside of marriage, increase in abortions (3,700 per day in the United States alone), the disintegration of marriage and family, and death on a grand scale.

Alfred Kinsey

I debated about adding Mr. Kinsey to this list because his research wasn't medical in nature. I have decided to include this information as it speaks to the downward spiral of perversity that is perpetrated in the name of "science." The work of Alfred Kinsey has been the biggest boon to medicine since penicillin. He earned a PhD from Harvard and subsequently joined the educators of Indiana University. He was an expert on gall wasps and published high school biology texts until 1938, when he began research into human sexuality. In 1947, he published his findings in *The Kinsey Reports* on human sexuality^{xxxvi}. Although he was hailed by academia as modern, forward, and most positive, Kinsey's work was seriously flawed. (That educators and intellectuals did not critically evaluate Kinsey's own research and techniques exposes their agendas for wanting Kinsey's perverted ideas promoted as normal.) Kinsey's sex studies were touted as the first "scientific" evidence for advancing the acceptance of

pornography, homosexuality, and sex education. His report became the foundation of a sexual revolution that has brought us to the place of mandating vaccinations for eight-year-old girls against sexually transmitted disease (see information on Gardasil later in this chapter).

Dr. Judith Reisman wrote a book in 1990 challenging Kinsey's conclusions which are taught as fact at every level of education including medicine. Her book *Kinsey, Sex, and Fraud—the Indoctrination of a People* reveals:

- How the most famous sex research project in history was fraudulent.
- How official sex education doctrine in the United States is based on that research.
- How Kinsey's data came from pedophiles and sex offenders stimulating children (as young as two months) orally and manually for up to twenty-four hours at a time. This rivals the Nazi experiments described at Nuremberg.^{xxxvii}

Her book was published by Huntington House and is currently out of print. I located a copy in the used book section online at Amazon.com. Her newest work exposing this travesty is now out: *Sexual Sabotage: How one mad scientist unleashed a plague of corruption and contagion on America* by Judith A. Reisman (WND Books, Washington D.C., 2010).

Reisman also uses established definitions of science to discount Kinsey's methods and documentation in a paper titled *Why Kinsey's Data are "Scientism" Not Science*.^{xxxviii} The

paper is not lengthy and is well worth reading. Using Kinsey's material for any reason is most certainly walking in the counsel of the ungodly!

UPDATE: October 17, 2010, from WorldNetDaily—"Esther White, subject of 1940s 'research,' goes public with horrific details of abuse by dad." ^{xxxix} This breaking story relates that Kinsey paid her father to rape her repeatedly from the age of seven and keep detailed statistics that could be used in his book. LORD have mercy!

Faith in Deception

Corroboration of the material in this section is not difficult. I encourage you to use your search engine and pull up information from many different sources. We have become a nation of brainwashed sheep accepting what we hear as truth without the inclination or desire to follow Scriptural guidelines and see if what we are being told is indeed true. Some just believe without question, others choose appeasement and go with the flow so as not to make waves. Still others are hedging their bets—not sure if it's right but covering all the bases just in case.

Where Has All the Polio Gone?

According to Viera Scheibner, "Polio has not been eradicated by vaccination, it is lurking behind a *redefinition* and new diagnostic names like viral or aseptic meningitis According to one of the 1997 issues of the Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly Report, there are some 30,000 to 50,000 cases of viral meningitis per year in the United States alone. That's where all those 30,000 to 50,000 cases of polio disappeared after the introduction of mass vaccination.”

Statistics on polio were manipulated. One such way was to redefine the disease, renaming it “viral or aseptic meningitis“ or “cocksackie virus.” In one US county, in July 1955 there were 273 cases of polio reported for fifty cases of aseptic meningitis compared to five cases of polio in 1966, and 256 cases of aseptic meningitis *after* polio vaccines became the norm. These new diagnostic guidelines were issued by the Centers for Disease Control. If you object to receiving a polio vaccination, and you get polio—it is usually called “polio.” If you have been vaccinated and you get polio, it is called meningitis.^{x1} You see how the numbers remain the same, but the names have been changed to protect the vaccinated.

Vaccinating Children Against STDs

The medical community continues to push unsafe and unwarranted vaccines. “Be one less” is a new campaign to vaccinate girls as young as eight against cervical cancer which is caused by a specific form of HPV (human papillomavirus)—a sexually transmitted disease. Did you get that? *Eight* year olds vaccinated against *sexually transmitted diseases!* Why in the name of all that is holy do eight-year-olds need to be vaccinated against sexually transmitted diseases? (Maybe we should ask Alfred Kinsey.) Only 2 percent of the 6 million cases of HPV are the type that put one at risk of developing cervical cancer.

As an STD, this “disease” is clearly preventable by simply refraining from illicit sex.

In May 2007, it was reported by the National Vaccine Information Center ^{xli} that over 1,600 adverse reactions, including three deaths, had been linked to Gardasil, Merck’s new vaccine for HPV. Among those reactions, 371 were classified as serious and of the 42 women who received the vaccine while pregnant, 18 experienced side effects including spontaneous abortion and fetal abnormalities. (It appears those reactions, and deaths, are steadily rising.) The National Vaccine Information Center revealed the following statistic about this vaccine: 2,207 adverse reactions to Gardasil have been reported. Among them:

- 5 girls died
- 31 were considered as life-threatening
- 1,385 required a visit to the emergency room
- 451 of the girls have not yet recovered as of July 2007
- 51 of the girls were disabled

In 2008, Judicial Watch, a public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, began an investigation of the FDA’s (Food and Drug Administration) reporting of adverse reaction to HPV vaccinations. Judicial Watch received these documents under the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, available online @ (<http://www.judicialwatch.org/files/documents/2010/VAERS-052009-to-092010.pdf>)

“The FDA adverse event reports on the HPV vaccine read like a catalog of horrors. Any state or local government now beset by

Merck’s lobbying campaigns to mandate this HPV vaccine for young girls ought to take a look at these adverse health reports,” says Tom Fitton, President, Judicial Watch.

Gardasil “*may* be more dangerous than consumers have been led to believe” (shock and surprise, author’s remark). “To say Gardasil has a suspect safety record is a big understatement. These reports are troubling and show that the FDA and other public health authorities may be asleep at the switch,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton.

September 28, 2010, Judicial Watch announced that it received new documents from FDA under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). These documents report 3,589 adverse reactions related to Gardasil between May 2009 and September 2010. The FDA also produced 789 “serious” reports, with 213 cases resulting in permanent disability.

The June 2010 edition of *Good Housekeeping*^{xlii} magazine on pages 108 and 109 carried a full two-page advertising spread for Gardasil. The ad is promoting vaccination of both girls *and* boys beginning at age nine. Again with the advertising. We should all be asking, “Why?”

There is continued push by government to force health initiatives like vaccinations. Regardless of how many millions of people are vaccinated and do not seem to develop problems, it should be left to the discretion of those on the receiving end to decide if they want to risk the negative possibilities.

*Vaccinations—or Putting the Diseases
of Egypt in Your Body*

How do vaccinations work? The theory is: if you inject a weak dosage of the disease into the body, the body will develop a mild case of the disease and build up antibodies against it producing lifelong immunity. This is what most of us believe who are trusting in vaccinations. What we may not realize is that vaccines contain toxic (poisonous) ingredients that if found in food would require a warning label on the product or be banned from public consumption. They also do not provide you with the lifelong immunity they claim, hence, the need to go in periodically for booster shots. (It is now learned that revaccination of Gardasil needs to be done every five years. I repeat, why then, are *eight-year-olds* being vaccinated for sexually transmitted diseases, when they could easily wait until thirteen or fourteen?)

Not only do vaccines fail to protect us against disease, they can also create additional diseases or damage to an otherwise healthy body. Anytime we circumvent the established boundaries of our Creator, we can expect to come out shortchanged. The medical system requires its pound of flesh—actually, two pounds—you pay for the treatment with your money and then you pay for the side effects of the treatment in your body. I find it incredible that reasonable, logical people submit to this. We pay for treatment that also insures our return for more treatment.

Even if the concept of vaccinations was sound, the way they are created and manufactured raises serious questions. I realize that many reading this book do not find the Scriptural mandates against certain foods necessary to be followed. I, for one, have been obeying the Scriptural commandments regarding what YHVH considers “food” for several years. In His profound wisdom, YHVH created certain creatures to benefit all creation by keeping our world clean. These creatures consume waste and trash that would cause serious problems if left to decay and poison our surroundings. We have been admonished in Scripture not to “consume” or ingest these creatures. (Is there a difference whether we take this “uncleanness” into our bodies through our mouths or through an injection?) Pigs are one of these animals. The medium used for growing the DPT (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) vaccine is pig pancreas. DPT also contains, among a list of other potentially harmful components, thimerosal. Thimerosal contains almost 50 percent mercury as a preservative. This is one hundred times the exposure that the Environmental Protection Agency’s Poison Control Center considers safe for the average-sized infant. Mercury is known to cause neurotoxicity and brain damage that mirrors the symptoms of autism. The medium used to grow polio vaccines is the lung tissue of monkey (also Scripturally unclean as food) fetuses. MMR (measles/mumps/rubella), Hepatitis A, and rabies vaccines are all grown on human diploid cells taken from aborted babies. You may want to explore the chemicals in these vaccines as well to find out just what Big Pharma is injecting into you or your child.

Just posted April 23, 2011, in the PPJ Gazette by W. R. McAfee, Sr., is an article titled *Listening for the Thimerosal*

Footsteps. He asks if we remember the push for pregnant women and children to be the first in line for swine flu shots? Well, it is now estimated that more than 3,500 pregnant women who got the shot had miscarriages. He also talks about Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who dared to write an article *suggesting* the connection between vaccines containing thimerosal and autism. A technical paper written by Dr. Wakefield was pulled from publication in the Lancet Journal in spite of a legal petition filed December 17, 2010, with the FDA concerning the *known* dangers of these vaccines.

Poul Thorsen had vehemently denied the vaccine/autism link during the build up for the supposed “swine flu” pandemic. On April 13, 2011, Thorsen was indicted on thirteen counts of fraud and 9 counts of money laundering citing charges related to funding for the work he conducted for the Center for Disease Control that claimed to disprove associations between mercury-based vaccine preservative thimerosal and increased rates of autism.

The public was intentionally frightened into taking the “swine flu” shot when those who stood to gain knew there was no pandemic and that there was risk for potential damage from the vaccine. They also tried to force the shot on the rest of the world under the cloak of humanitarian concern.^{xliii} This is where fear and greed take us.

Risks vs. Benefits

Remember the list of the diseases of Egypt? YHVH said He would not put on us the diseases of Egypt, so why on

earth are we willingly allowing, even demanding that they be injected into us and our children? I must confess that I have had to repent of falling into the trap. I took both my sons in regularly for their immunizations. I personally remember being walked across the street by my mother to the school yard where there were set up a number of desks with nurses in white uniforms, stockings, shoes, and caps waiting to give smallpox vaccinations to unsuspecting children. I was five or six at the time and it was scary. My shot “took” and I developed an ugly, brown, itchy pox scab on my upper arm. It eventually fell off and left an unsightly, indented scar about the diameter of a dime.

Years ago, when I was beginning to understand all of this, I sensed YHVH was asking me to repent of my childhood inoculations. At first, I was a little disturbed. I didn't do this to myself, why is it my responsibility? YHVH is faithful to meet us where we are and faithful to continue to reveal His will if we are in a place to receive it. I confessed having taken into my body the diseases of Egypt and repented. Within a day or so, I started having what felt like allergy symptoms. I had been healed of medication dependent allergies and was warring against the symptoms when I sensed the Holy Spirit tell me that this was what I had prayed about—the inoculations. So for about ten days my body purged out through mucus and coughing the residue of those diseases. Some years ago during a discussion about this very thing, I rolled up my sleeve to show my smallpox scar and could not find it! I checked the other arm. Nothing. Not even a telltale mark. That's right. YHVH removed *every* trace of those diseases from my body!

What else cannot be trusted in the medical system? Do you remember when coffee, eggs, and butter were evil foods you had to give up or die? Well, now coffee is a valuable source of antioxidants, eggs are not cholesterol mongers (four to six eggs a week are highly recommended), and margarine, which is only one molecule short of plastic and never goes rancid, is loaded with trans fats, those wicked purveyors of heart disease. Why do we accept these scientific medical pronouncements as gospel when their “truth” continually changes? In essence, the authorities are saying, “Sorry, if you believed us. You are most likely sicker than you would have been, but what does it matter? There are doctors and they can charge you and fix what we broke ... maybe.”

There is a saying that the only constant is change. It certainly is true of the medical system. Take leeches for instance. They have been part of medicine for over five thousand years. Ancient Egyptian physicians believed that leeches could cure everything from fevers to gas. Twentieth century medicine pooh-poohed the idea and leeches fell into disrepute. In 2004, the FDA officially cleared the way for marketing medicinal leeches since their unique saliva causes blood flow to increase and prevents clotting which has been found to be invaluable in microsurgery. It is, it isn't, it is. Now, there is something you can sink your teeth into and latch onto until the next new discovery ... or not.

^{xxxiii} Ron Rosenbaum, “Dead Like Her: How Elisabeth Kübler-Ross went around the bend,” *Slate*, (<http://www.slate.com/id/2107069/>), September 23, 2004,

^{xxxiv} Wikipedia contributors, “Jack Kevorkian,” *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, (http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jack_Kevorkian&oldid=434261867) (accessed June 16, 2011).

^{xxxv} *Pivot of Civilization*, Margaret Sanger, 1922, P.80

^{xxxvi} The **Kinsey Reports** are two books, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*[1] (1948) and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*[2] (1953), by Dr. Alfred Kinsey, Wardell Pomeroy and others and published by Saunders.

^{xxxvii} Judith Reisman et al., *Kinsey Sex and Fraud: the Indoctrination of a People*, Lafayette LA: Huntington House, 1990. (http://www.drjudithreisman.com/archives/2005/08/kinsey_sex_and.html)

^{xxxviii} Judith A Reisman, Ph.D., *Why Kinsey's Data are "Scientism" Not Science*, The Institute for Media Education, (<http://www.drjudithreisman.com/archives/sciencekinsey.doc>)

^{xxxix} "Victim of notorious sex experiments speaks out," Brian Fitzpatrick, World Net Daily, posted October 17, 2010

^{xl} "Hiding Polio Quotes," *Whale.to*, <http://www.whale.to/vaccine/poliol.html>

^{xli} National Vaccine Information Center. 407-H Church Street, Vienna, Virginia 22180 (<http://www.nvic.org/Vaccines-and-Diseases/hpv.aspx>)

^{xlii} *Good Housekeeping*, CMG 08345, Vol.250, No. 6, Gardasil advertisement pp.108-109

^{xliii} "Listening for the Thimerosal Footsteps," *The PPJ Gazette*, (<http://ppjg.wordpress.com/2011/04/23/listening-for-the-thimerosal-footsteps/>, April 23, 2011)

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Chapter Ten

Defilement and Scriptural Mandates

Romans, chapter 1 tells us that some, professing to be wise, become fools, exchanging the glory of the incorruptible God for an image of corruptible man, and YHVH gives them over to their lusts so that their bodies are dishonored or defiled. They *choose* to believe a lie rather than the truth.

This chapter uncovers truths that are ignored and truths that are exchanged for lies by believers. The medical system uses what YHVH has forbidden.

Blood

“Give the Gift of Life,” “Blood is Life,” “Donate Life,” “Blood Saves Lives.”

Slogans for the local blood donation centers proclaim scriptural truth, namely that physical life is in the blood. The only part of the body that is life is the blood. It is the blood that supplies the entire rest of the body with nutrients and oxygen, and allows waste to be removed from the body to sustain life.

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Leviticus 17:11 states, “For the life is in the blood ... (v. 14) it is the life of all flesh, the blood is for the life thereof.”

There is a preponderance of evidence from actual donor recipients and medical personnel that personality and memory changes, which reflect those of the donor, occur in the recipients of organs and blood. Pagan religions understand this principle. Their rituals will invariably include the drinking of blood or eating of raw flesh *with* its blood supply. It is believed that by ingesting the blood or flesh of the sacrifice that the attributes of the animal or person will be transferred through the life in the blood. As with all lies, they can inevitably be traced back to a grain of truth for there is nothing new under the sun. Interestingly, as followers of Yeshua the Messiah, we also believe that our salvation or atonement is by Yeshua’s blood and that as we “receive” the substitution of His sacrificial death and blood that we begin to be transformed from one degree of glory to the next into the image of Messiah Yeshua. So the whole thing is not as far-fetched as one might think. Satan cannot create anything new, so out comes the counterfeit perversion of the sacrificial system of the death, burial, and resurrection of the only begotten Son of the living God.

YHVH says defilement comes from shedding innocent blood. He says blood is sacred and shouldn’t be consumed for the life is in the blood. He also says that the blood of the innocent defiles the land. I used to give blood. It is the thing to do, right? It saves lives. When I gave blood, the truth was changed from “Yeshua’s blood saves” to “my blood saves.” Wow! What a blatant perversion of YHVH’s Word!

When I got this revelation, I stopped giving blood. I long ago confessed the sin of allowing this part of my life to be taken and repented of it. I also asked Messiah Yeshua to restore the life force that I had unwittingly given away.

The Blood of the Innocent

For the sake of brevity and because it is so easily researched, I will not spend much time on the issue of abortion. Stem cell research and tissue harvesting from aborted babies comes with the territory. Evil never gets better, it only gets worse and we can expect it to get infinitely worse. In our day, science and medicine have reduced the worth of human beings to that of experimental tissue.

Furthermore, it seems that even the government sees it that way. Senate Bill S.1858 was approved by the Senate December 13, 2007, and by the House April 8, 2008, and signed into law by President G.W. Bush on April 24, 2008. Under this bill, the DNA of U.S. citizens is no longer personal property. It belongs to the government for genetic research purposes. Of the 819,000 DNA samples from Minnesota children, over 52,000 have been used for genetic research without parental knowledge or consent.^{xliv}

I received this article from a friend who monitors trends as they relate to Scripture:

When Annie Brown's daughter, Isabel, was a month old, her pediatrician asked Brown and her husband to sit down

because he had some bad news to tell them: Isabel carried a gene that put her at risk for cystic fibrosis.

While grateful to have the information (Isabel received further testing and she doesn't have the disease) the Mankato, Minnesota, couple wondered how the doctor knew about Isabel's genes in the first place. They had never consented to genetic testing. "It's simple," the pediatrician answered, "Newborn babies in the United States are routinely screened for a panel of genetic diseases." Since the testing is mandated by the government, it's often done without the parents' consent, according to Brad Therrell, director of the National Newborn Screening & Genetics Resource Center. In many states, such as Florida, where Isabel was born, babies' DNA is stored indefinitely, according to the resource center.^{xlv}

Art Caplan, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, says he understands why states don't first ask permission to screen babies for genetic diseases. "*It's paternalistic, but the state has an overriding interest in protecting these babies,*" he says. The specimens don't always stay in the state labs. They're often given to outside researchers—sometimes with the baby's name attached.^{xlvi} [Note author's emphasis—*whose* children are they?]

A number of years ago, I participated in research concerning the decline of the educational system. One of the major concerns among those of us involved was the tagging or labeling of children based on "tests" designed to flag certain characteristics or behaviors, including the family's beliefs and values. Under this system, a child was determined to be either gifted or learning disabled on various levels and subsequently locked

into an IEP (Individual Education Plan) for life. Imagine the difficulty of rising above the determined level of achievement within such a system. This system would have boxed up men like Einstein and Bach, relegating them to worker-bee-only status or possibly extermination.

The above mentioned “medical” legislation streamlines eugenics à la 21st century. As with the school testing, the stated goal of the program is to screen newborns for 200 conditions to provide “every student ... with an individual program for education (IEP) based on confidential interpretation [confidential to whom and interpreted by whom?] of their family medical history, brain imaging, genetic predictors of learning methods, recessive conditions, and criminal profiles.”^{xlvii} The newborn screening that is already done before the baby leaves the hospital has just been “one-upped.” It has been a long time since the government has had the best interests of its constituents at heart. With everything else that is coming down the pike, how can we trust government to treat this situation ethically when just signing the bill into law violates privacy laws, property rights, research ethics, and the Nuremberg Code? I daresay the enemy is jumping for glee over this one—it is definitely tightening the screws of man’s, or should I say, Satan’s control.

What if the tests show a child’s proclivity to low mental capacity or predisposition to type one diabetes? Given the expected drain on government funds for special education and/or medical attention, one can readily imagine how the ruling powers would limit that child’s life. When will in utero testing

While on the subject of genetic modification, I would suggest checking out Raiders News Network (<http://www.raidersnewsupdate.com/>) with Tom Horn. There are others out there, but I like his approach and candor. The scientific world is literally on the cusp of creating trans-humans. He has uncovered government, think tank, and university documents and seminars detailing the research and experiments *now* in progress.

Nakedness

I feel strongly about the commandment given not to expose your body or nakedness to anyone but your spouse. I see the sexual perversion and nudity that parades itself in the world today. Literally, nothing is left to the imagination on any front (no pun intended). Sex is glorified and promoted and it is wickedness. The Greek and Roman gymnasiums reveled in the nude human body and attempted to elevate it to god status.

Males will not identify with what I am about to share, but you need to hear this. At least once a year (ostensibly for prevention purposes) women are told to make an appointment with their OB-GYN for a pap smear. The material swabbed from deep inside the vagina is tested for abnormalities. How does the doctor get the test sample? The woman disrobes (completely) and slips on a paper gown. She uses a step to get onto a narrow table and lies on her back and puts her feet up into metal stirrups so that her knees are in the air and her private parts are completely exposed. In this vulnerable position, the doctor uses a speculum to crank open the vagina so he or she

can look and have easier access to the area to be swabbed. After the pelvic exam, the doctor then makes the routine breast exam by ripping the front of the gown and putting his or her hands on one bare breast at a time moving the fingers to check for lumps. Some women have female doctors. The majority of OB-GYNs are men. There was never a time that I did not feel violated after one of these exams, be it man or woman. I remember mentioning it once to someone and was made to feel stupid for even bringing it up. “It’s just their job,” was the response. I’d like to say here that any time such strong feelings are experienced they need to be investigated. I do believe there are times when unfounded fears may be coming from somewhere, but in this case, I was experiencing an aversion to being forced to expose my nakedness and what I was feeling was intended by the Creator to raise questions about the impropriety of what was happening.

I recall another conversation with a male pastor about this topic. Again, it was dismissed as nothing; that is not what the Bible is talking about. I was told that if the doctor is a man, he is not interested in anything other than doing what he had been trained to do. I had a great deal of respect for this pastor, so I determined to examine the subject again. I asked the Father if I was wrong. His answer to me sounded something like this, “No, you are not wrong. This man has never had to strip naked and lay exposed on a table being probed into his innermost private parts. It is not about aesthetics or doing a job or what he thinks about it, this is about you and what this does to you. It is about what is done and excused in the name of healing, which I have forbidden for your good and protection.”

I will say it is possible that some males may experience something similar during a prostate examination. However, total nudity is not required and he remains standing for the exam, unlike the defenseless position of lying on your back.

What about adult male circumcision? If a male has not been circumcised and chooses to become circumcised later in life—this is completely different. This is a response to a commandment and nowhere fits into the realm of disobedience. When the procedure is done, there is no sense of defilement or the need for repentance. I know men who have made this choice and they tell me that it causes a renewed sense of purity and intimacy with YHVH.

After the fall, Adam confessed to Elohim that he did not come when He called because he was naked, the word here implies much more than being without clothes. It means an awareness of lacking both physical and spiritual covering. In the situation of the pelvic exams, I felt this kind of nakedness. I was without my clothes or physical covering *and* my husband and spiritual covering was nowhere around. I am curious to know if there are any men out there who go with their wives to these appointments and if so how does it make you feel? Nakedness is rampant in hospitals and clinics and doctor's offices. Medicine cannot be practiced on fully clothed individuals. Inappropriate nakedness exposes us, makes us feel shame, desensitizes, and titillates. One of the things used and abused by Satan is nakedness. YHVH has forbidden nakedness outside specific boundaries and medicine crosses that line.

Touching the Dead

We have already dealt with the death gurus of the medical system. Abortion and euthanasia as well as organ harvesting are all forms of touching the dead, specifically defined in Scripture as making one unclean or defiled. I have heard modern day medical practice given credibility by saying that Scripture speaks only to ritual and ceremonial uncleanness in a religious context and this is science. What they are implying is exactly what Hippocrates stated: science and religion don't mix. This entire book is about the connectedness of the tripartite beings we are. Ritual uncleanness or defilement affects the *entire person*—body, soul, and spirit. The transfer of ritual uncleanness from one person to another in the descriptions in Leviticus and Numbers and other places may seem illogical in light of modern science, but it is not about physical uncleanness as much as it is about spiritual uncleanness and right relationship with the Creator. We are not told we cannot touch the dead; just what happens when we do and what we are to do about it.

Many hospitals have in-house morgues in their basements. This is an interesting phenomenon. The building that is promoted as life-giving also harbors the dead. The doctor who delivers a baby may have performed an abortion just minutes before. The same hands defiled by death or murder transfer that defilement to an expectant mother and new baby. The doctor administers CPR to a patient who dies in the ER and then moves on to the next emergency after only washing his hands between patients. Physical cleansing but no spiritual cleansing. Scripture says that

touching the dead causes defilement that is *spiritual* and must be dealt with *spiritually*.

Doctors

You cannot serve two masters. I have stated elsewhere in this book that I am not against doctors. Doctors are trained with certain information and knowledge that can be beneficial. However, they are not equipped to heal. That is the domain of the Creator. My problem here has to do with the lie we allow that says doctors and medicine are YHVH's gift to us for healing, as if YHVH replaced Himself with something infinitely inferior for us to put our faith in. If you have made it this far in the book, you are aware that this cannot be. YHVH is a jealous God and does not condone or allow anything to take His place in the areas He defines as His—YHVH *Tzidkeinu* (YHVH your righteousness), YHVH *Yirah* (YHVH your provider), YHVH *Nissi* (YHVH your protection –banner), YHVH *Shalom* (YHVH your peace), YHVH *Raphah* (YHVH your Healer).

But Luke was a physician, you say. Yes, and Matthew was a tax collector. I find it interesting that tax collecting is never seen in any other light than despicable. Nowhere in Scripture are we given information regarding tax collecting, but we do know from history that it was an ignoble profession hated by the populace because of the abuses allowed by government. On the other hand, there are two pointed references about physicians in Scripture. In 2 Chronicles 16, we are told of King Asa, who was diseased in his feet, and instead of seeking YHVH, he sought the physicians and died. In Mark chapter 5 we read the account

of the woman with the issue of blood and how she had suffered many things at the hands of the physicians and had spent all she had and was no better, but was worse. Now, my question is this: Why do we automatically dismiss tax collectors as evil but honor a profession *shown in Scripture* to be physically destructive as well as financially draining?

Robert Mendelsohn, who wrote *Confessions of a Medical Heretic* (Contemporary Books, 1979), makes the case for the medical system as a religion. He compares doctors to priests. Just as in other religions, they wear special garments and carry out special rituals. Hospitals are portrayed as the temples and operating rooms as holy places. The operating table is the altar replete with blood and sacrificial death. We are literally at the mercy of the gods (physicians). We put our trust and faith in the doctors for life or death. As in many religions, to live equals favor with the gods and if you die, it is not the fault of the god or gods, but your lack in some area. They make no promises. There are no assurances. You give up everything and are subject to their decisions.

How do our minds get to the place where we cannot distinguish between opposites? Where yes and no become the same? The doctor (god) says, "Trust me" and at the same time hands you a release form that absolves him or her of responsibility if anything should go wrong. This form is a covenant. It is one-sided, where the only accountability is yours. Something you might want to consider: In the case of expectant parents, does the father sign away his position as head and priest of his family to the doctor?

How often have we heard, “If this doesn’t work, we’ll try another drug, another treatment, another surgery?” All the while, the system gets richer and you get sicker. Even if you do seem to get better under this type of care, it will only be a matter of time until you experience the side effects of the treatment.

^{xliv} Cohen, Elizabeth, “The Government has Your Baby’s DNA,” CNN Senior Medical Correspondent, February 4, 2010

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Chapter Eleven

Blocks to Healing

There is more to getting healing than simply demanding your right to it, or assuming it will just happen because you prayed. Scripture says that the people of YHVH are destroyed for lack of knowledge. It is a testimony to the immaturity of the believer when he faults YHVH for not coming through. Healing is part of our inheritance. It was purchased at Calvary by the blood that poured from the wounds and stripes of Yeshua. It is not, however, automatically granted. Healing has conditions that are specifically outlined in Scripture. YHVH says that *if* we walk in obedience to His commandments *then* He is our Healer. Obedience is the natural result of a heart that desires more than anything to serve YHVH Elohim with all of our being. We come to the saving knowledge of Messiah Yeshua because we understand that we are broken in mind, body, and spirit and that only He can restore us to wholeness. Healing happens when we recognize and submit to YHVH's plan for us instead of insisting on our own.

Fear

Fear can be such a part of us that we may not recognize it as fear. It can masquerade as any number of “well-meaning” emotions. Have you ever been overly concerned about something or someone? Are you frequently troubled, disturbed, excessively careful, too involved with another’s problems or life? Do you have a tendency to make yourself indispensable to others and end up overextending yourself? When fear disguises itself as such noble-looking emotions, it can be difficult to recognize them for what they truly are. Even when they are exposed as fear, they can become an excuse to continue walking in fear.

All of these *can* be legitimate and serve as warnings in the Spirit. When this happens, the correct response is always to either turn the situation over to YHVH or become involved *as He instructs*. He will always give you what you need for the best interest of all involved. This is genuine compassion and concern.

Let’s talk about staying in places that are comfortable. I’m not talking about comfortable in the sense that it feels good, but in the sense that it is easier to stay with what you know than venture out into what is unknown. That also causes fear. And the fear of moving on has to get to the point that it is less than the fear of staying where you are *if* moving on is the goal. All around us, we see high-minded and honorable duties being performed. The body of Messiah is full of well-meaning saints who are performing their duty because it is the thing to do.

YHVH seeks out the motive of the heart. *Why* are we performing the duties? Is it because it is an outward manifestation of an inward transformation or is it what we assume YHVH wants or because it is what looks good and is acceptable to those we wish to impress? Busyness used as a barrier to keep from facing truth is not YHVH's plan for your life.

If you believe healing is not manifesting because of fear, go back to the previous sections on fear (chapter 5—under Origins of Disease) and reread them. If you are serious about getting rid of fear, YHVH will be there to deliver you or send you the help you need!

Shortening Our Days

Psalm 39:4 reminds us that our days are numbered and our lives are fleeting. Psalm 37:18 tells us that the days of the righteous are numbered and our inheritance will be forever. There are many other passages that attest to this. I have prayed successfully regarding this principle in cases where the medical system was not offering any hope. Sometimes miraculous turnarounds occur which puzzle the world systems and give glory to YHVH. Proper praying can have a major impact (James 5:16—see below on not asking correctly). There are times when intercession and standing in the gap are what is required. We must be in a place to receive this instruction and act on it.

It is also possible to quicken our own demise and shorten the days we have been allotted by making unwise choices.

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Choices of disobedience give the enemy permission to come in to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

I lost my younger sister this past year. She was fifty-six years old. She was an amazing person. She had many attributes that I admired and continue to try to emulate. She had an exceptionally rough life and made some really bad choices due to abuse and neglect when she was very young. Her last fifteen years were spent working out her own salvation with fear and trembling. Many of the wounds she suffered were touched by Yeshua's healing power even when that meant reliving the pain of her past to bring it into the Light of Truth. Once exposed, those things could never again hold sway over her. But, there was a particular issue which she refused to open up. It had such a strong hold on her that whenever it surfaced, she simply refused to continue the conversation.

As I sat beside her bed in hospice, praying and grieving, I saw a vision of angels. There was a circle of light around her bed with ministering angels holding back a great multitude of dark angels and the Father spoke to me, "It is not your sister's time to die. The dark angels are early death and they have access to her because of her choices. She belongs to me, but will have to answer for these choices. She would not trust me with everything, could not trust me with everything because of the choices. She would not let go of her image of me and of herself. [Then I heard the single word—"control."] She lived the lie of the image of herself she believed was acceptable. She greatly desired my healing, but I cannot give it due to her choices. She would not be honest with herself and take care of the sin." There

followed a list of things that stemmed from her fear of dealing with this particular issue, which included blaming YHVH and not being able to trust Him completely. I asked if there was anything else and I heard, "Clear the ground." This was directed to me and I believe this book is in part a fulfillment of that word. Then He said, "Pay attention and learn the lesson of this death."

I have a close friend who had also lost a dear sister a few months earlier and she was a source of comfort and blessing during this time. I asked her to pray with me about what this meant. We believe that Holy Spirit showed us that the time for repentance is short. There are those who, for what ever reason, know the Truth but continue to make choices that enslave them to certain sin. The reasons for this inability to change could be that they are stuck in the process or they simply do not know that there is help available. Certainly most churches today do not offer such ministry or even believe in supernatural healing, opting instead for the lie of the medical system as YHVH's preferred method. In these cases where a person's heart is seeking YHVH, but they have not yet been able to let go of certain things, the consequences of staying in that sin may overtake them before their designated number of days have been fulfilled. It was certainly true for both my friend's sister as well as mine.

Healing may be in process, but due to consequences and limited time, it may not be completed before the body gives out. It is important to correctly assess the situation. Remember, it is *always* YHVH's will to heal, but He cannot go against His

character which is not only love, but also justice, and will not override your will in the matter.

Is it possible that using medical intervention to prolong life can be condoned by YHVH for the purpose of giving someone opportunity for deliverance? Anything is possible, but it is about fitting our lives into His plan, not adjusting His plan to work our way. In my sister's case, she spent eleven years putting off taking care of business relating to this particular problem. During that time, she was "rescued" more than once by the medical system, but she did not use the time that was gained as a reprieve to take care of this particular problem with the Father.

Wrong Faith

"... and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick ..." (James 5:15)

Okay, so I didn't get healed. Whose lack of faith caused it? Mine? The person doing the praying? What is going on? One of the great problems among believers is taking Scripture out of context. We do this a lot. For instance: "[Y]ou shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This phrase is used and misused repeatedly, but this is only a small part of what was actually said. Yeshua was speaking to His followers and said, "*If you continue in my Word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*" (John 8:32).

Think back to the conditionality of blessings/promises. YHVH says to us—*if you, then I*. There is a prerequisite to

the “then.” In John 8, Yeshua says that *if* we continue in His word something will happen. In this particular verse, there is a succession of events. Knowing the truth is second from last on the list. It requires continuing in the word and becoming disciples *first* and then we can be free by knowing not just any truth, but *the* Truth of His Word.

It is the same with the verse about faith for healing. We lift out one part of it and establish our own idea about what it means and then end up frustrated, discouraged or mad at YHVH because it didn't work. The book of James in most bibles is only around four pages long. It is a veritable goldmine of information and deep teaching on faith, some of which I have already shared. Just following the “And the prayer offered in faith” verse, we find a “therefore” in verse 16 of chapter 5. When you see “therefore,” look to see what it is “there for.”

Language is difficult sometimes. Scripture has been translated into languages from other languages and the way it reads can be confusing. It has helped me to reorder the “therefore” verses so they come ahead of the others, like this:

Therefore, *confess your sins* to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (James 5:16)

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. (James 5: 13)

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of YHVH; (James 5: 14)

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...and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and YHVH will raise him up, and *if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.* (James 5: 15)

Notice now, how the passage seems connected and focused not on healing the sick, but on confessing sin, which is an essential part of effective prayer, as well as healing. It is imperative to discover what constitutes the prayer of faith. This has also been previously discussed from the perspective of James, chapters 1 and 2, regarding faith with and without works. Faith demands a corresponding act. YHVH said to the Israelites in Egypt—put the blood on the doors to keep death out. Faith was not just believing the words, it was *doing* the words. Obedience is at the core of faith. Sickness/illness/disease is the result of sin or *disobedience*. Sin must be confessed and repented of in order for forgiveness to be effective and healing to manifest. One reason we do not experience healing is that we misunderstand what Scripture truly says. We pick up on something, remove it from its context and run with it, albeit sincerely, but sincerely wrong.

Until we get to the place where we make a choice to lay aside the things YHVH forbids, and realize that obedience is better than sacrifice, and until the ones we are told to go to for the prayer of healing are praying from a place of health, strength, and the power of YHVH through obedience, we will remain sick and weak. The blind cannot lead the blind.

Misplaced Faith

And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of YHVH Elohim, and do what is right in His sight, and give

ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, YHVH, am your healer.”

—Exodus 15:26

YHVH says He is our Healer. This establishes the office of healer as divine and healing as supernatural spiritual activity. Faith accompanied by action will produce results. It is a spiritual law. We have already talked about this. You can put your faith in man, the arm of flesh, and get a trade off. You can put your faith in drugs or surgery and receive (maybe) lessened symptoms, ability to cope, a new lease on life, whatever—but it will *never* be “healing.”

There is an entrenched stronghold gripping our minds that makes us feel guilty if we even entertain the thought of going outside the medical system. The stronghold exists in tradition, government, media and even the body of Messiah. It involves overwhelming fear of what could happen without medicine. Government is inserting itself into our lives by trying to mandate medical care and health insurance. What is worse, we suffer persecution from within the body of Messiah itself if we insist on a YHVH-ordained approach to healing. I have seen many in the body who try to believe and trust YHVH for healing, but the minute the going gets tough or the time they set for Him to intervene is up, off they go into the wild white hallowed halls of medicine. Then there are some who just do not want to enter into any area of personal discomfort on a physical or emotional level and consequently demand the “quick fix” of medicine. All these things play a part in keeping

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our faith for healing outside the guidelines YHVH has set. In spite of overwhelming, damning evidence, even so-called believers continue to put their faith in medicine and continue in their disease.

Not Asking Correctly

Lack of faith is unbelief. Hebrews 4:2, 6 tells us that the gospel was preached to the children of Israel coming out of Egypt, but they did not profit from it because of unbelief. Sometimes in Scripture this is called doubt. James tells us that we are to ask in faith without doubting. Doubting is defined as double-mindedness. He relates that the double-minded will not receive when they ask YHVH for anything to satisfy the flesh.

Sometimes we ask for what we have already been given instead of appropriating it. One example of this, which I make clear in healing sessions, is the way we constantly ask for forgiveness. This is like asking YHVH for salvation. Yeshua Messiah has already provided salvation, healing, and forgiveness (see last section in this chapter on unforgiveness). They are gifts waiting to be taken. The gifts are there for all, but many do not take them or use them after they do take them. It is not for us to ask for, but rather to *take* what has been offered. Another example of this is when we plead for YHVH to take away demonic influence from us when we have been given authority over it through Messiah Yeshua. Prayer or petitioning YHVH has instructions for effectiveness. Many despair that prayers are not answered or heard, when in reality they are not asking correctly or not appropriating what has already been given.

This can be seen through a study of the word which is translated “receive” from the Greek *lambano*, #2983 in the Strong’s Concordance. Notice the word “receive” in bold letters in the following passages. It is the Greek word *lambano*, meaning to take or act, as in *to get hold of*. Rendered in English as “receive,” we have a tendency to apply a passive, sitting back and waiting sort of posture, when it is an aggressive, reaching out and grabbing activity. Read the passages and substitute the word “take” where there is an italicized “receive,” and see if Holy Spirit doesn’t quicken your mind and heart to new understanding.

And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will *receive* (take). (Matthew 21:22)

Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray, believe that you have *received* (taken) them, and they will be granted you. (Mark 11:24. See also 1 John 3:22)

... the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot *receive* (take), because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)

Until now you have asked for nothing in my name; ask, and you will *receive* (take), so that your joy may be made full. (John 16:24)

... so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to YHVH, that they may *receive* (take) forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 26:18)

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YHVH is a God of miracles and I have witnessed some, but it is not His purpose to accommodate our arrogance and miraculously heal when it is spiritual transformation that needs to take place. That is always accomplished through submission to the power of *Ruach haKodesh* and dying to the flesh. When we ask for a miracle and He needs to do a “dealing” to bring us into His purpose(s), it is for us to submit and not dismiss. Seeking miracles, signs, and wonders by way of forcing YHVH to prove Himself is unbelief. The outward manifestation of His power is primarily for a sign to the unbelieving (1 Corinthians 14:22). The true believer bears witness to the purifying, cleansing, healing power of *Ruach haKodesh* from within. A change in outward appearance or demeanor will result from this inner work. This is the process of being made whole in Him for His purpose(s) and His glory, not for our convenience or comfort.

Help Me to ...

“Lord help me to ...” As these words crossed my lips, Holy Spirit spoke to me: It is not YHVH’s intent to help *you* do anything. This began a question and answer session revealing another lie about how I prayed. We have been called to be humble (1 Peter 5:6), yielded (2 Chronicles 30:8), a vessel for His use (2 Timothy 2:21), and to be “in Him,” but never to operate on our own and then cry out for His “help” when it all starts to fall apart.

YHVH, who formed us, never intended that we should be left to our own devices. He says that the thoughts and intents of our hearts are continually evil (Genesis 6:5). Anything begun in

the flesh can only be corrupt, no matter how noble and lofty our intentions may be. He will not “help” us in our feeble attempts of the flesh to love, be like Messiah, or minister. Matthew 7:22 reminds us that even though we do it in the name of Yeshua, if it is not empowered by Holy Spirit, it is not acceptable before YHVH.

YHVH’s purpose is that we fellowship with Him *on His terms*. Our corrupt flesh can only come into His presence if it is covered by the blood of Yeshua. This fellowship can only be complete when it is through Yeshua and Yeshua is in us. Messiah was raised from the dead so that His life could be lived through us.

We are incapable of loving. It is He who loves *through* us (1 John 4:7, 8). We cannot minister unto Him unless He ministers *through* us. We cannot be like Him unless we yield to His transforming power. He is the potter and we are the clay to be molded and used according to His purpose. If Messiah is Lord, then He is Lord. Our prayer should be: Father, I am yours. Teach me humility, and *yieldedness* and use me for your honor and glory.

Ancestral and Traditional Strongholds

These words, which I am command you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up

—Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Deuteronomy 11:18, 19

I, YHVH, Am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands (of generations), to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

—Exodus 20:5,6

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

—Selected lines from a poem written by
Dorothy Law Nolte,
Children Learn What They Live, 1972.

It is an established principle that we will absorb and learn and become what we are exposed to. It is also understood that these things are passed down from one generation to the next. As seen above, some of it is good and some is not so good. YHVH says that what is good will have effect to the thousandth generation while the bad will carry its effect to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 20:5, 6). If there are strongholds in operation in you or your family that have not been removed, it may be up to you to step up and stop the destruction that was set in motion by someone else's choice.

“The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins *and the iniquities of their fathers*” (Nehemiah 9:2. See also Leviticus 26:40; Jeremiah 3:25, 14:20). *Fathers* will be held responsible for the spiritual health of the family. This is not to say that

the descendants must pay for the sins of the fathers. Scripture is clear that we will each be held accountable for our own sin. When Scripture says the third and fourth generation will be affected by the sin of one individual, it is the principle of learning what we live. We are not being punished for another's sin, but we do absorb and follow and pass on what we have been taught or have been exposed to. This is generational sin. Take into account that after the fall, we are all born into a sin-infested world. This is not an excuse to blame our stuff on anyone else. The generational sin passed down to me made me angry. Why should I have to take care of it? Because I am a child of the King and have a responsibility to become holy as He is holy. That means taking care of business—mine and my ancestor's—if that is a problem.

Psalm 78 helped clear this up for me when I was agonizing over my sons and the curse of freemasonry that had been passed on to me and to them by extension, through my ancestors. Abba led me to this passage, verses 5–7: “For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in YHVH, and not forget the works of YHVH, but keep His commandments, [now here is the part that I love] *and not be like their fathers*, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to YHVH.”

I heard so clearly, “This can stop and it can stop NOW!” Wow! Doesn’t that just make your heart jump! Hallelu-YAH, YHVH reigns! The key is to allow Abba to bring revelation about “besetting sin” or sin that just seems to have a hold that cannot be broken. There may be sin(s) of the fathers that need to be confessed before YHVH so that a particular stronghold of the enemy can be broken in that area of your life.

Traditional strongholds come into play through sin as well as religious activity—pagan or not—that supplants relationship with the One True Living God. Examples of this are occult involvement in the form of secret societies, astrology, witchcraft, transcendental meditation, sorcery/magic/drugs, fortune telling and divination—tarot, palm reading, hypnosis, etc., as well as religious ritual, traditions, and doctrines of man that supplant the Torah or instruction of YHVH.

Some become involved in such things out of ignorance in a search for truth. But in Matthew 15:6, we see another story. Yeshua tells the Pharisees, “You have nullified the commandment of YHVH by *your* tradition.” Now these guys were not practicing paganism, they were the ones responsible for teaching Torah to the people. The New American Standard translation says they “invalidated” the Word of YHVH with their traditions. This is serious! Are traditions bad? Not if they uphold and clarify what YHVH says, but when we set aside the commandment of YHVH for such traditions, there will be some heavy consequences to pay. Understand that this was not done in ignorance. These were the Torah scholars of the day. Woe to those who discredit the Torah and lead others astray.

and check out what He says will and will not happen. Diabetes and high blood pressure are in part a direct result of poor diet and stress. Asking for healing of the problem without being willing to address the cause (spiritual and/or physical) is not scriptural and most likely will not be honored by YHVH.

Lack of Repentance

The doctrine of cheap grace promoted by the mainstream church has all but obliterated the need for repentance. Cheap grace allows you to be forgiven without having to change anything. This twisted idea has done more damage to the body of Messiah than any doctrine of works. Proponents of cheap grace discount any effort to walk in obedience to the commandments. To them this is legalism or salvation by works. Salvation is not possible without grace but neither is sanctification, the maturing and refining that comes from obedience and includes repentance. Paul tells us that we are dead to sin and raised to life in Messiah. Grace is favor that is bestowed out of love. It is like a gift that is received and cannot be taken back. It is *not* a license to sin. Paul tells us in Romans 5 and 6 that even though grace increases with sin that we must never presume on YHVH's grace by continuing in sin.

There are a number of expressions in Scripture that describe the activity of repentance, however the Hebrew word *shuv* or *shub* is the most exact representation of repentance. It is the Strong's #7725 and explains that there are two aspects of repentance. Repentance is not simply being sorry, however sincere that may be. It is a twofold action.

1. The act of turning away from something and
2. The act of turning toward something else.

In the case of godly repentance, the second act demands acceptance and incorporation of YHVH's will for your life. The following verse from 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14 shows the vital connection between repentance and forgiveness: “[When I exercise judgment against sin] and my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and *turn* from their wicked ways, *then* I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land [mind, body, spirit].”

Repent then, and turn to YHVH, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from YHVH.
(Acts 3:19 NIV)

Let the wicked *forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him *return* to YHVH, and He will have mercy on him; and to YHVH, for He will abundantly *pardon*.
(Isaiah 55:7 NKJV)

Scripture lays a stable foundation for being healthy in body, soul and spirit. We have dietary and hygienic instruction for the body, for making wise and beneficial decisions for life issues with our minds, as well as *the* way to be connected spiritually to our Creator through Yeshua's glorious sacrifice. Acknowledgement of sin (confession) must happen if it is to be addressed and forgiven. Repentance (in Hebrew, *shuv*, meaning to turn) is required to be totally free from the sin and its consequences. Nowhere in Scripture do we see redemption

granted without the honest desire to leave off the sin that required it to begin with.

A while back, I had a disturbing experience in working with a woman as we prayed through to the roots of intense physical pain that the medical system said had no physical cause. I was amazed by this woman's testimony. She said she had received complete healing before, not once but twice—and lost it both times. As we explored the source of her pain, Holy Spirit revealed it was coming from fear. She did not have a problem confessing fear as sin and as such it had to be repented of as sin. When I told her she must repent of the fear, she literally refused to do this. I was stunned. This woman understood her need for deliverance from fear, but was unwilling to follow YHVH's requirements for repentance. After this, she would call occasionally, but when I would bring up repentance, she immediately found a reason to say good-bye. She will remain in pain as long as she refuses to repent.

I can only assume that the loss of her previous healing came from a lack of true repentance either from allowing fear to supplant faith or exercising doubt in some form. When I ministered to her and she steadfastly refused to repent of the sin of fear, it established a foothold, legal ground to steal, kill, and destroy.

One of the key roles of all prophets is to declare the need for repentance. It is no less the case with Yeshua, the greatest of all prophets. Deuteronomy 18:15 tells us that YHVH will raise up a prophet like Moses who shall be heard by the

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people. From the inception of His ministry to His death, the central message He preached was “*repent and believe, for the kingdom of YHVH is at hand*” (Mark 1:15). This was not a new message, but simply a continuation of what the prophets have been declaring since the beginning. As shown in Scripture, we see how Yeshua repeatedly admonished those He healed to “go and sin no more.” This is the essence of repentance, to make a deliberate choice to turn away from disobedience and walk in obedience to Torah.

Both Paul and Peter based their ministries on this foundational principle. See Acts 20:21 and Acts 2:38. The gospel, the good news that Yeshua came to take the penalty for our sin is useless without repentance. Yeshua loved us all so much that He came and died to redeem us from the penalty of death or separation from YHVH that is required for sin. Does this mean that all are redeemed? The answer is no. In order for the redemption to be made active, belief *and* repentance must exist. Acts 17:30 and 31 says, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, YHVH is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should *repent*, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” Second Peter 3:9 states, “YHVH is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but for *all to come to repentance.*”

The ongoing work of sanctification requires confession and repentance to effectively bring the spiritual transformation

necessary for being conformed into the image of Messiah Yeshua. In Mark 1:15 Yeshua is telling us to be repenting, or have our life be one of continuous repentance. Again, in 2 Corinthians 7:8–11, we read how Paul addressed the need for godly repentance and brought the sin into the open so that it could be dealt with and replaced with vindication, awe, zeal, and lack of regret. And what does he say is the result of sorrow that does not lead to repentance? Death or separation from YHVH. Paul is recapping the message of Ezekiel in Ezekiel 18:23–31, “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares YHVH Elohim. Rather, am I not pleased when they *turn from* their ways and live?... Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and *turn away from* them, they will not die... *Repent! Turn away from* all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and *get a new heart and a new spirit*. Why will you die, people of Israel?” NIV

Just desiring redemption isn't enough. We must be willing to forsake the false god(s) we have been trusting in. This is the principle of faith *with* works enabling Holy Spirit to come in power and move us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Light. We are admonished to “take up our cross daily.” Turn away from or put to death the sin of the flesh and of self-interest, and turn toward the life offered through the sacrifice of Yeshua.

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who *confesses and forsakes* [repents of] them will find compassion (Proverbs 28:13).”

Unforgiveness

Messiah Yeshua has already provided forgiveness. Salvation, healing, and forgiveness are part of our inheritance as the heavenly Father's children. Salvation, healing, and forgiveness all involve faith, but healing and forgiveness also have conditions attached.

Forgiveness is a two-sided coin. "Heads" is YHVH's side and "tails" is ours. Same coin—two perspectives. Let's see what YHVH has to say about these two sides.

"If you forgive others for their transgressions, [then] your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions" (Matthew 6:13–14).

This means that until I exercise forgiveness, it will not be granted to me. These are not my words and there is simply no other way to interpret them. I spoke earlier in Chapter 2 about how forgiveness is not just an act of the will. Forgiveness is spiritual activity and not a product of our flesh. When we hold unforgiveness against another person, we have stepped into YHVH's judgment shoes. We need to recognize Abba's sovereignty in judgment of sin and give up our self-righteous desire to punish others for wrongs against us.

"[H]ow often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Yeshua said to him, "I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21–35)

And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should pay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart. (34, 35)

Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," forgive him. (Luke 17:3)

[F]orgive and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:37 NKJV)

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. (John 20:23 NIV)

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven will also forgive your transgressions. (Mark 11:25–26)

There are two Hebrew words that are translated into English as *forgive*:

salah, Strong's #5545/TWOT ^{xlviii} 1505—to *forgive, pardon*. This verb is used only to refer to YHVH's offer of pardon and never applies to people forgiving one another. It involves confession, repentance, and atonement for sin. YHVH's desire and readiness to forgive is beyond our understanding.

nasa, Strong's #5375/TWOT ^{xlix} 1421—to *lift up; to bear, carry, support; to take away*, in the sense of pardoning or letting go of sin, iniquity, transgression. This verb is used of both YHVH and men in the sense of carrying away, forgetting, letting go of the burden of sin, offenses, grudges.

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In the Greek, the word used for forgiveness between YHVH and men as well as between men and men is:

aphiemi—*af-ee-ay-mee*; Strong's #863—to send forth, to forgive, forsake, lay aside, omit, put away, remit, suffer, yield up.

Asking YHVH for forgiveness is like asking Him to love us. He already does because that is who He is. Love. Our problem is in being able to receive His love—and His forgiveness. Our prayer is too often, “Father forgive me for ...” Understand this, beloved, He already has! Just as we “are”—present tense and ongoing—healed, but we must see Scripture in its entirety. Just because the healing and forgiveness already exist does not mean they are automatically ours. The conditions must be met. Love emanating from the Father does not bear grudges, does not hold unforgiveness. Allowing Him to control our hearts leaves no room for anything that even resembles unforgiveness. We are commanded to forgive, therefore forgiveness is an act of obedience. When we let go of what we hold against another, we are operating in obedience. Remember, it is by the power of Holy Spirit that we are able to forgive. When we love that person as Yeshua loves us, it is impossible to operate in judgment and unforgiveness. The blessing of obedience can only come with obedience and that blessing includes forgiveness as well as healing.

^{xlviii} “Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament,” Harris, Archer, Waltke, Moody Publishers, 1980

^{xlix} Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Chapter Twelve

Rightly Dividing

Be diligent to present yourself approved to YHVH, a worker that does not need to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*.

—2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV

The Vulgate version translates this—and with a considerable degree of accuracy—“Rightly *handling* the word of truth.” What is the right way, then, to handle the Word of Truth? It is like a sword and it was not meant to be played with. That is not rightly to handle the Gospel. It must be used in earnest and pushed home ... the Word of God is for pricking men in the heart and killing their sins. The Word of God is not committed to God’s ministers to amuse men with its glitter, nor to charm them with the jewels in its hilt, but to conquer their souls for Jesus!

—CH Spurgeon, #1217, 12/26/1875

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is a big word thrown around in church settings mostly by those with some kind of background in the deeper study of the Scriptures. As an average believer I had heard the

word, but did not really understand what it meant. Hermeneutics is the science of interpreting the Scriptures. There are many facets of interpretation that must be taken into account if we are to correctly understand what an author is trying to tell us. Literature is time sensitive. This means it will have peculiar language and nuances that pertain to the time and places of which it speaks. It is imperative to read the text with an understanding of the time, customs, and language in which it was written. In not doing so, we violate the author's intent. The original meaning has to be realized for appropriate application into modern life. We must be able to translate the two to three thousand year history of another time and culture into how we live today. No one I know who has read or studied Shakespeare, Plato, or Socrates tries to understand what these authors wrote using modern definitions of words or phrases that had quite another meaning in their time. (For instance, the word gay does not mean the same thing today as it did a century ago.) However, the tendency to do this with Scripture is a temptation many never overcome.

There is much debate about the "versions" of the Scriptures. I would have to say that there is reason for concern, but I also see that there are those who have tried to help in this area of better understanding by using modern language that fits more closely with what the author was originally trying to convey. Translation is difficult and there are words in some languages that simply do not have an adequate corresponding word in another. Take the Hebrew word *shalom*, for instance. We translate it into English as peace. It does mean peace, but Hebrew is a picture language and the word *shalom* carries the

meaning of complete well being, a permeating well being in body, mind and spirit. This conveys so much more than what is communicated by the English word peace. To my English-speaking mind, the word peace makes me think of no war or turmoil. To correctly understand the Scriptural idea of peace, I must retrain my understanding to “hear” what is being said from the perspective of the original language and intent.

We have a tendency to let others decide things for us. It could be unwillingness to take responsibility or lack of confidence or just plain laziness. The truth is that we are commanded to weigh and test everything by the Word of YHVH to see if what we are being told measures up (Acts 17:11). Scripture has a lot to say about false teaching, false prophets, and false doctrine. For that reason, it is something we need to watch out for. How is it possible to check what we are taught by the plumb-line of truth if we have not studied it, prayed about it, and allowed Holy Spirit to provide the interpretation?

Throughout the ages, because healing has not been the norm in “the church,” you will find great numbers of sermons and writings on the benefits of illness. I have to say that it was during times of sickness that I made major advances in my walk and intimacy with my heavenly Father. Good came out of these times because my response was to seek truth (Romans 8:28), however, YHVH *did not make me sick* so that I would seek Him. The sickness was the result or consequence of sin. Any benefit I received was from my willingness to search out the root or source of the illness and be obedient to take care of what was shown to be the problem. Let’s examine some

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Torah passages used to qualify sickness or lack of healing. Again, what we must look at is the intended meaning and purpose of the text. We will look at: My thorn in the flesh; Sickness to glorify YHVH; My cross to bear; God is using sickness or disease to teach me something; The Suffering Job Syndrome.

The Thorn in the Flesh

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me *a thorn in the flesh*, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself.

—2 Corinthians 12:7

One of the best ways I know to understand a particular word or phrase in Scripture is to look for other places where it is used in the same way. The following passages show just such instances.

But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, *those* you allow to remain *will become barbs* in your eyes *and thorns* in your sides. *They (the inhabitants) will give you trouble* in the land where you will live. (Numbers 33:55 NIV)

Instead, *they (the nations) will become snares and traps* for you, whips on your backs *and thorns in your eyes*. (Joshua 23:13 NIV)

2 Corinthians 12:7, 10 NIV: “there was given me *a thorn* in my flesh, *a messenger of Satan*, to torment me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults,

in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Based on the definitions of the Greek words used for suffering and the interpretation of Torah itself, we can deduce that thorns in the flesh are more about being tormented by someone or something for evil purposes (see appendix C). This is not at all the same thing as sickness or disease. Although many have believed that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" had to do with his bad eyes or other physical infirmity, it is clear, even from his own words that this is demonic interference designed to keep his ego in check and his reliance totally upon YHVH.

Sickness to Glorify YHVH

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Yeshua answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of YHVH might be displayed in him. (John 9:1-3)

In this particular instance, a whole chapter is dedicated to the incident. There are no other recorded healings where so much detail is given. Why are the scribes and Pharisees so intent on getting the facts about *this* particular healing? I mean, they question the man, call him a liar, question the parents, then question the man again. I find this very curious. What is going on?

Are they simply trying to discredit Yeshua? Oh, it goes far deeper than that. As one who has been exploring Hebraic

roots for a number of years, I have learned something rather interesting. The religious leaders of Yeshua's day had been handed down some specific criteria to be used in testing Messianic claims. One of the jobs of the religious leaders was to examine those asserting themselves to be the Messiah. The prophecies of Torah must be fulfilled by the one claiming to be the Messiah, but there were some extra things that had been added into the mix. It was determined that there were three specific miracles that could only be performed by the one claiming to be the Messiah.

The first required that a Jewish man must be healed of leprosy. Mark 1:40–44 gives the account. After the healing, Yeshua tells the man to go to the priests as a testimony *to them*. We learn in Leviticus 14:1–32 that instructions were given to the priests about how to determine if there is leprosy and if it had been healed. The priests should have been the first to recognize this Yeshua as a Messianic contender. This is the first of the requirements of the religious leaders that Yeshua fulfilled.

The second requirement involved casting out a demon from a person who was mute. We read of this in Matthew 9:32–34. In the time of Yeshua, casting out demons required that they be called by name. If a person was mute, they would not be able to speak the name of the demon to the exorcist. Thus, only the true Messiah could have this information and be able to perform the exorcism. It is interesting that when this particular healing occurred, the Pharisees immediately begin to accuse Yeshua of using demonic power. Remember, *they* were the ones entrusted

to test and declare the Messiah, but righteous judgment was replaced by personal agenda.

Now, we come to John chapter 9, the passage that is so incorrectly used by believers to justify sickness. Under the circumstances, the Pharisees were getting more than a little upset. Yeshua was gaining more of a following every day and He embarrassed them publicly with His knowledge of Torah. Miracles, signs, and wonders followed Him everywhere He went. Now, He had restored the sight of this man who had been born blind—one of *their* very requisites for Messiah-ship. The only other time so much trouble was taken to undermine Yeshua was when false witnesses were brought in for the mock trial before the high priest just before His crucifixion.

The account begins with the disciples asking Yeshua whose sin had caused this man to be born blind. Even the common people understood the consequences of sin. They were trying to determine if the blindness was the result of the man's own sin or if it was a generational curse. Yeshua answered that neither the man nor his parents had sinned, but this had happened so the power of YHVH could be displayed in him. Oh my, what a disturbance He caused! The Pharisees are running around helter-skelter, even to the point of veiled threats of excommunication to find anything to discount the miracle. They finally come back to the man and ask him to repeat the story. He gets a little grumpy and says, "I already told you and you did not listen. Do you want to hear it again so that you can become His disciples, too?" Whoa! Now he did it! The steam is virtually rolling out of their ears.

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The Pharisees get mean and snippy and say *they* are taught of Moses, but Yeshua has no credentials. Now, listen carefully. The healed man begins to instruct the Pharisees. He says, “How is it that you made the requirements and have seen the proof in me, yet you cannot see that he is from Elohim?” (Author paraphrase, John 9:30 - I don’t know about you but I just want to stand up and cheer!) The Pharisees answer from arrogance and wounded pride to save face, “How dare you, who were born entirely in sins, pretend to teach us!” And they put him out (“putting out” or excommunication meant that you were ostracized from the community with literally no way to support yourself).

What we have here is a one-time incident for a unique purpose, that of establishing the true identity of Yeshua to the religious leaders. It is an exception and precedent is never established by exception. To use this account to claim that a sickness is from YHVH for His glory is totally unfounded.

What Does Glorify YHVH?

To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of YHVH, *that He may be glorified.* (Isaiah 61:3 NKJV)

Immediately *he arose, took up the bed, and* went out in the presence of them all, so that *all were amazed and glorified YHVH,* saying, “*We never saw anything like this!*” (Mark 2:12; Luke 5:25, 26 NKJV)

So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified YHVH. (Luke 7:15, 16a NKJV)

And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified YHVH (Luke 13:13 NKJV).

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified YHVH, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. (Luke 17:15 NKJV)

I think you get the picture. *Healing glorifies YHVH, never sickness.*

My Cross to Bear

And he was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and *take up his cross* daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

“It is just my cross to bear.” The phrase is used as a metaphor by believers to refer to things in life that you just have to put up with. It has been taken up in the secular realm to mean the same thing. In context, it is establishing the doctrine of self-denial, that great teaching of Yeshua that forms the basis of sanctification or being set apart for His purposes to His glory. The cross is the instrument of death. Taking up your cross or dying to self, is putting to death the desires of the flesh which are opposed to the Spirit of YHVH. It is *not* being burdened with disease or hardship.

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Does YHVH Use Sickness to Teach Me a Lesson?

Blessed is the man whom you instruct, O LORD, and *teach out of your law*, that you may give him rest from the days of adversity. (Psalm 94:12 NKJV)

But the Helper, the *Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in my name, He *will teach you* all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26)

All Scripture is inspired by YHVH, and profitable *for teaching*, for reproof, for correction, *for training* in righteousness; that the man of YHVH may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

Nowhere in Scripture do I find anything that says YHVH uses sickness or disease to teach us something. We are told that what the enemy intends for evil can be turned by YHVH into something good *if* we love Him and are operating in our calling (Romans 8:28).

The Suffering Job Syndrome (the book of Job)

Job is used by many to justify their specific affliction. It feels a little like this: I am holy and righteous therefore YHVH is allowing Satan to do this to me for some unknown reason and I am simply His unwitting vessel. My question would be—To what end? Job is probably the most misunderstood book of Scripture. I do not pretend to have it completely figured out, however I believe what I do understand may be helpful.

Do good people suffer? Job's three fault finding friends (see following paragraph) were adamant in their answers—NO! Job was suffering due to some unrepentant sin. The first chapter of Job is clear that Job was an obedient man, a servant of YHVH, a man of integrity, wealthy and renowned throughout the land. Interestingly, it is YHVH who initiates this event by asking Satan to take notice of Job. As accuser of the brethren, Satan, jumps on the opportunity to do what he does best and starts pointing his ugly finger at Job and screams that the only reason Job serves YHVH is because he has never had to suffer or do without.

The three friends? Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar were not completely wrong in their assessment. There was a problem of sin but not the sin or sins they were trying to force Job to confess. Scripture is plain that none of their accusations were justified. What we have here is an example of using limited knowledge to judge others. The sin of pride is spilling all over the place as they use their knowledge to accuse and rebuke. Have you ever been attacked like this? I have and I can tell you it hurts. Sadly, I must confess that I have also been guilty of this and have had to work on being more understanding. Sometimes, the people who should be helping to find an answer for the problem at hand, end up only making it worse. Job stands as an example in times like these not to give up hope in YHVH and finally to bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28).

Was Job a good man? According the world's and Job's standards, yes. Even YHVH esteemed Job's character to be

praiseworthy. In a leadership training course, I learned that character is who you are when no one else is watching. Are you the same person with the same values under all circumstances? Job certainly was seen as such a man. What does it mean to be “good”? That is the million dollar question.

Let’s look and see what Scripture has to say about it. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke recount the story of a rich young ruler. In Matthew and in Mark, he asks what good thing he needs to do and in Luke he calls Yeshua good. Yeshua responds that there is only one that is good. He affirms that this young man knows the commandments and lists some of them. The young man proudly announces that he has kept all these from his youth. Yeshua looks at him with love and says that it is not “good” enough. The idea that we can *do* something to be good or righteous contradicts the Word of YHVH. Could this be Job’s problem? He was considered a good man, but in Job 32 and 33 we read the words of Elihu, the unsung hero of Job as he addresses first the “friends” and then Job:

“Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your reasonings, while you pondered what to say.” (Job 32:11) “I even paid close attention to you; indeed, there was no one who refuted Job, not one of you who answered his words.” (33:12) “However, now Job, please hear my speech, and listen to all my words.” (33:1) “Behold now, I open my mouth, my tongue in my mouth speaks.” (33:2) “My words are from the uprightness of my heart, and my lips speak knowledge sincerely.” (33:3) “Surely you (Job) have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the sound of *your* words.” (33:8) “*I am innocent and there is no*

guilt in me. Behold, He (YHVH) invents pretexts against me; He counts me as His enemy” (33:9).

Job believed that his works were his righteousness. It is Isaiah who tells us with certainty that *our* righteousness (our estimation of what is good) is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Job refused to deny YHVH, but clearly did not understand why he should have to suffer because he was doing everything he was supposed to be doing and in his eyes he was a good and righteous man. Elihu poses a question: Is not YHVH’s mercy extended to all, the righteous and the unrighteous?(Job 33:29). Rain (mercy) falls on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45). The answer is yes, we all benefit from YHVH’s mercy. (Job 33:29, 30). You see, before Job’s trials, YHVH’s mercy was being poured out on Job and like many in Messiah’s body today, that was considered a sign of YHVH’s approval. In reality it was simply His mercy falling on the just and the unjust. When Job’s self-righteousness was subjected to YHVH’s justice, he was found wanting and Job literally accused YHVH of being unjust. When he finally understood the problem, repentance was swift and sure.

The end of this story has YHVH scolding Eliphaz, the ringleader of the rebukers’ club. YHVH tells him that there needs to be a sin offering for what they have done (Job 42:7–9). It is only through the shedding of blood that there is forgiveness of sins. It is only through the blood of Yeshua that we are able to approach the throne of *grace* (Hebrews 4:16) to receive mercy and find grace in our time of need. Mercy and grace are not the same. Mercy is good but grace is far better.

Mercy = judgment (or that which we deserve) withheld out of compassion

Grace = favor (blessing that we have not earned) granted out of love

When we receive the mercy of YHVH fear is still active because of the definition of mercy. The blessing we are experiencing is undeserved and the possibility exists that it could be revoked at any time. I believe this is why Job said, “That which I greatly feared has come upon me” (Job 3:25). Somewhere deep down, Job was aware of his inadequacy.

YHVH’s mercy abounds to all. Since the wages of sin is death, every day we wake up alive and breathing is evidence of His mercy. Grace is more about that which is legally ours as heirs and joint-heirs through the purchase price of the shed blood of Messiah Yeshua. With Grace, even though we do not deserve it, the gift of life has already been bought and paid for. It exists and once we accept it, we do not have to worry about eventually getting what we deserve because Yeshua has already paid the price for our sin with His blood and death. Amazing!

So what we see in the account of Job is not an excuse to be tormented unjustly at YHVH’s whim, but rather the consistency of Scripture relative to consequences and healing.

Chapter Thirteen

Alternative Choices

Alternative medicine is any practice of healing arts that are not included under the umbrella of conventional or traditional medicine. There is a place for alternative medicine when certain imbalances exist that need to be adjusted. However, dealing with the sources (roots) of the stress that allow such imbalances to get a foothold and cause disease is critical. Alternative medicine can be beneficial to maximize healthy bodies, minds and spirits, when that is what YHVH is allowing. I am convinced that unless the source or reason for the imbalance is not rooted out, there will be a recurrence of the problem.

Can You Trust Me?

I was twenty-three years old when my mother died of liver failure. She had multiple sclerosis, but you don't die from MS, you die of liver failure due to the massive doses of drugs used to minimize the problems caused by MS. I was told MS was not hereditary.

In my early thirties, I started having problems. At my yearly OB-GYN check up, I told my doctor about the symptoms I was experiencing. I had a partial hysterectomy at a fairly young age and was told I could experience menopause earlier than usual. I thought the symptoms were connected to early menopause.

After the exam, I went into the doctor's office as usual. He handed me a piece of paper with three names on it. "These men are neurologists in the area. Make an appointment with one of them within the next two weeks," he said. Then, to answer the puzzled look on my face, he said, "I think you may have a brain tumor." I do not even remember driving home.

Over the course of the next year and a half, I underwent a battery of neurological tests. The last time I went in was for a nerve conduction test done with electrical impulses and pin sticks. My left side was decidedly weaker than my right and numbness was setting in. When three doctors came into the room where I was waiting, I knew. The speech went something like this: Mrs. Rogers, we aren't finished with the tests, but due to your history (meaning my mother and my level of understanding because of her), and the results so far, we concur that you do have multiple sclerosis and we want to start you on a regimen of drug therapy immediately.

When they say your life flashes before your eyes, they are not kidding. Only what flashed before mine was what my mother went through. I saw what this disease and their so-called medical cure did to her. I remember being scared and then angry and then determined. I heard in my spirit the heavenly

Father ask, "Can you trust me?" I picked up my things and I said, "Thanks, but no thanks," and walked out.

Chiropractic

Something was definitely wrong with me. Periodically, each of us in the family had been treated by a Christian chiropractor we met at a church we attended for a time. He is trained in applied kinesiology and is extremely knowledgeable in the area of nutrition. At one of those visits he asked me about the symptoms that led to the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. He set about finding answers. I believe YHVH used this man to reveal and address some major imbalances in my physical body. The first thing that showed up was heavy metal poisoning due to a toxic level of aluminum in my system. Fatigue to the point of keeping me in bed most of the time, the struggle to keep my head up, and constant pressure in my head all stemmed from aluminum poisoning. There were several things I did to cleanse my body over several months. I remember being excited as the days passed and I got better.

There are a number of metals that can build up in our systems. The primary source of the aluminum in my system was from years of daily antiperspirant use. I stopped using it immediately. As those pores opened and began to function normally, there were days I changed my blouses three and four times. Detoxing your body can be really unpleasant before it gets better. I looked at it this way: I could live with the metal poisoning and what it was doing to me or put up with a few weeks of detoxing discomfort to become healthy. No contest!

When my body was purged of the aluminum, we discovered I also had systemic yeast infection. My body was overrun with candida. The interesting thing about this yeast is that a certain amount of it belongs in your body for everything to function properly. A healthy immune system will automatically limit the overgrowth of candida due to poor diet, injury, sexual transmission, stress, etc. When the immune system is compromised or is taking care of something else more threatening to the body, the candida becomes a secondary priority and grows unimpeded. There are any number of things that can disrupt the delicate balance of yeast in your body. Antibiotics and birth control pills are two of the worst culprits. Somehow these destroy the homeostasis of the human system allowing candida to thrive.

All living organisms produce waste and, as a live organism, candida releases over one hundred mycotoxins (poisons) into the body as waste. The mycotoxins can affect different parts of the body in different ways. For example, one person may get adult acne, another arthritis, and still another person will get symptoms of heart disease. As the production of waste (mycotoxins) from this over proliferation of candida is dumped into your system, symptoms begin to show up. These symptoms *mimic* any number of diseases and often when tested, as I was for months, nothing comes back positive, because it is not really a disease causing the problem, it is the negative reaction of your body to the mycotoxins.

My chiropractor put me on a diet to limit the food necessary for the candida to thrive. It was a type of fast. As the candida

died off, it produced even more toxins and I felt even worse. Again, the choice was to work through the treatment and come out on the other side healthy, or spend a lifetime using medication to manage the symptoms.

I did not find answers for healing in the traditional medical system. When I went back to talk to the doctors that diagnosed me with multiple sclerosis and show them the changes, they told me not to expect it to last. That was over twenty years ago. I do not take any medications. The only health insurance I have is being obedient to the commandments of YHVH and trusting Him with my well-being. If I had not listened to YHVH's voice that day in the doctor's office, I believe I would have become my mom ... dead at forty and sick enough for fifteen of those years that her children never really knew who she was.

Fasting

When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Yeshua, falling on his knees before Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and he is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. I brought him to your disciples, and they could not cure him."

And Yeshua answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Yeshua rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.

Then the disciples came to Yeshua privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you

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have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible to you.” [But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.] (Matthew 17:14–21)

I want to focus on the last sentence which is not found in the earliest manuscripts, but it is included in many versions of the Scriptures and often used to validate prayer and fasting as a way to bring about physical healing and/or deliverance. I want to examine it for this reason.

There are a number of reasons listed in Scripture for fasting.

1. Seeking heightened spiritual awareness for a specific situation either nationally or individually. Judges 20:6; 2 Chronicles 20:3; Esther 4:15–17; Jeremiah 36:1; Daniel 9:3; 2 Corinthians 11:27
2. To plead your case before YHVH. 2 Samuel 12:22; Acts 12:2, 3; Ezekiel 8:21–23
3. For personal consecration. Acts 13:3; Acts 14:23; Psalm 69:10
4. Intercession. Luke 2:37
5. Obedience and humility before YHVH. Leviticus 23:27—
Yom Kippur is the only commanded fast of Scripture

Fasting is generally understood to be abstinence from food for a time, but can also be abstinence from specific foods, or even activities. The purpose of fasting according to Scripture is to increase the level of intimacy with YHVH. The denial of the flesh to enhance intimacy or closeness to YHVH strengthens

the spiritual connection to Him by distancing you from the distractions of materialism, self-gratification, and other influences. It is a means to seriously seek out YHVH or, in other words, to show Him you mean business. There is only one commanded fast in Scripture, that of Yom Kippur, but clearly fasting is expected to be practiced. There is much that we read about in old literature that we misunderstand because at the time of its writing an assumption was made that everyone would know what was meant. I believe the idea of fasting in Scripture is one of those. Matthew 6:16 says *when* you fast, not *if* you fast. Many heroes of the faith incorporated fasting into their worship of YHVH.

In the Matthew 17 passage cited above, Yeshua is defining the *problem* as unbelief or lack of faith. His answer for why the disciples could not cast out the demon was their “littleness of faith.” He says specifically that if we exercise faith even as small as a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible and it is faith that is enhanced by fasting. Grammatically and contextually, there is no way it can be interpreted to say that fasting is what casts out demons or brings healing. Fasting is designed to increase the spiritual connection to YHVH.

Fasting is a spiritual discipline and is also practiced in false religions.

1. Jezebel calls a fast for the priests of Baal (1 Kings 21:7–9).
2. Fasting done for personal gain or to manipulate YHVH (Isaiah 58:2–5; Zechariah 7; Matthew 6:16–18).

This kind of fasting also gets YHVH's attention, but not the kind we would want.

3. YHVH's hot displeasure with fasting done without repentance (Jeremiah 14:10–12; Luke 18:9–14). Contrast these verses with Joel 2:13–14 where repentance and confession accompany fasting.

Physical and Spiritual aspects of Fasting

There are many physical benefits attained through fasting. Fasting allows your system to rest and rehabilitate itself. Stopping the intake of food gives the organs of the body a little vacation from that which they do almost continually. This frees up the body to concentrate on detoxifying and restoring itself.

Fasting helps your body flush out toxic matter that has built up over time. It revives and rejuvenates the millions of cells in your body. It improves circulation, stamina and strength. As you fast, the body seeks out dead cells, damaged tissues, fatty deposits, infections, and even tumors, which it uses as fuel or dumps as waste. As these problems or potential problems are eliminated, the immune system and correct metabolism are restored, bringing healing and rejuvenation to the body. Fasting allows your body to regain normal function by systematically using or removing diseased tissue, toxins, and inferior materials.

As you begin to feel better physically, emotional and spiritual awareness are also revived. Of the dozen or so sources for fasting which I researched, all maintained that

fasting is a double-edged sword. It will produce both physical *and* spiritual results. Self-denial is a *spiritual* concept and a commandment of YHVH for His people. Fasting for the reasons outlined in Scripture lessens the self and increases YHVH-awareness. This establishes a conduit for His power to be released into circumstances and situations that need addressed. It is opening up to YHVH's infinite variety of methods and not limiting Him to our puny perceptions and "littleness of faith." Fasting should certainly make you feel better physically, however, this passage specifically and clearly shows the need for prayer and fasting as a way to increase *faith* so YHVH's power can be released. Prayer and fasting is not a magic formula for healing. It is faith in the Healer that heals. Fasting is designed to increase faith in the Healer. I include the following passage because YHVH uses it to reinforce the connection between obedience and blessing. He chooses to use fasting as an example of obedience.

This is the fast I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter; when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your *healing* will quickly appear; then your *righteousness* will go before you, and the glory of *YHVH will be your rear guard*.

Then you will call, and YHVH will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and

malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then ***your light will rise*** in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

YHVH will guide you always; ***he will satisfy your needs*** in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; ***you will be called*** Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and YHVH’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then ***you will find your joy*** in YHVH, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to ***feast on the inheritance*** of your father Jacob.”
The mouth of YHVH has spoken. (Isaiah 58:6–14 NIV)

Notice the snow ball effect of blessing from YHVH’s chosen fast: healing, righteousness, protection, light, direction, provision, identity, joy, and inheritance. Oh, beloved, do we not serve an awesome God?

Supplements

There are times when our bodies become deficient in a particular nutrient or mineral, and may need outside help to replenish and stabilize. Remember, it is the reason for the deficiency that needs to be addressed for true healing to take place. The supplements may be helpful, but if you are relying on them to

heal you or keep you well, you are still putting your faith in the wrong place.

Black Box Warning

There are options outside traditional medicine. Sometimes a combined approach of spiritual and emotional healing with physical and metabolic treatment is necessary. In my case, I did not even know such a thing as spiritual healing existed when I was treated by the chiropractor. Sometimes, the physical imbalances are severe enough that physical intervention using adjustments, supplements, cleanses, fasts, or other means may be warranted to regain a level of physical homeostasis so spiritual healing can occur. It is the same principle James shares in chapter 2 verses 15–17, “If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warm and filled,’ and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?” This is the introduction to what James has to say about faith without works. There are those who have been called to minister in such ways, but it is important to know that they are *trained professionals who get paid for the knowledge they have, just like lawyers, engineers, chefs, and doctors.*

At the beginning of my journey, I heard my heavenly Father ask if I could trust Him with my healing. He then took me through a series of physical steps. After the detoxing for the specific issues that were causing me so many problems, I remember sitting at a stop light waiting for it to turn green. I heard a clear command, “Stop taking your allergy medicine and

stop going to the chiropractor.” Well, I was stunned and very concerned about stopping the allergy medicine. If I don’t take the medicine, I don’t breathe and if I don’t breathe, I die. Well, who is primarily interested in my death but Satan, so I tested this spirit and said, “Father, if this word is from you, I need two confirmations from Scripture.”

Within two days, I had my two confirmations. The first came from Genesis 2:7, “YHVH Elohim formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ...” Holy Spirit spoke to me and said that if something was taking away my breath, it had to be the enemy. The second Scripture I received was an obscure verse from Job 5:6 that says, “For affliction does not come from the dust, neither does trouble sprout from the ground.”

Now, there are two ways YHVH speaks to us from His Word. The “logos” is the declared purpose of YHVH in written form that we read and understand with our minds and receive for practical instruction. When we read that we are not to lie, the words are easily understood by our brains and we know we are expected refrain from lying. A rhema word also comes from Scripture, but will have a more personal application than the simple contextual understanding. The verse from Job was the second confirmation I had asked for and it spoke directly to my allergy diagnosis. Supposedly, I was allergic to grass and trees and dirt. Abba asked me the following question, “How can you be allergic to the substance you were originally formed from and the things that also come from the ground?” OK. So the word in the car was from Abba. Now what?

Based on this revelation, I began doing spiritual warfare against the enemy when the allergy attacks came and would get immediate results. I was learning to use the authority I had been given against the enemy. I also must admit that I did not immediately get rid of the medicine, and resorted to it a couple of times before I finally repented and threw it away in total obedience. Clearly, what I was being told was specifically for me. Each of us must take care of whatever is standing in the way of our healing. There may be different root causes for the same sickness in different people. We are individuals with individual circumstances and backgrounds. Fear, stress, and conflict compromise our immune systems, which sets us up for hypersensitive reactions to things which YHVH has given to us to make our lives enjoyable. The key is trusting YHVH. He is the only one who knows exactly what is wrong and how to fix it. Trust *Him!*

The second command to stop seeing the chiropractor was less of an immediate threat to me than the allergy medicine one, but I did not forget it. After the initial allergy crisis was past, I went to the Father and told Him I did not understand why he wanted me to stop going to the chiropractor. After all, He had chosen this avenue to help me get better. He said, "Because, you are trusting the chiropractor to keep you well." Gulp! He was right. He had led me out of the traditional medical system to a form that was more natural and more helpful to the way I was created, but trusting in it instead of in Him was still sin.

There are times when spiritual and emotional healing will give immediate relief from physical symptoms and sometimes

Sherri A. Rogers

as James states, there has to be a measure of physical relief to be able to move into the spiritual. I am firm in my belief that physical sickness and disease are rooted in spiritual problems. Whatever physical relief is achieved from physical intervention may alleviate immediate distress, but if the underlying root causes are not ferreted out there will be reoccurrence of the problem(s) or at least a constant reliance on something other than YHVH to maintain the status quo.

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Chapter Fourteen

Choose This Day Who You Will Serve

We are privileged to live in a time when prophecy is literally unfolding before our eyes. Also because of this, we are being held to a greater degree of accountability. In ancient times, Joshua gathered the people of Israel to Shechem, a city situated between Ebal and Gerazim, the mountains of testimony for cursing and blessing. His work was done. He had been given the mantle of Moses at Moses' death and was entrusted to lead the people into the land of promise. He spoke to them the words of YHVH regarding His faithfulness, protection, provision, and healing as each tribe settled on their inheritance in the land. Then he issued the challenge: "Now, therefore, fear YHVH and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve YHVH. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve YHVH, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve YHVH." (Joshua 24:15)

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It is fascinating that even after the Israelites were settled in the land, there were still problems with idolatry. Well, maybe not so fascinating, more like do we ever learn? Here we are at the end of the age, anticipating Yeshua's return, still insisting on having it our way, whether it's the day we worship, the festivals we keep, the traditions and doctrines of man, or the systems we substitute for YHVH's provision - we are "Israelites with idols." We are standing at Shechem with the mount of cursing on one side and the mount of blessing on the other. Where will we turn our eyes? Which mountain will be our testimony? Can we let go of our idols and *fully* trust YHVH?

Many times people have expressed to me that they wished they had my faith. You know what? You do. According to Romans 12:3 we have each been given a measure of faith. What you *choose* to do with it is up to you. It is your choice. I do not claim to have all the answers, but I do know my God and have experienced His love and power and want more than anything for you to experience it, too. What is Abba speaking to your heart? What is His Spirit ministering to you right now? Listen. He will lead you gently and bring you into the truth that will set you free!

Yeshua said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

I cannot make you believe or trust or choose a particular way. I can share my story and what I have learned and hope that it challenges you to reach higher, encourages you to enter into a deeper measure of faith. It is not a popular walk and it is not for the fainthearted. It begins with one small act of faith, believing that YHVH is who He says He is and that you are His peculiar treasure—loved, cherished, protected, blessed, strengthened, favored, gifted, and called.

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants ...”(Deuteronomy 30:19)

“And all the people said, “We will serve YHVH
our God and we will obey His voice.”

(Joshua 24:24)

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Appendix A

Hippocratic Oath

I swear by Apollo the physician, and Asclepius, and Hygieia and Panacea and all the gods and goddesses as my witnesses, that, according to my ability and judgement, I will keep this Oath and this contract:

To hold him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents, to be a partner in life with him, and to fulfill his needs when required; to look upon his offspring as equals to my own siblings, and to teach them this art, if they shall wish to learn it, without fee or contract; and that by the set rules, lectures, and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons, and those of my teachers, and to students bound by this contract and having sworn this Oath to the law of medicine, but to no others.

I will use those dietary regimens which will benefit my patients according to my greatest ability and judgement, and I will do no harm or injustice to them.

I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan; and similarly I will not give a woman a pessary to cause an abortion.

In purity and according to divine law will I carry out my life and my art.

I will not use the knife, even upon those suffering from stones, but I will leave this to those who are trained in this craft.

Translated by Michael North, National Library of Medicine, 2002 ¹

¹ Greek Medicine, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, National Institute of Health, The Hippocratic Oath, translated by Michael North, National Library of Medicine, 2002 <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/greek/greek_oath.html>

Appendix B

Hegelian Dialectic

Hegelian dialectic is a method using interpretation to resolve a conflict. This is done by pitting an idea against its opposite and coming to a compromise where neither side has to completely give up its original position. This is known in the world of dialectic as a “win/win” situation. The compromise becomes the new idea or thesis which must be challenged and reduced further and further until the desired lack of conviction has been achieved. The final position does not have to be fact or truth, but only acceptable to all involved as a possible solution or in other words, consensus.

The process is guided by facilitators whose purpose is to achieve a specific goal; that goal being transformation into the humanistic, Marxist ideals of culture and government. The Marxist view requires that world peace is attainable only through the uniting or synthesis of opposites. Marx fully implemented the Hegelian philosophy into his ideas and writings.

The following chart may be helpful in grasping the concept.

THESIS	ANTITHESIS	SYNTHESIS
facts	feelings	reason
dependent	independent	interdependent
obedience	rebellion	revolution
yes	no	maybe
absolute	no absolutes	relative
hot	cold	lukewarm
always	never	sometimes

When the systems established by a society for its benefit are perverted and corrupted to the point they become the antithesis of their original intent, that society ceases to exist. Consider the following systems of the United States and form your own conclusions:

LEGAL SYSTEM

Original Intent—defender and protector of the innocent; the accused must be proven guilty

Current Status—the accused must prove innocence

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Original Intent—regulation of the marketplace

Current Status—limitless usury, fees, credit/debt

RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

Original Intent—recognition of spirituality

Current Status—humanism = I am god.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Original Intent—dissemination of facts processed through existing values

Current Status—psychologizing, indoctrination, brainwashing to achieve political correctness

MEDICAL SYSTEM

Original Intent—save/preserve life

Current Status—abortion, euthanasia, highest death rate from medicine and doctor error ever

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Appendix C

*Greek Words for Suffering and Sickness
from the Strong's Concordance*

Greek words for suffering

S # 2553 *kakopatheo*: to suffer (endure) evils (hardships, troubles); to be afflicted 2 Tim2:3, 9; 4:5; James 5:13

S # *pathema*; from *pascho* (3958): to experience something evil, to suffer

Greek words for sick, sickness

S # 732 *arrostos*: infirm, sick, invalid

S # 769 *astheneia*: sickness, weakness, to be infirm

S # 770 *astheneo*: to be weak, sick, infirm

S # 772 *asthenes*: without strength, weakness, powerless

S # 2560 *kakos*: to have it badly, to be ill

S # 3119 *malakia*: an indisposition, infirmity

S # 3554 *nosos*: disease, sickness

