

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

WE ARE REDEEMED
FROM *Sin and Sickness*

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LIFE & Death

Part 1

by Annette Capps

In this issue, we are reprinting the testimony of my mother's life extension through a liver transplant 22 years ago. I think it is important for believers to know that everyone encounters storms in life and it is through faith and listening to God's direction that we are delivered.

A key point in Mom's story is that she listened to what God told her, even though the answer came in a way that she did not anticipate.

Before the year of 2015, I never shared with my mom or anyone else what I experienced in regard to her health situation.

When I became aware of the diagnosis of incurable liver disease, I began to pray and intercede. I

also asked God, "What can I do about this?" He told me that I could not change my mom or change her mind. She was resistant to the idea of a liver transplant. Not only was liver transplantation just past the "experimental stage", she was near the "cutoff age", the age past where the medical community would consider a transplant a viable solution.

God told me the only thing I could change was myself and my relationship with Mom. I asked God for insight and help to change me, my ideas and my relationship into what He wanted.

For 7 years I prayed and interceded as the Holy Spirit directed me. Family members and friends continued to agree for her return to health.

Between 1990 - 1992, Mom's health began to deteriorate to a very serious point, and she was still resistant to a transplant.

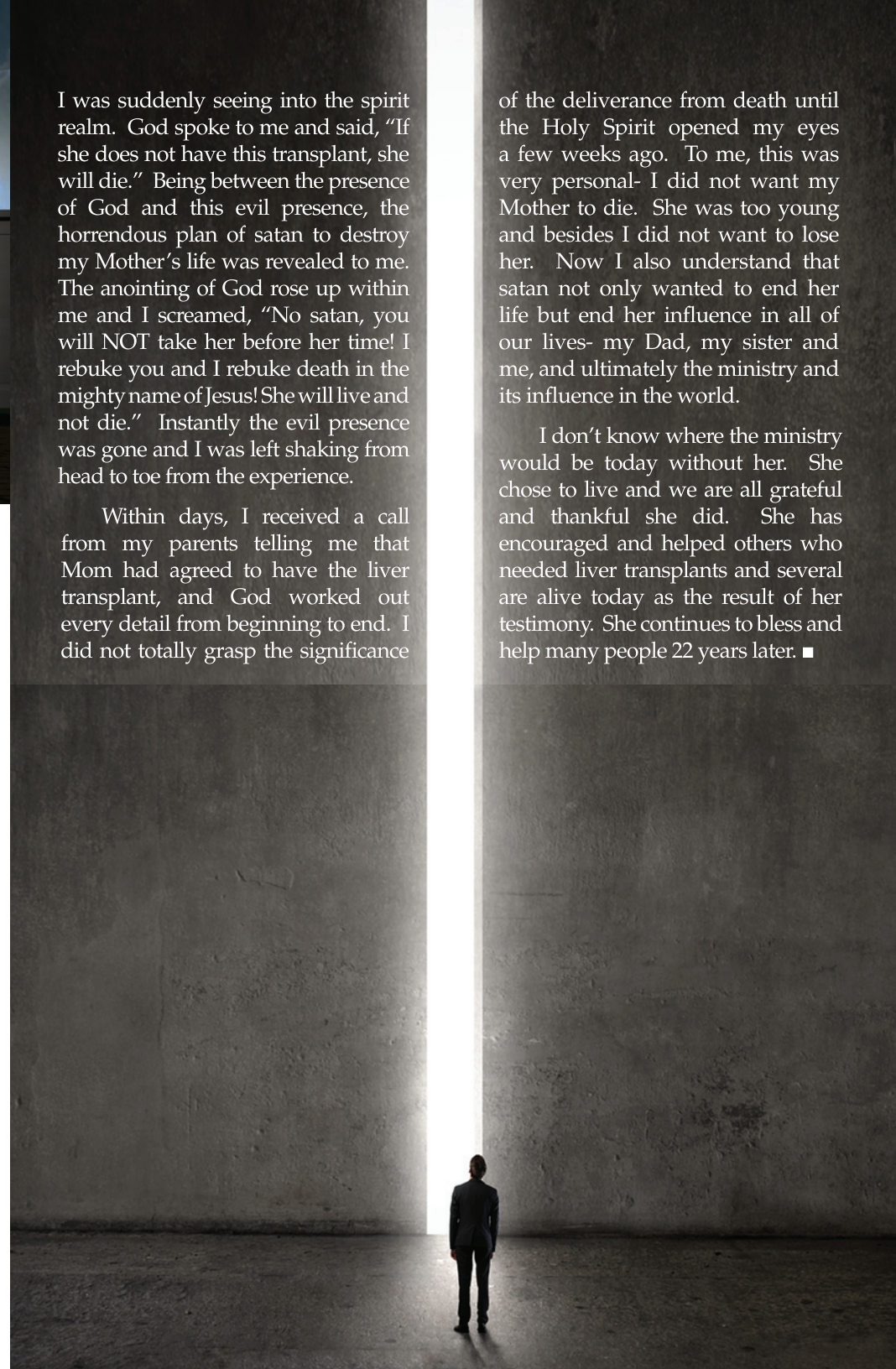
One night as I was interceding in the spirit around midnight, a powerful evil presence came into my room and

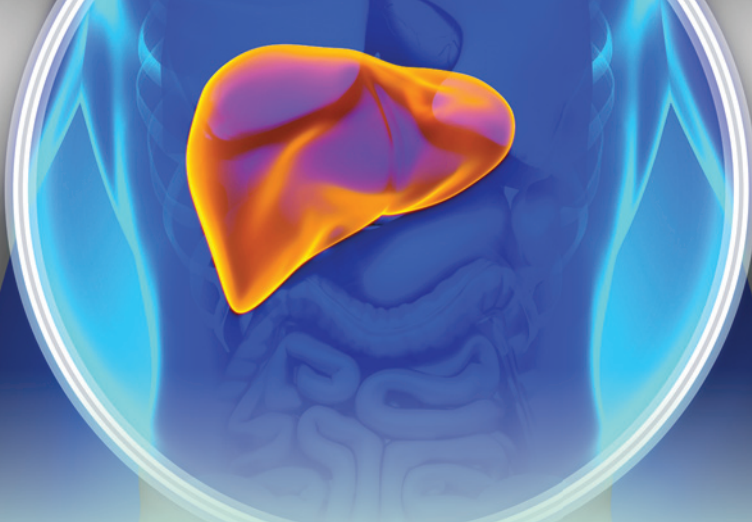
I was suddenly seeing into the spirit realm. God spoke to me and said, "If she does not have this transplant, she will die." Being between the presence of God and this evil presence, the horrendous plan of Satan to destroy my Mother's life was revealed to me. The anointing of God rose up within me and I screamed, "No Satan, you will NOT take her before her time! I rebuke you and I rebuke death in the mighty name of Jesus! She will live and not die." Instantly the evil presence was gone and I was left shaking from head to toe from the experience.

Within days, I received a call from my parents telling me that Mom had agreed to have the liver transplant, and God worked out every detail from beginning to end. I did not totally grasp the significance

of the deliverance from death until the Holy Spirit opened my eyes a few weeks ago. To me, this was very personal- I did not want my Mother to die. She was too young and besides I did not want to lose her. Now I also understand that Satan not only wanted to end her life but end her influence in all of our lives- my Dad, my sister and me, and ultimately the ministry and its influence in the world.

I don't know where the ministry would be today without her. She chose to live and we are all grateful and thankful she did. She has encouraged and helped others who needed liver transplants and several are alive today as the result of her testimony. She continues to bless and help many people 22 years later. ■





GOD'S Faithfulness

by Peggy Capps

Many of you may have heard about the struggle I had in my body for several years. The enemy had tried in various ways to discourage and defeat me for a long period of time. Thank God for His faithfulness in performing His Word.

In the early 1980's, Charles and I had gone for a dietary blood test to see if we were eating a balanced diet. I had no symptoms or indications that anything was wrong in my body. When the results of the tests came back, they insisted I go to a doctor immediately. This was quite a shock since I felt fine, but I went to a doctor for tests and was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis.

I was blessed with a wonderful Christian doctor who often prayed with me and was very helpful. In 1985, he recommended that I see a specialist, and arranged an

appointment for me at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

I was confessing the Word of God over my body and believing for a *restored new liver*. I have heard ministers say many times, that God does not always answer the way we expect Him to. I found this to be true in my life. The first trip that I made to the specialist, I made the statement, "I will beat this thing." I did, but it was certainly not the way I had expected.

I went for yearly check-ups and the doctor was always amazed that I never slowed down from my schedule and was able to keep going and working just as I always had. Each year he would try to encourage me to prepare for a liver transplant.

In May of 1992, I went for an annual check-up and things began to go downhill for me physically. I had five months of getting to *cast down imaginations* and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:5 KJV) I was in and out of the hospital several times during the summer. Because the common bile duct was so constricted, the bile was not able to pass through the

liver. I submitted to a procedure that would supposedly help the bile drain and reduce the amount of jaundice that I was experiencing.

In October, while we were in a meeting in California, I had an unusual emergency arise and flew to the hospital in Minnesota, leaving Charles to continue the meeting. While meditating on the events, I remembered a story I had heard about a Christian whose home was surrounded by rising flood waters. He escaped to the roof and was praying, "God, save me from this flood." After a few minutes, a boat came by and asked if he would like a ride. He replied, "No, God is going to save me." Later, a helicopter flew over and asked if he would like a ride. He gave the same reply, "No, God is going to save me." The next scene is in heaven, and he is asking God, "Why didn't you save me?" The reply was, "*I sent you a boat and a helicopter and you passed them both up.*"

The Lord seemed to say to me, "Don't be like that man and pass up the *opportunity* I have given you for *deliverance*." The opportunity I was *about to pass up* was a *liver transplant*.

In just a matter of a few weeks, everything was in place. The evaluation committee had approved me as a candidate for a transplant. The insurance company sent a letter

of approval, and I had gone through two weeks of tests to be sure I was physically fit. Many other details that I won't go into, were all suddenly taken care of.

In order to be near the transplant center, I moved into an apartment in Rochester the first part of December and waited through Christmas and the holiday season for a donor liver.

On January 10, 1993, I received a new liver and my recovery was miraculous. I was out of the hospital in nine days, and back home in Arkansas within a month from the day of surgery. God blessed me with a way of escape and I am so glad I didn't let my idea of how he was going to bless me with healing, keep me from receiving a new liver and being healthy again.

Jesus had no pat answer for healing but ministered to every one differently. John Lake made the statement, "The purpose of Christ's redemption is sinlessness, sickness, and ultimately deathlessness." That is God's *ideal* for man: to be perfect just as Jesus was perfect (Matthew 5:48).

We may never get *one half* of the way *toward the ideal*, but *never* try to *degrade* God's purpose and bring it down to your level. But by the grace of God, put the standard up there where Jesus put it and get as near to it as you can. ■



Peggy gives her testimony on the Concepts of Faith TV Program now available on DVD.

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THE MIND-BODY CONNECTION

by Annette Capps

Have you ever heard someone say, "That just galls me!" when irritated with someone? What about: "I was scared stiff!", "I was so ashamed I couldn't hold my head up", "he/she is a pain in the neck", "I am so mad I can't see straight"?

Sayings such as these seem to indicate that there is an internal knowledge among humans that our minds and attitudes affect our physical bodies. What we think and hold in our minds can make us sick, not just in the short term, but can make us have chronic health problems.

Is it any wonder that God called those who resisted Him and would not yield, "stiff-necked"? **You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.** (Acts 7:51). (Also see II Chronicles 30:8 & II Kings 17:14).

The next time someone tries to talk you into something you don't want to do, check your neck muscles! Or just watch anyone else who is being stubborn and inflexible at the moment. Watch the shoulders rise, the neck muscles get stiff, and the jaw muscles bulge. And you don't think that our attitudes affect our bodies? They most certainly do, and not just on a temporary basis.

"FACE READING"

There is a new technique called "face reading" that has amazed people by its accuracy. The basic premise is that all the experiences of your life create readable facial lines and expressions. Your thought patterns and emotional responses to those experiences become a living record etched in your face. Have you ever looked at someone and thought, "Wow, they look like they have had a hard life." Grief, pain, substance abuse, and kindness are manifest in the cells of the human body, and can be read in the most obvious part exposed to the world, the face.

If our minds and emotions show in our face, think what happens in the other cells of the body... the liver, pancreas, heart, kidneys, etc. It is not what happens in life that affects our cells as much as it is our reaction to those experiences.

LET GO OF WHAT MAKES YOU SICK

In Luke chapter 5, verse 15, the Bible says, **"However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities."**

The people came to hear and to be healed. Something that they heard helped them to be healed. Yes, they heard that Jesus was anointed, but they also heard His message. The Sermon on the Mount was probably the essence of Jesus' message. (Matthew 5, 6 & 7) That message was one of love, forgiveness, and overcoming evil with good. The people that Jesus was speaking to were terribly oppressed by the religious leaders of the day. They had good reason to hate and hold grudges, but Jesus taught them how to let go of what was eating them alive. (Resentment and bitterness can literally eat you alive and make you sick.)

Yes, the anointing will heal, but what if the root of the disease was not dealt with? The hatred would cause the physical problems to return. Yes, the anointing was present to heal, but it was also present to teach them how to maintain that healing. A big part of the healing ministry was to teach

people to let go of the things that make them sick.

You may have stepped into the prayer line for healing of a tension headache and when hands were laid on you the headache left. You have temporary relief. But if you don't learn to deal with the tension in a healthy manner or eliminate some of it, you will continue to have tension headaches. Now lest you go around judging those who are seeking treatments for stiff necks and headaches, let me say that there are organic and situational causes for sickness and disease also. Perhaps that person with a stiff neck was in an auto accident and has whiplash. There are genetic predispositions as well, such as diabetes, heart problems, cancer, etc. However, with the Word of God and our confession, we can reverse those tendencies. James says that we can set on fire the wheel of nature, that is, our genetic inheritance (James 3:2-6).

If you have a chronic condition that you are troubled with, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas in your attitudes and thought life that are affecting you. Let Christ really heal you down to the root of the disease. **"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."** (John 8:36). ■

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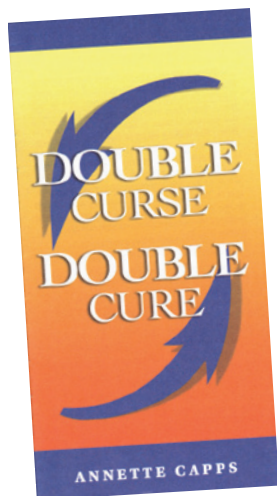


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WE ARE REDEEMED FROM Sin and Sickness by Charles Capps

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

(1 Peter 2:24)KJV

When it comes to divine healing, there is much misunderstanding. Many are asking God to do something he has already done, rather than making a demand on God's provision. There are those who think we are demanding of God. But we don't have to demand of God what He has already done. II Peter Chapter 1 tells us that he has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. *Has given* – that's past tense. He has already given it. How? Through the exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature. How do we partake of that which God has given us? By making a demand through faith upon what He has already provided.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that **faith is the substance of things hoped for**. I hope for what God has given me, don't you? I am not hoping for something that God doesn't want me to have. I want what God has already given me, that which I don't yet have in my possession.

Faith is the substance of these

things. It is the evidence and proof of what I don't see. If I am sick, with my natural eyes I don't see myself healed. Yet, faith is the evidence and the proof of what the Word declares to be true. This faith only comes from God's Word and it gives substance to His promises. Faith makes a demand on the promise of God. Let's take a scriptural journey to find the basis for the faith that will make a demand on God's provisions.

Isaiah 53:3-5 lays the foundation for this faith: **He is despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:** (the Hebrew word for "grief" is sickness or disease) **and we hid, as it were, our faces from him; he was despised, and we did not esteem Him.** Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; (the Hebrew word for "sorrows" is pain) **yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was BRUISED for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him; and by His STRIPES we are healed.**

Isaiah 46:10 tells us that God speaks the end from the beginning, **declaring things that are not yet done.** Isaiah 53:5-6 reveals Christ was bruised for our iniquities. Most people

"Talk about health care reform! We now have a prepaid plan!"

would agree with you that because of what Jesus suffered, we are redeemed (bought back) from sin. But the word “bruised” is the same Hebrew word that is translated “stripes”.

**HEALING IS A
—FINISHED WORK—**

The same suffering that redeemed us from our iniquities redeemed us from sickness. HEALING WAS IN THE ATONEMENT. It was a finished work at Calvary. This is what he is referring to in verses 9-11. **And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.** (One translation says God made him sick.) **When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.**

Notice again, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Or, with his bruises we are healed.

Jesus said, in Matthew 18:16- “...by the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established”. So let’s take a look at Psalms 103:1-3: **Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.**

In these scriptures, it places healing with being delivered from iniquities. They are spoken of together as being the results of the suffering of Christ. The same suffering brought both forgiveness and healing.

In the New Testament, James is another witness to this fact:

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save (make whole or heal) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

(James 5:13-15)

Here again, healing and forgiveness of sins are mentioned together. Psalms 107:20 states, **He sent his word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.** I believe if we were taught properly about healing being in the atonement, we would be healed just as easily as we were saved. The same suffering which bought us freedom from iniquities bought us freedom from the entire curse of the law.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

(Galatians 3:13-14)

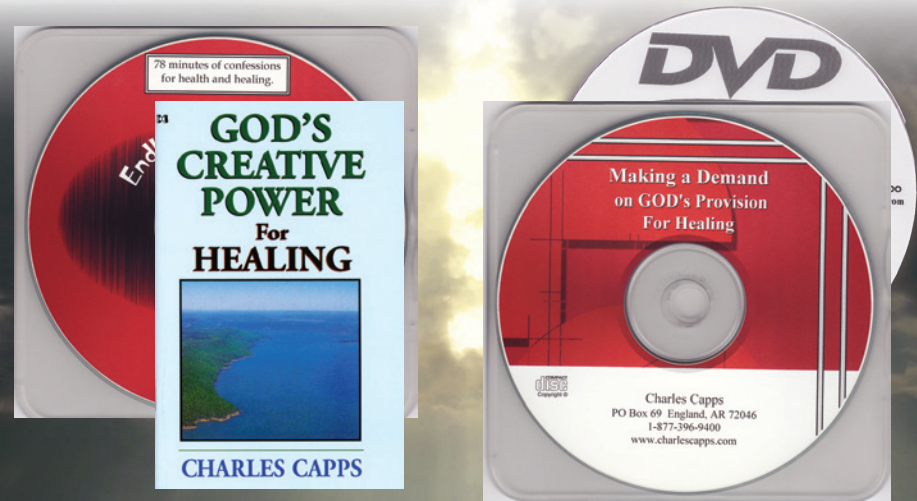
Again, in Luke 5:17-26, we find healing and forgiveness are together.

Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every

town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.

And when they could not



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find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?"

Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

What they had witnessed wasn't really strange. It was simply what Isaiah had prophesied: **he took our infirmities, and bore our sickness.**

Matthew 8:16-17 brings it into better focus; **When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."** Jesus suffered the curse of the law, to deliver us from it. The curse of the law found in Deuteronomy chapters 28-30 is threefold: poverty, sickness, and spiritual death. Jesus came to suffer these curses so we wouldn't have to.

DOUBLE CURSE, —DOUBLE CURE—

We are as redeemed from sickness as we are from sin. It was a finished work at Calvary. But have you ever wondered how Jesus could heal the sick *before* he suffered and redeemed us at Calvary? **JESUS PUT IT ON HIS "MASTER" CARD.** I imagine he said to the Father, "Charge it to my account; I'll pay for it all at Calvary". Under the old covenant, they were looking *forward* to Calvary. That's where it was all going to be paid for. They had to sweep everything under the rug, so to speak, until then. They couldn't get rid of their sin or guilt.

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified,

would have had no more consciousness of sins.

(Hebrews 10:1-2)

Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

(Hebrews 10:9-10)

It was all settled at Calvary. Our healing was bought and paid for, the provision of forgiveness and healing was completed at Calvary.

Under the old covenant they pointed *forward* to Calvary for redemption. Today, we point *back* to Calvary. It is finished. The provision has been made. It is a finished work. It is an accomplished fact.

You talk about health care reform; we now have a *prepaid* plan. Jesus paid it in full in one lump sum. — **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.** (1 Peter 2:24)KJV. Again, we see forgiveness of sins and healing joined together in one scripture. Because it was the one sacrifice that bought both.

Healing was in the atonement. "Atonement" is really an Old Testament word. Under the new covenant, we are redeemed. "Redeemed" means to ransom or buy off; i.e., payment of a price to recover from the power of another. Someone might say, "But if

we're redeemed from sickness, then nobody would ever be sick anymore." Ask yourself this question: Are you redeemed from sin? Oh yes. Well, can you sin anymore? Yes, you can still sin, but you don't *have* to. Christ redeemed us from sin's effect which included sickness. (Read Romans

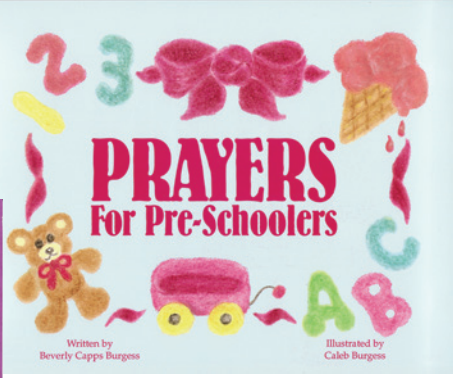
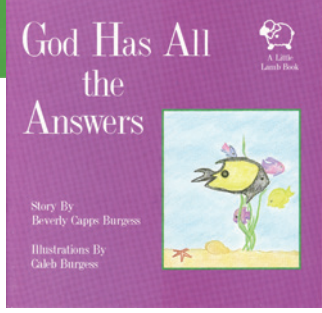
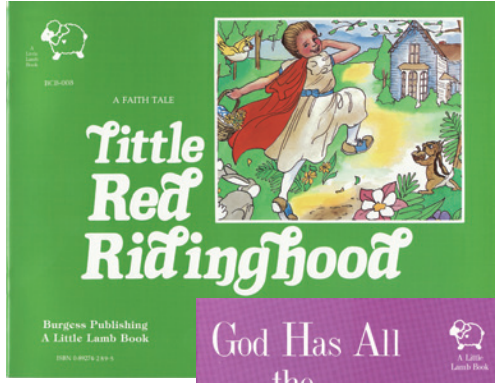
"If we were taught properly about healing, we would be healed just as easily as we were saved."

chapter 6.) He bought us back from it. Healing was covered in the price paid for our redemption. Healing is as much a part of our redemption as forgiveness of our iniquities.

That is why Jesus said to the man in Luke 5:20, **Man your sins are forgiven you.** One price paid for both.

We are now looking *back* at Calvary. Our redemption, including healing, was settled there. He bore the curse for us. The provision is made. It already exists in the realm of the spirit. Yet we must make a demand, by faith, on that which has been provided. We're not demanding of God, for it has already been given. (2 Peter 1:1-4.)

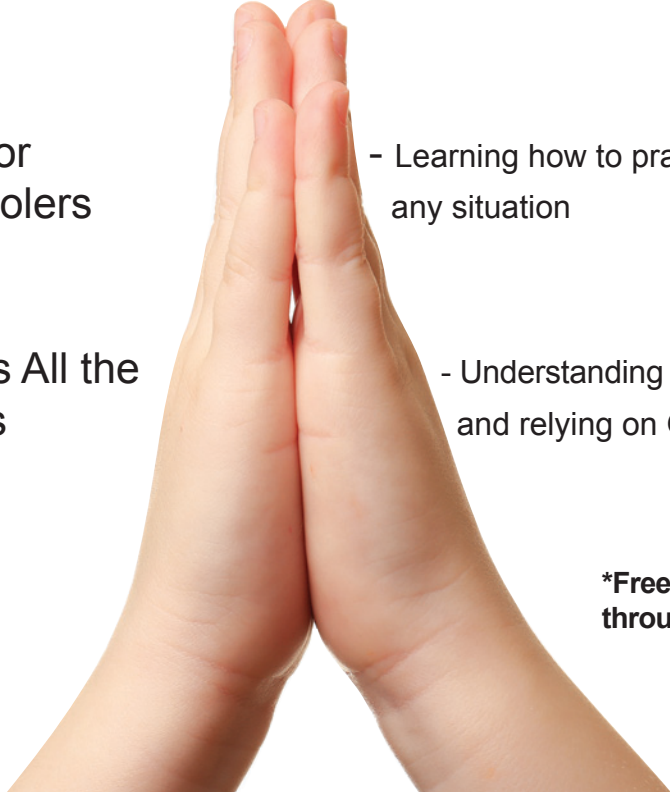
Healing is connected with forgiving our iniquities, because it was one sacrifice that redeemed us from both. Just as we made a demand through faith on God's Word to receive forgiveness of sins, we can also make a demand through faith on the same Word for healing of our bodies. ■



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