

*Healing:
Building Confidence
in God's Power*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 1999

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	5
---------------------------	---

<i>Chapter 1</i>	7
------------------------	---

THE POWER OF GOD IS PRESENT TO HEAL

<i>Chapter 2</i>	12
------------------------	----

BUILDING FAITH THROUGH THE WORD

<i>Chapter 3</i>	17
------------------------	----

*WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?
TOUCH HIS PRESENCE*

<i>Chapter 4</i>	22
------------------------	----

SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO

<i>Chapter 5</i>	29
------------------------	----

DON'T BE FAMILIAR WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

<i>CONCLUSION</i>	34
-------------------------	----

INTRODUCTION

Some believers are convinced that we live in a day when sickness and early death must be accepted as the norm. Let's consider what the Bible has to say about this subject. Repeatedly, the Scriptures tell us how we can have a long life (1 Kings 3:14; Job 5:26; Psalm 91:16; Proverbs 10:27; Isaiah 65:22; Zechariah 8:4; 1 Peter 3:10). Throughout the Gospels, Jesus performed many miraculous healings. Even the apostles in the Early Church were used make the lame to walk and the blind to see (Acts 3:11; Acts 14:10).

Just as there are laws, such as gravity, that govern the physical universe, through the Bible we learn that God has ordained spiritual laws that influence both the physical and spiritual parts of man. The law of sin produces a law of death. Everyone has sinned and, as a result, we all experience the progressive death of our bodies (Romans 6:6)—the reason for most of our problems.

There is, however, a law of faith that brings

healing power, which can operate in any assembly of believers. But we need to *exercise* the law of faith and live in it continuously yet without striving.

Jesus Christ is present within each Christian. His presence brings power to heal, restore, and resurrect. In this booklet, we will show from the Bible that God's healing presence is here for us today. At any time, God could, God would, God did, and God will heal people—by His presence, because of His great compassion.

Chapter One

THE POWER OF THE LORD IS PRESENT TO HEAL

“And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: *and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.*

“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

“And when they could not find by what way they might bring him because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

“*And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*

“And the scribes and the Pharisees began to

reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

“But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

“But *that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins* (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) *I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house*” (Luke 5:17-24).

Hindrances to Faith

The power of the Lord was there to heal “them”—that included the unbelieving Pharisees, the doctors of the law, and the others who came from Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was present to heal, but only one was healed and saved that day. Something didn’t connect with the others who were there; something violated the spiritual law of healing.

So many things can influence the law of faith at work in a congregation. When people live in familiarity and miss church regularly, or come in late as a practice, or are continually distracted during the course of a message, they hinder the law of faith.

Just one was healed that day. Just one was saved. That's all! The presence of the Lord was there to heal them all, but it didn't happen. Not all of them were Pharisees and doctors of the law. Some who were there were probably very humble. Still, healing didn't come for them. Why? They lacked the unity to put the law of faith into action.

Hell's Confederacy

Even the demons of hell recognize God's spiritual laws. They operate in tremendous supernatural unity—a unity unknown in human history—to prevent believers from exercising the law of faith.

Because demon forces are so unified, unity among believers is vital for the law of faith to be effective. Job 41 tells the story of leviathan, “king over all the children of pride.” According to Isaiah 27:1, “leviathan” is the devil, “the piercing...crooked serpent”—a dragon that is slain by the Lord. In Job 41:16, leviathan's scales are a picture of demonic pride. These scales were shut up together with a tight seal. They were so near to each other that no air could come between.

Psalm 64:5 speaks of a community of demons that lie in wait to torment Christians.

Proverbs 18:9 calls them “great wasters.” Demon forces cannot be separated. Representatives from armies of demons torment people who are overwhelmed with problems (see Psalm 142:3). In absolute oneness and unity, they pursue their special assignments. They operate in a law of supernatural unity to take away any possible capacity for Christians to enter into the law of faith. But, God has promised that believers can overcome demonic unity (1 John 4:4).

Divine Oneness

In many church services there is a unity among some believers who are expecting God to do big things. Too often, however, there isn't enough unity among enough people, so there is a limit to what happens through the law of faith. It isn't that anyone purposely lacks unity, but many don't know how to have it because of distractions in their lives.

Psalm 133 describes the blessing of unity in the Body of Christ:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

“It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of

his garments;

“As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

Chapter Two

BUILDING FAITH THROUGH THE WORD

“And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick; and those that had the palsy: and he healed them” (Matthew 4:24).

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus healed people. As believers, we have to make up our minds. Are we part of that crowd who believe that God does not heal *today*? If that were true, then why does the Bible say He changes not (Malachi 3:6)? Why does it say He is the same, “yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)? Is God a respecter of persons? Could it be that He didn’t want people to be sick back then, but that He doesn’t care about us today? It would be inconsistent to believe that way and yet say we be-

lieve the Bible.

Wasn't Peter used to heal (Acts 9:34-35)? Didn't Paul pray for the sick and see them made whole (Acts 19:11-12)? The Word of God clearly teaches that God performs miracles by the "hearing of faith" (Galatians 3:5). How could anyone believe that God has decided to withhold His power to heal? He said, "No good thing will I withhold *from them that walk uprightly*" (Psalm 84:11)—from those who have "upper" righteousness that goes beyond the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.

If Christians who believe that God does not heal today are right, then God is changeable. Some even believe that Jesus performed miracles while He was on earth just to prove His deity. But according to Matthew 9:35-36, Matthew 14:14, Mark 1:41, and Luke 7:13-15, Jesus healed out of compassion. And He is still healing men and women today because of the law of faith.

God's Word: The Key to Believing

Here is the important principle: *The law of faith overcomes the law of sin and death*. Yet, some people are afraid that the thing they ask for may not happen. And because little is taught about

the law of faith and healing, few will study the Scriptures enough to build up the law of faith in their souls.

If I were suffering from a condition that kept me home in bed, I would not strive. Instead, I would spend time every day and night reading scriptures that relate to healing. Faith in God's power to heal (which comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God) would then be established in my memory center, ready to be released by the grace of God.

Jesus was not limited in His operation of faith, yet when He visited His home town of Nazareth, no healings there were recorded "because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

Today, many Christians express unbelief toward faith-healing. Frankly, few people have faith that the presence of God can still heal. Something has subtly influenced people, because we do not see enough faith at work in healing.

Every Christian who is sick should thoroughly study each verse in the Bible, pertaining to healing. Study these verses for several weeks, or however long it takes, until the Word abides richly, forming a law of faith, which functions in the mind and heart beyond any natural capacity.

To balance that, Christians should not crusade about “healing in the atonement”—which says (according to one group) that if a person is right with God, he is already healed, and that sickness reveals sin or a lack of saving faith. *But if healing came in the atonement, then Christians would never die.* The Bible does not teach that view, though people who believe it claim Isaiah 53:5 (“...by his stripes we are healed”) for their position, which also takes away from the importance of the resurrection and the ascension of Christ.

Jesus died for our sins, taking upon Himself our wounds and bruises, yet we reside in bodies of sickness and death. Still, God’s Word says that He wants us to be in good health (3 John 2), and we must not surrender this truth.

Stand Fast on His Promises

Many Christians have experienced victory and power over sin. Some are rarely tempted by lustful thoughts because the law of purity is reigning in their minds to prevent temptation to lust. Satan knows that he can no longer tempt them in that area, so he is forced to tell his demons to try something else. “Tempt her with anxiety. Tempt him on whether he can pay his

bills,” the devil says. “Tempt them with something, but you can’t tempt with lust. We won’t get them with that one—*this time!*”

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). It makes no sense for us to pray for the sick until the law of faith toward healing becomes ours, so we can release the presence of God. If His presence was there to heal them during Jesus’ time on earth, then the presence of God is here to heal us today. He has not changed! We must do more than talk about it, however. We need to touch the hem of His garment.

Chapter Three

WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE? TOUCH HIS PRESENCE

“And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,

“Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

“And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

“And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

“And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

“And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good

comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace” (Luke 8:43-48).

The woman’s faith touched Jesus, and virtue went out of Him. God could, God would, and God did. Immediately, the woman was healed. No one else in that crowd was healed. One woman, that was all—even *though Jesus was present*. She believed God could. She believed God would, and then she saw that God did.

Every time God heals, it has to do with His presence, which reveals His compassion. This is why I often weep in the midst of my preaching. It doesn’t matter what is going on in a person’s life. And certainly, the healing anointing may be released through tears *or* laughter in a message. God will do whatever it takes to create a capacity in us to enter into the law of faith.

Jesus was moved with compassion in Matthew 14:14. He wept over Jerusalem in Luke 19:41. Seeing His compassion, we believe that God could, God would, and God will heal.

We Need His Presence

“And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith

unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

“The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool, but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath” (John 5:5-9)

“Wilt thou be made whole?” That is the question Jesus is asking of people today. Many answer, “Yes.” But more than that, we need to touch the presence of God. It was the *presence* of God that was there to heal. His presence is needed—not just promises, not just knowledge, not just scriptures. It is necessary that we usher in the manifestation of the presence of God.

Why did the impotent man take up his bed and walk? He didn’t even know that Jesus was God, but he believed the words that were spoken to him, and he walked! Now, was that a sensible thing to do—to obey a stranger, after not being able to walk for thirty-eight years? Why did he do it? Because the “stranger” was the Savior—a Man from Galilee who was present to heal. “Rise, take up thy bed and walk” Jesus

said. *Immediately* the man was made whole and took up his bed. God could, God would, and God did.

Expanding Faith

Faith is being built up in some people as they read this, because they are concentrating on the fact that God could, God would, God did, and God will. It is the law of faith in action. Recently, a fifty-one-year-old woman was healed during a sermon. She has been a faithful Christian for thirty years; and though she never was a drinker, she became afflicted with cirrhosis of the liver.

“I don’t know how, but something happened when the presence of God was revealed to me that night” she later testified. “The pastor wept as he prayed for people, then something happened inside of me. I was healed.”

This woman had been given a short time to live and hadn’t slept for weeks. Then, during a sermon, the pain left. Twice, she has had it confirmed by doctors that she has been totally healed.

God could, God would, and God did.

On that same evening, a woman was healed of a terrible back condition that made it impos-

sible for her to lay down. She testified that the effects of a horrible car accident are gone, and they have never come back.

God could, God would, and God did it for these women. He did it all by grace. They experienced the presence of God and His compassion as the Pastor wept, which produced faith as they believed in His presence, and they were healed.

Who can explain it? We cannot explain what happens when someone gets saved. God just does it. How does a drug addict's habit finally go, after years of trying and failing? The presence of God does something out of compassion, that's how. And after going from church to church, year after year, in one night the habit is gone.

God could, God would, and God did.

Chapter Four
SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

“When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

“And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing” (John 9:1-7).

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” He came to do the works of His Father—in this case, to heal the blind man who had no light. Notice that the man was sent to the pool *while* he was still blind. He had to operate in a law of faith, but he came back seeing! God could, God would, and God did.

What was the key for this blind man to be healed?

It was something Jesus did.

What was the key for the man who hadn’t walked for thirty-eight years?

It was something Jesus did.

And the woman with the issue of blood, what was the key for her?

Something Jesus did.

How was the daughter of the Syrophenician woman healed?

It was something that Jesus did.

These weren’t the works of a faith-healer. These were things that Jesus did because of Who He is. This is how many of us have experienced healing in the will and grace of God. We keep hearing and reading the Word of God until it controls our memory, our frame of reference, the streams of thinking through our consciousness, our soul, our conscience, our heart, and our

emotions. And finally, we touch God, and God touches us.

Testimonies of Healings

One night I was speaking in Boston's John Hancock Hall when a woman with cancer ran down from the balcony, healed. She had been in a wheelchair for several months, extremely thin because she was dying. Still, she came forward that day and was healed. Certainly, it wasn't *my* faith that did it. I simply presented Christ, and scores were healed among the 1,800 who were there that afternoon.

God could, God would, God did.

Recently we received two amazing testimonies of God's compassion and His healing power. One young woman had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver after doctors found three tumors, one being very large. Her brother, a student in our Bible college, told her about our ministry, and she came to visit. As instructed in James 5:14-15, we prayed for her and anointed her with oil during a service. While she was here, she spent time with other believers. She received the Word of God daily and made herself available to be built up in the personal love of God, which added to her faith.

Two months later, she returned to her home in Florida and went through tests to determine how far the cancer had spread. Instead, the tests revealed that all the tumors had disappeared, and *there was no trace of cancer.*

Another woman, who is very active ministering to wives of professional sports figures, was diagnosed with cancer on her face. Her sister had received one hundred stitches for the same cancer only two years earlier. The doctors described the surgical procedure she was facing. They would be removing areas of tissue that could require skin grafts and plastic surgery. Quite shaken, she chose to wait on God, receiving much prayer and calling on the promises of God's healing mercies to build her faith fields.

Because of the messages she was hearing and determined to find peace in whatever God's plan for this might be, she finally underwent the procedure after delaying it several times. The first section of tissue taken proved the cancer was gone! God could. God would. God did.

Furthermore, God has not changed. Now, if you are believing God for a healing, and it does not happen right away, don't strive and do not be anxious—but don't quit either. Faith comes by hearing—and reading—the Word of God.

Every morning, afternoon, and evening, simply believe that God could, God would, and God will.

Loosed from Bondage

“And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in now wise lift up herself.

“And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

“And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

“And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

“The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo,

these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

“And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him” (Luke 13:10-17)

Satan had afflicted this woman for eighteen years. There is no record that she was a bad woman. She was a daughter of Abraham who went to the synagogue regularly. There was no rebuke on her life. So, why was Satan allowed to inflict her for eighteen years? She didn't know how to get out of it because she didn't know that Satan was doing it. But the presence of Jesus Christ healed her when she went in to the synagogue that day.

This is the value of being in the assembly. Jesus walks in the midst of the congregation during every service (Revelation 1:13). Every time the local assembly meets, He records in a Book of Remembrance who was there and who wasn't (Malachi 3:16). The records show every time I was in church and every time I missed, according to my opportunities. Though the record isn't used to punish me, my attendance is still on the books. This woman, as plagued as she was, went to church. And because she was there

when He was present, God healed her. He could
and He would do that for any of us.

Chapter Five

DON'T BE FAMILIAR WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

“And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

“But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

“Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

“But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

“And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.

“Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as

thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour” (Matthew 15:22-28).

Not every sickness is from the devil. Of course there are natural causes for illnesses, and there are also multiple causes (which, for instance, can stem from not eating right). But sometimes there are supernatural causes where angelic warfare is involved in disease.

Many illnesses come as a result of the Fall and are passed down through natural laws and genetics. However, I am convinced that Jesus would like to redeem us from the law of the curse so we can have good health to be able to serve Him.

Sadly, many Christians don't believe that God could, would, and does heal people today (though they may believe that He did in the past). Yet, how can they justify that attitude by the Word of God?

Jesus couldn't do much in Nazareth because the law of faith was lacking among the people. They were familiar with who He was and His power to heal. Likewise, thousands are sick today because they refuse to touch the presence of God and become healed by His compassion.

All of us need to guard against familiarity; never presume that you “know” a Bible verse,

just because you can quote it. Concentrate on training to be more skillful in handling the Word of Truth, which teaches us to get to know the heart of God in healing.

Strong, Rich, and Great Faith

Not a single thing hindered the Syrophenician woman from believing that her daughter would be healed. Hers was a prayer of *proxy*. Because her daughter had no capacity to pray for herself, this mother prayed instead. And despite what sounded like discouragement, she was determined that Jesus could heal, that He would heal—and He *did* heal. He could, He would, and He did.

The Syrophenician woman was told she had “great” faith as she prayed for her daughter’s healing. Stephen was strong in faith (Acts 6). James writes of being rich in faith (James 2:5). When the four men lowered the man sick with palsy through the roof, Jesus *saw* their faith. They demonstrated their faith by responding to what they believed.

God sees our faith. We cannot work it up in our flesh, but through the Word and solid teaching, our faith can be built up as our capacity to believe is increased. When we pray for the sick,

we ought to begin with worship. By giving thanks to God for all that He is and all He has done, we build up “faith fields,” an atmosphere where God is free to do whatever He wants.

In secret, confess any known sin to God. Then, as the law of faith penetrates, praise God and confess that He is present to save, to heal, to deliver, and to restore.

Pray for others by proxy. Once you claim His presence, let your faith touch Him and recognize that He hears and is present to heal the one who is on your heart.

Don’t be caught in an attitude of denying that healing is for today. God has never stopped healing people. People were still being healed after His resurrection, according to the Book of Acts. He healed through the apostles, as Paul wrote in Galatians 3:5: “He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”

The miracles didn’t stop; God continued to work in the Galatian church by the Holy Spirit, and the same Spirit is still working. God could, God would, God did, and God will. He continues to heal today.

God is present to heal right now. As we

claim His presence, our faith will touch Him. Unless there is a reason in the sovereign will of God, He will heal—without exception. Do not doubt what God can do, but say to the mountain of sickness, “Be cast into the sea.” God is no respecter of persons. Our faith must be based on the irrevocable promise that we can have whatsoever we ask in prayer when we ask believing (Matthew 21:22).

This is a spiritual law of power in the presence of a spiritual provision—a promise from the Person of Jesus Christ, the Lord of our bodies. He is the God of the heart, the head, the eyes, and every other organ within us. He can strengthen muscles, heal from disease, and remove every negative effect of sickness and disease.

Healing comes from Jesus Christ and goes into us. We may or may not sense our healing right away, but we will know by God’s grace that we are healed. Believe God. Don’t walk by sight or by feelings. Rather, walk in praise and thanksgiving that God could, God would, God did, and God will.

CONCLUSION

Just like the blind man who obeyed and went to the pool, or the man who stretched out his withered arm, we will be asked to take steps of faith. Sometimes Jesus reached out *His* hand, and at other times He simply spoke a word. But so many times, He wants us to be like the man who hadn't walked for thirty-eight years—to take up our bed and walk with a faith that acts toward Jesus Christ.

Let the presence and power of God penetrate with the virtue of the Word and the presence of His grace and love to heal. Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37). All of His promises are “Yea.” If we ask anything in His name, He will do it. In practical, simple faith, we can ask Him to heal our body, emotions, and mind (conscious, subconscious, and unconscious). He will deliver us from habits and work in our midst like never before.

Touch the place where healing is needed. If it

is your heart, touch your heart. The law of faith is at work. Jesus Christ is in every believer right now. In Nazareth, He was present to heal, but they were not healed because they were familiar with His presence.

Though our theological concepts might be good, many of us do not understand that God Almighty is *in* us. And He is in us to heal. In John 14:17-20, while Jesus was on earth, He said, "I am *with* you, but later on I will be *in* you." Though they had His physical presence with them, God did not indwell men until Pentecost. We are so much better off today! Still, we don't grasp what it means that God is in us, yet it is the law of spiritual life: We *know* it, but it needs to become our experience.

We are alive at the most unusual time in Church history. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are in us. Grace and power are in us. Let's release that power continually and go forward. God could. God would. God did. And God will! Just touch His presence and let Him heal you.