

KNOCKING on the
RIGHT
DOOR
for your
MIRACLE



BILLY BURKE

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my father, William H. Burke, who, at the time of this release, is searching for his own "right door" to recovery.

My love and prayers are with him.

I also wish to thank Glenda Langdon for her help with the compilation of this book.

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Forward

For a number of years I've watched this ministry of Billy Burke. Particularly, I've noticed his compassion for the sick, especially children. This book will challenge you to expres greater faith in Jesus, the Healer. Questions you've had for some time will be answered. Billy Burke writes in a style that common folks can clearly understand.

If you're like me, you probably wont want to put this book down until you've read it completely through. Congradualtions on making Knocking on the Right Door apart of your library! Before you know it, you will want to purchase another copy for a friend; perhaps a friend that's battling for their health.

Karl Strader

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Exhausting All Avenues

Luke 11:9-10, “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

The church has had an overdose of revelation on the subject of God’s will to heal the sick and the oppressed. It has been much-needed, and we need more. In a time when the issue of germs and the strange spread of unknown diseases are sweeping the Earth, we who believe must proclaim the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now that we know our God is a good God and that it’s His will to heal physical diseases, we must also know how God can bring about our healing recovery. The Scriptures reveal many ways which God has ordained as open doorways to His miracle healing power. In Jesus’ ministry, there were some people He touched, some to whom he spoke, and some to whom He simply sent His blessings, though He never met the person.

Today, unfortunately, many struggle because of their limited knowledge concerning the different doorways to optimum health. The church simply has not provided a full-service menu. It has either been too spiritual and has been frowned upon the physical side of healing, or it has been far too practical, mutating the spiritual emphasis which the Word absolutely proclaims. When we were born again, we began to walk in two worlds—the spirit world (because we are born of the spirit) and the natural world (because we are alive and well on planet Earth). This opens more avenues of potential healing than ever before. It is my opinion that we, the believers in Jesus Christ and His healing power, must fight sickness and disease with every weapon available to us. These weapons, of course, must be grounded in the Holy Scriptures and our warfare has to be centered in the person of Jesus Christ.

We need to get our heads out of the clouds and into the written Word of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We must exhaust every available option which God has revealed to us. We must knock on every door until we find ourselves knocking on the right door...the door that opens to our recovery. Let’s explore these doorways of healing.

Door One: The Elders

James 5:14-15, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

It is evident from the Scriptures, God has chosen the Eldership of the church as a potential doorway of healing for the sick and afflicted. When He says to call for the Elders of the church, He does not mean that you pick out a favorite friend or a group of people in your Bible study to pray for you. The Elders of the church are men who have been recognized publicly for their walk with God over a period of time. You may or may not know them. You may or may not like them. That makes no difference. They are men who have walked with God for a season in their lives and have come through trials of their own. They have learned how to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as their source. They have learned how to be rooted and grounded in the word "church". "and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the Prayer of faith shall save the sick, and of God." They have learned how to communicate their faith in God and their love for people in such a way as to assist them in their road to recovery.

You must go to the Elders in faith. In no way are we saying that these men are perfect. They too are working out their own salvation with fear and trembling. They, too, face the issues of everyday life and all that it hands them. This is why God has elevated their position in the local church. Now, they can become men who share the great testimony and the success of being brought through the valley, out of the fire and through the flood. They're there to help you with eyes of fire, hands of healing and hearts that are discerning. They are there for you. It is important that you see them as a potential doorway for your healing recovery. Sometimes people in a particular church setting, or those you come in contact week-in and week-out, can become common.

Often you may think, "I could never go to Elder Joe or to Elder Sam because I know something about them." Perhaps it is something in their past that has caused your thinking to become contaminated or strongly influenced. In a church setting, it's easy to have your belief in someone such as an Elder or church leader, affected by the opinions of others. This is your church and those are your Elders, but you are holding this dark spot in your mind. It then becomes a hindrance to you believing that God can use them to help you. If that's the case, what do you do? You must realize that God has honored the position of that man. There is the Elder (the man) and there is the Eldership (the position). The man sitting in that position of authority is imperfect. He may have offended you in some way or has been involved in a personal lifestyle discrepancy in the past. Regardless, the office in which this man sits will still be honored by Almighty God. You need to recognize and accept that fact.

In a healing service a number of years ago, a lady stood in line to be prayed for. When I approached her, I said, "Ma'am, what is the matter with you?" She responded, "I've had Morris Cerullo pray for me, I had Oral Roberts pray for me, and now I would like you to pray for me." I said, "Ma'am, you really honor me to place me in the company of such great men. Surely these men had the faith and the anointing to get you healed quickly." She responded, "Well, I didn't get healed, but I am here now, and I want you to pray for me." As I thought about that, I asked the Holy Spirit to show me her problem. He told me she that she was to go to her Eldership and have them pray for her. So I said, "Ma'am, I really don't feel that I am supposed to be the channel through which you receive a blessing. I sense that God wants you to go to the Elders of your church and have them pray for you."

You talk about a tea kettle going off! You talk about someone becoming irate in a split second! This woman looked at me and fired back, "I would never go to that group of men!" When I saw that attitude in her, I knew something had happened and had caused her to lose faith in these men. I said, "Ma'am, go to those men. They are holding your healing." The Elders of that woman's church obviously had an encounter with her, or she with them. She no longer had confidence in them as a group of men who were able to touch God for other people.

I want you to understand that even though there may be something that has blocked you from trusting a man (or group of men) in your church who is considered to be an Elder or leader, God will honor the position over the person. God can use that man or group of men to bring healing and blessing to you. It is your responsibility to look beyond that man's faults and to see your own need. You can't let what you've seen or experienced with him in the past keep you or your family from getting a breakthrough. The Scriptures say you can be healed by going to your Elders and having them anoint you with oil and pray for you, believing that the prayer of faith will save and heal the sick.

Door Two: The Prayer of Agreement

Matthew 18:19, "Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven."

As a Christian, it is very important to have a circle of associates who believes exactly like you when it comes to the subject of divine healing. In your Christian network of friends, you will find many who believe the same as you in a variety of subjects, but when it comes to the subject of your health and healing, you may find differences of opinion and, most certainly, different levels of faith. In your circle of influence, long before you contract a disease or a health problem, it is very important to have a "go-to-guy" a "go-to-girl" or a "go-to group of people" where there is no question in your mind as to what they believe about divine healing. There is no question as to what they believe God wants to do for you. They don't blink at whatever health problem you are facing at the time. When you go to this particular group people, ask them to pray for you while you are facing your health challenge. The winning combination in the Prayer of Agreement is that they will pray for you and stand with you.

Many times, the road to recovery and restoration from physical problems is quite complicated. Surgery may be involved. Medication and out-patient nursing may be involved. There may be times when the doctor's reports are not favorable. They don't give anyone in the family a vote of confidence for your complete recovery. At that point, however it is up to both the person receiving the prayer and the person standing in agreement with them to believe beyond what they see and feel, and continue to stand in agreement. They must believe that what has been prayed has touched the heart of God, that God is faithful, and that He will honor His Word and raise that person, in spite of how impossible it may appear to be at that time.

This is why the belief of the person standing in agreement with you for your physical recovery is so very important. Along with a lot of other Christian subjects that a person may believe, it is vital that their beliefs match yours regarding divine healing. The challenges to recovery may become very, very tough. That person may share common faith with you about the cross, salvation, the Second Coming of Jesus, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, worship, witnessing, etc., but they need to believe like you regarding divine healing. Times of progress may be followed by times of regression. After you receive prayer, there may be times when you become frustrated because you are not recovering as fast or you are not breaking through to great victory as quickly as you thought you would. It's at this time, in the eyes of the person standing in agreement with you, that you must see faith, you must see hope, you must see someone who is not blinking, wavering or compromising; someone who is not moving off the promise and the prayer which has been prayed. This person has prayed for you; now, they are standing in faith with you.

In conjunction with the Prayer of Agreement, it's important that the person who has agreed with you not only stand in agreement face-to-face with you, but as they leave your company, it's of utmost importance to stay single-minded, to hold the same belief in their heart and to make the same confession with his or her mouth. They should never express doubts as to your recovery or your strength while out of your sight. When that happens, it becomes a broken covenant. It will not be honored by God and it will not work in conjunction with you and your recovery. Remember, a healing miracle is a condition that defies all logic and reason. When doctors say that they cannot help and medical science says there's no hope, Christ's blood and the stripes on His back come into play.

Again, at this time and in this setting, it is very important that the person who has prayed for you is also standing in agreement with you. When you're in the foxhole, it takes a special kind of person. It takes a special kind of faith to fight through the strongholds of sickness. It takes a special kind of faith to penetrate physical pain. While you are suffering and seemingly defeated, it takes a special kind of person to stand against all odds, to swim upstream, to lay hold of the promises of God and to believe for your recovery. We must remember that Jesus died one day. He was crucified. By all natural appearances, it seemed He was defeated. It seemed as though the devil had won, but in reality, **GOD RAISED HIM UP!** There may be many times when sickness, disease or physical problems may befall you. From all outward appearances, you have been defeated or have suffered loss, but it only has to be momentarily. It doesn't matter what happens in the beginning; it's what happens in the end that counts.

Door Three: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 12:7-10, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

The Holy Spirit will choose to release Himself in power through one believer into a person in need of a physical healing miracle. It's the sovereign right of the Holy Spirit to choose whom He wants to use to bring such a miracle to another person. It is not so much the prayer that is prayed; rather, it is the river of God's love and power flowing through one person into another. I want to comment on the six most common gifts (out of the nine listed in I Corinthians 12) which Paul states are used in the performing of healing miracles:

1. The Word of Knowledge

The Holy Spirit super-naturally reveals a person's condition to another person. He acknowledges a certain condition in one person's body which that person may not know. When the Holy Spirit enlightens someone with this revelation, it is not just for the sake of stating it. When He, by supernatural communication, tells one person that another person has a certain condition, He is about to bring about healing.

2. The Word of Wisdom

The Holy Spirit can choose to reveal a specific plan or remedy to one person to give to another person in order for that person to receive a miracle. He may tell them to change something in his or her diet. He may tell that person to see a certain doctor. He may tell them to do a certain physical exercise or spiritual exercise. That is the way the Word of Wisdom works. It is God giving specific instruction to one person for another person, super-naturally, to bring about recovery.

3. The Gifts of Healing

This is when the Holy Spirit, again, chooses to use one person to help another person. In one instance, it was with the power of a look. According to Acts 3, Peter and John told the crippled man, "Look at us." When the crippled man looked into the eyes of Peter and John, a healing miracle began in that man's crippled body. That time it was the power of a look. At other times, it may be through the power of touch or the spoken word. It varies from person to person and situation to situation, but the Gifts of Healing operate through some people to other people in order to bring healing.

4. The Gift of Faith

This is when God gives people the supernatural ability to believe, far beyond their own comprehension, that another person is going to be healed. They aren't simply speaking encouragement to that person; they

aren't simply saying that person will recover. God puts an absolute assurance in their hearts that the person is going to recover and be whole. Then, they begin communicating that fact through their speech, through their confession, through their touch and people are raised up, healed and made whole.

5. The Working of Miracles

The Holy Spirit can sovereignly choose to move through a person to another person. Something actually happens to that person's health in such a way that he or she recovers far beyond what doctors or medical science ever thought possible. Both the Holy Spirit and the God's vessel work together to bring about this supernatural event. It confounds the intelligence and it goes against logic and reason, but it brings about total recovery in another person.

6. Discerning of Spirits

This is when the Holy Spirit reveals to one person (who then shares with another) the root cause of someone's particular illness. He shows one person what another person may be doing (some kind of behavior, action or practice) which is allowing disease, sickness or demonic influence to enter and cause all kinds of problems. The Holy Spirit will reveal to one person the root cause of another person's illness in order for it to be exposed to the light, and be completely and wonderfully healed.

We see in the first two chapters of this book, that the church has had few problems with the power of prayer, whether through the Eldership or through one believer standing in agreement with another. Where the controversy has entered the church for years is regarding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit—when God uses someone to transmit His power, knowledge, and an actual healing miracle to another person. This has every appearance of one playing God or drawing attention to oneself. If it is done properly, however, and if the person being used by the Holy Spirit is yielded to the Lord and in it for all the right reasons, it reveals how great God is to pour His perfection through imperfect vessels in order to achieve His purpose.

So, you must seek people in your church, (or in the church at large through television or a friend) who move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Once you determine who these people are, you need to expose yourself to their ministry with an open heart and a yielded spirit. It is in a situation such as this that God can use that person to bring a word, a touch, a prayer or some type of communication from the Holy Spirit through that person to you, that can bring about your healing and recovery.

This is how this worked in my case. At age nine, I was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer which had metastasized into the rest of my body. At that point, I was released from a hospital in Pittsburgh and taken to a healing service. There, a lady named Kathryn Kuhlman was being mightily used by the Holy Spirit to bring healing and miracles to many people. I was taken into her service one Friday morning in 1962. As I watched Ms. Kuhlman pray and move in the Holy Spirit (that river of love and God's power), she looked up into the balcony where I was sitting, full of cancer, a patch over one eye, unable to speak and barely able to walk.

She said, "You! You're being healed!" She then named my particular disease (Brain cancer). This was one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in action. That was the Word of Knowledge revealing to her that I was

being healed. As I was brought down to her from the balcony, another gift began to operate in her, the Gift of Faith. Then, the Gifts of Healing were flowing through this woman, who reached out and put her hand on me. When she touched me, I actually felt the power. Oh, did I ever feel such a beautiful, glorious anointing! A feeling? Oh, yes! A thousand times, yes! A wonderful, life-changing feeling! It was just like in Mark 5, when the woman with the issue of blood was healed. The Bible says that she felt what was done in her. I, too, felt what was done in me. I wasn't healed through a woman saying a prayer. I was healed through a yielded vessel that the Holy Spirit poured through and into me. He gave me that healing on that Friday morning. Thank you, Jesus, for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Door Four: Speaking the Word of Faith

Mark 11:23-24, "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Our faith in God and in His power to heal and perform miracles must be a growing force inside our hearts. One way our faith is demonstrated is through confession, our speech. Proverbs 18:21 says that the power of life and death are in the tongue. You can set Heaven in motion (or Hell in retreat) just by how you speak with regard to a particular issue. Sickness and disease are enemies of the cross and of our bodies. They, along with their author, the devil, must be addressed and cast into the sea in the name of Jesus! It's not how long you talk or how loud you yell; it is whether you believe in what you're saying.

If you look at the ministry of Jesus, when He raised Lazarus from the dead, there wasn't a prayer prayed, a song sung, a worship band, phone line or a counseling session. He spoke the Word of God. He yelled, "Lazarus, come forth!" He stood at death's door and told a man that had been dead four days, with his body beginning to stink, to come forth... AND HE DID! In John 5:8, when Jesus spoke to the man at the Pool of Bethesda, there wasn't a hand put on that man. He had been crippled for 38 years, but there was no prayer prayed. Jesus spoke a Word of Faith: "Rise, pick up your bed and walk." After 38 years of immobility, palsy and a life spent sitting beside the blind, the lame and the halt, this man, hearing that Word of Faith, picked up his bed and walked out of his place of misery, woe and suffering.

Again in Mark 4:39, Jesus and his disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee. In the middle of that sea, a storm arose which threatened the very lives of Him and His disciples. Jesus was awakened out of His sleep by His disciples. Obviously, they were not fully aware of Who it was that was on their boat. Jesus stood in the face of that storm, but He prayed not one prayer. He used no oil. He called for no one. He simply spoke a Word of Faith. Jesus said, "Peace, be still!" These are many issues over which a Word of Faith was spoken rather than a prayer being prayed. Instead of someone stepping in and demonstrating the Gifts of the Spirit or praying, faith was released by the power of the spoken word. The three biggest enemies of your faith are your sight, your thoughts and your feelings. If you remain silent, these three senses will often dictate your physical circumstances regarding your healing. Your sight will tell you, "Look at the lumps!

They're still there!" Your thoughts will tell you, "Those lumps are not leaving!" Your feelings will tell you, "I can still feel those lumps!" They're not leaving. You can see them. You can feel them. Your faith must be unbridled. It must be released to work on your behalf. In the worst of situations, when things appear to be so bad, faith must be your weapon of choice to perform God's plan for your recovery. This, of course, goes against your natural feelings and against all of your senses. If your faith level is not to where you are in a position to begin speaking to your physical situation, you must then make yourself available to people who are willing, who have the capability, and who have the faith firepower in their spirits and fire in their mouths to turn loose God's holy healing power inside you.

In other words, no matter how weak you feel at the moment, it is important that you begin to practice good habits of confession and faith on a daily basis. Naturally, when you begin speaking faith into your body, into your healing situation, you may sometimes waiver. You may not start out as strongly as you would

like. You may, in fact, be rather weak, but it is important for you to begin practicing today! When you begin speaking to a particular physical situation, begin to fill your heart with the Word of God. What is in your heart in abundance will come through your lips (Romans 10:17, Luke 6:45). Just as you put memory in a computer, put the Word of God in your heart.

The more memory a computer has, the faster it processes information. The more Word of God you put in your heart, the better armed and able you are to speak that Word into any situation, no matter how weak you may feel at the moment. It is vital for you to fill your heart with more and more of the Word. Then, begin speaking with great regularity. Speak when you are in pain. Speak when you are weak. Speak when you feel like it and when you don't feel like it. Let faith your mind (*missing a word?), your soul and your body. Then stand back and watch Almighty God back up His Word (Jeremiah 1:12).

Door Five: The Word of God

Psalm 107:20, "He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them out of at of their destructions."

The Scriptures contains over 1,500 promises of God pertaining to healing of the body alone. This is a gold mine that is waiting to be extracted and become a ready source at your fingertips. Fighting sickness in your own strength with your own willpower and with all of the mental strength you have can only last so long. You must face these forces with a power and a knowledge greater than your own. God's Word of healing must become your prescription for complete recovery. God's Word has passed it down through history and directly inspired by and through he Holy Spirit. We must let the Holy Spirit single out a particular promise such as II John 2:2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"

After we read the promises, we should begin to meditate on them continually. We should begin to speak the promises to ourselves and to others and watch them become real. We will begin to believe it because now, the Holy Spirit is making it personal. It is going from our heads to our hearts; it is going from logos to Rhema. We move into what Solomon said, that if we would hide the Word in our hearts, it would bring health to all of our flesh (Prov. 4:20-22). This doesn't mean we fully understand the Word we're quoting. It doesn't mean we fully understand the Word that we're pumping into our hearts. Then again, when you take medicine, you don't understand how it gets into your bloodstream and to your body's infected areas. You don't understand how it all works; you just swallow the pill and trust that it does the rest.

God's Word is more than a love story. It's more than an instruction manual. It can be a lethal weapon in the hands of the believer. When you hear the Word and start believing it, speaking it and acting on it, you may not always understand everything that you believe. You may not understand everything about planet Earth, but you still believe. You may not understand everything about science and medicine, but you still believe. The same holds true to the Word of God. You may not understand everything about them. You may not fully understand how they work, but when you begin to speak the Word, when it sinks into your heart, you can't explain how it all comes about, but it works. When you mix faith with the Word and believe it (because God said it and that settles it), it will begin to work in you and through you and recovery will begin to take place. This is the recovery process of the Word of God.

Door Six: Forgiveness as a Force

Mark 11:25-26, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Forgiveness is a multifaceted work. There is forgiveness that you need to extend and there is forgiveness which you need to receive. Forgiveness which you need to receive is when the Holy Spirit has begun to shed light on a particular offense going on inside you (in thought, word or deed) which is separating you from wonderful fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit will work and convict, all for the high purpose of redemption. God's conviction is never for the purpose of making you feel bad, breaking you down or making you feel less than you should. Divinely ordained conviction is designed to bring you into a place of release and into a process of being cleansed and restored into fellowship with Him.

Sin separates one from fellowship with God. The forgiveness that needs to be received is where God directs grace and mercy your way. When you repent, of whatever it is that you're doing wrong, you accept and receive His forgiveness, which makes you feel clean, whole and at peace again with Him and with yourself. Then, not only is there a good feeling within yourself about your relationship with God, but there's nothing that the enemy can work with. There's nothing with which the law of sin and death can work with. Unconfessed sin in your life, however, can eventually turn into a disease or sickness. Not all sickness, of course, is caused by sin, but there's a link between sin and sickness. So, when you receive forgiveness for a sin you've committed, no matter what it is (thought, word or deed), you actually remove the risk of sickness and disease coming into your body because of that particular sin.

The next area for which forgiveness must be received is when you do something wrong; something that you feel convicted and guilty about. You must go to God and ask for His forgiveness. God forgives you, but you may not forgive yourself. You now become self-condemned. By not forgiving yourself, you actually open yourself up to being blackmailed by demons. Sometimes, you're sabotaged by your own conscience. You know what you did and you can't believe that you're worthy of being forgiven and it begins to work against you. You become a kingdom divided. At this point, no matter how much your heart condemns you, you must act according to I John 3:20, "Though my heart condemns me, God is greater than my heart and He knows all things."

You must receive forgiveness in order not to cross out the grace of God. You must allow God's grace to come in. No matter how despicable or how decadent your thoughts, words or deeds, you must allow the blood of Jesus, the finished work of the cross, to wash away all of the residue that remains in your soul, so you can walk free from guilt and bondage. It is very possible, even within the framework of Christianity and church life, that there are many times when you will be offended. Someone will say something about you or do something to you, and you will be convicted by the Holy Spirit to forgive them. You probably won't feel like extending forgiveness to that person, but if you don't, you move into the arena of unforgiveness. Living with unforgiveness releases tormentors into your life. The tormentors release potential sickness and cause a breakdown of the body. When that happens, you must make a choice:

1. You can choose to harbor resentment, which will turn into bitterness and expose you to the possibility of becoming sick inside and out.

2. Against all feelings to the contrary, you can choose to forgive that person and trust God to vindicate you and bring healing back into your life.

By making the second choice, you allow forgiveness to become a force in your life, a healing balm. You are not allowing anything that has been done or said to you to sandbag the righteousness and the anointing of God for whatever He wants to do in you. That's a choice you make. In most cases, you won't feel like forgiving. You feel like lashing out. You want to fight back. You feel that retaliation is the best way to go. You prefer to "fight fire with fire." The Scriptures, however, teach us that when we pray, we are to forgive those that we've fought against, those who have done something wrong to us. When you practice forgiveness, you continually release yourself and flush your system of harmful feelings, thoughts, spirit powers, etc. You keep them detached from you. You remain a clean, pure, empty vessel that God can fill, and bless and use abundantly.

Door Seven: Holy Communion

I Corinthians, 11:24-26 “And when He had given thanks. He broke it and said, ‘Take this is My body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.’ After the same manner also He took the cup. When He had supped, saying, ‘This cup is the New Testament in My blood. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.’”

The partaking of Holy Communion must become more than a religious ceremony that takes place in your church once a month, once a year, or periodically in your life. It is urgent that you recapture and comprehend the deep meaning of symbolically eating his flesh and drinking his blood. God always intended the partaking of His body and His blood to put you in remembrance of all the benefits that Calvary provided for the believer. While Jesus was with his followers in His physical tangible body, He was the total source of their every need. If they needed money, He produced it. If they needed food, He produced it. If they needed physical healing, He produced the healing miracle.

The time came, however, when Jesus’ departure was at hand. As Jesus joined His disciples at the Last Supper, He was fully aware that life would go on after the fact. Even though He would no longer be with them physically, He would be with them in the person and presence of the Holy Spirit. He understood that this would be a major adjustment for His disciples and for His followers. Jesus was also aware that a common problem with human nature is to be forgetful. Out of sight, out of mind. Since He would no longer be physically present, His disciples would now have to trust in Him by faith through the Holy Spirit. He was concerned that they not forget everything that He would suffer, die and raise again for.

Calvary, you see, provides benefits—legal, covenant rights—for the believer. Some say we don’t have a right; others say we do. Actually, both are correct. We don’t have a right to do anything we please or live anyway we desire. We do have a right to every benefit for which Jesus suffered, died and rose again for. The Scriptures are very clear that when Jesus was on the cross, He suffered and died for our sins, our sicknesses and our general welfare. Since He would no longer be the “go-to person”, physically speaking, He knew that some of the people who believed in Him would struggle or fall away. With that thought in mind, He implemented something that is tangible: bread and wine. He is symbolically saying, “This is My body which is broken for you, and this is My blood which was shed for you.” Then, notice what He said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

He implemented communion in an effort to eliminate forgetfulness and to bring remembrance of what? His suffering? No! His death? No! Remembrance of what the cross and His resurrection meant then and still means today for the believer. It means you can be forgiven and healed on a regular basis. Since this book is about some doors to miracle healing, I want to draw your attention to the broken bread. When Jesus held up the loaf of bread, He said, “Take and eat. This is My body which is broken for you.” Jewish law declared that a man was only able to bear 39 stripes. They believed that the 40th stripe would drive him insane. Jesus was severely beaten, scourged and tortured, but not by the Jews. He was scourged by the Romans, who had no respect for Jewish law.

The Romans would tie a person to the whipping post and scourge them with many stripes with a sinister whip known as a cat-o-nine-tails. A cat-o-nine-tails comprised of a handle that was attached to long strings leather barring tiny pieces of sheep bone woven into the leather. With every blow from the hand of that Roman soldier, those pieces of sheep bone turned Jesus’ back into what probably looked like raw

hamburger. If you're a student of the Scriptures, you know that while He was on the cross, not one bone in His body was broken. So, when He spoke of His body being broken, He was referring to the stripes which he received across His back. What He did, for all time and eternity, was to provide His followers with an eternal health care plan. Even though He would no longer be with them in his physical body, if they would remember His broken body; if they would remember that by His stripes they were healed, then no matter what disease or what physical problem came into their lives, they would always have a potential way out.

That way out is as certain today as it was for His disciples and followers back then. You and I have a remedy, a solution, a cure, a way out, a divine healing! It's the same with the drinking of the wine. Symbolically, He said that it was His blood. He knew that His disciples and followers would sin; they weren't perfect. He knew they would struggle with self-condemnation, guilt and remorse. When He was with them, He was able to resolve those things and bring them into freedom. Now, He would no longer be with them in person, but He wanted them to remember that His blood still covered their sin. It still washed them away. The words of timeless hymn perfectly describe the blood of Jesus that, "flows from the highest mountain to the lowest valley, and it will never lose its power." All too often, however, we need to be reminded of His wonderful benefits. The three great challenges concerning the partaking of Holy Communion for your healing are:

1. Do your best not to let the partaking of this beautiful occurrence become common. Have the presence of mind to remember that it's for your forgiveness and your healing. Don't take Communion just because everyone else is taking it and you want to flow with the crowds. Work at keeping the taking of Holy Communion very special to you and to your family.
2. Be frequent in partaking of Holy Communion. Make sure you are available when your church is partaking in this hallowed event. Make sure you are a willing participant and that you are excited about this wonderful plan that God provided.
3. Realize that it isn't necessary for you to be in a church setting in order to partake of Holy Communion. When you are feeling weak or have been stricken with a particular pain, you can partake in your own home by taking a piece of bread and a drink and, symbolically, serving yourself Holy Communion.

It is the meaning behind what you are doing, and not the location or the person serving you a particular bread and wine. It is the meaning behind the symbolism, and you, as a believer, have every covenant right to partake at home, in the hospital, or wherever you happen to be. You may serve yourself or have someone serve you, but please understand that partaking, symbolically, of His broken body and drinking His blood is a Scriptural principle. It is effective and it will work when you partake in faith.

Door Eight: Obeying the Holy Spirit

John 2:6, "His mother saith unto the servants. Whatsoever He saith unto you. do it."

I Samuel 15:22, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams"

In your walk with the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be more times than you can count where you will be required to take a course of action which absolutely doesn't make sense. It may appear to be a direct insult to your intelligence. It may be something you would never think of doing or becoming involved in, but the Holy Spirit is very interested in having you break out of your comfort zone. He is very interested in moving you to a higher level of obedience and trust in Him and in what He wants and requires of you.

We put God in a box too often. We expect Him to move within our boundaries. Then, we wonder why a lot of things don't happen in our lives. Could it be that God wants to be God and He wants us to be us? You see, we want God to do things that keep our image intact and that don't challenge our pride. The biggest hindrance to a breakthrough in our physical healing is how we may perceive our image and how it is portrayed to other people. We like to be perceived in the best possible light and that is the area in which God desires to work in us. The Holy Spirit is not interested in dealing with our pride and our areas of disobedience; He wants to destroy them. While He destroys pride and a lot of false pretenses in our image, at the same time He is building a safe bridge, a strong foundation on which we can base our lives. This is accomplished by our trusting in and obeying His leading and His Word spoken to us in a personal way.

In John 2:5, it made no sense when Jesus asked the servants to fill the pots with water. It was wine they needed, not water. Yet, He told them to fill the pots with water. He did not expect them to understand what was about to take place. Rather, He expected them to be obedient to what He asked them to do. Once they fulfilled their part, Jesus fulfilled His. So many times adult Christians are like little children who ask, "Why, Dad?" "Why, Mom?" We seem to need a complete understanding of situations where God may not desire to give us understanding; He may simply desire our obedience. In the Old Testament and the New Testament, God called upon people to do a particular thing or to follow a particular course of action. When you read about the results of their obedience, it encourages you to realize that, on the other end of foolishness, when God is in it, there is a great reward!

We read about Naaman in the Old Testament, the Syrian leader who was filled with leprosy. He was terminal. Yet, when he went to the house of Elisha, he wanted the prophet to come out and pronounce a miracle over him. What the prophet prescribed, however, was for Naaman to go and dip in a muddy river of Jordan seven times. Foolish? One might ask, "What does that have to do with leprosy?" Maybe nothing directly but God was working with Naaman, a Syrian leader who was filled with pride. Naaman obeyed the Holy Spirit, through the instruction of the prophet, and dipped himself not once, not twice, but seven times in the water. When he came out of the water that seventh time, his skin was completely healed! Naaman fulfilled his part, God fulfilled His.

The same is true when Joshua was marching around Jericho. It didn't seem to make sense! Certainly that's not the normal way to conquer a city! God told them to march around the wall once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around seven times, with seven priests blowing trumpets. Then,

following a long blast of the trumpets, all the people were to shout and the walls would fall down. That makes little or no practical sense—but guess what? When they fulfilled their part, God fulfilled His part. Those walls didn't stand a chance! The same was true in the New Testament. Jesus spit on some dirt and rubbed mud on the eyes of a blind man. What did that have to do with that man's healing? What did that have to do with the recovering of the destroyed optic nerves in that man's eyes? Jesus then told the man to go and wash in the pool. He was giving the man a specific divine command. He was leading him to do something that didn't make sense. That man had washed his face many times before. He had felt the coolness of water before. What possible difference could it make this time? This time, what made the difference was that God was in it!

This principal still works today when you are obedient to the Word of the Lord and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. When you do your part, God fulfills His part. This is what makes the difference in your miracle breakthrough. It's not just someone asking you to do something. It is not just some mystic, cosmic voice from outer space asking you to do something. When that occurs, even if you act on it, nothing happens! But when God requires a course of action, a step of faith, everything will break forth into your favor and you will be on the high end, the good side of recovery. In one of my healing meetings a number of years ago, a lady came for prayer. She had nine gallstones and was in severe pain. When I prayed for her that night, she fell under the power of the Holy Spirit and laid by the altar most of the evening.

A few days later, she called the office and said she was completely healed. Every stone had dissolved, but it hadn't happened that Sunday night. She went home from the healing service (after laying under the anointing of the Holy Spirit) and her pain actually became worse. As she was laying in bed unable to sleep, a voice came within her heart. It told her to go downstairs and open her refrigerator. When she opened her refrigerator, the voice told her to take everything inside of her fridge and to mix it in her blender. Every jar of pickles, all of her leftovers, mustard, ketchup, relish...everything. She was then to drink it.

She thought it was absolutely crazy, that maybe she was hearing things, but something deeper said to do it. So, she decided not lean to her own understanding; she simply obeyed the leading. Within 24 hours after drinking that liquid, all the stones were gone! Was it the concoction that she drank? No! It was probably not as much what she drank, as it was the fact that she obeyed the voice that was speaking to her on the inside. She listened to the leading of the Lord, even when it didn't make sense. It was definitely unconventional. It wasn't something you read about in your local library. In fact, most people around her would probably have told her she was acting foolishly. But guess what? God was in it. He was breaking her out of her comfort zone and moving her into another level of obedience and trust. When she acted on it, God honored her step of faith, and He will honor your step of faith also!

How can you tell when God is speaking to you, especially if what He is saying is a little off-centered, a little different from the ordinary? First, He will give you a witness (an assurance) in your heart. This witness or assurance is crucial to your trusting that it actually is God who is telling you to do a particular thing or to take a particular course of action. Some have done things and have suffered negative results because it was not of the Lord. Even though God might tell you to do something seemingly strange, He will never go against His written Word. This is a major key in determining whether what you are hearing is of the Lord. God has a written Word, from Genesis to Revelation and He will never contradict Himself. He will never ask you to do something that He commands you not to do in His Word.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say, "Don't march around a city." Nowhere in the Bible does it say, "Don't

put mud in a person's eyes.” There is nowhere in the Bible where it says, “Don’t pour water before it turns into wine.” No! These are incidents where there is no Scripture to the contrary. God will never contradict Himself. Today, people are doing things they say God told them to do, yet the Bible specifically commands them not to do these things. One way you can know whether or not God is speaking to you is that, even though it may seem strange, it can be found within the boundaries of His written Word. God will not give instructions which contradict His Word. Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and obeying and acting on what He requires you to do, is absolutely a doorway to your breakthrough.

Door Nine: Temple Care (Diet, Rest and Exercise)

I Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore. Glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

God requires us to assume full responsibility for taking care of our natural bodies. The amount of rest we get, the kind of exercise we do, and the way we take care of ourselves nutritionally will often determine the kind of health we enjoy during our lifetime. The Bible is a book of spiritual principles, walking in faith and calling on a God that is Spirit. Nevertheless, the Bible is also a book about practical Christian living and it deals with life in present. We live in a natural world, governed by natural laws. Our bodies, too, are governed by natural laws. Three of those natural laws involve our nutrition, rest and exercise. These give us insight, not only as to how we may live longer, but also to the quality of life that we may enjoy (Psalm 103:5).

In today's world, big business rules. Money is god. Food companies are more interested in getting their products from the field to the factors and markets than they are about you. Nobody out there cares about your physical welfare. If you don't take charge of it, trust me, no one else will. Much of today's food is preserved by chemicals. Many foods are infected with pesticides beyond what the label reveals. Some foods are actually made to look ripe and good to eat, but they are preserved by deadly chemicals which can destroy the cellular structure within your body. We have major issues like acid rain and toxic waste. We have diseased people today who are handling a lot of foods in restaurants and other places of preparation. That food is then passed on to you.

Many people today have a careless attitude about their diet. They think that you can put anything in your bodies, ask God to bless it, and somehow it will turn out okay. You may get away with this in your early years, but as you age, you begin to find out that what you have done to your body over a course of time can slowly begin to turn on you. Many foods today do not digest properly, they clog arteries and effect the flow of blood. This deprives the body of much-needed oxygen. Often, no one pays attention until it is too late. We wait until the red light comes on and begins to flash. Then, we seek help only to find out that medical treatment is very costly and time consuming. Time away from our family and away from work is costly. All too often, life is shortened and it didn't have to happen. If only we had practiced proper health care, proper nutrition! The Old Testament is filled with commands by God regarding certain animals they were to eat and certain animals they were to stay away from. The New Testament believers sometimes look at this as being under the law, under bondage, or legalistic.

If we look at a lot of the commands which God gave regarding these dietary laws, we see that He was speaking wisely, giving insight on some of the meat and products that would be harmful to the body. Just because we're now under grace doesn't mean that we should throw out the Old Testament. It means that there's no longer a sentence of death upon us. Wisdom, knowledge and common sense should still be used. Scientists are frequently discovering that some of the same things that God said we should not eat are a major cause of damage and the breakdown of the body. Some of the issues surrounding our food products deal with acid rain, toxic waste dumping and the high level of pesticides used by some farmers in attempt to keep disease and insects from destroying their crops. There are questions today as to what extent these pesticides get into the food they're supposed to be protecting.

There's also the issue of those who handle our foods. They may not always be in good health. Some have dangerous, life-threatening diseases and germs can be transferred to our food products by their handling of them. We have foods from other countries being shipped into our country. This has raised questions regarding foreign chemicals and preservatives (over which our country has little or no control) that may have been put into these foods. So, you can readily see that there are many issues surrounding the food industry. It's not just a particular food, but the country from which that food is shipped, who handled it, and to what degree pesticides were used. I could go on and on about this, but you must take responsibility for what you put into your body. You must repent and turn from being careless and apathetic about what you eat simply because it tastes good or is easy at the time. Do you want to eat correctly, live a long time and have good health, or will you allow your belly to dictate what you put into it?

Would you rather pay now (by giving up something you enjoy which is not good for you) or would you rather pay later? Everyone pays. Proverbs says it is better to put a razor to your throat than to be given to appetite (Proverbs 23:2). Esau gave up his birthright because his belly was in charge (Genesis 25:34). Jesus said that, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Bible says that God is for the body, and the body is for the Lord (I Corinthians 5:13). We see that God is on the side of good health. God is on the side of our being nutrition-minded. God wants us to be conscientious about what we put into the temple in the way of food and drink (I Corinthians 10:31).

Along with the proper diet, there is a need for proper rest. Even God rested. He created Earth in six days, but on the seventh day He rested. He was setting forth a principal of rest; you labor to enter into rest (Hebrews 4:11). The Bible says it is not wise to stay up late and to get up early. So, we see that the resting of the body was made of God, so He could give His beloved sleep (Psalm 127:2). During this sleep time when you are not conscious, your body continues to function, to replenish energy. There is a resting of the organs. There is a rejuvenation process that takes place in your body that only sleep can give you. Sleep cannot be replaced by food; it cannot be replaced by vitamins; it cannot be replaced by anything artificial. Sleep is a gift from God. It's a precious thing that is to be enjoyed, revered and practiced.

Obviously, in today's work-a-day world, in the quest to succeed, to accomplish and to achieve, many sacrifice these precious, priceless hours of rest and put their bodies through rigorous work loads and stressful activities. All this, then, along with an improper diet, begins a breakdown of those things God intended to use to enable you to live a long, satisfying life. No one can tell another how much sleep or how much rest is needed because every person's system is different. However, we know when we do not get enough rest or enough sleep, it affects our emotional stability, our mental judgment, our relationships—it effects everything about us. The more we deprive ourselves of sleep or rest, and the longer we do so, the more our bodies begin to get used to dysfunction and abuse. We begin to run more on our adrenaline glands than on our actual physical strength. Abuse sets in, and we subject ourselves to germs, viruses and bacteria. Sooner or later, we pay a high price. We must rest the body and we must do it now!

Along with sleep and rest, we have the natural law of exercise. It speaks strictly in the sense that our bodies must be kept in a physical condition that will allow circulation, oxygen and other sources of bodily functions to be strong and alert. In Jesus' time, modernization and mass transit were not available, so people walked. They did a lot more physical things than we do today. This helped their bodies release toxins. When toxins build up in our body from a poor diet or stress, physical exercise helps release them.

Sweating is the process whereby toxins, or poisons can be removed from the skin. There are some internal organs that facilitate and store foods you eat that are not passed quickly. The colon stores meat. That is why too much meat, especially red meat, can be a hindrance to bodily functions. Exercise shakes loose these toxins, or poisons, causing them to surface and to exit the body through sweating.

Today, many exercise for the purpose of shaping the body. They want to have a shapely figure but the older a person becomes, the more that person realizes that exercising is what really causes them to feel stronger and more alert. This is because toxins are released that build up from little or no activity. So, we see that proper diet, rest and exercise are doorways of healing and health. This is a necessary path that you need to pursue and a door on which you need to knock, realizing it has usually taken a long time (sometimes a lifetime) to build up bad habits by eating wrong things, getting too little sleep and not enough exercise. Correcting bad habits is not easy. It is something that must be approached carefully. Professional help should often be sought and advice heeded prior to making major or radical changes in the care of your temple.

Door Ten: The Mix of Medicine and Miracles

Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm of Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered"?

There is an explosive truth in the Scriptures which for centuries has been misunderstood. It has been severely abused rather than wonderfully used. I am speaking about the dynamic marriage between miracles and medicine. Supernatural miracles and natural medicine have for so long been viewed as being diametrically opposite, polarized from even the thought that they just might have a compatible relationship. A closer look at Scriptures, however, reveals that God has let everything good and perfect from above come down to us who are below. God intended for medicine to be a doorway and a potential breakthrough to healing of physical disease and sickness in today's world.

Many in the church believe that the use of medicine is something that reflects a lack of spirituality. They think, "If you're trusting God, you don't need doctors, physicians or medicine." This is even to the use of the labor room for childbirth. Some say that they don't need an epidermal or medical help. They're trusting God and He will make a way. This prevalent attitude has caused devastation in some families. Some remain sickly while others die prematurely because they were deprived of proper medical care. This attitude is usually caused by some good intentions, but extreme teaching which says by taking medicine, you show a lack of trust in God or a lack of spirituality.

You also have those at the opposite end of the spectrum who believe so much in medicine that they use every natural herb, every natural vitamin and every natural "wonder drug." Every little pain or illness sends them running to the doctor. Every cold and every little health problem requires medication or professional help. This teaching says that God provided doctors and medicine and that they are to be avidly used. Both beliefs, however, can have fatalistic fruit. The truth lies in the middle. You need to find a balance between the miraculous hand of God and medicine. A lot of that balance will be determined by three things:

1. Your perspective on the whole counsel of God as it relates to medicine, physicians and God, Himself.
2. Your growth in your faith walk.
3. Your purpose in life.

When dealing with the subject of miracles and medicine, these three things can help ground you and give you balance. They can help you play on a level playing field when it comes to the crucial issues of everyday life and overall general health care. First, let me expound on the whole counsel of God. In Jeremiah 8:22, we see where the prophet proclaims, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Are there no physicians there?" Balm was resin, a sticky liquid extracted from the bark of trees. Once extracted, it became a medicine used both internally and externally. This was common at that time. Isaiah 1:6 speaks about the binding of a wound.

This speaks about the application of a poultice, a bandage made from muslin or finely woven cotton, on which ointment was placed. It was then applied to an area of pain or infection. Ezekiel 47:12 teaches that

certain leaves contain medicinal value. In Revelation 3:18, it's evident that the citizens of Laodicea were known to have some kind of medical school that produced a powder or salve which was put over the eyes. It brought vision and focus for particular eye disorders. Luke 10:34 has the story of the Good Samaritan, who poured in oil and wine. The wine was used as an antiseptic or cleansing agent; the oil was a type of healing' balm. In Matthew 27:34, Jesus was offered vinegar mixed with gall, which was a sour wine mixed with some type of opium plant. This produced a type of sedative, or pain killer. Obviously, Jesus turned this away because he didn't want to be oblivious to the pain he was about to experience. Nonetheless, we see that the Scriptures are filled with incidents where various types of medicines were used.

Going back to John 5, we have the pool of Bethesda and the stirring of waters. Palestine is filled with many hot springs. The moving of the waters was known to have medicinal value. The Scriptures endorse both medicine and physicians. Jesus, Himself, in Luke 5:31, said it was not the whole (well) people who needed physicians. He had come to be a physician to those who were sick. "God is against doctors or medicine." He absolutely is not; He is in favor of them. That perspective needs to be broadened by the believer, however, in order to see the many avenues which the Scriptures provide pertaining to medicine and different natural processes used to bring about recovery. Secondly, the progression of your faith walk entails where you are putting your trust. Psalm 20 says, "Some trust in chariots, some in horses, but I will trust in the name of the Lord, my God." It is not an issue of whether medicine is an avenue that God uses as much as it is—Where do you put your faith? Where do you put your trust? In Mark 5, a woman had spent all her money and had trusted in many physicians, but she had not received help. Then, she came to Jesus and received her miracle.

Therein lies the problem. It's not a matter of whether you use medicine but where do you place your trust? Where is your faith? When your faith is in your doctor, in a particular medicine or a process such as surgery, therapy, etc., God cannot honor His presence and power. You have substituted a place, a person or a process in place of Almighty God. God wants to be the source. He wants medicine to be a resource. He wants doctors, physicians, therapists and nutritionists to be a resource. If you can keep this in proper perspective, your faith can grow. You must continually put your faith in God and in His written Word. This allows God to produce results through various means. Even though you take medicine, your faith is not in the medicine. Even though you go to a doctor, your faith is not in the doctor. Doctors can prescribe, cut, operate and stitch. No one, however, in the medical profession can heal! The healing of the body is something that is strictly left to Almighty God. He says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. He alone made us, He alone created us and He alone heals us.

Thirdly, our purpose in life is to bring glory to God. The Bible says that whatever you do, do for the glory of God. Who is getting your praise? Who is getting all of your accolades? Who is getting the credit for your recovery? All too often, after you are prayed for, after you are anointed with oil, your doctor gets all the praise! Think about it! Often you hear someone say, "I had the best doctor in town," or "the best surgeon in the country." While that may be very true, you must be very careful as to whom you give the glory and the credit. A principal I like to follow is to give honor to men, but give the glory to God.

Every person who spent the time, effort and energy needed in his or her particular field of expertise is worthy of honor, but understand one thing: it was God who gave that person the talent and the abilities to serve and help people. Man, therefore, should receive honor, but God should get the glory There's a big difference! Keeping God in the equation of praise and keeping God in the equation to receive credit is all important because it gives an overall perspective of how miracles and medicine work together, hand-and-

glove. It's God from above, looking below, releasing all of the good things that He placed in creation to serve man, and all that He placed in the animal kingdom to serve man. That, as well as all other forms of help available to man, was placed here by God, Himself.

To God be all the Glory!

