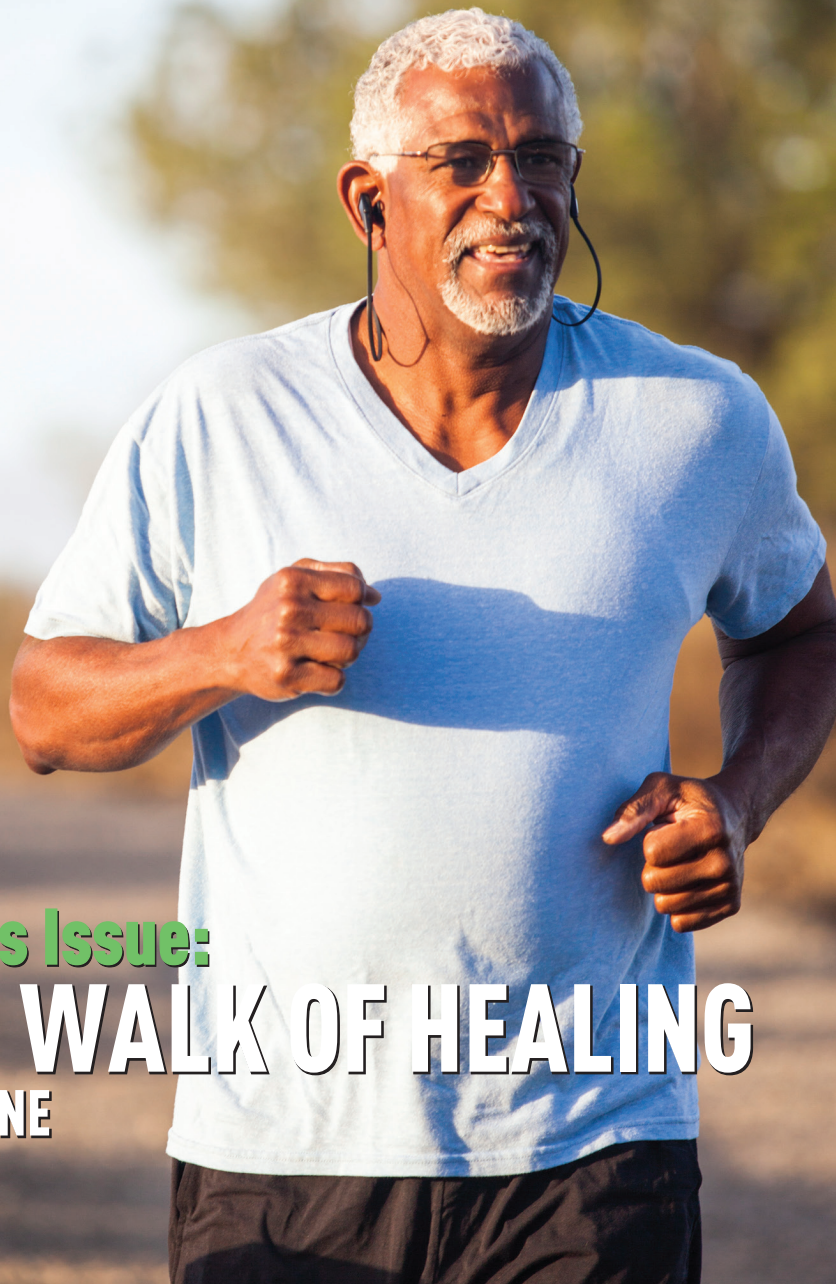


Faith Is Action

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THE WALK OF HEALING

PART ONE

The word *love* is found countless times in the New Testament; yet surprisingly, it is not mentioned once in the *Book of Acts*. In all other 26 books, even tiny Philemon's 26 verses, *love* is found, but in 28 chapters of Acts, not once. However, you will find references to being *in one mind*—and *in one accord*. The unified members of the infant Church were continually and steadfastly in one mind and one accord, praying and seeking God, eating the bread of communion from house to house, and the spiritual food the apostles were feeding them.

You don't find the word *love* in the Book of Acts, because you don't have to *talk about love* when you *walk in love*. They didn't need to preach about *love*, because they were all *walking in love* and unity. When money was needed to fund the Gospel and feed the poor, this fledgling Church that was meeting in houses, began feeding everyone in need. Many sold their homes and property and came and laid the money at the apostles' feet.

Later in his life, John wrote three epistles, writing over and over: "*Love one another... If you say you love God, then you must love your brother.*" 1John can be summed up:

Love God, and love one another.

Peter also wrote about love in his epistles: "*Finally, be you all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, have pity, be courteous*" (1Pet.3:8). He described what it means *to be of one mind*: You have compassion for one another, and you act on that compassion with care and courtesy; when you *have pity*, you actually do something about it. It is one thing to feel for somebody and another thing to meet their need.

Why should he need to tell Christians to be courteous? I know I have met a lot of rude Christians, have you? Peter did too and explained: "*Not rendering evil for evil, or rail-*

ing for railing, but contrariwise blessing; knowing that you are thereunto called, that you should inherit a blessing" (v.9). In other words, not being vindictive—I'm going to get back at him or her, because of the way they treated me. Peter said that if you want to inherit blessings, then bless with kindness someone who has done you wrong. He added:

"He that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him eschew evil (hate evil), and do good; Let him seek



peace and ensue it" (vv.10-11). Do you want to live as long as God has written down in His book that you are supposed to live? I ask this, because there are some who say that when people die young or unexpectedly, or are murdered, that it was going to happen, *because it was their time*. They make it sound like God wrote it down, and that's how it is. But this is not scriptural. It is *fatalism* that says "*What will be, will be.*"

You and I have something to say about it according to the way we live. I pray most days, "*Lord, let me fulfill the number of my days on this earth. Give me length of days and strength of days.*" I don't just want to live a long time; I want to be active and productive. I want to have a sound mind, so I am useful to the Kingdom of God. Do you want to have good days and long days? Do you want to have a full, happy life? Peter gave us the formula—by having a heart of love and unity for the brethren.

The Supremacy of Love

But Paul wrote the most beautiful, poetic, and eloquent words ever written about love. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote her famous poem: "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...*" But no one can touch what Paul wrote in *1 Corinthians 13*. In 13 verses, Paul perfectly described what love is. Most of his writings were devoted to doctrinal issues, mysteries, and revelations God gave him to give to the Church, including justification by faith, the rapture-res-

urrection, and the Gifts of the Spirit, which he taught in *1 Corinthians*, chapters 12 & 14. He had been writing about the diversities of the Gifts and how they operate, when in mid-stream, he abruptly changed the subject to *love* in chapter 13:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or tinkling cymbals. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and though I have all faith that I could remove mountains and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing" (vv.1-4).

Paul essentially said, "Hold on... it doesn't matter how many gifts you have *if love is not the motivator.*" People can be used in the gifts, but if love is not the motivator, it will not be the blessing God intended. In fact, the person being used can become puffed up in his own imagination, and his message is as *sounding brass*. If you remember *The Gong Show*, when people who thought they could sing sounded more like Minnie Pearl, the host would hit the gong with a big hammer to shut them down. One can prophesy, speak in tongues and interpret, but if he doesn't have love as the motivator, *he conveys nothing*.

A person can have words of wisdom and knowledge and revelation—even miracle-working, mountain-

moving faith, and all of us want this. Jesus said, *“Speak to the mountain; command it to be cast into the sea, and it shall be done unto you.”* But this kind of faith alone is not enough. In fact, I will say, *you may never get this kind of faith if you don’t have love.* Because Galatians 5:6 says, *“Faith works by love.”*

Without love, your faith won’t work to edify the church and bless the saints. Many times we concentrate on our faith, and we should, but we neglect our love, and we don’t get the results we expected.

The Formula that Works

“We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, because that your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all towards each other abounds.” (2Thess.1:3). This is the formula that produces results, including healing: *Faith grows exceedingly when it is joined to love that grows abundantly.* You cannot have one without the other—*Abundant faith walks with abundant love.*

Many ministers concentrate on faith. They have great faith messages, but they may deliver them with a sharp tone and in a condescending way: *If you knew what I know, you would have more faith.* But love has to be the motivator for faith to work.

Paul said, *“Though I give away all my goods—even give my body as a martyr—if I don’t have love, it profits me nothing.”* You might think, *If that’s not love, then what is?*

First, it has been rightly said: *You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.* When the Early Church saints were selling their properties to help the needy, one couple, Ananias and Sapphira, lied to Peter about the amount they gave, keeping some for themselves. They were both struck dead for lying to the Holy Spirit. They were motivated by greed—not love! (Acts 5:1-10).

Secondly, we have seen Islamic terrorists blow themselves up for their religion of death—Do they do it in love? Suicide bombers are motivated by hatred—not love.

Paul said, *“If I speak with tongues of men and angels, but I don’t have love, I convey nothing.* If I have mountain-moving faith, but I do not have love, *I am nothing.* If I give away everything; even my body to be burned, if I don’t have love, *it profits me nothing.”* Love must be the motivator and the core of our Christian walk:

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (v.7). The Greek word for *bear* means *to cover*. It is better translated, *love covers all things*; it dovetails with 1Peter 4:18: *“Love covers a multitude of sins.”* It does not mean covering it up so as to excuse or hide it, but because the person has repented and is going on with the Lord, not to broadcast it and make him feel bad so he’s ashamed to come back. Rather, love *believes* all things. The Greek word means *to hope*. It could be translated: *Love*

hopes all things. It's not the watered down *wishy hope*—but an absolute assurance; unwavering, steadfast confidence that believes the best about everything, and therefore, *love endures all things.* It's able to hold up under all unfavorable and trying things; therefore, *"Love never fails."*

"Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail, whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part (partial knowledge), and we prophesy in part (partial revelation). But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abides faith, hope and love; these three, but the greatest of these is love" (vv.8-13).

The day is coming when *we will no longer need the Gifts of the Spirit.* We won't need tongues and prophecy and words of wisdom and knowledge, *because we will know everything perfectly.* I think Adam knew perfectly, but when he sinned, he messed it up for us all. One day all will be restored, but now we are looking through a glass darkly; like looking through a dirty window, we can't see clearly.

The word *darkly* in Greek is

enigma, transliterated into English, meaning *something that is hard to figure out; a riddle.* This is why we need to be careful not to speak *dogmatically* what we only know *darkly.* Some speak dogmatically, *"Thus saith the Lord"*—*"God told me..."* and they don't even know what they're talking about. And if God has shown you something, *revelation is progressive*, and two years later you might think, *That's what I thought then, but now I realize I didn't have the whole understanding—it was the foundation, and now the Lord is adding to it, as I continue to "grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Lord"* (2Pet.3:18). No matter how long one is saved, he should never stop growing in grace and knowledge. No minister, no matter how long he has been preaching the Gospel, knows it all. We are all still learning, so we all have to remain teachable.

Paul also used the analogy of childhood versus adulthood: How much knowledge and understanding does a six-year old have compared to a forty-year old who is educated and has experienced life. Even this is a weak analogy compared to what we know as born again, Holy Ghost baptized, Spirit-filled, anointed people, being renewed in our minds by the Word of God. Even so, what we know now is like a six year-old compared to what we will know then.

"Now abides these three—the divine trinity—faith, hope and love, and the greatest is love." Because

without love, *faith will fail and hope will die*. The reason love is going to abide eternally is when we get to Heaven, we won't need faith. Right now *"We walk by faith, not by sight"* (2Cor.5:7), but then our faith will be turned to sight. When we get to Heaven, we won't need hope: *"For we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For what a man sees, why does he yet hope for it? But if we hope for that which we see not, then we with patience do wait for it"* (Rom.8:24-25). In Heaven, both faith and hope will be reality.

Walking in Love with God

Until you know how much God loves you, and believe with all of your heart He wants to bless you and answer your prayers, you will have a hard time when hit with great adversities. When things come out of the blue and blindsides you, and your security is shaken, you must be absolutely convinced that your Father loves you, because the lying devil will try to take advantage of your vulnerability in those times: *"If God loves you, why did this happen? Why are you in this mess?"* When you know your Father loves you, even though you don't understand, and you surely don't like it, and may even tell God so, you are still able to *trust Him* for a good outcome. We quote it all the time, but only then does **Romans 8:28** become real: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called*

according to His purpose." Although God doesn't always intervene in every situation to stop it, He will use the circumstances for a greater good. I have learned He never wastes our suffering.

I know at some time the lying devil has told everyone of us that God doesn't love us. If we are still in the baby stage, or have un-crucified self in us, we boo hoo, *"It's not fair,"* or *"They don't treat me right,"* and *"I'm giving up this position,"* or *"I'm leaving that church,"* and other foolishness. It doesn't help; it only makes it worse. When you know that God loves you, you give it to the Lord; you might bite your lip, but you keep hanging in there, trusting God to work it out, and you don't give into fear. This is the factor that must be overcome.

Fear is a Faith Killer

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love." (1Jn.4:18). I know what it is like to be tormented by fear, and fear is a potent faith-killer. It is the same premise: *Faith cannot work without love*. You have to get rid of fear for faith to work, and the way to get rid of fear is *to be made perfect—mature in love!* No longer like a child who is *"tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and the sleight of men..."* (Eph.4:14). Mature love is indispensable to faith, because it conquers fear.

The thing that was most detri-

mental to my faith when I injured my back in 1992 was fear. I was besieged with doubt, unbelief, and the lies of the devil filled my heart with fear. Satan lied to me constantly, “*God doesn’t love you.*” Another lie he told me, “*You’ve lost your faith,*” and when I heard this, the fear it brought plunged me into despair. I thought: *If I don’t have faith, I am hopeless and helpless, because you can’t get anything from God, no matter how much He loves you, without faith—O my God, I don’t have faith, so I’ll never be able to believe God for my healing!*

For years these thoughts fed my fear, and the fear cancelled my faith and brought mental torment. I’d get my faith boosted a little bit, and fear would rush in and cancel it out. It was a vicious cycle, but my breakthrough came when I finally got it through my head and into my heart *God loves me! The devil is a liar!* Nothing I do can make God love me less. I might disappoint or frustrate Him by failing to believe, but I can never make Him love me less. If I fail and fall flat on my face, it will not affect how much He loves me. On the other side of the coin, if I have the greatest faith and am the strongest Christian in this church, it won’t make God love me more. *God loves me because He loves me.* 1John 4:19: “*We love Him, because He first loved us.*” He loved me first. He loves me most!

A Crisis of Faith

When your body is wracked with pain night and day, leaving you bed ridden, life comes to a desperate halt. Before my injury, my life was so busy I didn’t know if I was coming or going. My thumb print was on everything in our church and this Ministry, and now I lay in bed having to be waited on and cared for. After five years of suffering, a pivotal point in my deliverance came in Campmeeting ‘97. Unable to attend, I was home alone. Previously, when we still held services at *The Master’s Retreat Campground* in Fruitland, MD until 1994, you could have called me, *Mrs. Campmeeting*, because I oversaw everything that happened: managing workers and volunteers, who slept where in the dorms, the menu, buying the food, and ministering in the services. To go from that hectic, multi-tasking lifestyle, to lying at home in bed, knowing at Faith Tabernacle Church folks were jumping out of their seats with joy, left me feeling abandoned and joyless.

I had been extremely anxious that day because of a phone call the night before at midnight from *Sister Mary*. She had come to Fruitland every year, and she never made a reservation, no matter how many times I told her she needed to. She just showed up and moved herself into a room that was already reserved, undoing my whole guest plan, and not seeming to care it caused problems. Now she had come to Balti-

more without notice and wanted someone to pick her up at the bus station. I did not have anyone who could come that time of night. She would have to take a cab. After I hung up, the devil started on me: *“What kind of Christian are you? You are a terrible person. What if something happens to her?”* This went on the next day.

By evening, my chest felt so heavy, I kept taking deep sighs to breathe. I busied myself reading my Bible and listening to Christian music, but I felt an unwelcome presence in the house. I was in the bathroom reading when I heard an audible deep voice say, *“God hates you!”* I was so startled, I almost fell off my seat, and I knew I was facing a powerful demonic force. I began walking around the house, playing music as loud as I could and singing to the top of my voice. Eventually I had to lie down, and as I read my Bible, it gradually lifted. When Benny and Sarah came home from church, they were running over with Campmeeting joy, talking about the service. Feeling better, I didn’t tell them about my experience, and we went to bed.

Around 3 in the morning I awoke with the most horrible pain I’d ever had, and it wasn’t just in my back. The pressure of the pain in my entire lower body felt like my insides were going to gush out. I tried to sit up, but I couldn’t stand the pressure, so I literally jumped straight up out of bed, *something I never did!* I made it

to the bathroom, holding onto the counter as the pain worsened. *God, what’s wrong with me?* Suddenly, I felt a tremendous surge of pain whirl up from my feet to my lower body, to my chest, and into my throat. My heart was pounding so fast, I thought it would explode. Gasping for breath, I felt myself caught up into a violent tailspin, and I saw a black tornado spinning before me. I was terrified. Then I felt my body collapsing, and I thought *If I fall on this floor, Benny won’t find me until the morning, and I will probably be dead.* Somehow I made it back to the bedroom. Trying to wake Benny, I was so weak, I fell onto his chest. Thinking I was a burglar, he grabbed me, shaking me really hard. I kept saying, *“Benny, I’m dying, I’m dying.”* He tried smacking my face, calling my name, trying to get me out of it. His voice drifted further and further away as weakness overtook me.

Meanwhile, in my spirit, *I was angry!—This is not the way a child of God is supposed to die! I’m ready to die if it’s my time to go, but not like this! This is a horrific, frightening death! It isn’t right!*

Finally, Benny began shouting, *“Jesus! Jesus!”* I couldn’t speak, but on the inside, I was shouting, *“Yes! Call on Jesus!”* Then I saw bright laser lights—pink and blue beams—shooting all around me. I instinctively knew they were God’s angels, and I felt myself come back into my body and slump onto the bed like a limp noodle. He called my parents five

times before they answered and prayed for me over the phone. Still kneeling at the bed while they prayed, gradually the pain subsided, and soon I was able to go to sleep.

This was amazing, because any time I had strong episodes of extreme pain, it would take hours, and sometimes days to resolve. And the pain just stopped. I knew it was the hand of God. I slept like a baby, and the next day I had no pain increase. Emotionally and spiritually, I felt like I was floating on air. *I felt loved!* Later that day, God spoke to me: *“Write for Me.”*

I believe God allowed that event *to show me how much He loves me.* Satan had been lying to me, but this time he was bolder, *speaking audibly*, and he didn’t say his usual lie: *“God doesn’t love you”*— but— *“God hates you.”* Until I understood how much God loves me, I could not receive any more from Him. My faith could not grow another inch until *I believed God loves me. This is the first principle of walking in love.*

Condemnation is A Faith-Killer

“If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, we have confidence towards God, and whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things which are pleasing in sight” (1Jn.3:20-22). I want to know *what these commandments are*, because I want my prayers answered, especial-

ly for my healing. John stated them in verse 23: *“That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”*

Another major faith-killer is *self-condemnation*, be it real or imagined—real because you are convicted for disobedience, or imagined because the devil is lying to you. Either way, *true or false*, when you’re under condemnation, you don’t have confidence towards God. Instead of coming boldly to the throne of grace that you might receive help, mercy, and grace in the time of need, you come tepidly. In order to come in confidence without wavering and drawing back in unbelief, your heart has to be free of condemnation. John said there are two things we must do: *walk in the authority of Jesus’ Name*, and *walk in love towards one another.*

Much of my preaching is on the authority of the believer (*Authority Above All & The Spoken Word of God Series* expound authority in Name of Jesus, Word of God, and how you use it). But if we are not walking in love with one another as John said, the authority will not be in effect, because faith only works when love is present—love for God and love for others.

How to Walk in Healing

Why is it some people, whom you know have strong faith, struggle with getting prayers answered? Struggle with healing of their bodies?

Let me say, there is no one-size-fits-all answer, but in some cases the reason is *failing to walk in love*. When I personally began putting this principle into action, things began to break for me. I had been preaching strong faith for years, but God showed me there's another side to the coin. One side is *faith* and all that it entails, including the authority of the Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and speaking the Word. The other side is *love*. Without a true NT love-walk, you cannot have sound, active faith. When you need *healing* or *anything* from God, your faith must be in working order—it must be energized by love.

For example: You have been dealing with a physical condition, sickness, or infirmity in your body for a while, and have done everything you know to do to minister to and strengthen your faith. “*Faith comes by hearing the Word of God,*” so you go to church, listen to teaching CDs and TV that build up faith; meditate on the Word of God; read and quote Scripture out loud. But in spite of all of this, something seems to be holding you back from getting your healing or keeping a healing you have received. Then someone says to you, “Remember so-and-so who hurt you and wounded your spirit—what they did to you was wrong, and you still feel the hurt and anger, and its bitterness—but if you will forgive him/her totally from your heart, and let it go, your healing will break through—*would you be willing to do it?*”

Or suppose: You have a tendency to be critical, quick to point out people's faults and discuss them with others, and today the Holy Spirit convicts you that a critical spirit is a stumbling block in your pathway to total healing, and you need to repent. The person may be your husband or wife—they are still a brother or sister in Christ. If the Spirit said to you, “If you'll repent of that judgmental, critical attitude, the stumbling block in your way will be removed, and you will walk unhindered in increasing health and divine healing, *would you be willing to do it?*” Jesus asked the cripple at the pool of Bethesda: “*Do you want to be made whole?*” When he was healed, Jesus told him to go his way and sin no more (Jn.5:1-14).

I say this, because it's what God showed me. I had a tendency to be critical. I tend to be a perfectionist. I don't do sloppy. I don't do anything haphazard. When I do anything, I do it right to the best of my abilities (and of course, a critical spirit thinks it always does thing better than others). I was prone to judge others, thinking *Why don't you shape up? Why don't you get over it?*

Understand: I've always had good manners and am polite. You can have manners, be polite, and to a point it will camouflage a critical, judgmental, cynical, skeptical, pharisaical, holier-than-thou attitude, but the motive is still there. You may know how to phrase it nicer, but it is in your spirit. If you said what you really thought, it would not be kind. You don't want to mar your spiritual

image, so you don't dare let it all out. But if we want to walk in healing, we not only must walk in faith, but in *brotherly love*.

A Biblical Case

Numbers 12 records part of the children of Israel's wilderness journey under God's prophet Moses, his brother Aaron, the high priest, and his sister Miriam who was a mother in the camp. The two started resenting Moses' authority, murmuring against him, because he had married an Ethiopian woman. He had married Zipporah between leaving Egypt at age 40 and returning to set his people free at age 80, and they had two sons. The Scripture says, "*And the Lord heard it*" (v.2). God was eavesdropping on Miriam and Aaron, so we need to be careful who we talk about. God was angry and came down in the pillar of the cloud in the door of the Tabernacle to openly rebuke them. Imagine standing there, gossiping evil about your own brother, and God speaks out of the cloud to rebuke you: "*Why were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?*"

When the cloud lifted, Aaron looked at Miriam, and she was white as snow with leprosy. Aaron said to Moses, "*Alas, my lord, I beseech you, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead.*" Whoa, did he change his tune! Now Moses, bless his heart, was a meek man, and he cried unto God, "*Heal her now, O God, I beseech you.*" Some might say that

she got what she deserved, but not Moses. There was no malice in his heart. God said, "*If her father had but spit in her face...*" (The worse shame was for parents to spit in one's face.) "*...Should she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and then let her be received in again*" (vv.10-14). Two million people couldn't move on for seven days, waiting on Miriam, a leprous outcast, alone outside the camp. She had time to think about her words against God's servant and to get a new attitude. I bet she never had that problem again.

There are always some who have a problem when we cite OT examples, protesting: "*But they were under the Law, and we are under grace.*" The fact is, we are not under the *ceremonial laws*, the *liturgical laws*—all their washings and rites, because we are washed by the blood of Jesus and sanctified by the water of the Word. But God did not rescind the moral law, the Ten Commandments, or the laws of righteousness, and certainly, Paul did not have a problem with citing examples from the Church in the wilderness, which he did in 1Corinthians 10:1-12. He said that they *all* came out of Egypt, they *all* experienced the Red Sea crossing, ate manna from Heaven, drank water out of the rock. They *all* experienced the same spiritual blessings, "*but with many of them God was not pleased, and they were overthrown in the wilderness*" (v.5). *All came out, but not all went in.*

Verse 6: "*Now these things were*

our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things, as they lusted." He enumerated several things such as idolatry, fornication, and in verse 10: "*Neither murmur, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed...*" (I think one of the ugliest words in the Bible is *murmur*. It doesn't even sound nice when you say it.) "*Now all these things happened unto them for examples, and they are written for our admonition...*" (v.11). *Admonition* means *warning*— they are written to warn us. When we see how Miriam opened the door to sickness for not walking in brotherly love, we understand how we could open the door to Satan to bring sickness and disease through a critical spirit. We also see how healing is conditional upon walking in love.

Understand: This does not come under the Law of Chastening, but rather the Law of Sowing & Reaping, a universal law that applies to everyone. (Re: 3 Laws of Recompense: FIA 03.-04.11).

When the Spirit dealt with me, I had to discipline myself to change things. If I am in the presence of one who talks negatively, I counteract it by speaking something good. I also found out, if you want to *keep your healing* after you have faith to receive it, you have to walk in love—*vertically*—receiving God's unconditional, perfect love *for us*, that we could never scale "*the depth, the height, the width, and the length of the love of God that passes knowl-*

edge" (Eph.3:18-19). Though we live to be 100 like John did, he said, "*Beloved, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God... Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see Him as He is*" (1Jn.3:1-2).

Then walking in love *horizontally*—extending that love to loving our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

Next Month: Part Two