

## Warfare (V): Against Sickness (1)

### I. Salvation includes healing of the spirit, soul and body.

1. Psalm 103:3 *“who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases”*
2. Acts 4:9-12, *“...this man has been healed...by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified”*
  - ◆ Verses 9 and 10 talk about “being healed,” which is the same word in the original language as “being saved” in verse 12. Except that in our Chinese translation, when we turn it to the body, we say “being healed,” and when we turn it to the soul, we say “being saved.” This means that the salvation that God has accomplished for us **includes: the soul is completely healed; the spirit is completely saved; the body is completely healed.**
3. Matthew 8:16-17, Jesus healed all who were sick
  - ◆ If you read the four gospels carefully, you will find that the four gospels, in particular, seem to have intentionally included all kinds of diseases, such as leprosy, epilepsy, demon-possessed, blindness, crippling, fever, blood leakage, and so on. So it is said here that Jesus healed all who were sick.
  - ◆ Matthew 8:17: referring to Isaiah 53:4, *“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.”* The difference here is that in the time of Jesus, the Old Testament was in Greek, whereas the Old Testament in the Chinese Bible is a direct translation from Hebrew. In this passage of Isaiah, it seems that God wants to emphasize that “surely” means that He is “truly” to bear our sorrows, our pains, and our sicknesses. It seems that God knows that it is not easy for people to believe that they can be healed of their sicknesses, so God adds a guarantee that “He is true.” He is true to His word that He has taken care of our sicknesses.
  - ◆ God’s word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Often it is because God’s people do not know God’s word, so we do not experience the salvation that God has prepared for us.
  - ◆ Pray that God would open His Word to us in truth, not in our minds, but in our foolish hearts, so that we would realize what a great salvation God has prepared for us, a salvation of the soul and the body.
  - ◆ The salvation that God has prepared for His people is to send His Son, Jesus Christ. With his wounds we are healed. Jesus was judged and scourged all night long, and His whole body seemed to experience all the weaknesses of mankind, to the point that the Son of God could not even carry a cross, but He carried all our weaknesses, suffered in our place, and healed us because of the scourging He suffered.

### II. What Blocks the Healing

1. Sin
  - ◆ Whenever a Christian is sick, the first thing he should do is not to find a quick solution to the illness, but **to ask God, “Lord! Have I sinned against you? Or have I sinned against anyone? Please shine your light on me!”**
  - ◆  **Oftentimes it is not God who punishes us for a disease, but rather it is our sin that opens up a channel for the devil to enter into us.**

Sometimes when we look to the Lord, He will illuminate us that we do not live a disciplined life: we eat and drink recklessly and stay up late at night. Often when we do not live according to God's law, we are easily attacked by the enemy. Also, although it may not be true that you have offended the other party, if you are willing to do what you need to do in obedience to God's word, God will give you the opportunity to be at peace through this.

Sometimes we quickly use our knowledge to know what to eat for this illness and what to inject for that illness. You can quickly solve the problem, but the words God wants to tell you and the lessons God wants you to learn are not learned, and this is why Christians have to fight in the body and rely on God!

- ◆ Children get sick, sometimes because God wants to speak to the parents, sometimes because the parents are fighting, and sometimes because the parents have turned away from God.
- ◆ Unforgiven sins and bitterness in particular are very much in the way of healing. So sometimes when I pray for someone, first I ask the person, "Have you offended God in any way? Do you have a problem with people?" Sometimes when the obstacles are still there, it's useless to pray for the person. Even if God has mercy on him and heals him, his body can be healed, but his soul is not saved. It's not good.
- ◆ Once Pastor Grace Chiang was sick and looked to the Lord. God said, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another." Even though Pastor Chiang felt that the other party had sinned against her, she was still willing to go down humbly and obediently and apologize to the other. Despite the person having a bad attitude, Pastor Chiang still accepted it, and then she was healed.

## 2. Unbelief (double-mindedness)

- ◆ A sister asks, "I have believed that the Lord will heal me, why haven't I been healed yet?" If you truly trust God, you will continue to believe without asking until the Lord's healing comes to you, and faith will surely bring true rest.

To rest and be united with Him is to be united with the source of healing (life), so that His infinite life-giving power can come to us.

- ◆ The example of Pastor Chiang's pus in her throat: a person can be in pain for so many days, but in fact, she did not even fight. She was always in two minds, at one time thinking that the Lord had already given the word to heal, and another time thinking that her sister had said that the medicine was very effective. It was only when she was determined to rely on the Lord with all her heart that she was healed.
- ◆ This is something that brothers and sisters should pay special attention to. **Sometimes, even though you don't go to the doctor, you are not really fighting. If you have second thoughts, you will never be healed. The more you delay, the worse your condition will get, so you might as well go to the doctor as soon as possible.**

## 3. Fear

- ◆ Oftentimes we are not healed because we are afraid of death, pain, and seriousness. These have been holding us back from truly trusting God in our rest.

## 4. Not trampling the young lion underfoot

- ◆ For all sicknesses, you have to overcome it quickly, attack it quickly, and fight off the enemy on the first day, especially for the flu and the fever. If you don't win on the first day and neglect it, the lion becomes very big, and you have to fight very hard. If you're not usually very good at fighting, then you'll be devoured by it.
- ◆ Therefore, you have to pay attention to your body. If you feel a little bit uncomfortable,

don't think it's nothing, but be very watchful, reject it, resist it, hate it, and rise up to fight against it.

- ◆ Your body is very much related to your spirit. If your body is often weak, the enemy will easily attack you.

### III. Healing by God vs Doctors

- ◆ Doctors are also prepared by God, and God has given them some medical knowledge to heal the sick.
- ◆ What is the difference between being healed by fighting and being healed by seeing a doctor?
  1. When we go through a warfare, we often learn many valuable spiritual lessons in the process.
  2. During the battle and after the battle is won, we enter into a closer relationship with the Lord.
  3. The words of the Bible will become more real to you.
- ◆ Some misconceptions:
  1. It is wrong to think that you can't go to a doctor because you have heard how God heals.
  2. It is wrong to think that going to a doctor makes you less spiritual.
- ◆ **In fact, whether to see a doctor or not is not the most important thing. The most important thing about God's healing is that Jesus Christ is our life, and I don't need to accept that I am a weak person.**
- ◆ Each one of us has to look up to the Lord, whether to go to the doctor or to rely on the Lord. The doctor does not want us to say, "Why don't you rely on the Lord? Why did you go to the doctor?" We should be full of mercy, compassion and love for others.

**Don't live under the law. No one can control you. Don't live in the eyes of others. It's all about your choice.**
- ◆ If you have a serious illness, ask the Lord, "Lord, do you want me to go to the doctor, or do you want to heal me?"
- ◆ You have to learn to rely on God when you have minor ailments. You can't go to the doctor for every minor ailment, and then you come to rely on God when you have a tumor or cancer that the doctor can't treat. **Faith grows out of constant warfare, and you must always have small battles in your life.**

It's like a man who has never been trained in the military, and then all of a sudden he's sent to a war zone in the Middle East. Do you think he's going to survive? In our lives, if we don't fight and rely on God during our minor ailments, we will be so scared when a severe illness suddenly comes, and we won't be able to have faith.
- ◆ **One time, Minister Pearl Young said, "Every time I think that the enemy is so eager to defeat us, to bring us to the point of death, to destroy us, I am even more eager to rise up and defeat the enemy."**
- ◆ **There are many times when winning a battle depends on whether or not we have lifted up our faith.**

## IV. Some Special Cases

### 1. Christina Tsai's Malignant Malaria

- ◆ The Lord did not heal her, but He allowed her to live until she was 99 years old, with such a serious disease. But she continued to preach the gospel and testify of God's life there. Many people went to see her, and they wept, and the fire of love for Jesus was kindled. This is another way that the Lord demonstrates the power of God.

### 2. Minister Pearl Young's Skin Cancer

- ◆ During the time when her cancer was not cured, she continued to preach and serve God with much physical pain. But she was so faithful to the Lord, and her face so glorious. She was very joyful and did not have any discouragement, unbelief, and a word of complaint. Often, when I saw Minister Pearl Young, I felt that no matter how much suffering she had endured, it was nothing. In the end, she was taken away by the Lord because of her heart disease and sudden pain.
- ◆ **Another testimony of God's great salvation is that those who seem to be sick are not sick, and this has been a great encouragement to many people.**
- ◆ In some of His specially chosen people, God will make up for all the sufferings of Christ, so that the church may be edified.

## V. Keeping in Mind These Points to Get Healed

- ◆ Sometimes God will heal us right away from some diseases, but some diseases will take a while to heal.
- ◆ Example of the couple with the leg problem: the husband was not healed. He was relying on his wife's faith because he thought she was more spiritual. It was not until he repented and used his faith to truly fight that he was healed.

God wants each of us to use our faith to receive God's salvation.

- ◆ Example: A sister felt that her spiritual condition was not good and she had a stomachache. She did not pray herself, but asked Pastor Grace Chiang to pray for her.

**God heals us because He has been whipped, so that we can be healed, not because you are spiritual or not. This salvation has already been accomplished, so you can come and take it whether you are spiritual or not.**

**So faith is not a feeling such as "feeling" that you have faith now. Faith is accepting God's word that, "Lord! You said this, I'll accept it this way, I'll trust you." You can experience God, like the man whose right hand was withered. The Lord said, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched out not because he had the feeling of faith. No, he didn't have the strength to stretch it out at all. He was just obeying God's word, and he just accepted it regardless of its possibility. He accepts whatever the Lord says.**

## VI. Conclusion

God will have an army of the LORD that will fight harder and harder, often willing to experience God and rely on Him for His glory in the body!

## Warfare (V) Assignment

1. The salvation that God has prepared for us is \_\_\_\_\_ healing.
2. Have you ever been healed from a battle?
3. What were the obstacles that may have prevented you from being healed? Have you ever not been healed because of some obstacles?
4. Pastor Grace Chiang had a pus in her throat that was later healed. What was the key turning point?
5. The husband and wife: the husband had a leg problem. When he just started praying in the beginning, why wasn't he healed?
6. What are the spiritual differences between being healed by the Lord and being healed by a doctor?
7. Scripture memorization: Psalm 103:3, Isaiah 53:4-5.