

## FOREWORD BY ANDREW KETTLE

I have accompanied Peter across the Philippines and have witnessed amazing signs and wonders; the blind receiving their sight, limbs being restored, deaf ears opened and many people giving their lives to Jesus.

The most amazing miracles took place among the pagan mountain people of Bontoc. Over half of the population of Bontoc gave their lives to Jesus and on the last night we lost count of how many blind received their sight (I know of at least four). Many deaf were healed. Again I lost count of how many cripples discarded their sticks and canes. I have never seen anything like this before.

As the crusade service started the skies lit up. At first I wondered if we were going to have thunder, but no, it was as if it was a sign from the Lord that a breakthrough had happened in the heavenlies, as the principalities and powers that have ruled here were defeated.

The Anglican Bishop came to see me after the crusade absolutely amazed at what had happened. He had never seen anything like it in his life and he is an elderly man. He kept thanking Peter for coming.

Many Christians in the West find it hard to believe in miracles, but we saw these things with our own eyes. I count it a privilege to write a foreword to this book and to endorse the accounts of the miracles recorded in it.

*Rev Andrew Kettle*  
Missionary

**PART**

# ONE

KNOWING  
GOD'S WILL  
CONCERNING  
HEALING

# 1

## GOD'S HEALING WORD

*Those who are in truth His disciples, receiving grace from Him, do in His Name perform miracles, so as to promote the welfare of other men, according to the gift which each one has received from Him. For some do certainly and truly drive out devils, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe [in Christ], and join themselves to the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come; they see visions, and utter prophetic expressions. Others still, heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole. Yea, moreover, as I have said, the dead even have been raised up and remained among us for many years.*

Iranaeus AD 140-203  
*Against Heresies Book 2*

'My son, give attention to My Words; incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.' Proverbs 4:20-22

Despite the fact that the Bible is packed with positive promises revealing God's will concerning healing, many Christians are unaware of them and therefore are full of doubt—even unbelief—when they pray.

A foundation for our faith, built firmly on the Word of God, is vital for receiving healing or any other blessing from the Lord. That is why I have written the following chapters, packed with scripture and biblical teaching on the subject.

Our faith must stand firmly on the promises of God. May I encourage you to read these truths over and over again to build your faith to combat the doubts of the enemy.

I have found that those who pray, but fail to receive the miracle from Christ that they desire, often lack knowledge of what the Bible says about God's blessings and healing, for without knowing these truths we have no basis for our faith.

Most church members have at some time been taught that sickness is God's blessing in disguise, that it may teach them humility and patience, and that it may have a divine purpose and therefore should not be resisted, but graciously accepted and humbly borne with patience for God's glory. Yet I have also discovered that very few of those people can quote scriptures in the Bible that promise physical healing, even though there are many.

If these promises are not taught the people cannot know them. If people do not know these truths, there can be no faith for miracles. If there is no faith for miracles, they will not be experienced.

As believers, we need to decide that God's Word will always be the final authority for us.

Jesus said that the Word of God is the seed. The only way to stop Satan stealing it from us is to stand firm on God's Word as our Lord did... 'It is written!' Right from the time when man first sinned in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been out to make people doubt God's Word:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?" ...you shall not die.'

Genesis 3:1,4

You must realise that Satan's only power to defeat you is if he can deceive you into doubting God's Word. It is the oldest trick in the Book. He tried it on Adam and Eve and tricked them with the words, 'Has God said?'

He tried to put doubt in our Lord's mind, after His baptism, concerning God's Word and His identity. The Father spoke from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son in

Whom I am well pleased.' Almost immediately Satan came along saying, 'If you are the Son of God...' Our Lord would not be moved. He declared, 'It is written...' Jesus stood firmly on the Word of God, as we must.

The devil always tries to sow doubt over anything that God has done. Did he not try to make you doubt your salvation? The only way that we can counter doubt is with the Word of God. The Bible says that if I confess my sins, God is faithful and just to forgive me my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). I have confessed them, so I am forgiven. It tells me that if I open the door of my life to Jesus, He WILL come in (Revelation 3:20). It tells me that if I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ I WILL be saved (Acts 2:21).

The same principle is true when it comes to healing. If we do not have a sound biblical foundation, knowing the promises of God concerning healing, we will waver and doubt our healing in the same way that we would doubt God's forgiveness if we did not have a good foundation in the Word of God.

Since I learned to stand on God's Word I have never doubted God has forgiven me. I did not say that I have always felt saved. Our feelings change and are very unpredictable. That is why our faith must be based on the unchanging promises of God's Word and not on how we feel.

Read over and over the chapters in this section, which are full of biblical truths on healing until you have a good foundation in the Word of God to combat all the doubts of the enemy. The Word of God is the only means of deliverance from doubt.

Throughout the Old and New Testament we see God healing the sick. As we will see together, the Scriptures reveal God as 'The Lord Who heals you'. He does not change, neither does His attitude towards sin, sickness and disease.

If we hope to see miracles and experience healing we must realise that it does not just happen to people automatically, any more than salvation just happens to people. God does not force blessings onto us; they are received by

faith. Although it is 'by grace' that we are saved, it is 'through faith' (Ephesians 2:8).

If a preacher faithfully preaches salvation, then people will get saved. If he faithfully preaches the promise of the Holy Spirit, then people will also be filled with the Spirit. The same is true of healing. It is only as healing is preached that people start to get healed. It does not matter how much a pastor prays for the sick in church, if he does not preach faith for healing, then it is unlikely that anyone will get healed.

One of the major problems is that for years preachers taught that God does not heal the sick today. This has led to a 'spirit' or 'atmosphere' of unbelief in the church. If a minister preached in his church that Jesus does not forgive sin and that salvation is by good works, how many would get saved? Only preaching the truth of the Gospel will lead to people being saved. Only by preaching the truth of God's Word concerning healing can we break this stronghold of unbelief.

Have you ever tried witnessing to someone who has been brought up to believe that salvation is by good works? Despite the Scriptural teaching to the contrary, years of false teaching have often led to a hardness towards gospel truths. The only hope is that the person will re-consider what they have 'always believed' in the light of God's Word. The same is true for Christians. For many years believers have heard that God does not heal the sick today and that miracles have ceased. Consequently, even when they know that this cannot be true, because God does not change and even though they may know of people who have been healed, they still fight unbelief.

It may be that I will write some things which are different from what another preacher, pastor or Bible teacher has taught you. However, the only relevant question must be not, 'What have we heard others teach about healing?' or 'What does Peter Gammons say?' but, 'What does the Bible say?' God's Word must be the final authority for us.

How often have we seen that traditional, long-held views die hard? Yet Jesus warned us that the traditions of men can make the Word of God 'of no effect'. If we exalt the views of

man above the Word of God we must expect to receive nothing from God.

Many Christians have never studied God's Word on this important subject for themselves. Others have a theology of healing based on the experience of other Christians. Some assume that, because many fine Christians have not been healed, it is not God's Will. Others think that, because someone else was healed that they will also be healed. Yet to build our faith on the experiences of someone else, whether their experience was positive or negative, instead of building on the Word of God, is to build on sand.

If our own experience does not match-up to the Word of God, it is our experience that must change, not God's Word! To have faith we must accept what God's Word says, even if it conflicts with everything we have ever believed before.

Why is there a lack of miracles in many circles today? The Bible says: 'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God' (Romans 10:17). Yet, too often, faith has left us after hearing the words of others.

Ministers may call for a month of fasting but this will not bring the miraculous into evidence if we do not teach the promises of God in their absolute simplicity. We can call for entire nights of prayer, but it will be of no avail if our teaching does not encourage simple faith in Christ.

We need to see that the Word of God is His voice. It has the same authority as if He were speaking to us in person. When you read the Bible remember that you are having a personal conversation with the Lord.

The absolute integrity of God's written Word is the only basis for consistent faith. We should give God's Word the same place as we would give Christ if He were physically in our presence.

We cannot separate God from His Word. The promises we read in the Bible are God speaking to us personally. They are just as much ours as a cheque that is drawn on a bank and which is made out to us. Faith means that we expect God to do what He has promised. That is why faith comes by hearing the Word of God. You must know what God has promised to do before you can expect Him to do it.

God need not give any special revelation of His will when He has plainly given His revealed will in His Word. God's Word is His will. God's promises reveal His will. When we read of what He promises to do, we then know what it is His will to do.

The Bible is the only way that we can know God's will, for God's Word never changes. As the psalmist put it, 'Forever O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven' (Psalm 119:89).

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent. Has He said it and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and will not make it good? Numbers 23:19

Jesus said:

'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Word will by no means pass away.' Matthew 24:35

The issue must be not what do we believe about healing but what God's Word says on the subject for we can only receive from God on His terms. Most of us have had to do a lot of re-thinking on this subject.

### Faith for healing

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17

God's Word is packed with positive promises so that our faith is firm and unshakeable.

Some people say, 'I wish I had faith like yours for healing,' as though faith is a commodity which just drops out of the sky. There is only one way that we can obtain faith and that is by reading and believing in the absolute integrity of God's Word. The same Word that brings us faith to receive forgiveness also brings us faith to receive healing. The same Word that reveals God's will concerning healing also brings us the faith to receive our healing.

God has told us:

My son, attend to My Words; incline your ear to My sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. These are life to those that find them and health to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22

We will only discover the blessings that are ours in Christ by 'attending to' the Word of God, by a constant, diligent, prayerful study of it. We must feed on His Word until it becomes a part of us.

Jesus said:

'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.'  
John 15:7

As we 'abide in' or 'live in' the Word of God, faith comes so that we can pray expectantly. It is only by God's Word that doubts go and faith comes.

God tells us that we must have faith. Now if God demanded that we have faith when it is impossible for us to have faith, then we could challenge His justice. But if He places within our hands the means whereby faith can be produced, then the responsibility rests with us whether or not we have faith. He has provided the way whereby everyone can have faith—and He has told us exactly how to receive faith.

Some Christians say, 'If only I had a Word from heaven about healing.' We do; it is called the Bible. The Bible is the source of faith. To say, 'I wish I had more faith' is like sitting outside a garage saying, 'I wish I had more petrol.' We must go to the source and fill up. The responsibility is with us. God, by giving us His Word, has already done His part.

#### **Unbelief can hold back God moving in your life**

What natural food is to the physical man, the Word of God is to the spiritual man. It produces faith. There is no other way. In Matthew 13:58 we read that at Nazareth, 'He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.' Just as

unbelief kept Christ from healing the sick then, it will surely do so today.

Mark records how unbelief limited God's moving in Jesus' own home town: 'He could do no mighty deeds there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief' (Mark 6:5,6).

Isn't it astonishing that there are things that the Son of God 'could not do'? That is what God's Word says. If a preacher had said that, he would have been accused of being a heretic. But it is the Word of God that says it. Our unbelief can hinder God. Do not misunderstand me, God can, of course, do anything. He is sovereign. But in His sovereignty He has chosen to work in response to faith. As a sovereign God He has every right to do that.

Years of preaching that God does not perform miracles today or that we cannot expect Him to work miracles for us, has left an atmosphere of unbelief in our land which so often stops our prayers breaking through. The Word of God is clear. Jesus' miracles were not just the intervention of a sovereign God doing whatever He liked. He responded to faith. Faith is vital to receiving answered prayer (Mark 11:24, Matthew 21:21, Mark 9:23, Matthew 9:29).

When Jesus' disciples asked why they had been unable to cast the demon out of a child, Jesus said, 'Because of your unbelief' (Matthew 17:20).

Mark 9:17-27 tells us of a father who brought his demon-possessed son to the Lord and said, 'If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.' Jesus replied, 'If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.' Christ said in effect to this father, 'The "if" does not lie with Me, but with you.'

It is a waste of time praying for healing to 'see if it works'. The Bible tells us to 'ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord' (James 1:6,7). The book of James tells us that it is 'the prayer of faith that saves the sick and the Lord will raise him up' (James 5:15).

It is the 'prayer of faith' and not just prayer. It is vital that we grasp this if we hope to see miracles.

The day of miracles is past for those who believe that it is, for Jesus said, 'According to your faith let it be to you' (Matthew 9:29). Signs only follow 'them that believe' (Mark 16:16-20).

It is my prayer that we may come to God's Word afresh and that faith will come to your heart.