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## *The Covenant of Healing*

*By Pastor Sherry Gregory*

Healing: sound health, the physical body, the soul, the spirit (the 3-part man).

Jehovah-rapha: I am the Lord your physician or I am the Lord Who heals you (Exod15:26). This name is given to reveal to us our redemptive privilege of receiving the healing which was provided by Christ, our substitute. The very first covenant God gave after the passage of the Red Sea, which was a type of our redemption, was the covenant of healing. It was at this time that He revealed Himself as our physician by His redemptive and covenant name, Jehovah-rapha. This is not only a promise; it is a statute and an ordinance.

Key Scriptures: James 5:14-20, Psalm 147:3, Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24-25, Ephesians 4:23-24, Romans 6:4-13, Philippians 2:13, Philippians 4:13, John 12:36-50, Hosea 6:1-3, Ephesians 2:10

Redemption, Salvation (Soteria): Wholeness, soundness, completeness.

When we think of Healing, we typically think of our physical bodies and healing in it. For the most part, our physical bodies (the flesh) is the part of our three part being that we have to convince more often about the healing that was bought for it at the Cross of Calvary than any other part of us. We do this by reminding it of that promise and refusing to allow it to fail when confronted with sickness or disease.

Sometimes our souls (the mind, will and emotions) need healing too. The Word commands us to PUT ON the new man daily and constantly. Many Christians do not understand that when we speak the Word over ourselves it is "training" our minds to receive the manifested promise. Our faith which comes by hearing, is built up and this will cause the flesh to line up to the Word of God that promises that the Lord desires for us to have perfect health in our minds, wills, emotions, our bodies and in our finances and relationships.

Our spirits are the only part of us that we do not have to labor over to maintain that wholeness, soundness and completeness that Jesus did purchase for us by His sacrifice and victory over death. Why? Because the Word of God says that the "flesh" is ever decaying and following after (lusting after) death. So, we have to make an extra effort to constantly train our flesh to line up with the promise and the hope that we have IN Christ for divine health (or as the definition of soteria which is the Greek word for salvation: wholeness, soundness and completeness).

What does the Word say about healing? Well let's look in the Word and see what it says.

James 5:14-20 says that if any among you is sick, to call in the elders of the church and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil. The prayer of faith will heal the sick, and that while we are at it... take the weeds out of our garden by uprooting sin and unforgiveness by confessing it to one another, then repenting. It says that the prayer of a righteous man avails much! The amplified says, The earnest, heartfelt, continued prayer makes tremendous power available [dynamic in it's working].

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So we can see from these illustrations, and the example in James that it is Important to recognize that there is something going on in your body that does not line up with your Covenant.

1. Important to get the agreement and the fervent prayer of faith from those who are strong in the Word and in their relationship with God.
2. Pride can not be allowed to stand in the way of our seeking brotherly (sisterly) HELP when we are being confronted.
3. The Word guarantees us that a) By the stripes that Jesus took on Him, we were already healed and b) that the fervent, heartfelt prayer of the righteous man releases tremendous power, dynamic in it's working.

Psalm 147:3 says, *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds [curing their pains and their sorrow.*

1. The Word proclaims that God does heal pain and sorrow...this is pain in heart, mind, will and emotions and in our bodies, and sorrow in heart, mind, will, emotions and in our bodies.
2. We know that God is Truth, and if the Word proclaims it to be then it must be.

Isaiah 53:3-5 says *He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like one from Whom men hide their faces HE was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him. Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But HE was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.*

1. The Word spoken by the prophet Isaiah says that He (Jesus the Messiah) has taken all of our hurts, pains, rejections from other people, and become a MAN OF SORROWS AND PAINS. You see HE took these persecutions on Himself so that we would have a way of victory through them...He made the way by the Covenant exchange...he took on our hurts, he gave us His victory!
2. Isaiah speaking by the unction of the Holy Ghost (God speaking through him), also states that because Jesus was acquainted with grief and sickness, He became despised (hated, reviled, people looked at Him with disgust even! Jesus' great exchange gave us the ability to have victory in our relationships, to be esteemed ( Proverbs 16:7 says, When a man's ways please the Lord he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him!) Jesus sacrifice paid for us to be reconciled to the Father God and to be far removed from grief, sickness, weakness and distress, far removed from pain by any source, and far removed from guilt and iniquities! Close to the Father, far away from sin and death and the law that would try to hold any of us into the death cycle! Glory Be to God!
3. If you will also notice also in vs. 3, "yet we did not recognize His worth or esteem Him in any way because of what he did for us"! So even though Jesus was not given recognition at the time that this happened for all that He was attaining for us, He did it anyway, and by doing this in un-noticed obscurity, total humility, He attained the Name that is above All NAMES, and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ IS the Messiah! So the Word acknowledges that when we do something not letting even our left hand know what our right hand is doing, God does see and recognize it and we have treasure in heaven from that humility sown.
4. In verse 5 the Word says, "with the stripes that wounded Him, we are healed and made whole". When Jesus did the great exchange on the cross at Calvary for us, He was then allowing us to have the ability to heal of not only physical pain, sickness, and disease, lack and sin, but emotional, mental, and for the heart and mind, finances and our relationships.

Go to ...I Peter 2:24. Read that we might die, cease to exist to sin and live to righteousness. The great exchange really did happen. We came from death and went into life! The ministry of reconciliation! Reconciled to God and to his original plan, yet with a better covenant than before! This covenant is not only everlasting, but carries an eternal Glory of a restored relationship with the Father, the Bishop of our Souls!

Go to Ephesians 4: 23-24...*And be constantly renewed in the spirit of you mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.*

1. We are to constantly PUT ON this new nature paid for by our Lord and Savior, and be God-like having been created and regenerated after His own image...the image of eternal everlasting health, and life!
2. How do we do that? Remember the article I read you at the beginning, Kenneth Copeland, as wonderful a minister of God as he is, had to PUT ON the new nature when confronted with the old. He had to get help too!

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Now Help can be in many different ways, or by many different means, but that help HAS TO RECOGNIZE that GOD IS THE SOURCE OF OUR LIFE, THE ONLY SOURCE of our being, and that only through Jesus can we come into the IMAGE of that SOURCE!

Romans 6:4-14 says this: *We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God]. We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin. For when a man dies he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men]. Now if we have died with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him. Because we know that Christ (the Anointed one), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him. For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relationship to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relationship to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal (short-lived perishable) bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions. Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [and faculties] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to [perpetual] life, and in your bodily members [and faculties] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness. For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God's favor and mercy].*

1. We have to resist the temptation or the craving of the flesh to allow sin and death to rule as king in our lives. WE have to resist sickness with everything that God has given us to resist it with, and the Word says that it will flee from us! James 4:7
2. We have to resist poverty with everything that God has given us to resist it with, and the Word says that it will flee from us.
3. We have to resist lack, lack of confidence, lack of good relationships, lack of prosperity...the Word says that if we resist the devil (and the law of sin and death that are connected with him, he will flee...) Anything that is not part of our covenant with God is something we need to actively resist with all that we have to resist it with.

Philippians 2:13 says, *[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectively at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.*

Philippians 4:13 says, *I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].*

1. So we see here that God has been the One all along who has given us the strength to carry on, who has worked in us since the day that we received Jesus as Savior and Lord and regenerated us to Himself.
2. HE has given us the seed of life, godliness and success necessary to effectively do His will on this Earth. He has made it possible for us to overcome ALL temptations to go back to slavery to the Law of sin and death by simply resisting that temptation with the strength on the inside of us!!!
3. The Word says that we have strength for ALL things in Christ Who empowers us! WE ARE BLESSED, WE ARE FAVORED by GOD, WE HAVE BEEN RECONCILED TO ABUNDANT LIFE by Christ who empowers us!!!

John 12:36-50 and John 6:36-50 Jesus speaks of Himself as the Light and the Bread of Life. He had done great signs and miracles in both passages but there were still those who's minds, eyes and hearts were blinded by the evil one, and they could not believe in Him or receive the gift of life that HE brought to them.

Read John G. Lake, page 303-top of 304.

Read T.L. Osborn page 525.

What are the limits that stand in YOUR way to receiving the fullness of what Jesus has paid for YOU? Let's stand, and right now I want you to search your heart. Put off the old man, those things which so easily beset you. Put on the new man...believing in, trusting on and relying in Him who died and rose again that you could experience the fullness of reconciliation with the Father. You have what YOU SAY! SAY THIS: I have a mighty covenant that

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has been given to me. I am THE HEAD and NOT THE TAIL, ABOVE AND NOT BENEATH, I am THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST, IT IS GOD WHO ALL THE WHILE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTUALLY AT WORK IN ME! HE HAS ENDED MY RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH AND HAS CAUSED ME TO BE IN UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM! NOTHING BY ANY MEANS CAN HARM ME, I am LIVING IN THE DAY OF THE FAVOR OF THE ONE AND ONLY LIVING GOD BECAUSE OF JESUS MY LORD! I AM HIDDEN IN HIM! I HAVE WHOLENESS, SOUNDNESS and COMPLETENESS in my body, I AM HEALED, in my finances, I AM RICH, in my relationships I HAVE HARMONY AND PEACE, in my mind, will and emotions, I HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST, in every area of my life, I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME!

As we go into praise this morning, let the praise be a point of contact for you! Allow the GLORY of GOD to FILL YOUR HOUSE TODAY. The WORD says that HE inhabits the praises of his people, and that You ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST! HALLELUJAH!

Feel free to come to the alter, offering yourself as a sacrifice unto HIM! LET Him HEAL YOUR every need!