

Christian First Aid



A guide to working with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

By Philip M. Greenwood

To Mike, I'm sure that the book on inner healing by Mary Pytches would have made better reading but as I misplaced it, I hope that my inferior efforts will suffice.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Do you believe in the Scriptures? Before continuing with this booklet, you must be one hundred percent certain that you do. I have found it surprising how many Christians have a problem with this. There is at least one verse of Scripture that will no doubt cause you a problem. This is a natural enough reaction and human nature is such that you will no doubt want to reject that particular verse. This booklet contains a lot of Scripture references as well as some personal observations. I would like to point out that the Scripture is absolutely correct. Whilst my personal observations can be called into question and should be examined and tested at every stage, the Scriptures should be taken as read. I have used the N.I.V. Bible for any Scripture references. This is because I personally prefer it for its accuracy and use of modern language, in a way that makes it straightforward to read and understand. I accept the fact that the N.I.V. does have some minor errors and omissions but I have not found this to be relevant in the areas covered here.

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that ***ALL Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** As I said before, if you can not come to terms with any verse in the Bible then you might as well tear out this verse from yours. If you remove this one key verse from 2 Timothy then you will soon find that you are on a slippery slope that ends up with you dropping your Bible into the rubbish bin ready for collection on Monday morning. Believe me when I tell you that there are verses in the Bible that I don't like. However, I may not like them but they are there for a reason, so I can only give you the same advice that I was given some years ago. "Just suck it up and accept it." When Jesus walked on the earth, He was not politically correct, He didn't care what people thought of Him and He was always ready to tell people what He thought of them. Who was it who called the leaders of the Church a "brood of vipers"? It is not my intention to sow seeds of discord but just take a look at your Church and see if your leaders are a brood of vipers. If they are human then they probably are. I know that this is a bit of a sweeping statement but we are all human, as such, we are all tempted to try and build up our own position and create our own little empire's. In the realms of Christian healing, there can be no room for this kind of behaviour. Whilst God may use one person in a Church very powerfully for this ministry, it should not be assumed that it is they who are performing miracles. The miracles are performed by God, we are merely the vessels He chooses to use. If there is one person of power in the Church then this simply means that everyone else is either too lazy or too scared to allow themselves to be used. The anointing that God gives is not just given to a select few, but to all of those who are prepared to accept it. Matthew 7:7 tells us: ***Ask and it WILL be given to you, seek and you WILL find; knock and the door WILL be opened to you.*** This passage goes on to say about a father giving gifts to his children, it is normally used in reference to the giving of everlasting life but there can really be no doubt that Jesus was talking about all of the gifts that He wants us to have. This includes the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Do you remember when you first became a Christian? You were probably told something along the lines of: "The pass mark to get into heaven is 100% but no-one can achieve that so Christ came and died to take your sin away. In this way, he brings your mark up to 100% so enabling you to get into heaven." This is true of everything

in the Christian life. You don't have to be a super-spiritual to perform miracles, you just need to be open to what God wants you to do. The super-spiritual myth can seem very real but it should be noted that working through the Holy Spirit will make you super-spiritual, not the other way around.

As you continue reading through this booklet, I would encourage you to take it slowly and not rush headlong into service as soon as you get excited by one of the great truths that you will find. The Scriptures detailed in here should be read, learned and indelibly etched onto your frontal lobe in order to avoid the pitfalls that Satan will try to put in your path. The ministry of healing does not require any special certificates or qualifications but it does require some strength and a certainty that can only be gained directly from God. Once you have accepted the fact that the Scriptures are the words of God, it is obvious that the Bible can be used as a training manual and not just as a good story book that tell us how to be a better person.

I am hoping that this booklet will inspire, excite and train you by bringing together those scriptures that you will no doubt already have heard before. I have been a Christian now for about eighteen years and this book is based upon the teaching seminars that I attended at St. Andrews, Chorleywood and Holy Trinity, Nailsea. Most of the teachings shown here are from the seminars of Rev. David Pytches and his team (St. Andrews), the sermons of Rev. John Simons (Holy Trinity) and from the sermons and discussions with my great friend Simon Ponsonby who is now a vicar at a church in Oxford.

Please note, shouts of "Yah Hoo!" and "Praise God!" are not only acceptable but expected. When Simon and I first started realising how obvious the truth was, we used to get so excited that people thought we were completely nuts. Well that was and is probably true, but if you can't get excited by what you read here then please, Please, PLEASE stop taking the tranquillisers. (You know that they are not good for you!)

Chapter 2 – Is This Right?

One popular misconception is that miracles stopped when the last of the disciples died. This would be a great cop-out for us if it were true, however, thankfully it isn't. Let us look to the scriptures to see how this argument falls apart at the seams. Acts 19:11-12 tells us that *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.* Now Paul was converted whilst on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) after the crucifixion so he could not have been one of the original disciples. The critics would point out here that he was chosen as a replacement to Judas Iscariot. I would say "phooey" just take a look at Mark 16:15-20 *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. WHOEVER believes and is baptised WILL be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs WILL accompany those who believe: In my name they WILL drive out demons; they WILL speak in new tongues; they WILL pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they WILL place their hands on sick people, and they WILL get well."* Do you believe? Have you been baptised? Is there really any doubt?

In Matthew 10:7-10 Jesus sends out the twelve disciples with these words: *"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep."* Here we see the five main things that Jesus has taught his disciples; preach, heal, raise, cleanse and deliver. It also shows us that we need nothing more than what God will provide for the task in hand. Also take a look at Luke 10. I have paraphrased this slightly to bring out the points that we need to look at. ¹*After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him...* ⁴*Do not take a purse or bag or sandals...* ⁹*Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'* As you can see, Jesus only told these people to preach and heal, but look at what happened when they returned. ¹⁷*The seventy-two returned with joy and said "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name"* If you read on you will find that Jesus did not admonish them instead he was filled with joy. ²¹*At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."* As you can see, God intended that the power of the Holy Spirit should be revealed to the believers and that His word should be preached with signs and wonders following.

Let us look next at the great commission. You can find this in Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "ALL authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore GO and make disciples of ALL nations, BAPTISING them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching THEM to OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."* This commission is echoed again at the end of Mark's gospel but we have already looked at that passage. From the great commission, it is obvious that Jesus wanted His disciples to pass on everything that He

had commanded them to do. So the disciples teach their disciples to preach, heal, raise, cleanse and deliver. They then pass on the commission to their disciples and so you have a self-perpetuating cycle. Do not think for one moment that this is the be all and end all of Christianity though. Jesus taught His disciples many other things as well, but whilst they are also relevant to this booklet, most of them are so well known that I will not even try to cover them here.

So, in answer to the question 'Is this right?' the answer has to be a resounding "YES!" It is not only right to allow God to perform signs and wonders through you but it is actually expected of you. As to the question of 'Is this right for you?' the answer again is yes but I shall get into that further later on in this booklet.

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many WONDERS and miraculous SIGNS were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and have everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. EVERY DAY they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all people. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED. This passage from Acts 2:42-47 shows that when the word is preached with signs and wonders following, the result is very impressive indeed. Why do we not have this kind of success in today's Church? It is my belief that because we keep these miracles mostly under wraps and within the Church they are not being used to their full advantage. Remember that Jesus taught His disciples to preach the word with signs and wonders following. OK so they often performed miracles in the temple courts but in those days, the temple courts were like today's village halls and shopping malls. They also, like Christ, would preach and perform miracles at the local well, which is rather like today's coffee shops and fast food outlets. How's that for a challenge? I personally find it a bit frightening as well, but then no one ever said that this was going to be easy.

I would like to end this chapter with a verse from Luke 24:49 "*I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed in power from on high.*" Here, Jesus is telling the disciples to wait until they have received the power of the Holy Spirit. If you are not certain about the power of the Holy Spirit working through you then it would probably be a good idea to wait and pray about this before rushing out to raise a man from the dead down at your local.

Chapter 3 – What Do I Need?

*While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the **HOLY SPIRIT** came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.* (Acts 19:1-6) In order to minister in the Spirit, you must first be baptised in the Spirit. In the days of the early Church, it was generally accepted that when you became a follower of the way, you were baptised in the Spirit at the same time. These days, it is not uncommon to find Christians who have never been baptised in the Spirit. Whilst it is true to say that anyone who becomes a Christian receives the Holy Spirit at conversion, it is very often not released until a later time. This is sometimes called the second blessing because of the delay between receipt of the gift and the release or first use of it.

Faith is also required, in Matthew 17:20-21 Jesus tells the disciples *that “...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move.”* This is often decried as the ‘Name It And Claim It’ school of thinking. Whilst I do not yet have enough faith to move an actual mountain, that is my shortfall, not that of either God or the Scriptures. I do not believe that God will answer my prayer to move a mountain without a good reason. So how can you overcome this lack of faith? 2 John 9 tells us that, *‘Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teachings of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and Son.’* This is probably not a good example of Scripture to use to prove my point but the precept is universally accepted so I hope that you will not have any problems with it. Start with something simple and work your way up to the more advanced levels. Whilst in theory, it takes no more skill or effort to cure a headache than to raise someone from the dead, it is far easier to believe that God will cure a headache for you.

So let us take a look at what I like to call the Christian’s toolbox. This can be found at 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 *Now to **EACH ONE** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. **ALL** these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and **HE** gives them to **EACH ONE**, just as **HE** determines.*

Here we can see the nine major gifts of the Spirit.

From now on, I shall call them by their more commonly used names in this booklet:

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|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wisdom | 2. Word of knowledge | 3. Faith |
| 4. Healing | 5. Miracles | 6. Prophecy |
| 7. Discernment | 8. Speaking in tongues (Tongues) | 9. Interpretations |

Once you realise that the Holy Spirit is like a Christian's tool box, you will have grasped the basic requirements of what you need. When the Lord calls on you to minister in the Spirit, all you need to do is open the tool box and everything you need will be immediately to hand. Later on I will show how the tools can be used together just as if you were fixing a car. Imagine that the Bible is your Haynes[™] manual, the Holy Spirit is your toolkit and the person or situation you are involved with is the car.

This has covered what you need for any form of ministry in the Spirit. (Apart from the fruits of the Spirit but they come naturally to most Christians.) Now let me just give you one thing that you definitely do not need.

The phrase "Do not be afraid" occurs three hundred and sixty five times in the bible. That is once for each day of the year (OK, so you can allow yourself to be afraid on February 29, but as women can ask men out on that day I would be too!) Fear is a monster that affects the best of us. Just look at the story of Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:29-32. This is a wonderful example of how Jesus helps us to walk above life's problems. Whilst Peter keeps his eyes on Jesus he is fine but as soon as he has doubts and fears, he starts to sink. By verse 32, Jesus and Peter climb into the boat and the storm subsides, showing that with Jesus on board there is no storm that can prevail against you. A wonderful quote from my friend Simon is very relevant here, **"Jesus doesn't promise a calm crossing but he does promise a safe passage."**

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. (Romans 8:15) Throughout the Scriptures, we are told that we should have a reverent 'fear' of God but that we should never be afraid. This might seem to be a contradiction but in fact it is not. The 'fear' of God can be better translated as a reverent awe of His power and majesty but this apparently was too much of a mouthful so the term fear has been used instead. The fear to be avoided is the kind that causes the fight or flight reaction, this one will cause you to 'quench the Spirit' and make you ineffective for the ministry that God would have you do. As in the case of Jonah, God can override this, but He will not normally do this because His decision to give you free will would normally take precedent.

Chapter 4 – Putting It All Together

This chapter will consist largely of my own personal observations and experiences so I would ask you to compare it closely to the scriptures in the previous chapters. Where I have used names they are all fictitious, this is partly because I am terrible at remembering names but mostly for the obvious reason of protecting the identities of those involved.

As I have explained in the last chapter, the Holy Spirit brings His gifts to everyone who will allow themselves to be used. If we look at our commission, we can see how the gifts of the Spirit are there to help us:-

1. To preach the good news we require very few of the gifts, or do we? To preach the good news effectively, we would definitely require faith. To preach the word with signs and wonders following, we would require various other gifts depending on the type of sign or wonder that the Spirit would have us perform.
2. Healing the sick is a very interesting subject that can be divided into two very distinct categories. Rather like the National Health Service, we can divide healing into physical and psychological.
 - a) Physical healing will require faith, healing and miracles.
 - b) Psychological or 'inner' healing will normally require wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing and miracles.Also, quite probably, tongues and interpretations will be used to provide a medium through which the Lord will call those people who require healing but are too self-conscious to request help.
3. Raising the dead would require wisdom, a word of knowledge, faith, miracles and quite possibly prophesy.
4. Cleanse those who have leprosy – These days, leprosy is not the socially unacceptable disease that it was in the days of Christ. It can normally be cured easily by a few drugs that are readily available from a doctor. The socially unacceptable disease of today would be something like acquired immune deficiency syndrome. (HIV+ or AIDS to the uninitiated) Now this would be a challenge and so I prefer to substitute this for leprosy. To cleanse such a disease you would require faith, healing and miracles at the very least.
5. Deliverance or the casting out of demons is a very large and controversial subject. For now, suffice it to say that you will require all of the gifts and I shall give you some of the reasons why later on in this chapter.

Here are examples of each of the above in action. I have deliberately left out the preaching of good news because this is a subject that is covered in great depth at every church I know of. I do have one little anecdote from a preacher that I heard at Fishponds Baptist Church in Bristol. He was no stranger to healing and at his own church he had been used to heal several hundred people over the years. However, despite many requests, God had never allowed him to heal his own wife of cancer. Confused but obedient, they consulted their G.P. who recommended laser treatment for it. The preacher's wife was very concerned about this treatment but the Lord spoke to her in a dream. "Do not be afraid. The light is of me." Again, the phrase do not be afraid comes into play. This lady went into hospital for treatment and was completely cured. The moral of this story is that God uses doctors as well so never discount them.

Physical healing.

My first experience of physical healing was a few weeks after I had become a Christian. The youth group that I had joined was invited to a “special service” that was to be led by a preacher who was visiting from Zimbabwe. It was at three o’clock on a cold grey Saturday afternoon, but such was the feeling of excitement that all but one of our youth group were there. The service started normally enough with a lot of clap-happy songs that we all knew and loved. About ten minutes into the service, the music started to slow down. This was unusual, normally the musicians started with the slower songs and speeded up to a crescendo. As the music changed, so did the mood. We were slowly brought into a state of prayer and worshipful singing. As the music played softly, a quite time came over the group and I was wondering when they would get on with it but then I realised that one of our group, Sally, was singing softly. Slowly she started to sing out louder. There were two things that amazed me about this, firstly, Sally was tone deaf but her singing was beautiful. Secondly, I didn’t recognise what language she was using. The preacher who was leading the service had only said five words up to this point. I remember them clearly, they were “Good afternoon” and “Let’s sing something.” Once Sally had stopped singing, the preacher stood up and said “Thank you Lord.” He pointed to another member of our group called Jane and said, “The Lord has just told me that you suffer from back aches is this correct?” Jane was astonished, as she had never made a big thing of it. The next question was “Do you know what causes them?” Jane admitted that she had never bothered to find out as they were not that bad. The preacher went on to tell her that her back aches were caused by the fact that she had one leg longer than the other and that God wanted to correct the problem before it got worse. He then asked if she had any objections to him praying for her healing. Jane gave him permission and walked uneasily to the front of the hall where she knelt down in front of him. The preacher laughed and asked her if she wouldn’t be more comfortable sitting in a chair. This was definitely new to us but Jane got up and sat down. The preacher lifted Jane’s legs slightly with his hands just behind her ankles and began to pray for the Holy Spirit to heal her. As we watched, Jane’s right leg grew by about an inch. The whole of the healing process took less than a minute, then the preacher prayed for Jane to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jane just collapsed into the chair and couldn’t stop giggling. There were many more people healed at that service but that one was the most memorable. Following the service, I discovered that Sally was more amazed than I was at her singing and when I last saw Jane about a year ago, she was happy to report that her back ache problems had not returned.

In this example, can you see the use of the Spiritual gifts and how they interact? Tongues were used to deliver a message from God. An interpretation of the tongue was given. The preacher had the faith that God would do what He had said. Then he used wisdom in how to approach the subject with someone who was unfamiliar with the workings of the Spirit. Finally, he used healing and possibly miracles for the actual healing process. The last thing that the preacher did was to fill Jane with the Holy Spirit. I have not covered this yet, but as you will find out later this is a very important part of the process.

Inner Healing.

Inner healing can best be described as the healing of the spirit, mental hurts or mental problems. Whilst I have had some experience in this field both as the healer and the healed, the most graphic example that I can think of actually happened to a friend of mine. In the days when I ran a youth group, we often used to go to churches where healing services were being held. This one time, there were five of us who went, the usual four and Tim who was very nervous about spiritual matters. Once the ministry began, the four usual suspects could be found either praying for people or being prayed for as the Spirit led us. Tim sat quietly at the back of the church with a young woman called Ellen whom we had met earlier on. They were discussing the events of the service and joking about how the A.S.B.'s that the Church of England loves so much were rapidly becoming 'All Slain Bodies' instead of the 'Alternative Service Books.' Suddenly Tim saw a sort of banner across Ellen's forehead and on it, printed in bold type, was "**ABUSED BY FATHER.**" Tim was so nervous that he nearly ran all the way home. He looked at Ellen and stammered out that he needed to pray for a minute. Tim was never one for long winded prayer and from what he told me of the incident, his prayer went something along the lines of, "OK God, now you'd better give me the wisdom to deal with this one!" A few seconds passed then Tim looked up at Ellen and asked, "So how do you get on with you dad?" Ellen broke down in tears so Tim just did what he saw everyone else doing. He held out his hand over her head and prayed that the Holy Spirit would come and heal her, fill her and give her peace. This went on for about five minutes, although Tim said that it felt more like five hours. When Ellen looked up, she saw that her father had returned and she smiled. As her father looked at her, she stepped towards him and hugged him. Tim was very confused and it must have shown on his face because Ellen and her father sat down and started to explain what had happened that day. Ellen's father had come to the church to receive prayer for his wife who was too ill to come along. When he went up to the front of the church to receive prayer, the person who ministered to him told him, "Don't worry, the Lord has told me that your wife will be fine as soon as you forgive yourself." The minister then laid his hands on Ellen's father who fell to the floor and stayed there shaking for nearly fifteen minutes. As he made his way back to his seat, he was very concerned to find his daughter being prayed for. When Ellen looked up at him and smiled, he knew that the Lord had healed his whole family in a matter of minutes. Ellen had blocked out that part of her past but the Lord had uncovered it, healed it and given her the strength and courage to forgive her father for what he had done.

As far as I can see, the Spiritual gifts in use here were a word of knowledge, wisdom, faith, prophecy, healing and miracles. I love that story because it shows so many facets of the Lord and the way in which he works. When He is allowed to work as He will, the Lord not only heals the obvious problem but very often he will cut to the core and heal many other things as well. One other thought comes to mind over this. Just consider for a moment the mess that the secular world would make of this. A psychologist would unearth the abuse of Ellen. She would then have spent years in therapy trying to come to terms with it. Her father would probably have lost his job after spending time in prison and her mother would probably have had a nervous breakdown. When I say this, don't think for one moment that I believe that abusers should be let off. I do believe that the law is very important and that all possible help should be given to the abused. However, I do believe that if God can get in there first and sort out the problems, it is a lot cleaner and a lot better for all concerned.

Raising The Dead.

This is one ministry that I have no real experience of. Even as a first aider with the Red Cross for close to ten years, I have never had the opportunity to raise someone from the dead. However, I have got an interesting story that is related to the raising of the dead. Whilst I was running the youth group, one thing that I had never heard of was a recent raising so I wrote a song about this and performed it at one of our meetings. It went like this:

Chorus: Jesus has commanded us to go into the world.
To preach good news, to heal and raise the dead.
Now often we will preach good news and sometimes heal the sick.
But tell me why we never raise the dead.

V1 Could it be that our faith just ain't strong enough.
Or do we think that the Bible's out of date?
I'd really like to know the reason why,
Why it is we never seem to raise the dead.

Chorus

V2 Are we afraid that God will not be near,
If we should try something that's not been done before?
But now I tell you the Lord is always there
And He has commanded us to go and raise the dead.

Chorus

V3 Now wouldn't it be good to see the miracles
That Jesus used to do two thousand years ago
Being performed again within this land
That men may see and hear and then believe

Chorus

This song is dated at 9/4/87 and the meeting would have been the Saturday after that but enough of the waffle and on with the story. After having sung this song, the meeting went the way of so many before and changed track from what we were going to be looking at. Instead a general discussion of the song broke out. I found out over the next few hours about many modern day raisings but the story that stands out best was the one from my friend Simon. I cannot remember who it was about but they were a powerful and well known preacher with quite a ministry in the raising of the dead. This man became known as the funeral wrecker when he turned up at his mother's funeral and proceeded to raise her from the dead. It took a little longer than usual but this man had such faith and persistence that after a few minutes, his mother sat up in her coffin. Much to the surprise of all the people present, she looked towards her son and is reported as saying, "Son, I have just been with Jesus and he has allowed me to come back to tell you that this is my time and that you should let me go. Besides, I am enjoying myself so much more now. I'll see you when your time comes." With this, she closed her eyes and laid back down. The vicar who was leading the service reached into the coffin to check for a pulse as he thought it was a practical joke but of course he could not find one.

As you can see from this example, wisdom is a prime requisite, a word of knowledge would have been useful, faith was very much in evidence and a miracle was certainly performed. One point that was also discussed at that meeting was the fact that after many of the raisings in the Bible, people were instructed to feed the risen person. (See

Luke 8:55) We couldn't decide if this was an important part of raising the dead or not. We finally decided that as it was a normal thing for a living person to do, if any of us ever had the need or opportunity to raise someone from the dead then we would remember this and make sure that they were fed just in case.

Cleansing.

Cleansing is basically a form of physical healing but the disease is normally based in sin. Leprosy as described in the Bible, covers a great many skin diseases. It is only in more recent years that we have isolated one and called it leprosy. In a lot of cases, these skin diseases are caused by physical contact with another infected person. In the Bible, these people were called unclean and it was a sin against the Levitical law to have contact with them. If you read through Leviticus (or the summary of the law in Deuteronomy) you will soon begin to realise that although it is very long winded and a bit over the top, the law makes sense when compared to what science has now been able to prove. There are some laws there that still seem pointless but I would contend that it is science that hasn't discovered why yet. Basically, the law says that contact with a leper is a sin because most skin diseases are highly infectious and they were almost impossible to treat then.

Because of this, I prefer the example of AIDS. The HIV virus is believed to have been in existence in a small town in Africa for many years before it started its spread around the world. In Leviticus 18:22 we read, ***“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable. [to God]”*** The HIV virus was originally only passed between homosexual men. Homosexuality is a sin against God. (My apologies to a very dear friend of mine who is that way inclined but it has to be said. I love you but I hate your sin.) When science managed to produce quick and easy cures for the various venereal diseases, sexual promiscuity took off. This is again a sin, not that there is anything wrong with sex, in fact it is a gift from God that in my mind should be enjoyed. The Bible does say that sexual promiscuity is wrong although the actual reference escapes me as I write this. I believe this is primarily because of the dangers involved. In recent years, HIV has travelled into the heterosexual world and through promiscuity, has now infected millions of people over every country of the world.

If you read John 5:1-15, you will see Jesus healing a man at the pool of Bethesda. As with many of Christ's healings, he tells the man to stop sinning. This to me is the crux of cleansing, it does not only involve healing but also it involves a deliverance from sin. I find this hard to explain very well but I hope that you have got the gist of it. When it comes to the actual ministry of cleansing people, it really doesn't matter how well you can describe the subject because the Lord knows what is required so He will give you the right words and the right tools to do the job. At the end of the day, we are only the vessels that God uses to heal people so if you trust in Him and let Him do as He will, there is no need to worry about messing it up. He will make sure that everything that needs to be done, is done. The only way to make a mess out ministering in the Spirit is for you to try to take control of the situation.

Deliverance.

Deliverance involves getting down and dirty with Satan so I shall forgo any stories and get down to some pretty serious Scriptures. You will need to be very familiar with these before you even think about entering this particular battleground. Deliverance is a ministry that spawns a lot of mystique, fear and wrong thinking. A person who is “demonised” is a normal person who is troubled by a demon or demons. I would suggest that you read Mark 5:1-20 very carefully before continuing with this brief run down of the casting out of demons.

In the passage, you can see Jesus talking to the demons called Legion and casting them out into a herd of two thousand pigs. Incidentally, there was always two thousand Roman soldiers in a legion. The following Scriptures need to be etched in your heart before you will be ready for this ministry. James 2:19 ***“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”*** Believing in God is not enough! You must also have the Holy Spirit and be walking hand in hand with God.

Matthew 10:24 ***“A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.”*** Do not get too big for your boots, always rely heavily on God.

Luke 10:18 ***“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*** - Isaiah 14:12-18, Revelation 12:4, Revelation 1:18 and Revelation 20:14 tell the full story of Satan’s fall from the highest position in heaven to his current position as the devil. Satan was the highest of the angels but his greed took him and his followers (one third of the angels in heaven) to the pit. Jesus has now taken Satan’s place as the bright morning star. (or God’s worship leader.) Never be deceived into thinking that Satan is weak. Through Jesus we have the victory and NOTHING can stop that but Satan is still a formidable enemy and he is much stronger than you or I alone.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that ***“Our struggle is NOT against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*** And it goes on to say in verse 13 ***“Therefore put on the FULL armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”*** Read all of Ephesians 6:10-20 if you need any more clarification here.

Matthew 28:18 ***“ALL authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*** Jesus has the victory NOT YOU!

In Luke 10:17 ***the seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in YOUR NAME.”*** This is important, demons can only be cast out effectively in the name of Christ. It is also important to fill a delivered person with the Holy Spirit otherwise, the person is like an empty house with no door and the demons WILL try to return. When demons return after a deliverance, it has been found that they usually bring reinforcements with them to try to re-take the ground that they have lost. Demons are real and dangerous. Essentially they are Satan’s version of the Holy Spirit so never play with them or take them lightly.

In the passage, Jesus talked with the demons of Legion. This is possible but it is not recommended. They will normally try to convince you that you are no match for them. Also, it is not very nice for the person being delivered when they start saying things that they don’t want to say.

Matthew 16:19 ***“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; WHATEVER you bind on earth WILL be bound in heaven, and WHATEVER you loose on earth***

WILL be loosed in heaven.” If a demon should start talking to you, bind it quickly and **KNOW** that it **MUST** remain bound then loose the Holy Spirit. If you have any doubts, the demon **WILL** take advantage of them.

If we go back to the story of the storm and of Peter walking on the water that we visited earlier, in Matthew 14. We can see that Jesus had just fed the five thousand and he had gone to pray when a storm arose around the disciples. In this example, we can see that Satan had been hit hard so the minister, in this case Jesus, had to go and re-charge his batteries. Any form of ministry in the Spirit tends to be a battle against Satan and so, like Christ, you will need to re-charge your batteries with some time alone with God. It is usually during this time that Satan fights back to try to regain the ground that he has just lost. This is normal so don't be frightened of it, just be ready. Romans 8:26 tells us that, ***In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*** This passage is talking about the gift of tongues, not the type that are a message for a Church but the type used in personal prayer. It may be helpful to note that demons appear to be very afraid of the use of tongues. This is commonly believed to be because they cannot understand them either. I don't know if this is true but I have always found the use of tongues to be very profitable in deliverance.

One final point on this whistle-stop tour of deliverance is that Jesus has prepared a place for any demons that you cast out. It is called hell! They do not want to go there because it means that they have failed and, if you can take the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis seriously, their reward is not a nice one. If you do not send demons to hell then they will roam about freely looking for somewhere else to go. One example of this is an incident that occurred to my wife. After one particularly heavy evening service, Barbara was at work with a terrible headache. Remembering that Satan likes to attack you after he has lost ground, she realised that the headache was most probably demonic in origin. Knowing only a little about deliverance, she simply commanded the headache to leave her. Within minutes, Barbara's headache had gone and everyone else in the office was asking who had some painkillers.

Chapter 5 – Final Exhortations

Although this has been very brief, I hope that it will have given you an insight into the workings of the Spirit and the workings of the devil. I would not recommend that you go out and minister in the Spirit on the strength of this booklet alone. Rather, you should work firstly with someone who is familiar with this form of ministry. In this way, you will be able to learn much more than just these few basics. If you are unable to work with a more experienced person then I would recommend that you study your Bible and look for examples, techniques and tips all of which can be found in abundance once you start to look.

Finally, I would like to share a few more Scriptures with you that are applicable to this ministry.

John 5:19 ***“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; he can only do what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son does also.”*** If Jesus could only do what He saw His Father doing, we should do no more and no less than what Jesus did. In other words, compare all ministry with the Bible, if it is there and it doesn't say that it is wrong then it is acceptable to do it.

2 Timothy 2:15 ***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*** This one speaks for itself. Consider becoming a Christian as if it were an apprenticeship. You should understand the workings of the whole company by the time you are through.

Romans 5:20 ***“The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increases, grace increases all the more.”*** Do your best to become perfect like Christ but know that you will not reach His level of perfection whilst you are still alive. Isn't it good to know that His grace will increase to cover your shortcomings?

1 Timothy 5:22 ***“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”*** Once you start ministering in the Spirit, it is all too easy to get carried away. Many problems that you encounter will only require a sympathetic ear or a word of good advice. They don't all need the intense power of the Holy Spirit to solve the problem.

As you will probably have noticed by now, I am not a man of many words. However, I hope that my excitement for this subject has shone through in spite of my inability as a writer. One thing that I can guarantee though, is that once you start ministering in the Spirit, your life will never be the same again.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He turn His face upon you and may He fill you to overflowing with His glorious and wonderful Holy Spirit. Amen.

Love in Christ our Lord

Phil

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