

In the Name of Jesus

A Manual to help You Minister to People
including Healing and Deliverance

by
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'In the Name of Jesus'
by Katherine Hilditch

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Any words in brackets are not in the original text
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Introduction

Do you have a real desire to see people set free from the things that hold them, and to see them walking into the victory Jesus has won for them? 'In the Name of Jesus' gives a Biblical basis to what it means to minister to someone and how to go about it, along with foundational Christian teaching and practical guidelines.

It can be used by an individual wanting to minister more effectively to others, and can also be used as a training manual for a church or ministry team.

Effective ministry does not depend on rigidly following a manual, but on a real relationship with God the Father, a willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to work through you and the boldness to step out in the name of Jesus.

But a manual can help in giving you a sound foundation of teaching and in setting out guidelines which will help you discern the way to approach ministry in general, as well as in individual situations.

The detailed contents pages allow you to easily find any subject and acts as a summary and reminder of the main points.

All the ministry models are in section 12 near the back of the manual so you can easily find them. And there are Bible verses in section 13 for you to give to the people you minister to.

**Now thanks be to God,
who always leads us in triumph in Christ,
and reveals through us
the sweet aroma of his knowledge in every place.**

(2 Corinthians 2:14)

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Section One

Ministry

1.1

WHAT IS MINISTRY?

So many people are in need. This manual explains how you can go beyond simply praying for them, to ministering to them in the authority Jesus has given you, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ministry is about setting a person free from everything that holds them and helping them to receive all that God has for them.

Ministry is not the same as intercessory prayer. In intercessory prayer, we ask God to work in a person's life in the future and that person may be present or not. In ministry we are in contact with the person and we expect something to happen or start to happen there and then, based on everything God has already won for us all through Jesus' death and resurrection. We use the authority and power God has given all Christians to defeat the strategies of Satan, including sickness, in the name of Jesus. People may ask for prayer, but what they often need is ministry.

Jesus has called and authorised His followers and given them power to minister to others in His name. Training, whether as an individual born-again Christian or as a team or a church, will help you to understand the authority God has given you and His power within you, and will show you how to walk in it confidently and help you to minister effectively.

Ministry is about someone receiving from God, but it is also about the person walking on from that point and living it out. Living the Christian life is about decisions of the will, not about feelings. In a time of individual ministry, Jesus often included a direction that the person was to follow through, and they received the healing as they obeyed.

Part of ministry is encouraging the person to make decisions that are in line with God's Word and not to rely on their feelings. It is also about helping the person understand what God has already done for them, helping them to release what is already in them and to understand how to live their lives based on God's truth in His Word.

1.2

CENTRAL TRUTHS FOR ALL MINISTRY

The basis of ministry is the fact that as Jesus died, He won the victory over Satan and all his schemes. Ministry is all about Jesus. Without Him, there would be no manual to write. Because of Him the five following truths were established. It is essential that you understand them and take them on board if you are to minister effectively. Each one is explained in more detail later in the manual.

God is Not to Blame

God is a good God. He loves you unconditionally. He is not angry with you. When bad things happen it is never God's fault. It is Satan who sends the bad things. Jesus made a clear distinction when He said –

“The thief (Satan) only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

It is impossible to minister effectively if you are not sure whether the problem the person is facing is from God or not. It is also impossible for the person to receive from God if they are blaming Him for their situation.

Spirit, Soul and Body

We are made up of three distinct parts – spirit, soul and body. When we are born-again through Jesus, God gives us a brand-new perfect spirit – this is the very essence of who we are and it is where we are a new creation. Our new spirit is with us for eternity. It is wrong for a born-again Christian to ask God to give them a new spirit – He's already done it. But our souls and bodies were not made new and perfect at our conversion. These are the areas that God is changing as we co-operate with Him and which He calls us to transform through the renewing of our minds.

It is Already Yours

Jesus defeated all sin, sickness and poverty on the Cross. It was dealt with once and for all, and because of this victory, all the blessings of God, including forgiveness and healing are available to us. They already have our names on them. And the Holy Spirit lives in us with His full nature of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. As we minister to born-again Christians we are not asking God to do what He has already done. For example, as we minister to someone who is full of guilt we do not ask God to forgive them, but thank Him for the forgiveness Jesus won on the Cross and help the person to repent and receive their forgiveness. As we minister healing we do not ask God to heal them, but thank Him for the healing He has already won on the Cross and command it to manifest in the person's body. As we minister peace we do not ask God to give the person peace, but thank Him that they already have His peace and ask Him to help them to release it.

Ministry is far more about standing in what God has already done, than asking Him to do it.

Faith

God won everything for us through grace. We could never deserve or earn what He has done for us. Jesus went to the Cross because of God's unconditional love for us. He gave up everything so we could have it all. But the blessings only become ours as we receive them in faith. Even our faith is a gift from God, but it is up to us to take hold of it and use it.

... by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

There is a balance between God's grace and our response of faith. If we focus on one and neglect the other, we are in danger of moving towards an extreme unbalanced version of the Gospel. All grace and no faith means there is nothing we can or should do in response to God. It is all in His hands and what will be, will be. If we focus on all faith with no grace, we are back under the law, trying to earn our way into God's favour.

Helping someone to see the balance of grace and faith will go a long way towards helping them receive from God and find the help they need.

Speak To the Mountain

Jesus said –

“For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says.” (Mark 11:23)

When you or someone who you are ministering to is facing a problem in life, the problem is the mountain. Jesus says to talk to the mountain and tell it to go. He does not say pray to God and ask Him to take it away. He refers to speaking three times in this verse. He really wanted His disciples to understand this and we need to understand it too. Do not talk to God about the problem, talk to the problem about what God has done in winning the victory over it.

1.3

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

As we minister, we are doing God's work, not our own. We minister in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in our own wisdom and strength. Ministry is not counselling and we do not need to be experts or bring any skill of our own to minister. We do not want the person to become dependent on us. We want them to be praising and thanking God.

It is a mistake to say ministry is all about us and not God, but it is also a mistake to say healing is all about God and nothing about us. Jesus told His followers to go out and heal people. He told them to just do it and by implication, if they did not do it, the people would not be healed. But we can only do it in the power of God. He wants to work through us. Of ourselves we can do nothing, but we are not empty vessels or channels for God to work through. We are filled with the Holy Spirit and the power of God – that is why God can use us. It is important to get the balance. It is us doing God's work.

For we are God's fellow workers. (1 Corinthians 3:9a)

It is wonderful to know that He has put His power in us and wants to work through us. It is so exciting. It means we do not have to wait for God to 'show up' before we can do it. We just have to obey Jesus and get on with it, ministering in His name. God wants us to partner with Him in bringing healing, deliverance and blessing to others.

1.4

WHY WE DO IT

In Obedience to Jesus

Jesus has commanded His followers to –

“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons.” (Matthew 10:8a)

Jesus commanded all Christians to minister to others in need. God gives some a specific gift of healing which He wants them to focus on in their life for Him. But He commanded every follower He sent out to heal people. Ministering to others is not just for a few called people – it is for everyone who follows Jesus. We all need to be obedient to Jesus' command.

For Love of God and People

Jesus said –

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ... “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37b&39b)

Only when you know you are loved by God can you really love Him back and start to minister His love to others. Of course, none of us can love perfectly. God knows that, but He is looking for a heart which is sensitive and loving towards Him and others.

When you really love someone, you do desire the best for them, and this is God's attitude towards us. He longs for us to know Him as our loving Father and live the life which He has planned for us – the best life to lead. It is easy to want healing and restoration for someone you love, but sometimes you can come across a person who is hard to love. If someone like this asks you to minister to them, ask God to help you to see them as He sees them and allow His love to flow through you.

Out of Compassion

Many times in the gospels we are told that Jesus had compassion on people when He saw their need. It motivated Him to heal.

Jesus went out, and he saw a great multitude. He had compassion on them, and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

Sympathy is not the same as compassion. Showing sympathy, such as “Poor you,” or “It must be awful,” only confirms the person in their problem and does nothing to lead them out of it.

It can actually be destructive of faith because it focuses the person on themselves and their problem and not on Jesus. Instead, follow Jesus' example and have compassion.

Compassion is also a response of the heart, but it recognises a need and the difficulties stemming from it and seeks to change things. In the ministry situation, this involves inviting the Holy Spirit into the situation to bring wholeness, wisdom and truth, and using the authority Jesus has given us to heal and deliver.

To Pass on what God has Given Us

Part of the motivation for us to minister to others is to see others walk into the freedom and blessings that God has for them. If you have been healed of a particular sickness or condition, it is so upsetting to see other people struggling with the same thing. You long for them to be healed too. And this applies to any blessing you have received from God. He is so generous and He wants us to be so too and share His blessings with others.

“Freely you received, so freely give.” (Matthew 10:8b)

To Bring People into the Kingdom

Sometimes ministering involves leading someone to Jesus for salvation. All the blessings God has for people flows from this. Although God will sometimes give a non-Christian a miracle, it is unusual, and ministering into the issues in a person's life will be far more effective if they are born-again.

To See People Walking in Freedom

Jesus proclaimed –

“He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed.” (Luke 4:18b)

We are motivated to minister to people when we long to see them free from things that bind them, hold them back, limit them and prevent them from living life to the full as God wants them to live it. We want to see people set free.

To See People Healed and Delivered

This is a huge area in ministry. People ask for healing more than for anything else. Seeing someone healed is wonderful and is a big motivation for being involved in ministry.

But Christians can also be concerned about what happens when the person is not healed after ministry, and prefer not to get involved. And many Christians have no experience of seeing people being set free from a demon and do not want to get involved because of fear or a lack of understanding about it.

This book looks at ministering healing and deliverance in detail in later sections. It will show you God's attitude towards sickness, and will help you to be bold in commanding healing and deliverance in Jesus' name.

To Lead People into Victory

God has won the complete victory for us on the Cross. He wants us to live in that victory. Everything done in ministry should help people to step further into victory life. People's lives may be a long way from victorious, but God's love for them is totally unconditional and we work with Him as we lead them into victory, be it a step at a time or in a big leap.

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

Individual people are of utmost importance to God. When someone realises the amazing truth that God loves them individually and unconditionally, allows it to take root deep inside, it is an enormous step forward in victory living. We can see this throughout Scripture and particularly in the ministry of Jesus. We need to show the person they are loved by the way we relate to them. The love of Jesus has to be at the heart of all ministry. And it is really significant in helping people to step further into victory.

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you."
(John 15:12)*

We need to value each person, ministering to them in humility, gentleness and patience, as well as boldness; loving them in Jesus, and desiring that they are better equipped to live in victory as a result of ministry.

Part of walking in victory is learning to live according to God's wisdom, not our own. If the person needs wisdom and/or guidance then ask God for it. Explain to them that God wants to give them His wisdom and that they cannot earn it, just receive it. They need to believe the answer will come and stop allowing their thoughts to toss them about and wait in patience for God's answer. Often the answer will come in the form of the person's thoughts gradually and peacefully settling in a particular direction.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. (James 1:5-6)

To Equip People

If someone does not understand the things of God, they will struggle to live in victory, and ministry will be of little value once the memory of it has faded.

When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom, and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes, and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown by the roadside. (Matthew 13:19)

In ministry it is essential to reveal and explain the truths of God, so the person is able to hold onto them in the future and walk further into victory. The person needs to be able to rest in and stand on the truth of God and what He has done for them through Jesus, rather than try to live on a ministry experience.

Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)

To minister effectively, we need to understand God's nature, what Jesus has already done, the power of God's Word, and how to stand against the things Satan tries to put in our way.

And we need to live in a relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, rather

than following a ritual or habit. Christianity is all about relationship, not religion. We are then able to equip someone else who is struggling.

At the end of this manual, in section 13 on p.131, there are Bible verses which you can use in ministry to equip others.

To Bring Glory to God

In everything we do, we want to see God glorified. We want to be praising Him for His goodness, greatness and generosity and proclaiming Him as Lord of all by our attitude and by what we say and do. All that we do should point to Jesus, not to us. People may thank us when we have ministered to them, but we must make sure they know that the blessing which results is from God. We need to be helping them to praise Him.

Section Two

Power and Authority

2.1

MINISTERING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in the fact that He was God.

... God anointed him (Jesus) with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38b)

If Jesus ministered in the power of being God, we would not be able to do the same. It is because Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit that it is possible for us to do what He did.

If you are born-again, you can be assured that the Holy Spirit is in you, and if you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit you can know for certain that His power is available to you just as it was to Jesus.

2.2

EVEN GREATER WORKS!

It is amazing to think that we are in a better position to heal and deliver today than the disciples were before Jesus died, because Satan and sickness had not been defeated then. But today, as we minister in the power of the Holy Spirit and with authority in the name of Jesus, we have the knowledge that Satan and sickness are defeated and healing is already won in the spiritual realm.

We are not commanding victory over sickness in a person's life; we are praising God that He has already won the victory and commanding it to manifest in the person and encouraging them to receive it by faith. I believe this is why Jesus promised us –

“Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father.” (John 14:12)

2.3

WE ARE EQUIPPED

We have been Called

Jesus has called all His followers to minister and heal in His name.

“As you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.” (Matthew 10:7-8)

We have been Given Power

Anything that is achieved in ministry is of God, but He works through us. We are told to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit, not for our own satisfaction, but for the good of others. If you want to minister to people, it is vital that you are baptised in the Holy Spirit – this is where the power comes from (see ‘Baptism in the Holy Spirit’ in section 3.12 on p.33). When we are equipped with the Holy Spirit’s gifts and power, God can use us.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

We cannot add any power of our own to the power of the Holy Spirit and think we will get better results. If we think that our own spiritual sounding words or actions will improve the chance of success, we are deluding ourselves. Jesus’s power is limitless and He has given it to us and wants us to use it.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. (Ephesians 3:20)

God’s promise that He can do more than we can even imagine is ‘according to the power that works in us’. It is not God working independently, but it is Him working through us as we step out in faith using His power within us. If we do not acknowledge that power, or limit it by our own thinking, we are not going to be able to do great things for Him.

We need to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and allow Him to be continually filling us. It is then that we have the power and God can use us.

We have been Given Authority

He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them out to preach God’s Kingdom and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)

In the beginning God had authority over everything. But after He had created physical human beings, He gave them authority over the earth.

The heavens are the heavens of the LORD; but the earth has he given to the children of men. (Psalm 115:16)

God did not give any right or power to Satan to rule over the earth. But when Adam and Eve succumbed to his schemes and sinned, they yielded their God-given authority over to him. God had given authority to physical human beings, and to be true to His own Word, He could not just take it back. It was not because God did not have the power to do so, but because of His integrity.

I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered. (Psalm 89:34)

God wanted to restore authority to people. He did this by coming to the earth Himself as a physical man and, by defeating Satan and all his schemes on the Cross. This is why it was essential that Jesus was a man and why He referred to Himself as “the Son of Man”. Jesus won back the authority God had given mankind and which man had handed over to Satan. Now Jesus had all authority in heaven and in earth.

Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

In the following verses He then said –

“Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus was sharing the authority and power He had won back from Satan with us as believers.

Whatever happens, the authority Jesus has won back can never be passed solely to Satan again. God will always remain faithful to what He has done and said. Now Satan can only act against us with our permission and cooperation and his only weapon is lies and deception. It is when we succumb to those lies and cooperate with him in them that we give him permission to influence us. We need to recognise when he is lying to us and take those thoughts captive, refusing to listen to them or accept them. The victory comes in knowing the truth of our authority, standing on it and speaking it out in Jesus’ name against Satan and his schemes.

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

We are Jesus’ disciples today and this means that we have God-given authority to minister to others in His name, knowing that He will honour it.

We Don’t Have Authority over Other People

We have authority over sickness and demons, but we don’t have authority over other people. God gave us all free will and if a person refuses to cooperate with healing or deliverance, then God will not violate that. If they choose to remain ill or demonised then we can’t override their decision or attitude. Of course we can tell them the truth from God’s Word and encourage them to meditate on it. But don’t try to heal or deliver someone who you know is not cooperating. This also applies to someone who may be open to healing or deliverance but at the same time is giving room to the devil by their attitude or by the way they live. Paul gives an example of this regarding a husband’s attitude towards his wife –

You husbands, in the same way, live with your wives according to knowledge, giving honour to the woman as to the weaker vessel, as also being joint heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

Note that it isn’t God who hinders prayers, but Satan. When someone gives him room, they allow him to do so.

His Power under Our Authority

One of the most significant truths to take hold of when ministering healing or deliverance is that God has put His power within us and has given us the authority to use it. He is not going to heal people for us or deliver them – it is now our job. The power we use is God’s power which He gave us when we were baptised in the Holy Spirit, but it is under our authority which Jesus won back for us. We are to take that authority and use the power God has put within us and we heal and deliver.

Jesus said to His disciples –

“As you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.” (Matthew 10:7-8)

He didn’t say, when you find someone sick send me word and I will heal them. He said, you do it.

When healing the lame beggar, Peter and John didn’t pray – they didn’t talk to God at all. Peter said that he already had what was needed.

Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have, that I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” ⁷ He took him by the right hand and raised him up. Immediately his feet and his ankle bones received strength. (Acts 3:6-7)

Peter took the authority God had given him and used the power He had put in him and he healed the man. Normal Christian practice now is to pray to God asking Him to heal someone and then presuming it wasn’t His will when nothing happens. This approach cannot be supported by Scripture and brings little success.

This truth about power and authority underlies everything else in this manual. Take hold of it now and you are far more likely to see results, because it is the way of healing and delivering that God has established through Jesus.

2.4

TAKING AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF JESUS

God has given us authority to heal and command demons to go in the name of Jesus. There is infinite power in His name. God has exalted it to the very highest place. It is of supreme importance and value and everything ultimately has to bow to it, including sickness and demons.

Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

We need to be bold as we minister to people in Jesus’ name, trusting and expecting that as we step out in faith, using the authority we have been given, miracles will happen.

“By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes,

the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:16)

This is how Peter explained the miraculous healing of a lame man. Jesus has already defeated sickness on the Cross and it cannot stand against His name, but it is faith in His name which will make healing manifest physically.

Remember, Jesus has already won the victory over sickness and everything that the devil can throw at people. When we minister, we are not trying to defeat the sickness or other problem – that has already been done. We are to command what already belongs to the person to manifest in their body and to encourage them to receive it by faith.

Section Three

Foundational Teaching – God's Grace

All the teaching in sections 3, 4 and 5, are fundamental to Christianity, but are also of great relevance when you are ministering to people. You cannot minister effectively to someone if you do not have an understanding of who God is, what He is like, and what Jesus has done. And you cannot help someone else to understand it if you do not. But if you set out to minister with a foundation of understanding and faith, you will be able to help people in many ways. You need to ensure that the truth is rooted in you – you can only pass on what you yourself understand and believe.

So many Christians base their theology on their experience instead of on the Word of God. For instance, if they see a person being prayed for and not getting healed they believe God does not want that person healed. What you need to do before you can start to minister effectively, is to get your theology based on God's Word. Then, if you see few or no people being healed, you can say with confidence that you know from God's Word that He always wants to heal, and can look for an alternative explanation.

3.1

GOD IS LOVE

God is love. Many people have a wrong picture of what God is like, seeing Him as a stern headmaster figure. But He not only loves us, He is love. God's love for us does not depend on how we perform or measure up, it is total and unconditional. He said through the prophet Jeremiah –

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3b)

Because He loves us, we can love Him. He wants to have a perfect love relationship of Father and child with everyone. Love has to be central to ministry. If we do not love God and the people we minister to, we cannot achieve anything of any lasting worth.

*If I ... don't have love, I am nothing.
If I ... don't have love, it profits me nothing.
(1 Corinthians 13:2b&3b)*

In His last hours Jesus talked to His disciples at length about love and the blessings that we receive when we obey His command to love.

“Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and remain in his love. I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.” (John 15:9b-12)

Love is not weak and we must not use it as an excuse to avoid difficult issues with people. Real love will want to lead them through the difficulties into freedom and wholeness. If we compromise out of a concern for, or fear of, the person’s reactions, we are selling them short before God. But everything we do must be done in love. We are then revealing God to them.

A major part of stepping into the victory life Jesus has won, is believing in and experiencing the amazing love God has for us as individuals. We can do nothing to earn it and nothing can separate us from it. If, after we have ministered to them, the person has a deeper understanding of God’s love, we have helped them enormously and brought pleasure to the heart of our Father God.

God showed us just how much He loved us when He sacrificed His own Son for us. Jesus shows us God’s Father heart of love for each and every person individually as well as His love for the church.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

3.2

GOD DOES GOOD, SATAN DOES BAD

Jesus made a clear distinction between His work and the work of Satan. Good things come from God. Bad things come from Satan.

“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

It is a lie of Satan that God sends bad things for a good purpose, and it can leave people feeling helpless. They are not able to discern what is of God to take it on board, and what is of Satan to resist it.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow. (James 1:17)

Another deception is that God allows bad things to happen; therefore they must be His will. God does not make an individual decision about everything that could happen, whether to allow it or not. He made a single decision after the fall, not to step in and put everything right, but to allow the world to run on its messed-up course, because He will never deny us the free will He created us with. So troubles of all sorts arise, not as the active or passive will of God,

but because He is faithful to Himself. This means that there will always be room for Satan to manoeuvre, but he is stripped of his power unless we yield it to him.

And God is at work in this world all the time in answer to prayer and in response to faith. He is at work in us, changing us from glory to glory, and through us as we step out in the power of the name of Jesus. And we have His promise that He will work for good even in the bad things, but He does not send them –

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

3.3

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Jesus was born of a virgin – Mary had not had sexual relations with any man. His conception was completely miraculous. An angel explained to Mary how it was going to happen –

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)

He had a human being as His mother and God Himself as His Father. This did not make Him half man and half God. Jesus was wholly man and wholly God. He grew up just as we have grown up. He understands day to day life from His own experience. It was as a man that He took God’s anger and punishment for our sins and suffered the agony of torture and crucifixion. And it was as God that He defeated Satan through it and brought us the victory over sin, sickness, poverty and death.

3.4

THE CROSS

The Cross stands at the centre of everything and it changed everything. It was the place where Jesus defeated Satan along with his works of sin, sickness, poverty and death. On it, Jesus took the punishment we deserve so that we might come into an everlasting relationship with God our Father, forgiven, free, healed, made whole, lacking nothing and filled with His Holy Spirit. It is through the Cross that we can be assured of eternal life as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. It is then that we become God’s child and joint heir with Jesus.

Victory over the Devil

To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b)

Jesus came to defeat the devil and to destroy his works. He did this on the Cross and we can now share in the victory and freedom Jesus won.

Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

He did it completely and publicly, thus showing everyone that Satan was now a defeated enemy who no longer had to be feared.

Having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)

Forgiveness

Jesus took all our sin, all our guilt and all our shame on Himself and He did it ‘once for all’. He did it for all people - everyone who has ever lived, is living, and ever will live. He did it for all time - it stands in history at a specific time and will never need to be repeated. And He did it for all sins – past, present and future. If Jesus had only won forgiveness for our past sins, He would have to go back to the Cross each time someone sinned and repented.

For he did this once for all, when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:27b)

Every sin is forgiven, even those committed by non-Christians. When Jesus died on the Cross, God knew every sin every individual person would ever commit, and every single one was forgiven through the punishment Jesus suffered. When you do something wrong and go to God feeling wretched, it does not surprise God – He already knew all about it when Jesus died on the Cross and He forgave it then. Nothing surprises Him. Every sin was forgiven. He does not want you feeling guilty and ashamed – it is Satan that wants you to feel like that, because then you become less able to live life to the full and less effective in the work God has called you to do. Jesus said –

“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

When you sin, you do not have to put the sin ‘under the blood’. It was put there two thousand years ago and has never come out. You do not have to ask God for forgiveness, just agree with Him that what you have done was wrong – that is what to confess means, turn away from it and receive your forgiveness. God knows that if you do not turn away from it, it can give Satan the opportunity to mess your life up. And receiving the forgiveness does not mean it only becomes real at that moment. It was real two thousand years ago and it is already real in your new born-again spirit (see ‘Spirit, Soul and Body’ in section 3.7 on p.27). It means it can now work for you positively in your soul (mind, will and emotions) and body as well, as opposed to the sin working in you negatively. That is how great God’s love and grace is. He has to stay true to what happened on the Cross.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Of course, we all do, say and think things which are wrong without even realising, so there will always be sins which we do not repent of. But they do not cause us to lose our salvation or lessen God’s love for us. They are still forgiven and in our spirits we are still pure and perfect. Be assured that all your sins are forgiven. This is so important to grasp for your own growth, and also so you can minister this to others.

Healing

And through His suffering, sickness was defeated and we are healed.

You were healed by his wounds. (1 Peter 2:24b)

(see ‘God Wants Us Well’ in section 3.16 on p.39)

Prosperity

In *Deuteronomy 28* there is a list of blessings for those people who kept the law which God gave through Moses, and a list of curses for those who did not. Poverty is listed as one of the curses. It is not listed in the blessings at all; in fact abundance in all things is listed under the blessings. When Jesus died He took on Himself the whole curse of the law, including poverty, so that we could be free from it.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. (Galatians 3:13a)

God won true prosperity for us through Jesus. It is often said that the following verse refers to spiritual riches only –

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

God certainly wants us to be rich in spiritual things. However, if you look at the context of this verse, it is set in the middle of a long section about money and giving. The financial prosperity God has won for us is not about us having millions of pounds and extravagant lifestyles, a huge house and many expensive possessions. It is about us having enough to live comfortably without the fear and stress of financial problems, and also with enough over to be able to give into God’s Kingdom, and help and bless others as Jesus commanded us.

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

3.5

THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus was essential. He was the first to receive a new resurrection body and because of that, we are assured that we will receive one too when we die.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead. He became the first fruits of those who are asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Through the resurrection Jesus was –

... declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4)

It established that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and our sins have been finally dealt with.

*... who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification.
(Romans 4:25)*

It enables us to live in the power and victory of God in this life as well as in the next.

We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

When Christ was raised, we, as born-again believers, were also spiritually raised with Him. God has –

*... raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
(Ephesians 2:6)*

Belief in the resurrection is essential for us to be born-again and have eternal life.

... if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

3.6

BORN-AGAIN

“Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can’t see God’s Kingdom.” (John 3:3b)

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are born-again and our new life begins – eternal life with God. It starts right here on earth and will be continued in our new perfect resurrection bodies through eternity with Him.

Making Jesus your Saviour means believing that Jesus died in your place, taking your punishment so you could go free, and that He rose again, confirming all that He had won on the Cross. Making Jesus your Lord means believing that He is God, submitting to Him and deciding to follow Him. Being born-again is the most important thing anyone can do. It means we can live in relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit here on earth, and through eternity in perfect peace and joy.

For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:10)

It is impossible to live in victory in this life without being born-again. And it is impossible to enter heaven without being born-again. In ministry the first and foremost thing for someone who is not saved, is to bring them to Jesus to be born-again. Everything else flows from this.

3.7

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

The Bible tells us that, as born-again believers, we are new creations.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

And yet we know that we are not perfect. This is because we are made up of a spirit, a soul and a body and it is not our soul (mind, will and emotions) or our body which is made perfect and new, but our spirit.

It is important to know that when the word ‘heart’ is used in the Old Testament, it means your spirit. But when ‘heart’ is used in the New Testament, it means either the seat of your emotions as we use it today, or your thinking.

When we were born-again, God replaced our old sinful spirit or nature with His perfect one. He had prophesied this through Ezekiel.

“I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you.” (Ezekiel 36:26a)

In our spirit we are made new and perfect – a new creation which can never be spoilt. In our spirit we have perfect faith, knowledge, power and victory. We need to accept this truth by faith, as we cannot feel our spirit. Our spirit always believes and is always rejoicing, but we do not realise this or benefit from it fully, because we can be so much more affected by what we see and what we feel and what others are saying, than by the truth of the Word of God in our spirit.

One of the things God calls us to do is to bring our mind, will and emotions into line with our perfect spirit. This is an on-going process and it will only be fully accomplished when we die, but it is our responsibility to start and continue the process. We can only do it by finding the truth in God’s Word and giving that precedence over our experience or the experience of others. As we do this, we will know more and more victory in our lives (see ‘Right Thinking’ in section 4.4 on p.49).

Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

The wonderful thing is that God is at work in us too.

But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

3.8

WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE

Grace is **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**. Jesus gave everything for us and we are able to receive all God’s blessings completely freely as a result. Jesus paid the total price. It is because of God’s amazing grace that we are His saved and forgiven children, and are able to minister His love and power to others.

For you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14b)

Before Jesus’ time, God’s people were under the law which God gave through Moses. It was a very detailed list of rules for living and alongside it was a system of animal sacrifices to obtain God’s forgiveness. What the law did was bring the people to a place where they realised they were sinners and that they could never earn God’s forgiveness by their own performance. It showed them that they needed a Saviour. And God provided the Saviour in Jesus. He became the perfect sacrifice once for all.

By one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14)

Because of the Cross, we are no longer under the law with all its regulations and subsequent curses for failure. We are set free from the curse of the law and all its demands.

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.
(Galatians 3:13a)*

Born-again Christians are now under God’s grace. We do not have to earn our right-standing with Him by our own performance anymore. We can stand before Him boldly not because of anything we’ve done, but because of what Jesus did for us on the Cross. What amazing love!

3.9

IT IS AREADY YOURS

Getting hold of the truth that God has already done everything that is necessary for us is absolutely essential to ministry. The Bible makes it clear that we are already forgiven, already healed, and already blessed. We do not have to ask God for any of these things because Jesus has won them all for us on the Cross. Instead we need to thank Him for them and live our lives in the truth that they are already ours.

If we ask God to forgive us, He says we are already forgiven and to turn away from the sin and receive our forgiveness. Jesus died in our place – He took the punishment for our sins and we are forgiven for all sins – past, present and future. But that forgiveness only becomes reality in our lives when we are born-again.

You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:13)

If we ask God to heal us, He says He has already done it. Jesus conquered all sickness through His suffering and death. Our healing is already won and established spiritually. God wants us

to take hold of it and see it manifested in our physical bodies. In ministry, do not talk to God about the person’s sickness, talk to the sickness about God and command it to go in Jesus’ name.

You were healed by his wounds. (1 Peter 2:24b)

If we ask God to bless us, He says we are already blessed. Instead, we need to allow the blessings to become real in our lives through faith.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

You cannot minister to someone effectively if you have not got hold of this teaching, because you will be asking God to do what He has already done. Instead, we need to help the person take hold of what God has done and believe it will become real to them.

3.10

GOD IS NOT ANGRY WITH US

For God didn’t appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

In the Old Testament we often see God as a God of anger, but in the New Testament we see Him as a God of love. But the Bible tells us God is always slow to anger and abounding in love and that He never changes. God dealt with sin once and for all through the Cross, as Jesus took all the punishment for sin, and God poured all His anger against sin onto Him. Because of this He is not pouring His anger out on us anymore, either as individuals or nations.

The angels proclaimed Jesus’ coming with the words –

“Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men.” (Luke 2:14)

Through Jesus, God was proclaiming that He was willing good towards men, not anger, and bringing peace. This was not to be peace on earth between people. Jesus Himself said that He had not come to bring peace between people. God was proclaiming that peace was to be available again between people and God, just as Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden of Eden before they sinned. A peaceful relationship does not include anger.

For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him; and through him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on the earth, or things in the heavens, having made peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Jesus became sin for us and God poured out all His anger against sin on Him. And not just for those who would believe, but for everybody.

And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

... God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses. (2 Corinthians 5:19a)

If God is not counting our sins against us then He is not angry with us. Our sins are not written up on a list which God will confront us with one day. They have been punished through Jesus and are now forgiven and no longer remembered. This was prophesied in the Old Testament.

“... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34b)

God did not change His mind about sin at the Cross. He still hates sin, but now the need for us to be punished and suffer His anger has been satisfied by the Cross. Therefore we can see that the God of the Old Testament is the same as God of the New Testament.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God’s wrath through him. (Romans 5:9)

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

The Cross was enough: there is nothing we can do to add to it. It is all about what Jesus did, not what we do – how we measure up or how we perform. It is all about love and grace.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don’t walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

The Unforgiveable Sin

There is just one sin which was not covered by the Cross and which cannot be forgiven. Jesus said –

“Most certainly I tell you, all sins of the descendants of man will be forgiven, including their blasphemies with which they may blaspheme; but whoever may blaspheme against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.” (Mark 3:28-29)

This is talking about a complete rejection of Jesus and of His Holy Spirit. It is something deep-rooted in the heart, not a passing thought, a period of doubt or confusion or even a drifting away from God. It involves completely and permanently turning away from God and rejecting who He is and what He has done and knowingly reviling the Holy Spirit. The person who has committed it has –

... trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace. (Hebrews 10:29b)

If someone is worried in case they have committed the unforgiveable sin, they have not done so. The person who has done so will have no remorse or concern about it at all.

Someone who wants you to minister to them in the name of Jesus, by definition has not committed that sin, and you can tell them that all their sins are forgiven and God is not angry with them with complete confidence.

3.11

THE ASCENSION

The ascension marked the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth and showed that all He had come to do had been fulfilled. He returned to the glory He had left behind when He became man, and God exalted Him and sat Him at His right hand in honour and gave Him the name above all names.

Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name. (Philippians 2:9)

There are many reasons why the ascension was essential. Here are some of them –

Jesus returned to heaven to prepare a place for us there. He said –

“In my Father’s house are many homes. If it weren’t so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)

It was only in heaven that He could begin His work as the eternal one-and-only High Priest.

Having then a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. (Hebrews 4:14a)

Jesus is before God interceding for us. This does not mean He is pleading with God to be merciful to us. God has already shown us complete mercy through the Cross. But Jesus’ presence before God with the marks of His wounds, stands as a continual proclamation that He has taken our punishment, so we are forgiven.

It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Romans 8:34b)

Jesus had to return to heaven so that He could send us His Holy Spirit.

“If I don’t go away, the Counsellor won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7b)

The ascension established the way Jesus will return.

“This Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky, will come back in the same way as you saw him going into the sky.” (Acts 1:11b)

3.12

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity – He is God. When Jesus ascended to heaven, His disciples were greatly distressed because He would not be with them bodily anymore. But Jesus reassured them that He would send His Holy Spirit and so His presence would always be with each of them individually and with all who believed. Jesus said –

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don’t go away, the Counsellor won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)

He descended on Jesus at His baptism and was the power Jesus used for all His miracles. He now lives in the hearts of God’s people, directing, guiding, counselling, comforting, and helping us. All true believers in Christ have the Spirit living in them –

Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? (1 Corinthians 6:19a)

The Holy Spirit is given to us when we become born-again, as a guarantee of all that God has for us as His children in eternity. A seal protects something from being opened. In the same way, the Holy Spirit seals our new spirit and no-one can break in and steal it or spoil it. We are sealed for God –

Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, moving its writers to record faithfully all that He directed them to –

For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

The Spirit applies the truths of God to the minds of non-believers to convince them that they are sinners and need Jesus. He said –

“When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgement; about sin, because they don’t believe in me.” (John 16:8-9)

And it is through baptism in the Holy Spirit that we have the power of God within us. Jesus said –

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:8a)

The Spirit witnesses to us that we belong to God, and so assures us of our salvation –

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

He is the Spirit of Truth. He guides us as we read the Bible, helping us to understand it on a spiritual level. He guides us into all we need to know. Jesus said –

“However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13a)

When we do not know what or how to pray in a particular situation, the Spirit will intercede when we ask Him, and pray in our place. As we pray in tongues, it is Him praying through us exactly what He knows is needed –

In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don’t know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can’t be uttered. (Romans 8:26)

He is our Teacher –

“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

The Fruit of the Spirit

As He lives in us His fruit is in us too. The fruit is complete and mature – the Holy Spirit will never leave anything of Himself outside. As we choose to live our lives more and more by the Spirit, the fruit becomes more and more evident in our lives.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

We cannot lose the fruit. If a born-again believer says they have lost their joy or their peace, it is not true. What they have lost is their experience of it. They do not need to look for joy or peace or any of the fruit outside of themselves. They need to release it from within. This is very relevant to the ministry situation and brings real encouragement to people who are struggling.

We must allow the fruit of the Spirit to operate as we minister. Of particular significance in ministry is love, patience, kindness and gentleness, but all can play their part.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes to live in every born-again Christian at the time of their accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. But the main thing that John the Baptist said Jesus would do was to baptise people in the Holy Spirit. It is mentioned in three of the Gospels.

“He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 3:11b; Mark 1:8b; Luke 3:16b)

Before He went back to heaven, Jesus told His disciples –

“For John indeed baptised in water, but you will be baptised in the Holy Spirit not many days from now ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:5&8a)

And He told them to wait for this power to come on them before they went out and started ministering in His name –

“Wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49b)

Jesus had given them power when He was amongst them, but now they needed permanent power to do all He was calling them to do. Jesus was talking about being empowered by the Holy Spirit. They obeyed and waited and when they were indeed filled with the power of the Holy Spirit they were completely changed. From then on, they were able to do all that Jesus had told them to do fearlessly and successfully.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from being born-again, though ideally it

should follow straight on from it. It is the difference between having the pilot light on in a central heating boiler, and the whole boiler igniting as the valves open up, so providing power to heat the house. Following this baptism, we need to allow Jesus to keep filling us with His Holy Spirit, so we can continually overflow to bless others.

Christians who have not been baptised in the Holy Spirit can struggle in their Christian walk and witness because they are largely doing it in their own strength – they do not have the power of the Holy Spirit. They will often find it hard to leave behind the ways and attitudes of the old self, such as fear, impure thoughts, doubt, disobedience, jealousy, guilt, worry, selfishness, frustration, blaming others, aimlessness. They may have a poor prayer life with little desire for Bible study, and find it difficult to do what is pleasing to God. And when life is hard, they may doubt His love for them and find their faith wavers.

Just like the disciples, when a Christian has been baptised in the Holy Spirit and is continually being filled by Him, everything starts to change. They are now Jesus-centred as they were always meant to be. They are more able to release the fruit of the Holy Spirit within them. They have a greater desire to introduce Jesus to others, their prayer life becomes more effective, their study of the Bible becomes more meaningful, they are better prepared for spiritual conflict and they are more able to resist temptation and sin. Their central desire is increasingly to please and obey God and their love for Him is deeper and their faith stronger. More and more, in everything they do, they will want to glorify Jesus.

If you want to minister to others, it is essential that you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. You will have no power or gifting if you are not. You will struggle in your own strength and achieve little. Look at ‘Leading Someone into Baptism in the Holy Spirit’ in section 12.2 on p.118, and sincerely before God go through the process for yourself and you will be baptised. Or talk to a trusted Christian friend or church leader who you know is baptised in the Holy Spirit and ask them to lead you in it. Do not worry if you do not feel anything. God is faithful and He will have baptised you. He would never say no to someone who was sincerely asking Him. You will start to realise the reality of what has happened as time goes by. Jesus said –

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he won’t give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, he won’t give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:11-13)

Gifts of the Spirit

God wants to work through us both as individuals and as a church. He gives gifts to everyone as they are baptised in the Holy Spirit. They are to be used, not ignored, and will always help and build people up.

Some are gifts which will help us in our spiritual understanding and growth, and some are more practical, helping God’s church to be well ordered, loving and effective.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all. For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit; to another faith, by the same Spirit; and to another gifts of healings, by the same Spirit; and to another workings of miracles; and to another prophecy; and to another discerning of spirits; to another different kinds of languages; and to another the interpretation of languages. But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

Tongues

Speaking in ‘different kinds of languages’, or tongues, can be speaking in a foreign language which you do not know, or speaking in a heavenly language. When we speak in tongues it comes from our new creation spirit, bypassing our minds. It is available to everyone who is baptised in the Holy Spirit and is for all to use privately. Some people also have a gift of tongues for public use (See 1 Corinthians 14).

When we speak in tongues, we can have confidence that what we are saying is God’s will and that it will bring glory to Him. It can help us when we do not know how to pray about a situation or for a person. We can use tongues to praise God. As we speak or sing in tongues, we are building ourselves up in faith, and it helps us to experience His love for us and draw wisdom from our new spirit into our mind and heart.

But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love. (Jude 1:20-21a)

When tongues are spoken publicly there should not be too many and they should be interpreted. They also need to be given in a way that builds people up. Singing in tongues as a congregation does not need interpretation as it is worship and not intended as a word to the fellowship.

... be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18b-19)

To start speaking in tongues we have to play our part. We have to open our mouths and start to speak. It is always under our control. It isn’t the Holy Spirit who speaks – we speak but He gives us the words. Singing will often help tongues start to flow.

The Gifts and Ministry

Using the gifts of the Spirit is vital as you minister. Some are of particular relevance –

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- Miraculous powers
- Distinguishing between spirits
- Prophecy
- Workers of miracles

We may not all have the same gifts, but the Bible tells us to desire the gifts, which implies that they can all be ours if we sincerely want them for the right purpose, which is to build ourselves up and also the body of Christ. If you want to minister to others, desire the gifts which will help you to do so.

But earnestly desire the best gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:31a)

3.13

GOD’S CORRECTION

God does still correct and discipline us, but not out of anger. It is not punishment, it is love. It is done to instruct us and build us up.

Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

The main way God does this is through His Word, but He also disciplines us through the Holy Spirit bringing His Word alive in our hearts. We are called to play our part too –

Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. (Galatians 6:1a)

He corrects and disciplines us so we can live happier, more fruitful and more victorious lives. It is an act of love. When bad things happen it is never God punishing us. He grieves over tragedies as much as we do, in fact more. It is Satan that does the bad stuff. God has already meted out all the punishment and anger on Jesus, and it was enough. Everything He does for us is good, done out of love and free from anger.

3.14

THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD

God’s Word is true. Because of this, we have to give it priority over our experience, the experiences of others and the way the world looks at things. In every situation where we are looking for the truth, we have to go to the Bible. If we pray for people and they are not healed, our experience can tell us that God does not want them to be healed, or at least, not yet. But the Bible tells us differently. Which are we going to believe?

There is no peace in making our experience the decider of truth. It will just lead to all sorts of doubt and result in fruitless discussions and disagreements. But when we make the Bible the decider of truth we have something of real worth to pass on to people and we can go forward and minister in confidence. We have to get this decided in our own lives in order to be able to minister with success. It is not always easy, but the more we discipline our thinking to make the Bible the source of our truth, the easier it gets.

When we understand and believe the truth of God’s Word and continue in it, living it out in our thoughts, words and actions, it will set us free. Jesus said –

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

3.15

THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made. (John 1:1-3)

God’s Word is absolutely powerful – it always was and always will be. He has established His Word to stand forever. He will always be faithful to what He has said and nothing can stand against it.

LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever. (Psalm 119:89)

And God’s Word became man in Jesus – He is the Word of God.

The Word became flesh, and lived amongst us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Jesus tells us that the Word of God is essential if we are to live the spiritually healthy and fulfilled lives God desires for us. Jesus said –

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ ” (Matthew 4:4)

God has established a principle of power in His Word which is at work today. It is therefore helpful and spiritually powerful to use Bible verses as you minister. If the meaning or the application is not clear to the person, help them to understand. God’s truth is revealed in His Word, and truth is powerful to speak out in ministry.

Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible tells us that God’s word is actually health to a man’s whole body.

My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

We are also to follow Jesus’ example. When Satan was tempting Him, He used Scripture to defeat him. Scripture is truth and Satan hates to hear truth. The only offensive weapon we are given in the armour of God is –

... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17b)

God’s Word as absolute truth is so powerful, it is possible for a person to receive the help they need, including healing, simply by hearing the Word and allowing its truth to reach into their innermost beings.

He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves. (Psalm 107:20)

Do not hesitate to share a truth from the Bible because you think the person already knows it. We all need to be reminded of all God has done, and He can bring it alive in a fresh way and use it to bring healing, freedom and restoration.

Encourage the person to take hold of a relevant verse, learn it, believe it, and act on its truth. Explain the importance of speaking God’s Word out loud, especially when suffering or doubting or when under attack – it will confirm the truth to their heart as they hear it spoken out, and the devil also hears and trembles. Another helpful suggestion is that the person writes the Bible verse out and puts it up where they will keep seeing it. God said –

“... so is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.” (Isaiah 55:11)

It is always good to give the person a verse no matter what the ministry has been about. They then have a powerful weapon to use and a wonderful promise to stand on. If you do not know the exact wording of a verse or where it is in the Bible, use a concordance or search engine to find it and write the reference down for the person.

For this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that when you received from us the word of the message of God, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also works in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Use Relevant Scripture

Be careful – the Cross changed everything and many prayers and truths of the Old Testament are no longer relevant to us today, living on this side of the Cross.

Here are three of many examples.

Old Testament prayer

Be merciful to me, God, be merciful to me.
(Psalm 57:1a)

Don’t forsake me, LORD. My God, don’t be far from me.
(Psalm 38:21)

LORD, heal me. (Psalm 6:2b)

New Testament truth

*... God’s people, who had not obtained mercy, but now **have obtained mercy.***
(1Peter 2:10b)

“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20b)

You were healed by his wounds. (1Peter 2:24b)

For the many things God has won for us through Jesus, our prayer should no longer be “Please”, but “Thank You”. For instance, our prayer today is not “Please be with me”, but “Thank You that You are always with me”.

Discern How the Person Will Receive the Word

As you give the person a verse, discern if they are in a spiritual place where it can bear fruit. If they do not understand it, cannot relate it to themselves, or do not determine to stand on it when temptation or trouble comes, it will not be of value to them. If necessary, lead them into an understanding of the truth and power of God’s Word and how it relates personally to them, so they can feed on it and be nourished by it.

3.16

GOD WANTS US WELL

Do not decide what you think about healing by what you see and how you feel. Believe what God says. If you base what you believe about healing on what God says and refuse to be swayed by what you can see or how you feel, your belief in healing will grow and you will be much more likely to find it.

Praise the LORD, my soul, and don’t forget all his benefits; who forgives all your sins; who heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:2-3)

God wants us well physically, emotionally and mentally. He does not want us to suffer any kind of sickness or disability. On the contrary, He wants us free to live fruitful, abundant lives and to be able to serve Him effectively, unhampered by illness. Jesus defeated Satan and all his works including sickness and disability on the Cross – He carried all our illness so that we should not have to carry it ourselves, in just the same way as He carried our sins. Jesus –

... healed all who were sick; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, “He took our infirmities, and bore our diseases.” (Matthew 8:16b-17)

Satan Wants Us Sick

It is Satan who does not want people to be well. He wants them limited in what they can do and focused on their own condition. He will use sickness to try and undermine a person’s faith. When someone is healed, Satan will sometimes deceive the person into thinking they are still ill by imitating the symptoms of the sickness.

Ill health can be a direct attack from Satan, the result of living in a fallen world or a failure to look after ourselves. It can be the result of sin, either personal or generational. Ultimately all causes go back to Satan. Because Satan has been defeated on the Cross, we have the authority to command healing of all diseases.

Sozo

‘Sozo’ is a Greek word which occurs 162 times in the Bible and only in the New Testament. It is translated as either ‘saved’, ‘healed’ or ‘whole’. It has all these three aspects in its meaning. It is translated as ‘healed’ in many of Jesus’ miracles and as ‘saved’ in many key verses about the Cross. An example is –

For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. (John 3:17)

We can therefore read this verse as – For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved, healed and made whole through him. On the Cross and through His suffering Jesus has already won our healing as well as our salvation. It is complete in the spiritual realm, and by faith we can see it manifest in our physical bodies. There is nothing we can do to earn our healing, but we need to co-operate with God in it.

We are not called to suffer in sickness for God. Jesus does tell us to take up our Cross. However, this does not apply to ill health, but to living daily in the truth that our old selves have been crucified with Christ.

*Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.
(Galatians 5:24)*

It also applies to the willingness to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

... all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We know that there is no sickness in heaven, so it cannot be His will that there be sickness on earth.

Jesus’ Attitude towards Sickness

To really see what God’s attitude to sickness is, we need to look at Jesus. He spent a huge part of His ministry on earth healing people and never inflicted sickness on anyone. On the contrary, He went around healing every single person who asked and was willing to receive. On many occasions He healed every disease and every sick person in huge crowds. He was not making judgements about whether healing was appropriate, or the person deserved it, in any individual case.

Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness amongst the people. (Matthew 9:35)

And He was doing only what He saw His Father is doing. He said –

“Most certainly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing. For whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise.” (John 5:19)

God Works in Everything for Our Good

God can, however, work for our good during illness.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

But this does not mean God makes us or wants us sick. His ordained method of working in us is through His Word and His Holy Spirit.

Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

*“However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth.”
(John 16:13a)*

Wrong Teachings to ‘Explain’ Lack of Healing

There are various explanations which are sometimes given about lack of healing. But you have to examine them all in line with the Bible. People often want a let-out clause to explain why they are not healed which puts the responsibility on God. Arguments can be put in compelling spiritual ways, but you have to test everything against what the Bible says. And with healing, your focus must be on the New Testament, as it was on the Cross that the victory over sickness was won.

Here are some wrong teachings about sickness –

- ‘God’s teaching you something.’ Of course God wants to teach you, but the way He does it is not through sickness, but through the Bible, the Holy Spirit and other Christians.
- ‘God uses illness to make you a better person.’ God wants you to develop as a person, but He never sends or prolongs sickness to do this.
- ‘God uses sickness to discipline you.’ God did punish people with sickness in the days before Jesus, but He no longer does so, as Jesus has set you free from the curse of the law.
- ‘God heals in special times and moments.’ There is nothing in the New Testament to support this.
- ‘Healing is all in God’s timing.’ God’s perfect timing is ‘now’.

Some Reasons why Healing may not Come

- Satan – he does not want you to be well, but he can only mess you up as much as you will let him. You can resist him and all his lies in the name of Jesus.
- Atmosphere – there is a huge atmosphere of unbelief in the western world. People generally will not even consider miracles and even many Christians doubt that they will happen. Atmosphere is important and can stop healing. When a blind man from Bethsaida came to Jesus for healing, Jesus took him out of the village because it was a place of great unbelief and He wanted him away from that influence. And then, having healed him, Jesus told him not to tell anyone back in Bethsaida about it. He knew they would be sceptical and could undermine the man’s faith. Similarly when Jairus’s daughter had died, He put the mourners out of the room and only allowed in the girl’s parents and certain disciples. It is likely that many healings are not seen today because of the lack of faith for healing in a church, a place or even a country. This particularly applies to the western world where belief in miracles is dismissed by so many.
- Wrong teaching – some churches are teaching wrong ideas about healing, such as those listed above. They base their teaching on the evidence they can see in front of their eyes, instead of on the truth of the Bible.
- Lack of faith – a major reason is lack of faith for healing in either the sick person or those praying for them or both.
- Method – the way people go about healing is often wrong. The Bible says to command healing in Jesus’ name, yet many Christians pray to God, asking Him to heal them. He has already done His part through the Cross. We need to do ours and command healing in Jesus’ name and believe in it. Jesus said do not talk to God about the sickness, talk to the sickness about God.

Sometimes lack of healing cannot be explained, but that does not make the Bible wrong, it just means we do not understand.

Faith

Jesus said the only thing needed for healing is faith. Many times He told someone that their faith had made them well. If they did not believe God wanted them well and that Jesus could and would heal them, they could not be healed. Faith has to be present for healing, especially in the person wanting healing. When Paul saw a crippled man, he looked at him and –

... seeing that he had faith to be made whole, said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet!” He leaped up and walked. (Acts 14:9b-10)

Paul acted because he could see the man had faith for healing.

Even Jesus was not able to heal many people in His home town of Nazareth, not because the time was not right or they did not deserve it, but because they lacked faith.

He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people, and healed them. He marvelled because of their unbelief. (Mark 6:5-6)

When a woman who had been bleeding for years touched His robe Jesus knew power had gone out of Him, but He didn’t know where.

Jesus said, “Who touched me?” When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes press and jostle you, and you say, ‘Who touched me?’” But Jesus said, “Someone did touch me, for I perceived that power has gone out of me.” (Luke 8:45-46)

He had made no decision to heal the woman; she had drawn it out by her faith. Jesus said to her –

“Your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” (Luke 8:48b)

Our faith protects us too when we use it. If you have to be with or have been with someone who has something contagious, either before or after, you can forbid any and all disease germs and viruses from making you ill, and command any that touch your body to die in Jesus’ name.

Test Everything against God’s Word

You should never take what someone else says or writes about healing as true, whoever they are, unless you know it is backed up in the New Testament. When someone believes wrong teachings they are allowing doubt in, and this can develop into unbelief. They are then much less likely to see healing either in themselves or in those they minister to.

God’s Time for Healing is Always Now

The New Testament says that God wants to heal and wants to do it now. There are reasons why everyone is not healed instantly or why it never happens, but it is never God’s fault. Jesus did not wait for special times from God to heal. If someone asked for healing, He healed them.

Once Jesus had to command healing twice before a blind man’s sight was restored. Sometimes Jesus told someone to do something, and it was as they obeyed that they were healed. But for each one their time for healing was now.

Lots of people have a progressive healing rather than an instant healing. Any sort of healing is wonderful and all of God, but God wants everyone to have an instant healing. However, He has to work with the faith of the person. If they have faith for a progressive healing, but not for an instant one, then the healing will be progressive.

The churches and ministries where healing is seen regularly are not the ones which teach that God may deny or delay healing, but those that teach that healing is already won and expect healing to happen, or at least to start, now.

Nothing in Jesus’s life and teaching or in the whole of the New Testament says that God’s time for healing is not ‘now’. Instead it says and shows time and time again that His time is ‘now’.

Paul’s Thorn

Paul explained –

... a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me, that I should not be exalted excessively. Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:7b-9a)

The Greek word which is translated as ‘messenger’ occurs 188 times in the Bible and every time it refers to an angel or a person, never to an object or a condition. The phrase ‘thorn in the side’ can be found in all kinds of literature and always refers to a person. It is the equivalent of someone being ‘a pain in the neck’. Some Christians have ‘spiritualised’ this phrase and applied it to sickness, to give them a reason why not everyone is healed. Satan will keep this lie going as long as he can.

In the previous chapter (2 Corinthians 11:23-28) Paul lists all the hardships that he faced. There is no mention of any sickness or disease, but the list does include many people who have put him in danger. There was obviously a specific person who was making his life really difficult, presumably opposing his work for Christ and that person was sent by Satan.

God has not said we will not be persecuted for our faith, in fact the Bible tells us that we will be. But God assured Paul that He would help him in this difficult situation. We can feel quite powerless in the face of continued opposition, but we have the answer God gave Paul – to rely on His strength and we will be sustained.

3.17

A TIME TO DIE

When God created Adam and Eve, He intended that they should live forever. But when they sinned, He brought in death so they would not have to live forever in a messed-up world. They still lived a long time, but God gradually reduced people’s life span.

Other factors influence how long people may be expected to live – a malnourished person in a poor nation is likely to die earlier than one living in the Western world with their basic needs adequately met. Even within England there are differences. People living in the north tend to have a shorter lifespan than those in the south.

The Bible also shows that people can influence their life span by how they live. God wants people to live a long and satisfied life. He says to the person who follows Him –

God wants people to live a long and satisfied life. He says to the person who follows Him –

“I will satisfy him with long life.” (Psalm 91:16a)

But not everybody or even every Christian dies in God’s time.

It is not God who kills a baby or cuts a young person’s life short in some tragic way. He does not send cancer to strike someone down. God’s desire is that everyone dies simply because their span is ended and they have lived a long, satisfied life. This means dying in old age peacefully, not in pain or suffering.

It is Satan who wants people to die early. The sooner he can end their life, the more chance there is of their dying unsaved. And he wants Christians to die early to limit the work they can do for God on earth. So when someone dies before their time, it is not God, but Satan who has killed them. Of course, for the Christian, his victory over the person is only momentary as they go straight to Jesus. However, the grief and pain of the person’s loved ones remains and again is Satan’s handiwork, not God’s.

“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you,” says the LORD, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

3.18

GOD IS FAITHFUL

God is always faithful to Himself and to His Word. We can totally rely on His promises. The Old Testament contains many promises and they have all been fulfilled in Jesus.

For however many are the promises of God, in him is the “Yes.” Therefore also through him is the “Amen”, to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

When we are engaged in ministry, we always expect God to minister to the person and for the encounter to be positive. He is faithful and He will respond. Where He is allowed, we expect Him to bring a greater commitment to holiness, unity and maturity and a greater measure of courage to deal with difficult situations. And we expect the healing, deliverance, freedom and restoration won on the Cross to become reality in the person’s body and life.

Section Four

Foundational Teaching ~ Our Response

4.1

SALVATION

The most important thing we can do in response to God's grace is to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. There is no relationship with God and no Christian life without it. Jesus said –

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."
(John 14:6)*

If someone wants to give their life to Jesus, tell them the Gospel and ask if they are willing to accept Jesus. Make sure the person has a sincere desire to do this from their heart, and that they understand what they are doing and its significance for their life. If they are willing, lead them to Christ.

It is actually a very simple process, yet really profound. Do not overcomplicate it, but do not rush it. See 'Leading Someone into Salvation' in section 12.1 on p.117.

4.2

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The second most important thing we can do in response to God's grace is to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. It is only then that we have the power to be the people God wants us to be and to do the work He has called us to do effectively.

If someone wants you to minister baptism in the Holy Spirit to them, do not rush into a simple prayer for the Holy Spirit to fill them. Talk with the person about what it means and if you sense they sincerely want to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, lead them through the points in the model 'Leading Someone into Baptism in the Holy Spirit' in section 12.2 on p.118. It is based on three words –Acknowledge, Ask and Accept.

4.3

FAITH

... by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

It is only through faith that we can respond to God's grace. Before we were born-again, God gave us the gift of faith when we were seeking Him, so we could use it to believe in Him and receive our salvation. Now we are born-again, we still use our faith to receive from God all the blessings that He has for us. He has provided everything that we need, but it is through our response, our faith, that we receive it.

Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is believing what we have been told, before we can see that it is true. God tells us that we must have faith in Him and in His Word, in Jesus and all He has done for us, and in His Holy Spirit. Our whole attitude needs to be one of faith, so we can receive all that God has for us. Only when we believe it, can we receive it.

Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him. (Hebrews 11:6a)

Abraham was a wonderful Old Testament example of a faith-filled man. He did not focus on the physical things which made God's promise of a child seem impossible – Sarah's barrenness and their old age, but on –

... God, who gives life to the dead, and calls the things that are not, as though they were. (Romans 4:17b)

We must be careful not to put our faith in faith itself, but in our all-powerful, all-loving Father God, and in His Son, Jesus, and all He accomplished for us on the Cross. Faith is not about feelings – it is about a decision to believe and trust. Jesus often commanded people to have faith, so it is something we can decide to do. He never commands us to do something that is impossible. The feelings will often follow after we act on the decision to believe.

Choosing to think, speak and act from a faith basis rather than a feelings basis, will build us and others up as we see God working in response to our faith. Jesus often said that we will receive what we ask for in His name, if we believe. He said on many occasions to just ask. It is actually very simple, but we make it complicated by making human assessments of the situation, based on what we can see and feel. He said –

"Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them." (Mark 11:24)

Faith for Practical Needs

Jesus said that we need to have faith for the practical things in life, such as food and clothing, as well as for the big issues. In this passage below, He is not saying that we should not take pleasure in buying nice clothes or planning menus and cooking. He is telling us not to be anxious about it and concerned whether we will have enough. He said –

"Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life, what you will eat, nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they don't sow, they don't reap, they have no warehouse or barn, and God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds! Which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his height? If then you aren't able to do even the least things, why are you anxious

about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith? Don't seek what you will eat or what you will drink; neither be anxious. For the nations of the world seek after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need these things." (Luke 12:22-30)

We need to have faith in God's promise to provide all that we need, and then it will be given to us. It is when we believe that we receive.

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Faith for Healing

Time and time again Jesus said that the reason someone was healed and restored was because of their faith, or the faith of the person who brought them to Him.

But Jesus hearing it, answered him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be healed." (Luke 8:50)

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be cured of your disease." (Mark 5:34)

If someone has a serious illness which the doctors say they will never fully recover from, we need to help them to choose to believe the Bible truth that they are already healed in the spiritual realm and have faith that the healing will be manifest in the physical realm, rather than believe the doctor's prognosis.

Faith and Ministry

We must approach ministry with faith, and we need to encourage faith in everyone who we minister to and discern if they have any unbelief as well (see 'Unbelief' in section 10.2 on p.102). Faith is essential in receiving healing and restoration.

By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (Acts 3:16)

Laying hands on the person as we minister can stimulate faith and transmit power.

The father of Publius lay sick of fever and dysentery. Paul entered in to him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. (Acts 28:8)

Similarly, anointing the person with oil is powerful. In the Bible it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

They cast out many demons, and anointed many with oil who were sick, and healed them. (Mark 6:13)

We need to encourage the person to believe that their healing is already won and that things will change, be it suddenly or gradually. Sometimes patience is needed. God's Word tell us to be –

... imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherited the promises. (Hebrews 6:12b)

Always encourage faith by assuring the person of God’s love and of the fact that the wholeness He desires for them has already been won in the spiritual realm, and He wants it realised in their physical body and in their life. Jesus said we only need faith the size of a mustard seed.

“For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20b)

God’s Laws of Faith

God put physical laws in place when He created the world, such as the laws of gravity and inertia. In the same way He established spiritual laws, which also will never change – they remain constant and can be depended on absolutely. One of them is referred to in *Romans 3:27* as ‘a law of faith’. Below are some of the principles within God’s law of faith:

Faith comes by hearing God’s Word –

So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

If we do not tell people God’s truth from His Word, they cannot have faith in it. As you minister to someone, equip them with Bible verses which will build up their faith and help them to stand on what He has done for them, is doing and wants to do. God’s Word has the power to instil faith.

We are to speak directly to a problem in faith –

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says.” (Mark 11:22-23)

Jesus taught that we have to speak our faith out to see it bring results. In *verse 23*, Jesus mentions speaking three times. He says it is faith which is spoken, not just thought, that will move the mountain. As you minister, speak directly to the problem in the name of Jesus and have faith that it will be removed.

Faith without works is dead –

... faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. (James 2:17)

We can never earn God’s love or our salvation by our works – what we do. We have to receive it by grace through faith. But the natural outcome of faith is to seek to live to please God.

If someone insists they have faith, but live a selfish life, we are right to doubt their faith. It is not works that produces faith, but works prove our faith exists. Be discerning, but not judgmental, as you seek to discern the person’s faith.

Faith brings results –

“Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.” (Mark 11:24)

As we minister, we have to minister in faith that God will answer. Jesus tells us to visualise what we have asked for as already ours. This is faith in action – believing for what you cannot see. The promises can then become reality.

Help the person you are ministering to, to see themselves already healed and restored and their difficulties resolved.

Unforgiveness can short circuit faith –

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

Jesus follows the previous verse about praying in faith with this teaching about forgiveness. He is not saying that we will lose our salvation if we do not forgive everyone everything – we can all find it difficult to forgive at times. But if we are truly born-again and know we have received our own forgiveness from God, we will have a desire to forgive others.

If someone does not have that desire and refuses to forgive or even try to forgive, it probably means that they have not been born-again. It indicates a hard heart which cannot take hold of the forgiveness Jesus has won for them on the Cross and allow it to change them and enable them to forgive others. God cannot release their forgiveness to them.

Discern as you minister, if there is any significant area of unforgiveness in the person which could short-circuit and limit their own faith in what God has done and wants to do for them.

Unbelief can cancel out faith –

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately, and said, “Why weren’t we able to cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your unbelief.” (Matthew 17:19-20a)

Someone may have faith for God to heal and resolve their problems, but if they also have unbelief that can negate their faith and they will then struggle to see God at work in their lives. As you minister, discern whether the person has any unbelief which can cancel out their faith (see ‘Unbelief’ in section 10.2 on p.102).

Faith works by love –

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision amounts to anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)

Faith and love go hand in hand – they build each other up. If someone has no love in their heart for God and for others, then any faith they profess is not real.

In everything you do as you minister, do it in love. Love builds up faith as people respond to it and as their faith rises, their love for God will too. It is a wonderful upward spiral.

4.4

RIGHT THINKING

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

God wants us to live holy lives in what we do, say and think. This is not because He would be angry with us if we did not, but because He knows that if we do not live in a holy way, we will hurt ourselves and others and lay ourselves open to Satan. But He knows we cannot be perfect

and as we seek to be holy, He is helping us and guiding us. We may act and speak in a right way, but if our thought life is not holy, we are not fooling God and probably no-one else either. The basis of becoming whole in Christ is having a Jesus-centred thought life. God wants our thought life to be free from things that would harm us or interfere with what He wants to do in us and through us, so we are able to focus on Him and on His truth.

Problems that can occur if a person bases their thought-life on the lies of Satan include: eating disorders, nightmares, sleeping disorders, obsessive behaviour, blasphemy, condemning and/or distracting thoughts, poor concentration, fantasies, mental interference in church and during prayer and Bible study, and strongholds.

Renewing our Minds

God's Word tells us –

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

People often think they have little or no control over what they think. The verse above shows us that it is possible change how we think and renew our minds in order to walk further into the victory Jesus has won for us. The Bible also tells us how to do it. Real transformation takes place as we start to think God's way and refuse to be swayed by the world's thinking or by what we see and feel –

... throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Taking Personal Responsibility

Bringing our thinking into line with God's is our responsibility. Be aware that some people you minister to will be wanting an instant experience, without either the understanding or willpower to go forward and keep their faith alive and active on their own. Of course, we praise God for the wonderful times when we feel His touch directly, but we need to help them to understand that they need to base their Christian walk on the truth of God and what He has done through Jesus. They must learn how to sustain their experience of God in daily living.

But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21)

Knowing Who We Are in Jesus

A major part of the right-thinking God wants for us is being sure of who we are in Jesus – who we are as a result of all Jesus has done for us and our receiving it by faith. Many Christians find it difficult to believe that all the promises of God are for them as an individual. Instead they base their identity on who they think they are, or on who they think other people think they are. It is only as we fully realise our identity is found in Jesus alone that we can have inner peace and start to be able to truly live for God.

It is easy to believe the lies Satan tries to feed us. He will use any means he can through others, through society and through our own thoughts to knock us down. God wants to build us up,

but needs our co-operation to do so. A realisation of who we are in Jesus can be a major key to receiving healing and wholeness.

If a person does not base their thought-life on the truth of who God is and who they are in Jesus, they will have great difficulties in living the Christian life and will not be able to know its freedom and victory. We are not helpless victims in a battle between God and Satan. Jesus has the victory and the battle for a person's mind is won, but can only be realised with their co-operation. We need to declare the truth about Jesus and ourselves aloud. Satan will hear and tremble.

Here are some of the truths about who we are because of Jesus and what he has done for us. Go through these verses with the person, or if you discern that one particularly relates to the person's situation, focus on that. Give them the relevant references and explain to them how powerful it is to speak God's Word aloud. Encourage them to speak these truths out about themselves.

- *But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name. (John 1:12)*
- *... you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15b)*
- *For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)*
- *... and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17a)*
- *You are all children of light and children of the day. (1 Thessalonians 5:5a)*
- *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. (1 Peter 2:9a)*
- *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)*
- *I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:20a)*
- *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17)*
- *(Jesus said) "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn't know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you." (John 15:15)*
- *You are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 12:27)*
- *Don't you know that you are a temple of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)*
- *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)*
- *... as he (Jesus) is, even so we are in this world. (1 John 4:17b)*
- *(Jesus said) "You are the salt of the earth." (Matthew 5:13a)*
- *(Jesus said) "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14a)*
- *For we are his workmanship. (Ephesians 2:10a)*
- *We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:20a)*
- *For we are God's fellow workers. (1 Corinthians 3:9a)*
- *For our citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20a)*

Knowing God's Promises

And here are some of the truths and promises from God's Word which have been made available through Jesus to everyone who will believe them and receive them. Really believing these are true and basing your life on them will transform you from someone who is prone to fear, doubt and stress into someone who is strong and confident and at peace.

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever be afraid –

- *... greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4b)*
- *The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)*
- *No weapon that is formed against you will prevail; and you will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgement. (Isaiah 54:17a)*
- *For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever feel alone –

- *(God) has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5b)*
- *(Jesus said) "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever be depressed –

- *(Jesus said) "I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)*
- *He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken. (Psalm 62:6)*
- *(God) ... raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verse says, how could we ever entertain doubt –

- *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*
- *(Jesus said) "For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says. Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them." (Mark 11:23-24)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever be anxious –

- *My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *(Jesus said) “I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*
- *He who didn’t spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever feel guilty –

- *(Jesus) ... in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. (Colossians 1:14)*
- *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. (Galatians 3:13a)*
- *Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)*
- *Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God’s wrath through him. (Romans 5:9)*
- *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1a)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever lack confidence –

- *(Jesus said) “You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you.” (John 15:16a)*
- *If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b)*
- *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)*
- *No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)*
- *Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:14a)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever feel inadequate –

- *For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
- *... in him you are made full, who is the head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:10)*
- *He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:3)*
- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)*

- ... *being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever feel incapable –

- *I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)*
- (God) ... *is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. (Ephesians 3:20)*

If we really believed and based our thinking on what the following verses say, how could we ever feel vulnerable –

- *For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God's love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*
- *Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)*

If you discern that someone's thinking is not truth-centred, talk to them about the truth of God's Word and how all His promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Explain that they need to base their thinking on God's truth, rather than on their experience or the experience of others. Help them to see who they are in Jesus and how God has made everything available to them to live in victory. Help them to make a decision to believe who God says they are, not who they or others think they are, and to receive all He has done for them, and trust Him for all He is doing and wants to do for them. This is a huge step in walking forward in victory.

4.5

RECEIVING WISDOM

Often people need wisdom to know how to handle a certain situation or how to find the way forward or how to make a right decision.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. (James 1:5-6)

These verses are really significant. God promises to give wisdom to anyone who asks, but He says it is really important that the person then trusts Him to give it, and that they stop tossing the situation around in their mind and continue to be anxious about it.

Help the person to understand this. Tell them that God's wisdom may come as a sudden realisation, through the Bible, through someone else, or just as the answer settles in their mind.

Do not use your own wisdom to advise people concerning life decisions, unless you feel it is also God's wisdom. Rather pray for God to guide them. If you feel God is asking you to say something direct, but you are not sure, do so, but ask the person if it feels right and, if necessary, encourage them to pray about it and test it out.

4.6

REPENTANCE

... for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

But through the Cross we are forgiven people.

You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:13)

As our sins are forgiven, a logical progression would be to think that we could continue sinning and it would not matter.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (Romans 6:1)

But it does matter. Paul answers his question in *Romans 6:2a* with an emphatic “*May it never be!*” There are many reasons not to sin. It can give Satan a way into our lives. It has damaging consequences for us and often for others. But also, when we were born-again, our old sinful nature was crucified with Christ and we were given a new perfect spirit. It is no longer our nature to sin. This does not mean we do not, but that we are able to say ‘no’. We are free to turn away from sin – it is no longer our master. Our new nature is drawing us to holy living and when we sin we are pulling against that.

We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:2b)

Repentance is not regret or remorse – it goes much further. It is seeing the things we do wrong as sin, confessing them and turning away from them. Without the element of turning away, we are not genuinely repentant whatever we may say. Of course there will be times when we fall into the same sin again, but our sincere intention must always be for this not to happen.

God doesn't need our repentance – all our sins are already paid for and forgiven. He wants us to repent for our sake because of the positive impact it has on us. It enables us to experience our relationship with Him better and be open to receive His blessings.

The person coming for ministry may be refusing to see sin as God sees it. They may be justifying their actions and words with all sorts of right-sounding arguments. They may be looking in other places to bolster their feeling of being right, such as, money, success, independence, self-pity, rebellion or physical appearance. We need to gently lead them back to the Cross – it was there that sin was finally dealt with.

... God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

A life of repentance is positive. Some Christians see it as negative, like being in trouble with a stern headmaster. They do not know God as Love. They have not grasped the wonder of His

mercy and His grace. We need to be thankful when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, because we are then able to choose to repent and more easily experience the relationship we have with God as His child, and His forgiveness, peace and love. The verse quoted at the beginning of this section continues –

*... being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
(Romans 3:24)*

What to Do when You Sin

You do not need to beg God for forgiveness. We cannot earn our forgiveness by our attitude. We could never be humble enough or sorry enough or feel guilty enough to earn God's forgiveness. Only Satan wants us to wallow in shame and guilt. What God looks for is sincerity in repentance. You need to –

- Confess to God – agree with Him from a sincere heart that what you have done is sinful
- Repent – turn away from the sin
- Receive the forgiveness that Jesus has already won for you
- Allow the forgiveness to take root in you so it can work for good in your life
- Walk in its freedom with thanksgiving

We need to lead the person through this and assure them of God's forgiveness and love. We want them to go away rejoicing in all He has done for them, not feeling guilty.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

4.7

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness, and its opposite – unforgiveness, are mentioned quite a few times in this manual. That is because it is central to the Christian life. Jesus taught his disciples about it on many occasions. He made it very clear that without receiving forgiveness from God there can be no relationship with Him. And when we have received our forgiveness, the natural result should be a willingness to forgive others

Forgiving is possible. If it was not, Jesus would not have told us to do it. He then wants us to go further and choose not to remember the way people have hurt us. This is what God does concerning our own sin. God had prophesied in the Old Testament that He would –

"... be merciful to their unrighteousness. I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more." (Hebrews 8:12)

It helps when we realise that when people hurt us, it is Satan working through them to try and beat us down. Jesus demonstrated this when Peter tried to turn Him away from the Cross. He rebuked Satan, not Peter.

Peter took him aside, and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you.” But he turned, and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.” (Matthew 16:22-23)

When we obey God and forgive others, He can heal the hurt and help us not to remember it. Forgiving someone who has hurt us opens the door to receiving our healing. The other person may not be willing to be reconciled or they may have died, but our command is still to forgive them in our hearts before God. Also, we may need wisdom from God about whether to continue to be in contact with the person. Forgiving does not automatically mean restoration of the relationship.

... bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do. (Colossians 3:13)

People who need ministry can often be struggling with receiving and giving forgiveness and they need to understand this teaching. If we fail to help them with this, we are limiting what God wants to do.

4.8

RELATIONSHIP, NOT RELIGION

Being a Christian is not about following rules or going through rituals; it is not about going to church every Sunday; it is not about taking communion; it is not about spending time each day praying or reading your Bible. All these things are good and will help you grow, but when you make them into rules that you must obey, you are putting yourself back under the law. You are saying that what you do affects how God sees you, how much He loves you, whether He will answer your prayers etc.

Being a Christian is about being in a Father/child relationship with God, not in obeying rules or following a ritual. And it is not just about head knowledge, it is about relating with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many people believe in God; so does Satan. But allowing God into our hearts and loving and serving Him out of love, rather than duty, is relationship and it is what God wants and what is God's best for us. Jesus said –

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

Do not presume that someone you are ministering to has a real faith because of an intellectual belief or a good Christian habit such as going to church every week. We need to help them to come into relationship with God, receiving Jesus at a real personal level.

4.9

GOD CALLS US TO LOVE OTHERS

We are set free from the law and now live under grace. But Jesus gave us a new commandment of love. He said –

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

The love commandment is not a restricting one, but a life-giving one which frees us and others as we live it out. Jesus said –

“If a man loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him.” (John 14:23)

This does not mean we have to love others in order for God to love us and it does not mean that God does not love us if we fail to love others. It means that if we do not seek to live a life of love, it proves we are not truly born-again and Jesus does not live in us. Our actions prove our faith. But as we love others, the blessings God has already provided for us can become real in our lives.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

God wants our relationships to be wholesome and based upon His principles. Having bad relationships with others is not a good witness. It is also indicative of a negative thought life. Good relationships involve the ability to give and receive love. As far as it is possible from our side, and without compromising our walk with God, our relationships with others should be good.

4.10

FOLLOWERS

People were made to be followers of Jesus. Inside each one of us is a desire to worship someone or something and give it supreme importance in our lives. You can see this at work in the world in the whole celebrity culture or in the obsessive following of a football team or any other sport. You can see it in the playing of a sport or in the listening to music, when it is given such importance that it actually dictates to the person about what they do and how they make decisions. You can see it in the drivenness to be rich or beautiful or successful or the best. You can see it in addictions of many kinds.

There is no coincidence that the modern world of social media calls someone who keeps in close touch with a particular person, a follower. Everyone is drawn to be a follower of someone or something. God intended us to be followers of Jesus and for us then to bring others to follow him too. He said –

“Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Many people have found a way to satisfy the need to follow in other ways than Jesus. In ministry we can help the person to leave behind the false gods of the world and find Jesus – the only One to follow for a truly fulfilled life.

4.11

THE POWER OF SPEECH

We need to match our talk with our ministering – both need to be faith-filled. What we say is very powerful in the impact it has on both ourselves and other people. The impact can be for good. But it can also be for harm, even though that is not our intention.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit.
(Proverbs 18:21)*

Following ministry with negative talk, either immediately or at any other time, can negate its effectiveness, and will not honour God or what He wants to do. It will also limit faith in the people who hear us. Do not get drawn into speaking about the person's issue at a human level after you have ministered to them.

A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)

It is possible to limit what God can do by a person believing negative words spoken to them by someone else. This can be especially powerful when the person speaking is someone with human authority, such as a member of the medical profession giving a poor prognosis to a patient, or saying a condition is incurable. This will presumably be true from a scientific medical viewpoint, but we are allowing God into the person's situation and He has already completed the healing in the spiritual realm through the death and suffering of Jesus. So it is not true in the spiritual realm and does not have to be true in the physical.

You were healed by his wounds. (1 Peter 2:24b)

How we speak when we are not ministering, will determine whether we ourselves are in a position of genuine faith or not. We need to be people whose speech is based on the truth of God's Word, His revelation in Jesus, and His promises, not on our earthly understanding.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding.
(Proverbs 3:5)*

4.12

DIVINE PROTECTION

God has provided us with all the armour and weaponry of spiritual warfare we need. Satan does not have the power to do anything to us, unless we believe his deception and lies, so each part of the armour relates to our thinking.

God's Armour

We should be seeking to walk in faith and trusting God in every part of our life, wearing the armour He has given us all the time.

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.
(Ephesians 6:11-13)

This is not a matter of acting out putting armour on each day - a ritual cannot protect us. It is about the conscious knowledge and certainty of who we are in Jesus. For example, the helmet of salvation is about having the certain knowledge that we are saved, not about putting a helmet on. However, some people may find acting the process out helpful in reminding them of their true protection.

1. *Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist ...*
(Ephesians 6:14a)

The belt of truth involves surrounding every aspect of our life with God's truth, believing it, standing on it and living our lives with it as our foundation.

2. *... and having put on the breastplate of righteousness ...* (Ephesians 6:14b)

The breastplate of righteousness involves knowing that, as born-again believers, we are righteous in our spirits with the righteousness of Jesus. This determines our relationship with God and defends us against all accusations.

3. *... and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace ...*
(Ephesians 6:15)

When we recognise and believe that we have already received the gospel and therefore are at peace with God, we are ready for any battle that comes along.

4. *... above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.* (Ephesians 6:16)

Faith in God and all He has done for us through Jesus will extinguish every attack, because the One we have faith in has won the victory already.

5. *And take the helmet of salvation ...* (Ephesians 6:17a)

Our understanding of how Jesus has won our salvation and our belief in it with our minds will enable us to recognise and refute all of Satan's lies. All the different aspects of the armour refer to how we know and understand Jesus – He is the truth, only in Him are we righteous, it is His Gospel we share, our faith is in Him and what He has achieved on the Cross, our salvation is through Him. And He is also the Word, our weapon. We are protected as we allow Jesus to reign fully in us and as we seek to live for Him.

God's Weapon

6. ... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:17b)

God has given us a direct weapon – it is His Word, the Bible. When Satan was tempting Jesus, the only weapon Jesus used was God's Word. Ultimately, Satan cannot stand against it, as it is absolute truth and opposed to everything he is and does. When we declare the Word of God, using it as a weapon, we are assured of victory.

Praise and Worship

Satan hates to hear God praised and glorified. As we sing God's praises, he trembles. When under attack, it is very powerful to sing God's praises from our hearts, especially using Bible based songs.

Established and Protected

As we base our thinking and our lives on the truth and promises of God and on what Jesus has done for us on the Cross, God establishes us so we are set firm in Him. This gives us protection from Satan. The devil is looking for those he can devour. If we are established in God he cannot devour us. God protects us.

*But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
(2 Thessalonians 3:3)*

4.13

GROWTH

If a person just keeps drifting in their Christian life, they will not grow and will not have a sure foundation to stand on when troubles come along. We need to make sure that we are growing in Jesus if we want to see God's victory in our lives.

*Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
(2 Peter 1:2)*

It is as we grow in understanding of God and Jesus and experience them in relationship that grace and peace are multiplied.

Section Five

Foundational Teaching – The Enemy

See also –

2.3	We have been Given Authority	p.17
3.2	God does Good, Satan does Bad	p.22
3.4	Victory over the Devil	p.23

5.1

THE DEVIL

Who he is

The devil was originally an angel called Lucifer. God has so completely written free will into His creation, that even the angels were given it. God never wanted angels or people to be pre-programmed to love and obey him. He has always wanted a real relationship of love, which can only be achieved when both parties desire it. Free will is essential for this to be possible. But this allowed for the possibility of rebellion and in the Garden of Eden, Lucifer rebelled against God when he tried and succeeded in getting Adam and Eve to follow his directions and disobey God's. He was then able to usurp the authority God had given man and became the devil or Satan.

He persuaded other angles to rebel with him and they were all expelled from heaven. These fallen angels had offspring with human women on earth (Genesis 6:2). When these offspring died, their spirits became the demons which Satan still uses today to do his work. His overriding aim is to disrupt God's Kingdom and destroy the faith of individual Christians.

What he does

The names the Bible gives to Satan show us what he is like and how he works. He is called –

- *The accuser of our brothers (Revelation 12:10)*
He tries to accuse people to lead them into negative and damaging emotions, such as to guilt, shame, self-hate, bitterness, and anger.

- *A murderer from the beginning (John 8:44)*
He is against life in every way.
- *The tempter (Matthew 4:3)*
This is how he came against Jesus. He tries to make wrong things appear desirable.
- *The thief (John 10:10)*
He wants to steal anything he can from people – their health, prosperity, peaceful relationships especially within the family, their usefulness, their ability to relate to people, their experience of joy, peace, and above all their faith.
- *A liar, and the father of lies (John 8:44)*
Underlying everything Satan does are lies and deceit. They are always his starting point.

How he does it

He wants to cause as much disruption in people's lives as he can. He and his demons like to work in secret, and are quite happy if the person does not believe they exist. They also love people to fear them – it means that the person does not realise how insignificant a demon's power really is, and allows the demon to magnify itself in the person's thinking.

Demons can try to trouble, influence or control people either externally or internally.

5.2

SATAN HAS NO POWER BEYOND LIES AND DECEPTION

“The devil ... was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.” (John 8:44b)

The only power Satan really has against us is lies and deception – this is always his starting point. He does not have the power to just physically overcome us. In *Genesis 3* he did not come against Adam and Eve with physical force – he did not come as an elephant and threaten to squash them or as a lion and threaten to tear them apart. He came as a snake, so he could use cunning. He did not have any physical power to force them to sin, just deception. This is still the way he works today, lying to people so that when they become deceived he is able to take some control and cause problems in their lives. We are told to stand against his schemes – that is thought processes, not actions.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*

It is only as we believe the lies Satan feeds us and succumb to his deception that he is able to move against us. The armour God gives us to protect ourselves and defeat him is all effective against deception (see 'Divine Protection' in section 4.12 on p.59). God has given us the ability in Jesus to resist him. If we know the truth of God and the truth about Satan and his demons, stand on it and live it out, they cannot harm us.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

5.3

KEEPING SATAN IN PERSPECTIVE

... greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4b)

Christians often believe they are fighting a being with immense power. But Satan is a defeated enemy with very limited power, far less than we have as children of God. But it is important to acknowledge his existence and realise that he is at war with us. To live as though he is of no account, is as wrong as crediting him with more power than he has.

Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Satan is not really like a lion, but he pretends to be – he walks round like one to frighten people. He pretends he is like a physically powerful and violent animal in order to frighten and deceive people. Notice in this verse that Satan has to look for people he can attack or inhabit. He cannot ‘devour’ just anyone. Those who stand in the truth of Jesus are protected. His activities are not to be ignored, but to be dealt with in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, in the sure knowledge that he is an already defeated enemy. He cannot do anything to us unless we allow him.

Jesus commanded his disciples to go and heal the sick and cast out demons.

He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)

Do not look for demons in every ministry situation or presume that a demon is the cause of every problem. But be aware of the possibility and be willing to step out in faith and in obedience to Jesus. But remember – he is defeated and the power in us is far greater than the power he has. We have the power that raised Jesus from the dead living in us!

Section Six

How Jesus Healed and Delivered

Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness amongst the people. (Matthew 9:35)

6.1

THE PERFECT MODEL

It is essential to look at how Jesus healed people, so we can base our healing model on Him and not on our own ideas.

Jesus healed every single person who asked Him. He never turned anyone away. He never judged them to see if they were living a holy enough life to deserve healing. He never asked God if He wanted that person healed. He never told them the time was not right. He never said that God wanted to teach them something and when they had learnt it they would be healed. He never said sickness was a punishment. He did say it can sometimes come as a consequence of sin, but that is because sin gives Satan the opportunity to mess our lives up, not because God is punishing us.

Initiating Ministry or Not

Sometimes Jesus initiated ministry by approaching the person Himself, as in the case of the widow's dead son –

Now when he came near to the gate of the city, behold, one who was dead was carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said to her, "Don't cry." He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" He who was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. (Luke 7:12-15)

Be aware that God might prompt you to offer ministry to someone rather than wait for them to ask.

On other occasions the person or people approached Jesus and asked Him to heal them or someone else who was with them, as in the case of the two blind men –

As Jesus passed by from there, two blind men followed him, calling out and saying, "Have mercy on us, son of David!" When he had come into the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They told him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." Their eyes were opened. Jesus strictly commanded them, saying, "See that no one knows about this." (Matthew 9:27-30)

Compassion, not Sympathy

Jesus was moved to heal and deliver by compassion. The Bible tells us so often that He saw someone's plight and had compassion on them. Sometimes it says that as He looked out over huge crowds, He had compassion on everyone and healed them all. Jesus had such a desire to see people set free and restored. But it was not sympathy. Sympathy can work against healing. Saying things such as "poor you" and "what a shame" leave people where they are and actually confirms them in their situation. Jesus saw the need and grieved that the person was in such a state and then did something about it. He brought them out of it into healing and freedom. That is compassion. Make sure, when you react to what the person tells you, that you show love and compassion, rather than sympathy.

Seeing the Person as Healed

As Jesus ministered, He saw the person who was sick, as healed. God is described as being –
.. God, who gives life to the dead, and calls the things that are not, as though they were. (Romans 4:17b)

The occasion this is made clear is when He raises Jairus's daughter from the dead. He told the people who were mourning –

"Don't weep. She isn't dead, but sleeping." (Luke 8:52b)

This was not yet physically true, but Jesus saw her with the eyes of faith and visualised her alive.

Commanding an Action

Jesus often commanded someone who was physically disabled in some way, to do something that was medically impossible. For example, He said to a man who had been ill for 38 years and was unable to walk –

"Arise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately, the man was made well, and took up his mat and walked. (John 5:8b-9a)

He said to a man with a withered hand –

"Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out; and it was restored whole, just like the other. (Matthew 12:13b)

It was as the person obeyed the command that the healing came. They had responded in faith.

Laying Hands on the Person

Jesus often laid hands on people as He healed them. The people in the following example asked Jesus to lay hands on a man, so they must have known that this is what He often did.

They brought to him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech. They begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside from the multitude, privately, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat, and touched his tongue. Looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha!” that is, “Be opened!” Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was released, and he spoke clearly. (Mark 7:32-35)

Jesus said of people who would be His followers, and that includes us –

“... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:18b)

Instant or Gradual Healing

Almost every time Jesus ministered healing it came instantly or as soon as the person obeyed Him in something He told them to do. But once the healing was not instant. After Jesus had laid hands on a blind man, He asked him if he could now see. The man replied –

“I see men; for I see them like trees walking.” Then again he (Jesus) laid his hands on his eyes. He looked intently, and was restored, and saw everyone clearly. (Mark 8:24b-25)

The man’s sight was partly restored as Jesus ministered the first time, but not fully. He obviously could not see clearly. So Jesus ministered again.

It is good to ask someone if anything has happened after you have ministered to them. If not, do it again, just like Jesus did. But experience has shown us that many healings take place during the hours, days, weeks or months after ministry. Always encourage the person to expect healing and to stand firm in the truth that it is already won.

Giving Advice on Talking about the Healing or Not

Jesus quite often gave advice to the person about whether to tell others about their healing or not. When He gave this advice, He usually told the person not to say anything, as in the case of the blind man mentioned above, who was from Bethsaida. Jesus had already told His disciples that Bethsaida was a village of great sin and unbelief, so the first thing Jesus did was to take the man out of the village away from all the doubters and scoffers.

He came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to him, and begged him to touch him. He took hold of the blind man by the hand, and brought him out of the village. When he had spit on his eyes, and laid his hands on him, he asked him if he saw anything. He looked up, and said, “I see men; for I see them like trees walking.” Then again he laid his hands on his eyes. He looked intently, and was restored, and saw everyone clearly. He sent him away to his house, saying, “Don’t enter into the village, nor tell anyone in the village.” (Mark 8:22-26)

By telling him not to go back into the village, Jesus was protecting the man from coming up against unbelief which could undermine his faith.

But once, Jesus did instruct someone to tell others what had happened. After he had delivered the Gadarene man of demons He said to him –

“Go to your house, to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you.” He went his way, and began to proclaim in Decapolis how Jesus had done great things for him, and everyone marvelled.” (Mark 5:19b-20)

Jesus must have known that this man’s family and friends were open to believe what had happened. When the man told them about it they marvelled. The man’s faith would have been built up and his family and friends may have come to believe in Jesus.

We need to discern when we minister healing to someone whether it would be wise or not for them to talk about it to others. If you feel they need to be careful, explain to them why it could be a problem and suggest that they only share their healing with people who they know have faith for healing, at least for a while.

Long Distance Healing

Healing at a distance was not Jesus' normal practice. There is no record of Him ever commanding long distance healing for someone when He was alone or with His disciples, yet this is something that happens a lot in church circles.

There are just three instances in the Bible where Jesus did heal someone who was not actually with Him.

1. The nobleman's son

A nobleman came to Jesus and begged Him to come to his house to heal his dying son. Jesus spoke to him about faith and the man begged Him again. The way He did this must have shown Jesus that the man did have faith and He said to him –

“Go your way. Your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. (John 4:50b)

The father went home believing in what Jesus had done and when he got there he found his son miraculously healed. He asked when he had recovered – it was at exactly the moment that Jesus had told him that his son lived.

2. The Canaanite woman's daughter

Another time, a Canaanite woman came to Jesus and asked Him to deliver her daughter of severe demonization. After speaking with her, Jesus said –

“Woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you even as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that hour. (Matthew 15:28b)

3. The Roman centurion's servant

On a third occasion, a Roman centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant. In Matthew's gospel it says he came himself, but in Luke it says he asked some elders of the Jews to go to Jesus and ask Him to heal his servant for him. When someone sent a representative with authority to act for them, it was considered as though they were present themselves, which explains the difference in the accounts. But when Jesus came near to the centurion's house, he sent word that Jesus didn't need to come into his house because he knew Jesus had the authority to simply speak and it would be done.

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to those who followed, “Most certainly I tell you, I haven't found so great a faith, not even in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10)

He then said to the centurion through his representatives –

“Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed.” His servant was healed in that hour. (Matthew 8:13)

Common denominators

We can take three common denominators from these cases which can help us to discern when it is appropriate to command healing long distance.

- Jesus did not initiate any of these healings. In the three recorded cases all the healings resulted from someone approaching Jesus and asking Him to heal someone else in their household.
- In each case the person who approached Jesus was either someone closely connected to the ill or demonized person, or someone sent with authority to speak for them. And that person or their representative made direct contact with Jesus, speaking to Him face to face. In two cases this was someone who was part of the sick person's household, either a parent or a master. In the third, it was people bringing a message from the master of the sick person who he had given authority to speak for him.
- Jesus made it crystal clear in every case that the faith of the person's parent or master brought about the healing. Faith is essential as we have already seen. This means that you cannot just command healing for people at random. There has to be a faith input from the person who is sick or from a close representative.

What to do

When we hear of people who are suffering we have some choices. If it is possible, we can go and see them and minister to them in person if they are open to it, which is the ideal way forward.

Or, if we are not able to do that, we can write to them or email them and tell them the good news of what God has done for them and encourage them in faith to believe for healing. We can then ask God to send someone else to them who will minister to them.

We can phone them and talk to them about healing. Of course we have no model of healing on the phone in the Bible! But as we are in direct verbal communication with them, it would seem to me to be appropriate to command healing if the person has the faith, although obviously we cannot lay hands on them!

If we cannot make any connection with them, we can still ask God to send someone to them to tell them about the victory Jesus has won for them over sickness, and pray that the sick person may come to understand God's truth about healing. Ask God to send someone to them who will minister to them in Jesus' name.

If a person comes to you and asks you to pray for healing for someone else, think of the way Jesus went about this. Does the situation fit into the way He did long distance healing, regarding who the representative is and if they have faith for healing. If so, then command the healing. If not, explain to the person about Jesus' victory over sickness. If their faith rises, go ahead and command healing. If they still have doubt, pray that they will be able to tell the sick person what you have told them. Pray that the sick person may be open to hear what is said and will allow God to build them up in faith to be open to ministry and so receive their healing.

How Jesus Trained His Disciples

Jesus trained His disciples as they watched Him heal and deliver people. He talked to them about it and answered their questions. And when they were ready, He sent them out in twos to heal and deliver. He did not give them instructions to make contact with Him before they healed to make sure it was appropriate. He did not tell them to pray to God about it. He did not tell them to get prayer back-up. He simply said –

*“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.”
(Matthew 10:8)*

He told them to just do it, and that is what we as His disciples today need to do. Do not be tempted to wrap ministry up in religious talk or surround it with spiritual sounding qualifications. Unlike the people the disciples healed before the crucifixion, the person you are ministering to has already had their sickness healed spiritually. God has done it. You are just commanding what has already been done to manifest in their body.

6.2

THE JESUS MODEL OF 3 PARTS

Jesus did not take much time at all when He healed and delivered people. He was very direct and to the point. But it is helpful to divide the model He gives us into three separate sections to give us a framework in which to minister healing and deliverance.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

First Jesus established a relationship between the person and Himself. He would sometimes ask a relevant question about the person or their problem. Once He asked the sick person if they wanted to be healed (*John 5:6*). This may sound strange, but it is possible for someone to enjoy a life of sickness, being looked after and with a ready excuse to avoid anything they would rather not do. They may not really want to pick up normal life with its responsibilities.

Jesus often encouraged the person to have faith and believe.

By the end of part 1 He had the information He needed and the person was in a place where they were able to receive.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

As Jesus ministered, He no longer saw the person as sick or disabled. He visualised the person as they would be – healed.

Jesus allowed the Holy Spirit to work through Him, as He commanded healing and deliverance.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

Jesus often encouraged the person by telling them that their faith had healed them. Sometimes He gave a specific command and it was as they obeyed, that they were healed. Sometimes He gave some practical advice to help them go forward. Often He gave them advice about whether to talk about their healing to others or not.

6.3

THE EXAMPLE OF JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

We will look at the example of Jairus's' daughter being raised from the dead to see Jesus' model in action.

Jairus approaches Jesus and asks Him to heal his daughter.

Behold, a man named Jairus came. He was a ruler of the synagogue. He fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come into his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. (Luke 8:41-42a)

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

In part one, Jesus says He will go with Jairus, but as they are on the way, a report comes telling Jairus that his daughter has now died. Jesus reassures him and helps him to turn away from fear and despair and have faith.

While he still spoke, one from the ruler of the synagogue's house came, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Don't trouble the Teacher." But Jesus hearing it, answered him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be healed." (Luke 8:49-50)

Jesus goes to Jairus's house and chooses which disciples He will take in with Him, along with Jairus and his wife.

When he came to the house, he didn't allow anyone to enter in, except Peter, John, James, the father of the child, and her mother. (Luke 8:51)

He finds that the room where the girl is lying is full of people wailing with grief. Jesus does not see the girl as dead, but as asleep. He is seeing in faith what will be true. When He tells this to the mourners, they ridicule Him and He turns them all out to get rid of a negative atmosphere of unbelief.

All were weeping and mourning her, but he said, "Don't weep. She isn't dead, but sleeping." They were ridiculing him, knowing that she was dead. But he put them all outside ... (Luke 8:52-54a)

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

In part two, Jesus ministered simply and directly to the girl, commanding her to rise up. She came back to life and sat up straightaway.

... and taking her by the hand, he called, saying, "Child, arise!" Her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. (Luke 8:54b-55a)

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

In part three, Jesus gave advice about building up the girl's strength and also told Jairus and his wife not to tell anyone what had happened. When Jesus had arrived at the house, He had found a palpable amount of unbelief and He did not want the girl or her parents' faith in Him and what He had done to be undermined.

He commanded that something be given to her to eat. Her parents were amazed, but he commanded them to tell no one what had been done. (Luke 8:55b-56)

6.4

USING JESUS' 3 PART MODEL

How you can use Jesus' 3 part model is explained in 'Ministering Healing' in section 7.1 on p.73, and in 'Ministering Deliverance' in section 8.8 on p.91.

Section Seven

Ministering Healing

See also 'God Wants Us Well' in section 3.16 on p.39

Jesus said –

“These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
(Mark 16:17-18)

To see success in healing ministry it is essential that you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. This is the power that Jesus healed in. (See 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit' in section 3:12 on p.33)

7.1

PHYSICAL HEALING USING JESUS' 3 PART MODEL

We can have no better model than Jesus. Thinking of ministry as having three parts will give you a framework within which to minister to people. Every situation will be different of course. If you are ministering to someone you know well and whose problem you know all about and who has full understanding that their healing is already won, you will spend little time in part 1, and part 3 may just consist of praising God and encouraging the person in His love and all He has done for them. If you do not know the person and they do not have any understanding of how Jesus won the victory over sickness, you may spend quite a time in part 1 and also in part 3, making sure that they understand what has happened and how to walk forward in faith.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

Relate to the person in a way which shows them the love of Jesus and that you care for them and value them. Ask any questions that will help you as you minister. Discern what their attitude is towards their sickness. If you feel it is necessary, ask the person if they want to be healed.

Make sure they understand that their sickness is already defeated and discern if they have faith to receive healing. If necessary, explain to them how Jesus carried their sickness and disability so they would not have to. Tell them that he defeated all sickness on the Cross and that their healing is already won in the spiritual realm. Put it in words that they can understand. Make sure they know that God is a good God and that He has not sent the sickness or disability. Tell them that he loves them personally and unconditionally. Encourage them and build them up in faith.

Make sure that the place where you are ministering and any people around are not going to have a negative impact of unbelief on the person. If you think there may be an issue, either overtly or spiritually, move away and find a situation which is more conducive to faith.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, using the authority and gifts you have been given by Jesus to bring healing. As you minister, visualise the person healed and restored. Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

When you command healing, do it calmly but with a voice of authority. Be specific and address the sickness by name and command it to leave the person. Speak kindly to the person's body, giving it the good news of the Gospel – that Jesus has made it possible for it to be well and function perfectly. Command any damaged areas of the body to be healed.

If healing does not come instantly, command again as Jesus did. If it still does not come, you can agree with the person in Jesus' name that their healing has already been won and that it will manifest in their body.

You do not need to do any more than is necessary.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

Help the person to understand anything that God wants them to do as a result of the ministry, and encourage them to walk forward in faith.

Equip the person to be able to stand firm in the victory Jesus has won for them, rather than in repeated ministry sessions. Help the person to understand how to recognise the tactics Satan might use to undermine their faith in their healing. He will whisper things like – 'you aren't really healed', 'it will come back', 'you don't deserve to be healed' 'God will take your healing away as punishment', 'admit it, you're feeling ill again'. Explain how to resist him and his tactics.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Encourage the person to continue resisting any symptoms themselves, speaking out loud in the name of Jesus. Encourage the person to step out in faith in their healing, be it instant or gradual.

Offer any Godly advice that is necessary for them to walk in victory, including whether they should share what has happened with others or not. Telling them to be careful who they share with and explaining why it is important is a middle way forward if you are not sure.

Encourage the person and build them up in Jesus.

The Prayer of Agreement

In healing ministry it is really significant and very powerful to pray a prayer of agreement with someone else. If the person you are ministering to does not have the faith to believe that God will meet their need, you cannot ask them to agree with you. But if they do, thank God for all He has done and for all He has provided for them through Jesus and declare that you agree together that the healing is done and will be manifest in their body. Jesus said –

“Again, assuredly I tell you, that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19)

Use the ‘Physical Healing Model’ in section 12.4 on p.120.

7.2

HEALING OF THE MIND

There is a large tie-in here with right thinking (see ‘Right Thinking’ in section 4.4 on p.49). If we truly knew who we are in Jesus, we would never be depressed or at the mercy of our emotions (see ‘Knowing Who We are in Jesus’ in section 4.4 on p.50 and ‘Knowing God’s Promises’ in section 4.4 on p.52). As you read these verses again, apply them to yourself and you will start to understand what I mean. If you still cannot believe what I am saying, in your imagination apply them to someone else and you will not be able to imagine that person depressed or unstable. The truth is they do apply just as much to you, whatever your circumstances.

Our emotions and our mental state are closely linked and there can also be an overlap in this area with physical healing and/or demonic influence. For instance, depression is usually a reaction to something and its basis needs to be dealt with. This often involves healing in an emotional area. The problem could be the result of an inherited tendency, or of a traumatic event or a difficult period in the person’s life.

Stress also has its roots in emotions. It can arise as a result of factors in a person’s life which are beyond their control, or in physical, emotional or mental overload, or in the difficulty of making a big decision.

Ask God what the origin of the problem is so you can bring healing in the name of Jesus into the root first, and then the symptoms. Sometimes troubles of the mind can be due to spiritual attack or demonization. Be open to what God is telling you and approach the ministry appropriately.

Use the relevant model in section 12 –

12.4	Physical Healing Model	p.120
12.5	Emotional Healing Model	p.122
12.6	Spiritual Attack Model	p.124
12.7	Simple Deliverance Model	p.127
12.8	More Detailed Deliverance Model	p.128

Any healing will involve the person determining to believe God’s truth in His Word and not the way the world sees things, or the lies Satan whispers to them.

Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2a)

Once you have ministered into any areas which need healing, ask God to give the person wisdom as to how to deal with the life situation which has led them to this point, so they can move forward. Help them to stand on the verse below, believing that God will show them the way forward. Tell them to be patient and wait. If they continue to keep tossing everything around in their minds they will not be able to recognise God’s wisdom when He gives it.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. (James 1:5-6)

As always, minister God’s unconditional love to them and explain how they can keep their focus on Jesus through God’s Word and through praise and worship.

7.3

EMOTIONAL HEALING

Jesus said –

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me ... He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives ... to deliver those who are crushed.” (Luke 4:18)

Emotional healing often ties directly into healing of the mind and may also tie into a need for physical healing as people struggle to deal with ill health, or into a need for deliverance when a demon has latched onto their negative emotions and been able to torment them internally or externally. People need healing so they can function properly and be able to live happy, fulfilled lives. Uncontrolled laughter or sobbing can both indicate a need for emotional healing, but they can also be a response to God’s love and grace.

There can be many sources of negative emotions. They can arise as a result of something that happened many years ago, possibly in childhood. They can originate from more recent situations or from something that is going on in the present. Some of the possible causes include a traumatic event or difficult situation, the loss of a loved one, fear, the breakdown of a relationship, an over-sensitive imagination, conflict, being pressurised, an unrealistic expectation of other people and especially from hurts other people have inflicted. They can cause real problems if they are not resolved or if they build up over time. The effect of these will be different in different situations and different people.

The effect can show itself in such things as a sense of inferiority, anger, unreasonable fear, perfectionism, obsessive behaviour, depression, supersensitivity, an inability to trust others, an inability to form any meaningful relationship, an abusive attitude to others, or an inability to give or receive love or forgiveness. When negative emotions are left undealt with, people may find it hard or even impossible to love God and others or even themselves.

Sometimes people are well aware of how they are struggling emotionally. At other times they may have buried the hurt either consciously or subconsciously in an effort to stop the pain. But even hidden, it can have a negative effect. It can dictate the choices people make. For instance, if someone has experienced a lot of rejection and they are then invited to apply for a job which involves working closely with others, they may well refuse to avoid further hurt.

The negative emotions can start to draw together in the subconscious with other painful memories of the same kind. If someone has had a very fearful experience and not dealt with it, it can settle as a negative emotion inside. If something further happens which causes fear, the two memories can connect, which will make any further fearful experiences magnify as they build up. Fear can then become a dominant reaction in the person and start to affect everything they do and every decision they make. Satan will latch on to this and be able to whisper lies to make matters worse. If that person is faced with a situation which could make them feel fearful, Satan can remind them of the other experiences and magnify everything so they cannot face anything new.

The only thing which can get to the very root of the problem is healing through Jesus. Only in His name can the power of the negative emotions be completely broken. Once this is done the memories no longer have the ability to draw together and intensify each other. The person will still be able to remember the situation, but without the guilt and pain and fear.

And the only way for the healing to become permanent is for the person to understand and believe just how much God loves them and all He has done for them through Jesus, and start to base their thought lives and make their decisions according to God's truth and love. As they do this, they will then start to build up positive affirming emotions instead of negative ones. As the grip of the negative goes, the positive can take its place and they can increasingly base their thinking and emotions and decisions on the truth of God instead of on Satan's lies.

However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13a)

Emotional healing will loosen the hold of any demons attached to the memories and it will be much easier for them to be commanded to leave in Jesus' name.

Although it is not a biblical model, it can be helpful for the person to remember the particular event which caused hurt and invite Jesus to come into it. Often the person will find Jesus speaks to them in that memory or does something which helps them and starts the healing process.

It is very important to help the person to determine to walk free of hurt and base their thinking on God's truth and love rather than on their situation.

Be aware that emotional healing ministry can take some time.

Broken Relationships

He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

Often the need for emotional healing stems from problems within a relationship. It could be needed as a result of the nature of the relationship, or because of words, actions, betrayal or rejection. The first thing Satan achieved when he caused Adam and Eve to sin was to make

them fearful of God, and the second thing he did was to bring problems into their relationship with each other. When God asked Adam if he had eaten of the tree of life, Adam replied –

*“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”
(Genesis 3:12)*

Instead of taking responsibility for his part, Adam blamed Eve and even hinted that God was ultimately to blame by giving Eve to him! Ever since that day, Satan has been able to cause people to doubt God’s love and to bring mistrust and blame into relationships between men and women. This situation grieves God. And because of the fall, all other relationships have the potential to suffer too.

Satan wants people’s relationships to be hurtful and bitter – he knows what a powerful negative effect that has on them and on the church. And he will often try to make the person keep their hurts secret. At other times, someone may talk about the wrong they have suffered to everyone. Keeping it hidden can damage the person. Broadcasting it can damage the church. God wants to bring healing and peace instead of hurt.

Jesus spoke a lot about our attitudes to others. He gave just one new commandment –

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34)

Some people have great difficulty in giving and receiving love. It may be a deficiency in their make-up or it may be because they have been deeply hurt by someone. Or it can be because they feel that their own needs are not being met - that they are not understood, respected or appreciated. Healing restores the ability to give and receive love, so people can start to enjoy fulfilling and healthy relationships. The most important thing is that we allow Jesus to be Lord of all our relationships and seek Him for His wisdom and put it into practice.

It is only when we make our relationship with God and with Jesus our top priority that our other relationships can fall into their rightful place and work well. The most fulfilling marriage relationship can only happen when the couple put God and Jesus first, both individually and together, and put each other second. It sounds contradictory, but it is how we were designed to function.

As born-again Christians, we have a choice in our relationships. We can either try to work them out ourselves, or we can submit them to God and allow Him to lead us in them from the most intimate to the most casual. This will make our relationships well founded and we are less likely to be hurt by them.

Even if the other person hurts us, we can quickly forgive them and hand the hurt over to God and seek Him for the best way forward. The sooner we do this when things go wrong, the easier it will be. The longer we leave it, the more entrenched our hurt will be and the more likely we are to suffer emotionally. We obviously have responsibilities too within our relationships to make wise choices, behave as God wants us to behave, and live a life of giving and receiving forgiveness.

Even if the other person in the relationship will not acknowledge their shortcomings or participate in restoration, God can still heal our hurts.

If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. (Romans 12:18)

We need to remember that some relationships are unhealthy – full stop, and need to be discontinued. There are occasions when this is obvious, but sometimes God’s wisdom is needed to see the way forward. A middle ground approach could be – keeping contact but

reducing the frequency, or only meeting the other person in a public place such as a coffee shop. At other times, God may want the relationship to continue or even deepen.

Soul Ties

A soul tie is an unhealthy attachment to someone else at a spiritual level, for instance, between a manipulative, controlling parent and their adult child. We have the authority to break the soul tie in the name of Jesus. This is not saying that the person does not continue to love or care for the other person, but that the hold is broken. We do need to explain this to the person so they can go away knowing that they are free spiritually, even if the contact with the other person continues. In some situations, continuing to be in contact may not be wise. It is important to seek God’s guidance when the way forward is not clear.

Forgiveness

Some people have a huge problem with either forgiving others or receiving forgiveness from others or both. But forgiveness is at the heart of Christianity and it is essential for healing to take place. If the person is not willing to forgive, you cannot effectively proceed. It is also important to lead them to repent and receive their forgiveness for where they have contributed to the problem, or for where they have reacted negatively to what was done to them. They also need to be willing to receive forgiveness when it is offered to them by other people.

If the person refuses to forgive someone in their heart, the one they are actually hurting most is themselves. Unforgiveness leads to a root of bitterness inside, which can grow and greatly affect their whole life and even their personality. Its effect can be felt mentally, emotionally and physically. A phrase often heard is, “Why should I let him or her off the hook?” The truth is that the person who has caused the hurt is hooked onto the person who is hurting, and they need to be free of the weight of dragging them around everywhere they go. They have to forgive them before God and let them off the hook so they can be free themselves.

God wants us to be free. Forgiving is primarily for our own sake. If we wait to feel forgiveness we will never get there – Jesus commands us to get on and do it. The feelings can follow in time. We cannot wait to be healed before we forgive. Forgiving is often a vital step towards healing, not the other way round.

Use the ‘Emotional Healing Model’ in section 12.5 on p.122.

7.4

HEALING MINISTRY MODELS

There are 2 healing ministry models in section 12 –

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-------|
| 12.4 | Physical Healing Model | p.120 |
| 12.5 | Emotional Healing Model | p.122 |

Section Eight

Ministering Deliverance

... God anointed him (Jesus) with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)

To see success in deliverance ministry it is essential that you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. This is the power that Jesus used to heal. (See 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit' in section 3.12 on p.33 and the model for 'Leading Someone into Baptism in the Holy Spirit' in section 12.2 on p.118)

When you minister do not go looking for demons. Your focus needs to be on the victory Jesus has won for the person through His death and resurrection. However, we have to understand that Satan does exist and be able to recognize when a person is being influenced by demons.

There are two verses which I quote many times in this section. Make sure you understand them and can quote them as they are key to all deliverance ministry –

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

8.1

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS TO BUILD ON FOR DELIVERANCE

Jesus Has the Victory and So Do We

God gave authority over the earth to man. But he handed that authority to Satan when Adam and Eve succumbed to his wiles. Because God had given authority over the earth to man, He couldn't deny His integrity by denying His own word and just taking authority back to Himself.

I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered. (Psalm 89:34)

This is why Jesus had to come as a man. The authority man had yielded to the devil could only be won back by a man, for God to be true to what He had spoken in Genesis 1:26-30. So Jesus came as the Son of man as well as the Son of God.

*To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.
(1 John 3:8)*

And He did it 100% successfully –

Having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)

Jesus won the victory over Satan on the Cross and he is now a defeated foe. And through this victory, the authority that man had handed over to Satan in the Garden of Eden, was given back to man – to Jesus, the Son of man.

We have the Power and Authority to Deliver

And Jesus now shares that authority with us. As born-again believers who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, power and authority over Satan is now available to us.

He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them out to preach God's Kingdom and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)

Just before He was taken up into heaven, Jesus also described what all His followers would be able to do from then on, including deliverance.

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons. (Mark 16:17)

This includes you and me if you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. Choose to believe what Jesus says about you, not what you think about yourself or what you imagine others think about you.

God gave us the authority to resist the devil. He will not do it for us – it is us who have to do the resisting but we do it in the power of the name of Jesus. Don't pray asking God to stop demons. Take your authority for yourself or for someone you are ministering to, and you resist the demons as God has commanded you.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Be encouraged and minister deliverance in the authority and power Jesus has won for you. Do not be afraid of Satan – he is afraid of us!

(See 'We are Equipped' in section 2.3 on p.18)

The Person has to Cooperate

We have authority over demons, but not over other people. If they refuse to cooperate, then we will not be able to deliver them.

Satan has to Seek Who he may Devour

It is important to know and understand that Satan can't just devour anyone. He looks around to find people who are vulnerable to his lies and targets them.

Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Notice he walks around like a roaring lion. He isn't one – He doesn't have physical power. His starting point is always lies and deception and he can only influence those who allow him to do so.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Notice the first half of this verse – we have to be subject to God in order to be able to resist the devil. Keep yourself rooted in the truths of God, seek to live in the reality of your relationship with God through Jesus and refuse to fear. When this is your true desire, the Holy Spirit will help you. You can then know for certain that the devil can't devour you. Don't give him any room in your thought life – instead, concentrate on God's love for you and who you are in Jesus. And when confronted with demonic activity in ministry, again, refuse to fear. Satan's power is nothing compared to Jesus' power in you.

... greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4b)

Determine to minister in confidence knowing that Jesus has already won the victory over all Satan's works for you. Expect to see that victory and you will.

The Truth You Know Will Make You Free

Satan's main aim when he tries to influence a Christian is to challenge the Word and so make them doubt their faith. The more you take hold of the truth in the Bible, the stronger you will be to resist the enemy. Jesus said –

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

Notice it isn't the truth that will make you free, but the truth that you know. And it's not just an academic knowing, but a head understanding along with a heart believing. I have included a lot of foundational teaching in this manual with many Bible verses which will help you to know the truth.

Spend time reading them, declaring them out loud till they take root in your heart. The more you know God's truth, the weaker the hold any demon can have on you, be it from the outside or the inside. When people immerse themselves in the Word in this way, demons will eventually give up – they cannot fight the truth indefinitely. This is something which you can share with people who come for deliverance ministry to encourage and equip them.

*He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
(Psalm 107:20)*

While it may be appropriate to take that single opportunity to deliver someone there and then in the name of Jesus, also explain to them how they can keep hold of their freedom by 'knowing' the truth of all Jesus has done and won for them, and seeing themselves the way God sees them as His beloved child.

8.2

IS IT A DEMON?

Do not start a ministry time presuming that a demon is involved. Looking for demons in every situation is not healthy. A problem could just be the result of the person's own thinking or the impact of something that has happened to them.

However, sometimes it can be difficult to know if it is a demon at work or just the person's own thoughts or even if it is God. Test everything that is said and the way it is said by God's truth in His Word. If it contradicts the Word, you know it isn't God. Be aware that Satan will sometimes quote scripture in order to trick and deceive. Believe the Holy Spirit is going to show you what the root of the issue is through the Word. And remember – demons will always overplay their hand eventually and it will become obvious if they are the cause of a problem.

8.3

EXAMPLES OF DELIVERANCE IN THE BIBLE

General Accounts

There are general accounts of Jesus delivering people in the Bible, for example –

The report about him went out into all Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them. (Matthew 4:24)

He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons. (Mark 1:39)

The disciples also delivered people from demons.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" (Luke 10:17)

And after His ascension, His followers continued to do so.

For unclean spirits came out of many of those who had them. They came out, crying with a loud voice. (Acts 8:7)

Specific Accounts

I have found 8 specific accounts in the Bible of Jesus delivering someone or having done so.

A man in the Synagogue at Capernaum

Mark 1:21-28

Luke 4:33-37

A demon-possessed man who was blind and dumb

Matthew 12:22

The demon-possessed man from Gadarene

Matthew 8:28-34

Mark 5:1-17

Luke 8:27-39

The Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter

Matthew 15:21-28

Mark 7:24-30

A Demoniac Boy

Matthew 17:14-21

Mark 9:14-29

Luke 9:37-42

A dumb man possessed with a devil

Matthew 9:32-34

Luke 11:14

Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9

A woman with a spirit of infirmity

Luke 13:10-13

There is also a recorded case of Paul delivering an individual person.

The Slave girl at Philippi

Acts 16:16-18

8.4

DEMONS AT WORK

Satan cannot be in more than one place at a time, but he has an army of demons to do his work for him. They can influence and trouble people either externally or internally.

The following terms provide a framework for better understanding.

- “Spiritual attack”
This is when a person is being attacked externally by a demon. Paul talks of – *the fiery darts of the evil one. (Ephesians 6:16)*
- “Demonization”
I’m using this term to describe a situation where one or more demons live inside a person. The Bible refers to people as ‘having a demon’ or an ‘unclean spirit or being ‘possessed by a demon or demons’.

8.5

SPIRITUAL ATTACK

Satan wants to make life as difficult as possible for people and do all he can to thwart God’s purposes in and through them by attacking them externally. His primary purpose is to attack their faith in God’s Word. It is important to remember that his starting point is always lies and deception.

Attack through own Thoughts

Satan's attack always starts in the mind. He puts thoughts in a person's mind that are lies to try and knock them or others down, undermine their faith or tempt them to sin. The person has to take responsibility in dealing with these attacks. They need to recognize the lies and deception for what they are and make the decision to stand against Satan and what he is saying.

Attack through People

The attack may come through other people. It may come in the form of criticism, ridicule, anger, ostracism, intense opposition etc. If the person sees it for what it is, they are able to recognise the lies and deception and so deny Satan the opportunity to cause them problems. Forgiving the people through whom the attack has come is essential. Explain that the attack isn't from the person themselves, though it may seem so, but from Satan who is using that person for his own purposes. But wisdom is still needed in deciding if and how to relate to such a person in the future.

Strongholds

A stronghold is an area in a person's life where Satan has been able to gain some measure of control. It can be physical, for example, in the form of an addiction. It can be mental, for example, in the form of always viewing things from a negative standpoint. It can be emotional, for example, in the form of being crippled by fear in certain types of situations.

Strongholds can develop from major traumas. For instance, if someone is in a serious car crash, they may feel nervous about driving. They then have a near-miss and the fear increases. Eventually they are unable to drive and even go in a car. Satan has developed the stronghold of fear on the back of a traumatic event. Or, if someone is abused as a child, they may find it hard to trust anyone in a relationship as an adult. If their spouse then lets them down, the feelings can intensify and the person can be left unable to relate easily to anyone. Satan has developed a stronghold of distrust on the back of a negative experience in childhood.

A stronghold can also be established through the actions of a controlling figure or group. This can even happen in 'Christian' circles where a church's leadership assumes control over its members' lives. Or it can develop through fear of not going through the correct religious procedures which are expected by a particular church. Anything that puts religious practice above relationship with God is not Christianity – it is religion.

It can simply be the result of one bad choice after another until a hold is established. Or it can be as a result of someone giving excessive attention to a person or an activity or way of viewing things until that focus dominates every decision they make.

It is important to recognise Satan's tactics in order to be prepared to stand against strongholds. If something negative happens to us, we can refuse to listen to Satan's lies and deceptions and focus on God and His promise to bring us through healed and whole. We have the sword of the Word of God to stand against Satan, and the sooner we attack and resist him the easier it will be.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*

Many people do have strongholds in their life. We have to assure them that they can be broken and they can walk free. Jesus said that He came to –

“... proclaim release to the captives.” (Luke 4:18)

Victory and Freedom

The first step towards deliverance is realising that Satan is behind the problem. It is said that the first rule of battle is ‘know your enemy’. As soon as the person recognises Satan’s part in what is happening, they can start to resist him in the name of Jesus. If they delay, for instance staying with the temptation to sin, the battle becomes harder, but is always winnable. They need to focus on the goodness and power of God, verbally rebuke Satan and resist his flaming arrows in the name of Jesus.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Note that it is not only important to resist Satan, but there is a prerequisite. They have to be seeking to live their life submitted to God. He may not flee straight away – even Jesus was tempted three times before Satan gave up. Perseverance is essential.

Co-operation of the Person

Someone under attack must co-operate in finding freedom and staying free. They have to take responsibility for resisting further attacks by Satan. Help them to understand the vital need for resisting any temptation to think, speak or act in a way which furthers Satan’s cause, and for making a conscious decision to focus instead on God’s truth in His Word. Focusing on the truth of all Jesus has done and won for them will of itself set people free and keep them free. Note that it isn’t the truth that sets us free, but the truth we know.

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

It can take time but Satan will eventually give up. He is a defeated foe and he knows it.

Use the ‘Spiritual Attack Ministry Model’ in section 12.6 on p.124.

8.6

DEMONIZATION

The lists in this section have been compiled using information from other ministries.

Demons always want to live in a physical body which they can work through. Discerning the way of entry can help in deliverance ministry. If we believe the person we are ministering to has opened a door to Satan, willingly or otherwise, we do them no favours by ignoring the fact. People can be left bound mentally, emotionally and/or physically if we do not deal with the demon. But we must proceed gently with love for the person and under the Holy Spirit’s direction. Do not rely on human assumptions which could themselves damage the person.

It is often appropriate for any necessary emotional healing to be done first, which will weaken the hold any demon has, although sometimes it works easier the other way round.

Can a Christian Have a Demon?

Experience shows that the answer is definitely “Yes”. Often it is clinging on as a result of sin in a previous generation or from a situation the person was involved in, either willingly or unwillingly, before they were born-again. After conversion, the Holy Spirit comes to live in them; their old sin nature is done away with and is replaced by a new perfect spirit of righteousness which is sealed. A demon can then no longer have access to their spirit. Jesus –

*delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love,¹⁴ in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.
(Colossians 1:13-14)*

But a demon can still be attached to their soul (their mind, will and emotions) and continue to cause negative consequences in their life. A born-again Christian can still be living in darkness in their thinking if they don't renew their mind in the truth of God's Word. However, as they begin to understand God's truth and start to walk in it, demons often just fall away.

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

The work Jesus did on the Cross is finished, as He declared just before He died. There is nothing we can do to add to it, but we do need to take hold of the victory.

Also, if a Christian opens themselves up to Satan's influence after they are born-again, it is still possible for a demon to enter, but it can never get into their spirit or take complete control of them because they now belong to Jesus.

How Does a Demon Get In?

When there is a demon living inside someone, they have in some way opened a door which gave the demon opportunity to enter. This could be something the person has done or it could be a result of something done to them – Satan does not play fair.

Through our sin

When someone sins they give Satan an inroad into their life. Of course, none of us lives a perfect life and we should not live in fear every time we get something wrong. Sinning does not automatically mean someone has a demon. Satan knows those he can influence and gain entry to.

He does it through lies and deception. If the person yields to him by taking the lies on board, a demon is able to step further into their life. For instance, he may put temptation to sin in someone's path and then feed them lies such as – “No-one will ever know”, “It won't do you any harm”, “You'll enjoy it”, “No-one will get hurt”, “It will make you feel good” etc. As the person succumbs to the temptation and falls into sin, they give Satan further permission to affect them and if they continue in it, a demon may then enter the person.

Don't you know that when you present yourselves as servants and obey someone, you are the servants of whomever you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

There are some activities which are very likely to invite a demon in such as:

- Witchcraft
- Satanism
- Other occult practices such as séances, Ouija etc.

Other likely entry points include:

- Freemasonry and other secret societies
- Sexual immorality e.g. sex outside marriage, homosexual practice, adultery
- Addictions e.g. drugs, gambling, pornography

It is also healthy to stay away from alternative medical approaches or exercise regimes which have an origin in the occult or other religions such as:

- Reiki
- Acupuncture
- Reflexology
- Homeopathy
- Aromatherapy
- Tai Chi
- Yoga
- Martial arts

If you have been involved in these types of things, it doesn't automatically follow that you have a demon. Just confess to God and receive the forgiveness He's already won for you. And take hold of the authority Jesus has given you and use it in His name.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Decide now to stop these activities and walk away from them. Don't look back, but choose to focus instead on all Jesus has done and won for you and walk forward with Him.

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

Praise God for His truth and the freedom Jesus has won for you.

If you feel you do need help, then contact someone who you know has experience with deliverance and who you can trust. They should be able to help you themselves or direct you to a good ministry which can help you.

Through being sinned against

Satan does not play fair and a person can also be vulnerable if they are seriously sinned against such as abuse, serious manipulation or excessive control and domination. It is the person's reaction to what has been done to them that is spiritually significant. Harboring deep resentment, anger, hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness and seeing themselves as a victim or dirty will all give Satan a possible inroad into their life.

Through generational sin

Serious unrepented sin committed by a family member in a previous generation can cause problems in someone's life.

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me. (Exodus 20:5b)

However, born-again believers are redeemed from the curse of the law and so are able to use their God-given authority and walk free in the name of Jesus –

Christ 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." (Galatians 3:13)

Discernment

If you think that a demon is present but there is no obvious manifestation, you need God's discernment to confirm its presence. This is a gift of the Holy Spirit which we need to desire. The problem may not be demonic, but symptomatic of emotional, psychological or physiological problems, or it could be a combination. If you want to minister deliverance to people, it is important for you to desire the gift of distinguishing between spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10) in order to be more effective for God in people's lives.

God is a God of order, but where He comes up against a demon, the demon can create disorder as it tries to resist the Holy Spirit.

The following indications can help you recognise a demon's presence. The lists are compiled from the experience of various Christian ministries.

The eyes can often indicate a demon's presence

- Rolling back and fluttering
- Whole pupil disappearing
- Operating independently of each other
- Becoming very still and covered with 'film'
- Dilating so only the pupil is visible with no iris
- Pupil changing shape such as into a teardrop
- Iris changing colour

Some other signs

- Uncontrollable, intensive urges, attitudes or actions
- Violent impulses
- Mental obscenities, profanity
- Fearful, bizarre dreams
- Abnormal mental powers
- Compulsion to sin as a result of contact with a specific person or place
- Nervousness or sickness around a Spirit-filled believer
- Unreasonable rebellion against Christian spiritual authority
- A major personality change especially as a demon speaks or shouts through the person

More extreme manifestations

- Pronounced shaking and trembling – the person can sometimes be thrown to the floor by the force of the encounter.
- Bodily writhing and distortions
- Uncontrollable jumping up and down
- Violent convulsing movements
- Strange noises – such as hissing, roaring or barking
- Supernatural strength

Signs which may or may not indicate the presence of a demon

- Depression
- Unusually strong, persistent fears and doubts
- Continual, irremovable cloud of guilt or worthlessness
- Confusion, restlessness or agitation
- Extreme, medically undiagnosed fatigue or exhaustion

8.7

MINISTERING DELIVERANCE

Being Prepared for Deliverance Ministry

Often there is no opportunity to specifically prepare for deliverance ministry, as it can suddenly be needed quite unexpectedly. This means that it is important that we are always seeking to live in the relationship we have with Jesus and His Holy Spirit, basing our lives on God's truth. We need to know the Word of God, the Bible, so we have the weapon Jesus used against Satan ready for use. When tempted by the devil Jesus always stated "It is written ..." followed by the Word of God.

We can never be perfect of course and feeling unworthy or guilty, will not help in deliverance. Stand firm in your faith in Jesus and you can be assured that Satan is afraid of you.

Where it is possible, I recommend that you always do deliverance ministry with another person to help you.

Co-operation of the Person

As always, the co-operation of the person is essential in the process, and also in the cleaning up of their lives and deciding to seek to live in God's truth in the future.

Our Attitude is Significant

We should always deal with a person who has a demon with love and keep things simple. Our attitude makes a huge difference, not only in how safe the person feels, but also to the demons themselves. If you expect to have a battle you are far more likely to have one. Similarly, if you expect a victory, it will come.

How You Say What You Say

Praying to God about demons will not get rid of them. God has given us power and authority to deal with them. Address a demon or demons directly. Deliverance is not about saying the right words; it is about exercising authority which the demon recognises. It is not about long prayers – it is about being direct and to the point in the name of Jesus.

8.8

USING JESUS' 3 PART MODEL

We can have no better model than Jesus. Thinking of ministry as having three parts will give you a framework within which to minister to people. Every situation will be different of course. If you are ministering to someone you know well and whose problem you know all about and who has full understanding that Satan has been defeated, you will spend little time in part 1. If you do not know the person and they do not have any understanding of how Jesus won the victory over Satan, you may spend quite a time in part 1 and also in part 3, making sure that they understand what has happened and how to walk forward in faith.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

Relate to the person in a way which shows them the love of Jesus and also shows them that you care for them and value them.

Ask any questions that will help you as you minister. If you discern it is necessary, ask the person if they want to be delivered.

Make sure they understand that Satan is already defeated and, if necessary, explain to them how Jesus won the victory. Put it in words that they can understand. Make sure they know that God is a good God and that He has not sent the demon, tell them that He loves them personally and unconditionally. Encourage them and build them up in faith.

Make sure that the place where you are ministering and any people nearby are not going to have a negative impact of unbelief or fear. If you think there may be an issue, either overtly or spiritually, move away and find a situation which is more conducive to faith.

Always minister in love.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

Use the authority and gifts you have been given by Jesus to bring about deliverance. As you minister, visualise the person set free and restored.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus, calmly but with a voice of authority. Be specific and address the demon sternly, commanding it to leave the person.

You do not need to do any more than is necessary.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

Encourage the person and build them up in Jesus. Help them to understand anything that God wants them to do as a result of the ministry and encourage them to walk forward in faith.

Equip them to be able to stand firm in the victory Jesus has won for them, rather than in repeated ministry sessions.

Help the person to understand how to recognise the tactics Satan might use to undermine their faith in their deliverance. He will whisper things like – ‘nothing really happened’, ‘the demon didn’t go’, ‘it will come back’, ‘you don’t deserve to be free’. Explain to them how to resist him and his tactics.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Encourage the person to continue resisting any attacks themselves, commanding them to stop in the name of Jesus. Encourage the person to step out in faith in their deliverance. Encourage them to focus on who they are in Jesus rather than on demons. Build them up in the truth.

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

Offer any Godly advice that is necessary for them to walk in victory, including whether they should share what has happened with others or not. Explain why this is important. Telling them to be careful who they share with is a middle way forward if you are not sure.

Use the ‘Simple Deliverance Model’ in section 12.7 on p.127.

Do not get caught up in a lengthy prolonged session. If necessary, use the shutdown procedure below.

8.9

SHUTDOWN PROCEDURE

Satan always has to submit to the name of Jesus eventually. Sometimes this can take a while. If you feel you are getting tired or just making no headway, you can always shut things down until further ministry –

1. With a voice of authority, simply bind the demon(s) in Jesus' name and command them to stop all activity.
2. Encourage the person to open themselves up to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to fill them afresh.
3. Assure them of God's love personally for them and encourage them to live in their relationship with Him and trust Him for protection.
4. Tell them to focus on God and His victory through Jesus, not on demons. Give them Bible verses to speak out to help them in this. There are verses you can use at the back of the manual.
5. Encourage them to get in the Word and renew their mind in the truth.

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

8.10

WHAT TO DO IF THE DEMON PROVES STUBBORN

Do not allow yourself to be discouraged or fearful. Nothing can change the truth – speak it out.

Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4b)

"Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

If you are ministering to the person for a second time because the demon had not left, it is good for at least one or two people to minister with you. Someone with experience can be very helpful. Decide which of you will be the leader of the deliverance session.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus. Use calm authority with a commanding tone. There is no need to shout.

Demons can speak through the person. We need to be able to distinguish between when the person is speaking and the demon. Always treat the person gently and with love, while taking authority sternly over the demon in the name of Jesus. Do not be afraid of any noise and do not be thrown by any manifestation. The devil loves attention. Command it to be still and quiet in Jesus' name.

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” (Mark 1:25)

Our faith is in Jesus, His victory on the Cross and the promises of God – do not be afraid.

In deliverance ministry, we do not have to address a demon by name for it to leave. It is usually best not to get into conversation with it. However, sometimes knowing the demon’s name, e.g. Fear, can help. But remember, demons will lie if they possibly can. Only the name of Jesus will bring out the truth. Do not be deceived if the demon starts quoting the Bible.

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn’t confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. (1 John 4:2-3a)

There is evidence that speaking in tongues can help in deliverance. There is no record of Jesus laying hands on the person during deliverance.

Have this manual with you and work through each step of the ‘More Detailed Deliverance Model’ in section 12.8 on p.128. Explain to the person what you are doing and why. Ask them to cooperate with the process.

This ministry may take time. At any point, if you feel tired or out of your depth, go through the ‘Shutdown Procedure’ in section 12.9 on p.130. Do not be discouraged. If more ministry is needed, arrange to meet with the person again, if they are willing.

Your Unbelief

When a demon will not go, it may be because there is some level of unbelief about deliverance in us. When the disciples had failed to deliver a boy of a demon, they asked Jesus –

“Why weren’t we able to cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your unbelief. For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. But this kind doesn’t go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Matthew 17:19b-21) (underlining mine)

Jesus cannot have meant that it was the demon which would only come out by prayer and fasting. If it will not respond to the name of Jesus why on earth should it respond to our fasting. That would mean that something we do has a greater power than the name of Jesus. It would mean that what Jesus did on the Cross was not enough for this particular kind of demon. Jesus was referring to their unbelief.

Jesus had already made it very clear that when we command in the name of Jesus we have to believe in the power of God. For some reason, when the disciples saw this particular boy manifesting, unbelief came in and they were unable to cast the demon out. Jesus told them that this kind of unbelief could only be eradicated by prayer and fasting.

8.11

STILL A PROBLEM

There are Christian ministries which have a lot of experience in deliverance. You could recommend one to the person if necessary. Make sure you suggest one that is sound in its teaching, loving in its approach and which ministers in a way that will keep the person safe. Take advice if you are not sure.

8.12

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY MODELS

There are 4 models related to deliverance in section 12 –

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 12.6 | Spiritual Attack Ministry Model | p.124 |
| 12.7 | Simple Deliverance Model | p.127 |
| 12.8 | More Detailed Deliverance Model | p.128 |
| 12.9 | Shutdown Procedure | p.130 |

Section Nine

Good Practice

It is important to minister within a framework of good practice for the physical, emotional and mental safety and protection of yourself and of the people you minister to. In doing so, you also protect the reputation of God's church. Love and respect for the person you are ministering to will dictate a lot of good practice, but it is good to think about some specific things as well.

None of the following is written in stone. It is what my husband and I have found to work well as a result of our own experience in leading a church ministry team for seventeen years.

9.1

MINISTER ALONE OR WITH SOMEONE ELSE?

It is always ideal to minister with someone else. It protects you and provides accountability. However, ministry can often happen spontaneously between friends. Ministry from one trusted individual can be very special and helpful. If you are ministering by yourself, be particularly careful if the person is of the opposite sex and other people are not around. If you know that you are going to be doing some ministry which may not be straight forward, such as deliverance, it is wise to ask someone else along who you know has experience in that area.

9.2

STAND OR SIT?

We always trained our ministry team to stand to minister, as it helped the person to be open to God. When sitting, they can curl forwards and 'protect' themselves from what God wants to do and make it impossible for you to see their face. Of course, physical position is not of any importance to God – He looks on the heart. But it can give you an indication of how the person feels. Having ministered to many people, I no longer feel it is important whether you and the person sit or stand. I have seen some wonderful healing and deliverance happen to people while sitting.

If the person seems to be shielding themselves from God, talk to them about opening themselves up to Him. If standing will help them, ask them if they are happy to do so. Opening up physically may help them to do so internally as well. If the person says they want to stay seated, accept this and continue to help them to be open to God.

9.3

MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY

It is really important to keep everything that you hear in ministry confidential. If you start to tell others about the situation you are breaching the person's trust and it is not only your own reputation which is at stake if you talk about it, but also the reputation of God's people. I cannot emphasise this enough. Even if what you hear is common knowledge, do not initiate conversations about it with anyone else, unless you have the person's permission.

Child abuse or neglect has to be reported by law. If this is shared with you, gently explain to the person that you have to tell someone else. Talk to your church leadership to find out what you should do, but do not talk about it to anyone else. Although it is important to include this information, I have never known it to arise.

If you are faced with something which you feel you are unable to handle, again tell the person you would like to involve someone else with their permission. This would only be in an exceptional circumstance and not because of the 'normal' feeling of inadequacy. We are all inadequate in our own strength.

9.4

MOVING INTO MINISTRY

Sometimes a person will tell you very little and you may need to ask some questions to better understand their problem. At other times the person can spend too much time telling you about their need, going over and over it.

You have to know what the need is, but there comes a point when you need to move into ministry. If necessary, gently interrupt and explain that it is now time to bring it all before God.

9.5

TIME ALLOWANCE

Give all the time that is needed for God to minister, without keeping the person imprisoned in ministry. Do not pray long, wordy prayers, but keep listening to God for how He wants you to minister. Take authority in Jesus' name directly. Both Jesus and the disciples healed with just a few words in an apparently brief encounter.

9.6

EXPLAIN

If you are not sure if the person is used to being ministered to, explain what you are going to do and ask if they are happy about it. You do not want them worried about the fact that you have put your hand on their head. You want them to be looking to Jesus. Continue to explain what you are going to do throughout the ministry time.

9.7

TALK WITH THE PERSON

Whatever the person's understanding of ministry may be, talk with them before and during ministry, as appropriate. God may be speaking to them directly and they may be able to guide you in how He wants you to minister. And God may be leading you to ask certain questions. You will need to explain God's truth about their situation and build them up in faith. Even if they already know it, tell them again. It will confirm what they know and encourage their faith.

Do not be afraid of moving between ministry and dialogue. If what is happening is real, there is no need to be concerned about breaking an atmosphere. If it is a man-made atmosphere it is achieving nothing anyway. If it is of God, it will not be affected by relevant conversation.

As you talk use everyday language. Try not to use Christian jargon unless you are certain the person understands. Explain anything they do not understand. Always speak encouragingly and without manipulation.

9.8

DO NOT TURN THE FOCUS ONTO YOURSELF

When you are ministering, the focus must be God and on the person you are ministering to, not on yourself. When the person tells you about something that you have also gone through in your own life, it is tempting to tell your own story. Even in ordinary conversation, it can be very frustrating when you are sharing something with someone and they take over and tell their story. Of course there is a place for you to say how God has helped you in a similar situation, but keep it as brief as possible without going into details. When you have done so, tell them that you have mentioned it to encourage them, and make sure the focus is straight back on them.

9.9

EYES OPEN OR CLOSED?

It is good to keep your eyes open while praying for people, so that you can see any outward signs of God working within them. It is a privilege to see Him at work. When you see this, you can thank Him and work with Him. The person's facial expression may change and give a clear picture of their emotions and indicate the direction in which to take the ministry. If they start to silently cry, you need to know in order to put a tissue in their hand. Having your eyes open means you can be ready in case someone falls.

However, faith always needs to be involved in healing. If you are ministering to an obviously sick or damaged person, it can be helpful to close your eyes when you command healing in Jesus' name, so your faith for healing is not attacked by what you can see with your eyes. With your eyes closed you can visualize the person healed, set free and restored.

9.10

LAY HANDS ON

The Bible teaches to lay hands on people as you minister to them. As you do so, make contact, but never push them. If they fall, it must be God's doing, not yours.

When ministering for physical healing, it is good to lay hands on the affected part as there is a build-up of faith as the part is touched. But we need to know the person is comfortable with this. If you are not sure, ask them.

If the body part is personal, such as a breast, only lay hands on if you are the same sex as the person. In such a case, ask the person to cross their own hands over the part and place your hand on theirs. Explain this to them gently and ask if they are happy with it. If not, lay hands on their head or shoulder, but do not leave the person with the feeling that they have missed something – you are looking for them to have faith, not guilt.

9.11

BE SENSITIVE ABOUT PHYSICAL CONTACT

While it is biblical to lay hands on as you minister, be careful to not overdo the contact. Many people will welcome and respond to a hug, especially after ministry. Others may not.

Also, be careful that you do not get in the way of what God is doing. If the person is uncomfortable because you are stroking their arm, their focus will not be on God. Be especially careful if you are ministering to someone of the opposite sex.

9.12

BE PREPARED FOR THE PERSON TO FALL IN THE SPIRIT

If someone falls in the spirit, catch them if possible. Let them down gently and make sure they are comfortable and feel safe. If they do not understand what's happening, tell them that this is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Do not feel it is automatically necessary to pray out loud over them – they may need to have quiet so that God can talk to them. Listen for God to prompt you in what to do.

When they are ready to get up, help them and talk with them about what has happened if they are unsure. Ask them what God has been doing and thank Him with them or continue to minister in an appropriate way.

9.13

ALWAYS ENCOURAGE

Whatever happens when you minister, encourage the person's faith in what Jesus has done and encourage them to walk out in that faith. If you have commanded healing, encourage them to go forward knowing that it is already won in the spiritual realm and expecting it to manifest, whatever the doctor says.

Encourage them to keep their focus on Jesus and what He has done, rather than on their own experiences or the experience of others.

Section Ten

Understanding What is Happening

10.1

THE REAL ISSUE

Often we do not need to understand the reasons why someone has a particular difficulty. God just wants them set free and walking forward. Usually Jesus just healed people with no reference to the cause of the problem or anything else related to it, but occasionally He did help the person understand what had caused it and told them how to avoid it happening again in the future. Sometimes things are complicated and God wants to uncover the root cause so the person knows that there is healing, freedom and restoration at every level.

As you minister, ask God for discernment concerning the root of the problem which is being described to you. Things are not always as they seem. For instance, the person may want prayer for a physical problem, but the root cause may be an emotional one. We are complex beings and different aspects of our make-up all interact. This means that a physical problem can affect us emotionally, or an emotional problem can affect us mentally and physically. As the person tells you of their problem, be discerning whether there is something behind it which is the real issue and which needs dealing with first. Ask the person sensitively about any revelation God gives. Of course, many situations are straight forward.

If you have ministered into an area which was not what was originally requested by the person, make sure you do also minister into the area they first mentioned area as well.

10.2

WHEN THERE SEEMS TO BE A BLOCK

There are reasons why we do not see everyone who is ministered to healed or set free, but the problem is always to do with people, not God. The block can be in the person who is in need, but we can also cause blocks, as can the collective attitude of the local church or the church as a whole in our nation. The western church historically has lost its belief in miracles as a result of scientific thinking and reason at the expense of the truth of God.

But today, people are again becoming more open to spiritual realities which gives us an opportunity to lead them to faith in Jesus and the wholeness He has won for them on the Cross. While we need to recognise some of the wider reasons for people not being healed, we must not use these as an excuse for not believing for healing in individual cases.

The following blocks can stand in the way of the person being set free and receiving their healing. They can also stop the person from growing and maturing as a Christian.

Unbelief

Jesus said we only need faith the size of a mustard seed. So, presuming the person does have some faith, the question is not so much, 'Do they have enough faith?' but rather, 'Is there any unbelief in them alongside their faith?' Unbelief can exist alongside faith and it can cancel out the faith we have. The father of the boy with an evil spirit recognised this and said to Jesus –

"I believe. Help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24b)

Jesus said –

"Most certainly I tell you, if you have faith, and don't doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you told this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it would be done. All things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:21-22)

Unbelief can originate because of ignorance of God's truth, wrong teaching, or as a result of concentrating on the evidence before our eyes instead of on what God has promised and won for us. As soon as someone begins to entertain the idea that God is responsible for sickness in some way, they allow unbelief in.

We all have had doubts at some time. Doubting is wavering between faith and unbelief. If we listen to doubts for long enough, they will set in as unbelief. We must recognise doubting thoughts as soon as they come into our mind. Satan wants to keep us doubting, so we must resist Him with the Word of God and he will flee. It is essential that we believe in and trust God's Word, not our own understanding. Unbelief in us can limit what God wants to do through us.

Seek to discern if there is any unbelief in the person you are ministering to. Listen to them as they speak. What is in their heart will show itself in what they say or how they say it. Jesus said –

"... out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45b)

Even Jesus could not heal many people in His home town of Nazareth because of their unbelief.

He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people, and healed them. He marvelled because of their unbelief. (Mark 6:5-6a)

Talk to the person about any doubt and unbelief, and encourage them. Reaffirm them in the truth of God and of His desire for them to be whole. Use Scripture to build them up in God's faithful promises and all He has won for them on the Cross. Explain to them about resisting Satan's lies with the Word of God.

If the person is really struggling with this, it can help to start by ministering into what they can believe for. As they see the result, their faith will increase, their unbelief will diminish, and they will be able to believe for more.

Unrepented Sin

No-one is perfect and no-one can repent of every sin, as we all do and say and think things which we do not even realise are wrong at the time. Our salvation and God's love for us does not depend on us repenting of every sin.

But if you discern the person is consciously embracing some sinful attitude or habit or life style, gently explain to them that they need to confess, repent and receive the forgiveness Jesus won for them on the Cross. If they do not turn away from sin, it can become a block to their healing and freedom. It is helpful for them to pray aloud in repentance. We can then assure them of God's forgiveness.

Confess your offences to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16a)

Disobedience

Disobedience is refusing to live life God's way and persisting on living it our own way. God calls us to live holy lives.

.. it is written, "You shall be holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)

While none of us are perfect, our desire should increasingly be to live to please God, putting Him above all others, including husband or wife, children and parents. As we do this, these important relationships are able to fall into their right place and be healthier and more fulfilling as a result.

Living unholy lives does not change our relationship with God – we are still His loved child, but it gets in the way of our experiencing that relationship, and this can block His power working in us and through us. We need to make choices in our lives which promote holiness. We are then working with God, who is able to work within us to make us holy.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we would live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age. (Titus 2:11-12)

Disobedience to God and to His principles for living makes it easier for Satan to attack us in many ways. If you sense a person is living in disobedience to God and His ways, help them to understand this and to deal with it before God in repentance.

Unforgiveness

A very significant block, which is sometimes not recognised by the person as sin, is a state of unforgiveness towards someone else. They can feel they are justified in not forgiving because of their pain. But the teaching of Jesus is very clear – forgiveness is at the heart of Christianity. (see 'Forgiveness' in section 4.7 on p.56)

An Ungenerous Lifestyle

God is generous, but He works according to His kingdom principle of giving. If we want to receive from God we need to be generous too, in all areas of our life, including mercy, compassion, help, forgiveness and finance. Jesus said –

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

Lack of Love for God and for Others

We need to love God and put Him first in everything we do. And Jesus also taught that we should love others —

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

As we love others, we are loving God. Jesus said –

“Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Jesus perfectly demonstrated selfless love when He died on the Cross in our place. He also showed us the way of love and service during His earthly life. When He washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:3-17), He was willing to take the place of a servant in order to meet the needs of others. At the end of the passage Jesus gave the promise –

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (John 13:17)

The implication is that the converse is also true - that if we fail to live lives of love we will not know God’s blessing. He will not remove His blessings as a punishment, but we will not be in a place where we can receive them.

Demonic Activity

Any way in which someone has opened themselves up to demonic activity, will be a block to the fullness of what God wants to do in them and through them.

(see ‘Ministering Deliverance’ in section 8 on p.80)

Other Blocks

Other blocks include:

- Not having a relationship with Jesus
- Lack of thankfulness to God
- Ignorance
- False teaching and doctrine
- Wrong thinking
- Deception by others or by Satan’s lies
- Looking at the symptoms instead of God’s promises
- Failure to listen to God and His Word
- Lack of perseverance
- Self-neglect
- Self-abuse
- Gossiping

Blocks and Ministry

We do not want the person we are ministering to, to feel accused as we deal with any blocks they may have. Accusation is the work of Satan, not of God. Rather, we want the person to be drawn to repentance through the love of Jesus shown to them in us, so that they may know

the freedom of the forgiveness, healing and restoration which Jesus has won for them on the Cross.

... the goodness of God leads you to repentance. (Romans 2:4b)

If you fail to follow God's prompting to help the person deal with any blocks in their life, you are standing in the way of the blessings God has for them. Be courageous. Ministering is not about you and your self-consciousness or fear; it is about healing and freedom for the person and for the glory of God.

Possible Blocks in Yourself

We must be aware that there may be blocks in ourselves which get in the way of our own growth and healing and also get in the way of what God wants to do through us in ministry. As well as those mentioned above there could be a lack of understanding of the power or authority, or of the spiritual gifts God has given us or a lack of discernment. As people who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, we need to be fanning into flame the Spirit within us, continually asking God to fill us afresh, and building ourselves up in God's truths.

We have to face up to both our own responsibility and also recognise blocks in the people we minister to, in order to help them to find healing and freedom.

10.3

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

Different things can happen when the Holy Spirit touches someone and it is important to be sure that it is actually the Holy Spirit at work. Ask yourself if what is happening agrees with God's Word and if it gives glory to Jesus.

It is exciting to see the evidence of the Holy Spirit on the person, because then you can be sure that what is happening is nothing to do with you or any 'technique' but all about Him.

Sometimes there is no outward sign of the Holy Spirit, but this does not mean that He has not come. He may be working inside. Of course it is possible for the person to resist the touch of the Holy Spirit and so there is nothing to see. He always comes in response to an invitation, but will not push Himself upon someone where there is resistance. Jesus said –

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 11:13)

It is very easy to be distracted by what is happening before your eyes, and although you must be aware of and discerning about what you see, your focus must remain on God and what He is doing.

It is also very easy for the person to focus on their need. Help them to take their eyes off their problems and onto Jesus and all He has won for them through the Cross.

The important thing is to work in partnership with God. Be careful not to get in the way of what He wants to do by any human interpretations and ideas or simply by not listening to Him. The ministry time is not about you, or your experiences. It is about the person and God. If you

do not know what is going on, ask Him to show you.

We cannot categorise everything God does and we may not always understand. However, after years of experience, Christians have recognised some clues as to what God is doing when certain things happen. Some are listed below to help you as you seek to discern.

Gentle Signs

Some signs are quite subtle and can be seen as you invite the Holy Spirit to come on someone. They include –

- Change in breathing pattern, usually slower and deeper
- Fluttering of the eyelids
- Slight trembling
- A feeling of weight on the chest or heaviness in the air
- Gentle shaking and trembling can be associated with joy and peace, possibly accompanying empowering from the Holy Spirit.
- A change in expression as an emotion is released. This may be peace filling them or maybe God is putting His hand on some hurt or fear and tears start to fall.

More Pronounced Manifestations

A positive reaction to the Holy Spirit

Other signs can be more pronounced and may be a positive reaction to something specific the Holy Spirit is doing as in the following examples.

- Falling over – the power of the Holy Spirit can come upon a person so powerfully that they are unable to stand. Sometimes a person can feel weightless and ‘float’ to the floor. Or they may feel so heavy they cannot keep upright. Or they may lose the use of their legs to hold them up. The person may remain on the floor for a few seconds or for hours. As they have no strength of their own to depend on, God is able to speak and act without resistance. Profound spiritual changes can follow this happening. At other times, the person may simply feel blessed. (*Acts 9:3-4*)
- Prolonged and exuberant expressions of praise – this usually indicates a fresh anointing with the power of the Holy Spirit. It is often associated with receiving the gift of tongues and it often leads to a deeper level of prayer and Bible study. (*Acts 3:8-10*)

A negative reaction to the Holy Spirit

God is the God of peace and order, but as He comes against sin, hurt or demons, the process of bringing peace and order may involve disorder, as the person or demon resists what God wants to do. Such signs of resistance include –

- Pronounced shaking and trembling
- Bodily writhing and distortions
- Jumping up and down
- Violent convulsing movements
- Strange noises such as roaring or barking
- Supernatural strength

(see ‘Demonization’ in section 8.6 on p.86)

Reactions which can be positive or negative

Some signs appear to be able to be interpreted as positive or negative, such as –

- Laughter – this can continue for some time, even days periodically. It can indicate a need for emotional healing, but may be a response to experiencing God’s grace in a new way (*Genesis 21:6*).
- Similarly, sobbing may be prolonged and again could indicate a need for emotional healing. Or it may be a response to God’s holiness. It can also be a sign that God is calling a person to greater commitment in a particular area of service.

Pronounced physical manifestations are only usually seen when a profound healing or deliverance is taking place. They are not normally associated with healthy Christian lives.

No Manifestations

God is more concerned with the heart than with external actions. Often when we minister, nothing is seen to be happening, but God is still at work and the person can testify to this as time goes by.

Section Eleven

Setting up a Ministry Team

The suggestions in this section come from my own experience of setting up a ministry team in a local church and leading it along with my husband for 17 years. Some things have stayed the same from the beginning. Others are the result of adapting things as we learnt along the way. I am not suggesting that you automatically do things exactly the same way, but I hope our experience will help you to see what you need to think about and help you get started.

11.1

THE TEAM

Team Leadership

It is really important to have a team leader or leaders, so someone takes overall responsibility. The leader(s) can also make sure everything is organised in an orderly way which honours God and which makes it as easy as possible for members of the congregation to receive ministry.

Accountability

Accountability is very important for members of a ministry team. The nature of the work makes them potentially open to misrepresentation and it is also easy for them to simply do their own thing. Having accountability to the church leaders and the ministry team leadership ensures that the ministry is not open to abuse by either members of the team or by the people who come for ministry.

We always took names of people we were considering asking onto the team to the church leadership, before talking to the person. When we then invited the person to join the team they were encouraged by the fact that the church leaders supported them. Almost always the leadership was happy with the people we put forward, but very occasionally, someone knew of a reason why that person would not be appropriate for the team.

Training

We found training to be of huge importance. As a result of it, we could expect team members to be ministering from a biblical basis in the power of the Holy Spirit, taking authority in the name of Jesus and all within a framework of good practice. We did not expect anyone to operate as an individual with their own agenda. Of course everyone is at a different stage on their Christian journey, but, with training, our hope was that the people coming forward for ministry would not find a big difference in the way individual team members ministered.

I always took a new team member through the manual as initial training. The length of time this took varied according to the person or people involved. After a few sessions, we started them ministering on the team alongside an experienced team member. There is a limit to how much you can expect someone new to absorb theoretically. As we continued the training while they were ministering, it made it more relevant to them and gave them the opportunity to talk about how they had found the experience.

We also had whole team training sessions – usually three a year, when we would look at a specific aspect of ministry along with some practical exercises, a time to worship God and an opportunity for us, as leaders, to make sure the members were fed, encouraged and we trust, blessed. As we had two teams, one for the morning service and one for the evening, this was also a good opportunity for both teams to have fellowship together.

Training helps team members to understand God's power within them and how to use it. It gives confidence in using God's gifts and authority. And the practical things contribute to good practice, safeguarding the welfare of the people coming for ministry and making sure that what we do glorifies the name of Jesus.

When the ministry team members are authorised by and accountable to the church leadership and the ministry team leaders, and are also trained and committed to ministry, people should be able to come for ministry with confidence, trusting that they will be safe.

Building a Team

I suggest you do not put out a general appeal for team members unless you are very sure of your fellowship and their relationship with God. A lot of damage can be done by inappropriate people ministering in an unwise way. But do not go to the other extreme and become some sort of elite group. There may be people who do not have a deep understanding of Christianity but are sure of God's love for them and would soak up the training you give them and be greatly used by God. Equally there may be people with a vast knowledge of the Bible but who do not have a real relationship with God. Do not ask anyone who you feel could be on an ego-trip. On the other hand, you will find many people feel they are not worthy. Help them to understand that they cannot earn worthiness themselves – it is God who has made us worthy through Jesus.

Explain that it is not about what they have done or not done, but about what Jesus has done for them. Think about people who you know really love God, have a heart for others and who are respected by the fellowship.

You may feel it is important to have a cross-section of ages and both men and women on the team. While I understand the thinking, what really matters is that you have the people who God wants. If God wants all middle-aged women, then they are the ones to ask – God's wisdom is better than ours. They just need to be the ones God is calling. Pray about it and ask God to show you who He wants on the team.

Another approach is to offer a training course to anyone who is interested. You can do this with more confidence if your church has sound teaching and you know your fellowship well. But before you start, be aware that during the course you might discern that someone is inappropriate and that you will have to lovingly explain to them that you will not be asking them to minister. Some people will probably know themselves by the end of the course if it is not what God is calling them to do.

What to Expect of Team Members

We found it helpful to come up with a list of criteria which we, as a church, felt a team member should fulfil. This is the list we used. A team member should –

- be a born-again Christian, filled with the Holy Spirit, seeking to walk in faith and in obedience to Jesus.
- be in regular attendance at church and living within the fellowship of God's family.
- be seeking to grow in their relationship with God and Jesus.
- be open to receiving ministry for their own needs.
- accept and adhere to the teaching, principles and guidelines outlined in the manual.
- accept accountability to the church leadership and ministry team leaders.
- be committed to receiving initial and ongoing training.

We did not look on this as a rigid set of rules or expect everyone to follow them perfectly all the time. No-one is perfect. But it did help us as we as prayed about who to ask to join the team.

Minister in Pairs

When Jesus sent out His disciples to preach the Gospel and heal, He always sent them out in pairs. Ministering in pairs is good for accountability and for mutual support. It is also a protection for the team members and for the person being ministered to.

We always presented ministering in pairs as the best way, but allowed for ministering individually when it was needed because of numbers. However, we stipulated that no-one should minister by themselves to someone of the opposite sex. We also said that under-eighteens would always minister in partnership with another team member.

Support

We always made sure that every team member knew that they were not alone. Unexpected things can happen in a ministry situation and sometimes a team member can feel they do not know how to proceed. They could turn to the ministry co-ordinator (see below for details of the role), myself or my husband as team leaders, and in our church situation, the minister. This support helped the team to grow and also gave them confidence as they learnt to deal with different situations.

11.2

ORGANISATION

A Rota?

Some churches thrive on rotas while others try their best to avoid them. We have run the ministry team with and without a rota. In our situation we found that having a rota helped.

When we stopped the rota in response to requests from team members to do so, we had to trust that each team member would play their full part and that there would be enough team members available at each service. What happened was that some people offered themselves more than others and eventually most of the ministry was being done by relatively few people. We re-instated the rota system as we felt things were beginning to fall apart.

We organised the rota so that each team member was on duty once every three weeks on average. Sometimes someone could not make that commitment and we reduced the frequency for that person. Also, a team member may say they were willing to do more, in which case we increased their frequency. We also emphasised that every team member should be available at every service they attended if needed. Obviously we were sensitive to individual situations in this.

For each service there was a co-ordinator on the rota and as many couples of other team members as possible to minister. For us, this was either one or two couples at each service. Each team member took a turn at being the co-ordinator, although we did not put a new member down in that role until they felt confident to do it.

A Ministry Box

We found that a ministry box was really useful. In it were kept –

- a concordance
- notepad and pens
- copies of the current rotas
- 2 copies of the ministry manual
- leaflets to give away as appropriate, covering being born-again and being baptised in the Holy Spirit

Nowadays people are more likely to use their phones to find verses, but having a concordance is still a good idea. Even today, not everyone has a smart phone.

Bibles were always available in the church.

The box was kept in church in the area where ministry was offered, so the team members had access to it while they were ministering. It meant they could look up a verse easily and write it down to give to the person. They could also look up anything they needed in the manual if they were not sure how to proceed.

A Co-ordinator

This is a role that developed as time went on and which proved to be really helpful. Each service one of the team was designated as co-ordinator. That person does not minister themselves, but oversees the ministry as below –

- Prepares the ministry area
- Makes sure the ministry box is available
- Makes sure tissues are available
- Leads the prayer meeting beforehand.
- Writes down any words of knowledge from the prayer meeting and hands them to the service leader.
- Stands or sits near the ministry area to be aware of what is happening, but not too near to be intrusive.
- Brings in more team members during the ministry time as needed.
- If no extra team members are available, arranges one to one ministry ensuring it is same sex.
- Remains in church until all ministry has ended.
- Is prepared for the ministering team members to come to them for help. The co-ordinator should also know that he or she can go to the ministry team leader(s) for help, and whether there are any other church leaders they can approach, such as a pastor, minister or vicar.

11.3

BEING PREPARED

When?

This is something which you will need to talk about with your church leadership. For us, the morning ministry started as soon as the morning service was over, while the evening ministry started during the final worship songs of the service.

Where?

Again, discuss this with your church leaders. We always held ministry within the church itself, but you may feel it would be better in a separate room. Our thinking was that we were more accountable and more protected by ministering where other people were about. We also believed it made it easier for people to approach us. We tried various places in the church – the front, the back and the side. We settled on the side where there was a space with no permanent seating.

Prepare the Area

We made it part of the co-ordinator's role to make sure the area in which ministry took place was ready before the service started. Chairs were arranged appropriately. Sometimes other people would gather there, but when we explained that the space was needed for ministry they would move somewhere else to talk. People are almost always happy to move if you explain and ask them lovingly so as not to make them feel rejected in any way.

Provide Tissues

The co-ordinator would also make sure tissues were available in the ministry area. We found this to be essential so that a team member could put a tissue in the person's hand if they started to cry. The person will be able to concentrate on what God is doing much better if they do not have to worry about a runny nose.

Prayer Meeting

The people on the rota for a given service met beforehand to pray together. The co-ordinator for that service led the meeting. This prayer time was open to all the team, but we found that almost always, only those on the rota for that service attended.

As you pray, you do not need to beg God to act in ministry. God wants people's problems sorted even more than they do and He has already done everything that is necessary through Jesus's death. Instead, praise Him for all He has done and for His heart of love for everyone who will be at the service. Ask God to open up people's minds and hearts to what He wants to do in their lives and pray that they may be willing to come for ministry and receive all that He has for them.

Words of Knowledge

During the prayer meeting, God may give a team member a word of knowledge. Words of knowledge are one of God's ways of attracting the attention of one or more people in the congregation and letting them know He wants to touch their lives at that time. The word of knowledge may come as a Bible reference or verse, a single word, a short phrase, or a mental picture. God may put a temporary pain or sensation in the body of a ministry team member which corresponds to something being suffered by a member of the congregation.

The co-ordinator wrote the words of knowledge down and handed them to the person leading the service to speak out just before ministry started.

Sometimes only the person it refers to understands the word of knowledge. At other times the word of knowledge may be understood by everyone, but the person God is talking to will know it is personal for them at that time. The word of knowledge may be for the fellowship as a whole, although individual people may also feel they need to respond.

If you are faithful and pass the words of knowledge on to the congregation, it is then up to the person God is calling to decide to come forward. Our experience shows that not all words of knowledge which we have given out have been responded to, but many have, including some unusual ones. If no-one comes forward following a word of knowledge, then it was either not of God or the person refused to respond. We do not need to worry if it is not of God. It is more important that we do give out the ones from God and have one or two which were just imagined, than fail to give out those from God. Obviously the number of words of knowledge given out in any one service should not run to extremes.

11.4

THE MINISTRY TIME

Getting Started

If a member of the congregation starts a conversation with you while you are waiting for someone to come for ministry, gently explain what you are doing and tell them you can talk to them later.

Sharing the Responsibility

We didn't suggest that one person should take the lead in a ministry situation, except when one person was a new team member. Our experience showed that two team members would minister in partnership, each contributing what God had given them.

In a deliverance situation however, it may be helpful for one person to lead the ministry with the support of the other. If you know this is what you are going to be doing, then you can discuss and pray about this beforehand.

Being Welcoming

Always seek a relaxed atmosphere in which people can easily come forward. While waiting for someone to come for ministry, make sure you stand or sit in a way which enables the person to easily come to you. If you are sitting, leave a chair between you. As you wait, be careful about the signals you are giving out to anyone trying to make their mind up about whether to come for ministry or not. If you appear to be having a deep conversation together, they may not feel able to interrupt to ask for ministry. If you are worshipping while waiting, keep your eyes open.

We asked the team members not to chat to each other straight after the person has left ministry – it is very easy for them to think you are talking about them or what they have shared.

Being Wholly Available

When waiting for people to come forward, do not minister to each other as you are there at that time wholly to serve others. If you are in need of personal ministry yourself, ask for prayer when you are sure no-one else is going to come forward.

Similarly, do not pray together for someone who is absent. Be totally available to those who are present. Pray for the absent person when you are sure no-one else is going to come forward.

Ending the Ministry Time

Sometimes people will remain with you after ministry for a long time, just being still and quiet with their eyes closed. When you feel the time is right, gently ask them to continue soaking in God's presence as they go back to their seat and sit by themselves. You will then be available for someone else to come for ministry.

We asked the team members on duty to continue to wait after the service until they were sure no-one else was going to come forward and the co-ordinator agreed they were free to go.

11.5

FOLLOW-UP

We did not expect team members to do any follow-up, although occasionally it was obviously needed and the people ministering would then make arrangements to meet up with the person at another time. However, you may also want to make your ministry team officially available at times other than during the church services.

Section Twelve

Models for Ministry

LIST OF MODELS

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12.1

LEADING SOMEONE INTO SALVATION

Being born-again isn't about confessing your sins and repenting and then asking God to come into your life. This is something that many Christian circles teach and I had this process in the original edition of this manual. But see what the Bible says we need to do in order to be saved.

... if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed." (Romans 10:9-11)

Repentance is important and we all need to know that we aren't perfect and that we can't save ourselves.

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

But this isn't what saves someone. Salvation comes from believing that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and God raised Him from the dead and He is now alive for evermore. And believing isn't enough – we also have to declare it out loud.

You may need to explain what Jesus has done for the person by dying for them in order for them to be able to make this declaration. But they do not need to confess their sins or ask Jesus into their life. The above verses from Romans assures us that when we do what it says, we will not be disappointed. They will indeed be born-again: God has given them a new spirit and Jesus has come to live in them.

Make sure the person understands all of this and, if necessary, ask them to repeat the declaration line by line after you. But remember, what matters is that they believe it in their heart and they speak it aloud. The Bible tells us that they are then saved.

Explain, Reassure and Encourage

Explain to them and assure them that –

- they are forgiven –

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

- they are now born again regardless of how they feel. There may have been a real sense of God touching them or they may have felt nothing. Assure them that the feelings are unimportant. What matters is that they have been sincere and believed God's Word and His promises.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. (1 John 4:15)

- the Holy Spirit now lives in them –

Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

- they are now a new creation in their spirit –

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- God is faithful – He will always be with them. He has promised –

“I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5b)

Make sure they understand all this. Reassure them if necessary and encourage them in it.

12.2

LEADING SOMEONE INTO BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

If the person does not know how to pray themselves or lacks the confidence, ask them to repeat a prayer after you line by line. What matters is that they mean it from their heart. It is important that they speak it aloud though.

Before you start, explain what each section means as below.

1. Acknowledge

Help them to acknowledge that –

- They have no power of themselves.
- They need God’s power to be able to serve Him.
- God has the power to give them through His Holy Spirit.
- God wants to give it to them.

2. Ask

Help them to ask God for the fullness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

3. Accept

Help them to accept and receive the baptism in faith.

Lay hands on them and, in the name of Jesus, declare that they are baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Explain, Reassure and Encourage

Explain to them and assure them about the following points –

- Living by faith, not feelings – Tell the person not to rely on their feelings. Being baptised in the Holy Spirit may be a wonderful emotional experience or the person may feel nothing at first. God is faithful and if they have sincerely opened themselves up to the Holy Spirit, the proof of something life-changing having taken place will be shown in the days and years ahead.
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit – God will have given the person gifts of His Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 12:7-11*). Talk to them about the gifts and encourage the person to desire them (see ‘Gifts of the Spirit’ in section 3.12 on p.34).

12.3

GENERAL MINISTRY MODEL

This model is quite detailed, attempting to cover many different eventualities. It is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through, you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. If necessary, **introduce yourself** and ask the person's name.
2. **Ask them** what they need ministry for.
3. **Listen to** the answer and to the Holy Spirit.
4. **Ask** any further relevant questions.
5. Explain to them any **foundational teaching** which is relevant and encourage them to take it on board and stand on it. Make sure they understand the central ministry truths of '**God is Not to Blame**', '**Spirit Soul and Body**', '**It is Already Yours**' and '**Faith**' (see 'Central Truths For All Ministry' in section 1.2 on p.10).
6. Encourage **faith** in the person to believe God is at work.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

7. **Talk with the person throughout** as you feel appropriate.
8. **If you are not sure how to proceed, tell** the person that you are going to invite the Holy Spirit to come and then you will be quiet for a while. **Wait and watch for signs of the Holy Spirit.**
9. **Discern** what God wants you to say or do. Expect to receive **revelation** from Him and **minister** as appropriate.
10. If there is any need for **confession** and the receiving or giving of **forgiveness**, help the person in this.
11. **Lay hands** on gently.
12. As you minister, **visualise the person's problem resolved and them set free, healed and restored.**

13. **Take authority in the name of Jesus** over any sickness.
14. **Ask the person** if anything is happening or if any thoughts have come into their head.
15. **Tell them** anything God seems to be asking you to tell them. If it is not something directly from the Bible, ask them if it makes sense or feels right.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

16. **Encourage** the person in faith and assure them of God's love and faithfulness.
17. Talk to them about **anything God wants them to do** following ministry. This may be a specific action that is needed or simply to determine to walk forward in faith from that time.
18. If you discern it is necessary, tell the person to be **careful about who they talk to about their healing**. Some people may be surrounded by people of unbelief and it would be better for them not to talk about it, at least at first, so their faith does not get undermined.
19. Explain to them the power of God's Word. Always give the person a **Bible verse** to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.
"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)
20. Ask the **Holy Spirit to fill** the person.
21. Conclude by **thanking and praising God**.

12.4

PHYSICAL HEALING MODEL

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

Use this model within the context of the General Ministry Model in section 12.3 on p.119.

This model is quite detailed, attempting to cover many different eventualities. It is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through, you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. Explain to the person that Jesus has already won their healing on **the Cross** and that **God wants them well**.
2. If necessary, help them, before God, to deal with **any negativity** they have entertained about the problem, either in their own thoughts or through words spoken to them by others, including the medical profession. Help them to understand that it is Satan's work to feed doubts and lies into their minds. Speak God's truth to them instead.
3. Look for and encourage **faith** for healing in the person.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

4. **Thank God** for healing them through the Cross.
You were healed by his wounds. (1 Peter 2:24)
5. As you minister, **visualise the person healed and restored**.
6. **Command healing in Jesus' name**. Be specific and address the problem by its name. Command any disease germ or virus to die. Command any condition such as cancer or arthritis to die and leave the person. Do not shout, but use an authoritative tone of voice.
7. Speak gently to the affected part of the body and tell it the good news of what Jesus has done for it. **Speak restoration** in Jesus' name.
8. If healing is not obviously manifest, seek to discern if there is **any block to healing**, and if so, help the person deal with it before God (see 'When There Seems to be a Block' in section 10.2 on p.101). If you feel the block has been dealt with, command healing again in the name of Jesus. If the healing has still not manifest, reassure them of God's love and encourage them to continue in faith and watch for the healing. Use the word 'watch' rather than 'wait' as it carries more expectancy. Encourage them to have further ministry if needed.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

9. **Agree** with the person in Jesus' name, that their healing has already been won by Jesus and that if it has not already manifested in their body, it will do so.
10. Encourage the person who is healed or in whom the healing process has obviously begun to **walk forward** in healing, holding onto God's promises and Jesus' finished work on the Cross, and to continue resisting illness in the name of Jesus.

11. Explain that they need to **be wise** about who they share the news of their healing with, at least at first, so their faith is not undermined.
12. Explain to them the power of God's Word. Always give the person a **Bible verse** to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.
"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)
13. Help the person to decide to seek to **walk forward in faith**, putting it into action in the way they think, speak and act, and refusing to listen to the devil's lies and deceptions.

12.5

EMOTIONAL HEALING MODEL

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

Use this model within the context of the General Ministry Model in section 12.3 on p.119.

This model is quite detailed, attempting to cover many different eventualities. It is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. As you listen to what the person tells you, allow the Holy Spirit to show you what **the negative emotions** are and how they came to be there.
2. Explain to the person that **God loves them** totally and unconditionally, and that He wants them to be free of negative emotions and able to live their lives happily and fruitfully.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me ... He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives ... to deliver those who are crushed." (Luke 4:18)

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

3. If the person does not know why they feel the way they do, invite the Holy Spirit to come and show them what **the root cause** is.
4. As you minister, **visualise the person set free, healed and restored**.
5. It does not help to pretend there is no pain, when there is. Help them to be specific about hurts they have inflicted or received, but do not let them dwell on this. God can heal as **things are brought into the light**.
6. Help them to **acknowledge** where they were in the wrong. Guide them in any repentance needed on their part and help them to receive the forgiveness which Jesus won for them on the Cross.
7. Help them to **forgive** anybody who has contributed to their need for healing. This may have to involve their talking to that person, but this is not always necessary – it is a change of heart attitude that God is looking for. If they are willing, help them to pray prayers of forgiveness, preferably aloud. You are then a witness to which will help them.
8. Sometimes you may need to **take authority** over generational sin or break soul ties (see 'Through generational sin' in section 8.6 on p.89 and 'Soul Ties' in section 7.3 on p.79).
9. If you **discern any demons**, follow the 'Simple Deliverance Model' in section 12.7 on p.127.
10. Help them to **hand the situation and the emotions over to Jesus**. It is best if they will do this out loud. If it is too difficult for them, ask them to repeat a prayer after you line by line. What matters is that they genuinely do this.
11. Help them to make the decision to **stop complaining** about the relationship to others.
12. Invite the **Holy Spirit to minister** to them. Leave time for Him to speak or show them a picture which will help them believe for their healing.
13. Ask them if they are aware of anything God has said or shown them and **follow up on it** with appropriate ministry if necessary. God may have spoken directly to them and brought all the healing that is needed.
14. If a relationship is involved, help them to **surrender their own strategies for it to God**, and ask Him for wisdom about if or how they continue in contact with the other person.
15. Sometimes the person may have to **go to the other person** in the relationship to put it right. This will need wisdom and courage. Ask God for both of these for the person, and stand against fear in Jesus' Name.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

16. If you believe that the **healing work is completed**, ask the Holy Spirit to fill the person afresh and seal what has been done.
17. If you believe **more ministry is needed**, still pray protection over the person and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to work in bringing healing. Offer to meet with the person again.
18. Help the person to decide to walk forward in faith in **the truth of God's love - basing their thinking on His Word** and putting that faith into action in the way they think, speak, act and react. Make sure that they understand that if they do this, they are not at risk of negative emotions. Also, prepare them for what to do if they do experience a negative emotion, by telling them to instantly refuse it in Jesus' name and turn their mind to God's truth of love and affirmation.

*Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.
(Romans 12:2)*

19. Explain to them the power of God's Word. Always give the person a **Bible verse** to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

20. Minister **the love of God** to them and rejoice with them that Satan is a defeated enemy and that his hold is broken in Jesus' name.

12.6

SPIRITUAL ATTACK MINISTRY MODEL

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

Use this model within the context of the General Ministry Model in section 12.3 on p.119.

This model is quite detailed, attempting to cover many different eventualities. It is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through, you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. If the person is not born-again, first lead them to **salvation** if they are willing.
2. Explain to the person, in a way they can handle, **what spiritual attack is** and how Satan uses lies and deception.
3. Assure them of **Jesus' complete victory** over Satan through His blood shed on the Cross.

Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

4. Assure them of **their safety in God** as a born-again believer.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from God's love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

5. Discern whether there are any **other factors** involved, such as –
 - A need for emotional or physical healing
 - Sin
 - A soul tie – an unhealthy connection with another person which controls at a spiritual level
 - A stronghold – an area in the person's life, be it physical, mental or emotional, where Satan has been able to gain some measure of control

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

6. As you minister, **visualise** the person set free and restored.
7. Use **the Word of God** as a weapon.
8. **If appropriate** –
 - Use the 'Physical Healing Model' in section 12.4 on p.120. and/or the 'Emotional Healing Model' in section 12.5 on p.122.
 - Help the person **to repent** of any sin and receive the forgiveness Jesus won for them on the Cross.
 - Help them **to forgive** someone with whom they have a soul tie. Take authority and cut them off from the person on a spiritual level in the name of Jesus. Also help them to forgive someone whose actions have contributed to the spiritual attack.

- Help the person to repent of any door they opened which enabled a **stronghold** to take root, or to forgive anyone whose actions started the stronghold to develop. Take authority over it in the name of Jesus, breaking its power and its hold over the person.
9. **Address Satan** with authority and command him to cease his attacks and leave the person in the name of Jesus.
 10. **Lay hands on** them and ask God to fill them with His Holy Spirit.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

11. Explain the responsibility they need to take themselves in dealing with further attacks, by resisting Satan as soon as they recognise what he is doing.
12. If sin or temptation has been the problem, encourage them **to recognise temptation** as soon as it comes and resist it in the name of Jesus. Help them to determine not to think, speak or act sinfully or in a faith-less way, but to resist Satan and choose the way of the Spirit, living in faith in God's truth and love. They cannot be perfect of course, but God will help them as they desire to focus their mind and heart on Jesus.

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)
13. Help them to understand that **they are protected** as they stand in the truth of God and walk in the light. Refer to the armour of God (*Ephesians 6:10-18*) (see 'Divine Protection' in section 4.12 on p.59).
14. Ask the Holy Spirit to **fill them afresh**.
15. Make sure **their focus** is now turned away from the demonic and **on to God** and all He has done for them through Jesus.
16. Explain to them **the power of God's Word**. Always give the person a Bible verse to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.
17. Minister **God's love and peace** to the person and assure them again of God's forgiveness and love for them. Help them to go away confident in what Jesus has done.

12.7

SIMPLE DELIVERANCE MODEL

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

Use this model within the context of the General Ministry Model in section 12.3 on p.119.

This model is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through, you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. If a demon starts to manifest, **command it to be silent** in the name of Jesus.
2. If you discern that a demon is present, whether it is manifesting or not, **explain what is happening** to the person in a way they can handle.

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

3. As you minister, **visualise** the person set free and restored.
4. Using an authoritative tone, **command the demon** to leave the person in the name of Jesus. You do not need to shout, but the demon needs to be able to hear you and recognise that you have authority and expect obedience.

Sometimes a demon will leave silently, at other times it may leave with a shriek, or through coughing or retching. Sometimes it leaves as the person is physically sick. When the demon has gone, any manifestation will cease and there will usually be a real sense of peace.

5. There may still be a need for **emotional healing**. A single shriek usually means the demon has gone, while prolonged screaming or noisy crying usually means emotional healing is needed.

If needed, use the Emotional Healing Model in section 12.5 on p.122

6. **Lay hands on** them and ask God to fill them afresh with His Holy Spirit.
7. Minister **God's love and peace** to the person.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

8. Talk to them about **the armour of God** (see 'Divine Protection' in section 4.12 on p.59) and how to avoid further problems.
9. Make sure **their focus** is now turned away from the demonic and **on to God** and all He has done for them through Jesus.
10. Explain to them **the power of God's Word**. Always give the person a Bible verse to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.
"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)
11. Encourage them in **God's personal unconditional love** for them.

12.8

MORE DETAILED DELIVERANCE MODEL

The 3 parts of this model refer to Jesus' ministry model in section 6.2 on p.70.

Use this model within the context of the General Ministry Model in section 12.3 on p.119.

This model is quite detailed, attempting to cover many different eventualities. It is not a set of rules, but steps which have been found to be helpful. As you read it through you will see the pattern and the flow. Take from it what you need for any individual ministry situation.

Everything must be done in the name of Jesus.

PART 1

CONNECTING WITH THE PERSON & ESTABLISHING THEIR FAITH

1. Help the person with **their understanding** of having a demon.
2. Ask if they have made a commitment to Christ. If not, talk to them about this and **lead them to salvation** if they are willing.
3. As a born-again Christian, **assure them of their safety** in God.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from God's love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

4. Assure them of **Jesus' victory over Satan** through His blood shed on the Cross.

Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

5. Find out about **the opportunity the person has given to Satan**.
6. This may reveal a need for **emotional healing**. Discern which way to proceed in ministry. Emotional healing can weaken a demon and make it easier to expel. But at times the demon needs to go so that the person is free to receive healing.

If necessary, use the Emotional Healing Model in section 12.5 on p.122

PART 2

MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

7. As you minister, **visualise** the person set free and restored.
8. Ask the person to **keep their eyes open** and maintain eye contact with you. This will help in discerning any demonic activity. Ask them to cooperate in the process.
9. **Bind Satan** so he is unable to hinder the deliverance.
10. Use **the Word of God** as a weapon.
11. Help the person **to repent** of the opportunity they gave to Satan and receive the forgiveness Jesus won for them on the Cross.
12. Help the person **to forgive** anyone involved in allowing Satan in.
13. If there are any **soul ties**, cut them in the name of Jesus.
14. If there is a **stronghold**, help the person to repent of any door they opened which enabled a stronghold to develop, or forgive anyone whose actions started the stronghold. Take authority over it in the name of Jesus, breaking its power and its hold over the person.
15. **Take authority** over the demon in the name of Jesus and command it to leave the person. If it is noisy or violent, command it to be silent and /or still.
16. When the demon has left, **proclaim the victory**. "In the name of Jesus you are set free."
17. Encourage the person to **give thanks to God** and to recommit their life to Jesus.
18. Minister into **any further areas** of need.
19. **Lay hands on** and ask God to fill the person with His Holy Spirit and seal the work that He has done.
20. Minister **God's love and peace** to them.

PART 3

ENCOURAGING THE PERSON & GIVING ANY NECESSARY ADVICE

21. Help the person to decide that from now on they will **seek to follow Jesus**.
22. Help the person to understand **how to resist Satan** and all his activities with the authority they have in Jesus.
23. Make sure **their focus** is now turned away from the demonic and on to God and Jesus.
24. Explain to them **the power of God's Word**. Always give the person a Bible verse to stand on and use as a sword when needed. Encourage them to learn it and speak it out in faith.
"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)
25. Assure the person of **God's unconditional love** for them and Jesus' victory. Help them to be confident in what He has done. Understanding who they are in Christ will help immensely (see 'Knowing Who We are in Jesus' in section 4.4 on p.50 and 'Knowing God's promises' in section 4.4 on p.52).
26. End the ministry time with **thanksgiving**.

12.9

SHUTDOWN PROCEDURE

6. With a voice of authority, simply bind the demon(s) in Jesus' name and command them to stop all activity.
7. Encourage the person to open themselves up to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to fill them afresh.
8. Assure them of God's love personally for them and encourage them to live in their relationship with Him and trust Him for protection.
9. Tell them to focus on God and His victory through Jesus, not on demons. Give them Bible verses to speak out to help them in this.
10. Encourage them to get in the Word and renew their mind in the truth.

"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31b-32)

Section Thirteen

Bible Verses for Ministry

The Word of God is absolute truth and power. Below are some of the Bible verses used in this manual, arranged under subject headings in alphabetical order, so you can easily find them to use and give away during ministry.

See also the lists of verses in –

4.4	'Knowing Who We are in Jesus'	p.50
4.4	'Knowing the Promises of God'	p.52

SUBJECTS

1. Deliverance	p.132	8. The Holy Spirit	p.136
2. Encouragement	p.133	9. Love	p.137
3. Faith	p.134	10. Protection	p.137
4. Forgiveness	p.134	11. Provision	p.138
5. God's Word	p.135	12. Salvation	p.138
6. Healing – Emotional	p.135	13. The Victory of the Cross	p.139
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1. DELIVERANCE

“He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed.” (Luke 4:18b)

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

... the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)

To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.
(1 John 3:8b)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT

“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you,” says the LORD, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b)

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

For you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14b)

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

For however many are the promises of God, in him is the “Yes.” Therefore also through him is the “Amen”, to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

(God) ... raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)

But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love. (Jude 1:20-21a)

For we are God's fellow workers. (1 Corinthians 3:9a)

3. FAITH

“For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20b)

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says. (Mark 11:22-23)

“Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.” (Mark 11:24)

“Your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” (Luke 8:48b)

So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

... by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

4. FORGIVENESS

... the goodness of God leads you to repentance. (Romans 2:4b)

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God’s wrath through him. (Romans 5:9)

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1a)

... God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:13)

... bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do. (Colossians 3:13)

“I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.” (Hebrews 8:12b)

And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

5. GOD'S WORD

My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

“... so is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.” (Isaiah 55:11)

“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

.. take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17b)

... the word of God, which also works in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13b)

6. HEALING – EMOTIONAL

He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves. (Psalm 107:20)

He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

“He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed.” (Luke 4:18b)

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

7. HEALING – PHYSICAL

Praise the LORD, my soul, and don't forget all his benefits; who forgives all your sins; who heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:2-3)

"He took our infirmities, and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:17b)

"Again, assuredly I tell you, that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

"He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed." (Luke 4:18b)

"Your faith has made you well. Go in peace." (Luke 8:48b)

"By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:16)

You were healed by his wounds. (1 Peter 2:24b)

8. THE HOLY SPIRIT

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 11:13)

"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you." (John 14:26)

"However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13a)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." (Acts 1:8a)

Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

... be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18b-19)

9. LOVE

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3b)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

10. PROTECTION

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91:1-2)

No weapon that is formed against you will prevail; and you will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgement. (Isaiah 54:17a)

.. the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Therefore put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13)

Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace; above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:14-17)

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you, and guard you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

... greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John:4)

11. PROVISION

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

“Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.” (Mark 11:24)

“... your Father knows that you need these things.” (Luke 12:30b)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

12. SALVATION

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

For God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. (John 3:17)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” (John 14:6)

... if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

For God didn't appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

13. THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. (Galatians 3:13a)

Having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)

For he did this once for all, when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:27b)

To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.
(1 John 3:8b)

14. WISDOM

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding.
(Proverbs 3:5)

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. (James 1:5-6)



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