
HEALING WORDS

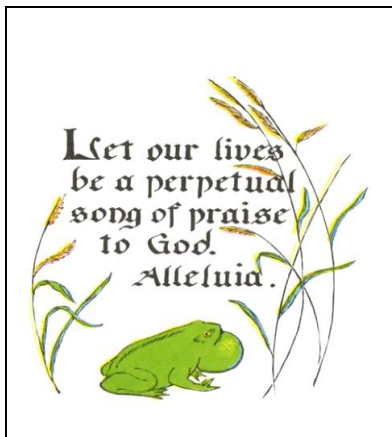
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Spring 2009

FORGIVENESS

By Philip C. Zampino

What is the Christian faith all about? Our faith is about God loving us so much that He valued us as worth forgiving, even to the point of offering Himself in the personage of His own Son as a sacrifice for our sins and brokenness. We hear the words from John 3:16 telling us, "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life," but we often miss the depth of what that really means. We fail to realize that God not only reaches out and offers forgiveness for the sins of the entire human race, but He forgives each one of us individually. He also sets before us an example of how He expects us to relate to one another. It is certainly difficult to make the transition from the theological theory of forgiveness to the actual practice of it, but until there is really something important to forgive, forgiveness is just a nice thought. God demonstrated for us that He expected us to go far beyond the *concept* of forgiveness, and to enter into the true *practice* of forgiveness.



A number of years ago the son of a friend of mine died while on the operating table. The doctor came out to speak with the family and then took full responsibility for making a mistake during the surgery that had cost the young man his life. The family did not retaliate with hatred or a law

HEALING SERVICES RESUME

Healing Services are scheduled to resume on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:30 PM at our Chapel. When Jesus Christ walked the face of this earth over two thousand years ago, He came with a message of healing and salvation. That message has never changed and never will until He returns. Come join us with a believing heart for the next healing service and for subsequent ones. Bring with you those who need the healing touch of our Lord Jesus Christ in spirit, soul, or body.

His desire for us is healing and reconciliation, which defeats Satan and brings life and wholeness to each of us.

suit; the father instead hugged the doctor and extended both Christian love and forgiveness. As wonderful as that example is, it is nothing compared to the love of Christ who, from the cross, asked the Father to forgive those who tortured and killed Him, even though they confessed no repentance.

One might ask why God would go through such pain in order to emphasize forgiveness. There are a number of reasons, one of which is that God, in His love for us, has determined that He considers forgiveness, reconciliation, and relationship to be on a higher level than punishment. I truly believe God doesn't send people to hell; they choose it themselves by rejecting God and His ways.

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Forgiveness

The second reason why forgiveness is so important is that there is a major correlation between unforgiveness and many sicknesses, diseases and even premature death. One medical doctor observed that at least 21 different illnesses could be attributed either directly or indirectly to unforgiveness.

One might ask the question, if we have such a loving God, then where did sickness, disease, oppression, possession, and death come from? They came as a direct result of man's disobedience to God's commands and are a result of man following and trusting in the word of Satan rather than the Word of God. So when Jesus came into the world, His primary ministries among the people were healing and forgiveness. In Luke 9:1-2 we read, "And He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal." After the resurrection, as recorded in John 20:21-23, Jesus gave the apostles the power and authority to forgive sins, not by any merit of their own, but by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the authority of Jesus Christ.

That brings us to His call on our lives. In Matthew 6: 9-13 we have the basic presentation of the Lord's Prayer, which both Catholics and Protestants have prayed for centuries. In verse 12 we read "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors;" and then verse 14 reads "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." The issue here is not earned forgiveness, but seeing unforgiveness as a block to receiving God's forgiving grace in our own lives. Unforgiveness opens the door for Satan to attack us in our bodies, our souls and, sadly, even our spirits. In other words, unforgiveness can have a seriously negative effect on the totality of our lives.

I remember praying with a woman in a wheelchair, whose hands were gnarled, and the joints in her wrists, ankles and knees were all affected to the point she could not walk. I remember ministering to her deeply in the area of releasing past hurts and unforgiveness. She was so open to what the Holy Spirit wanted to do in her life that she wanted to get up and try to walk right then and there. She tried and, even with help, was unable. However, she kept her faith and courage. She obviously knew she had been set free. A year later I was back in the same church, and a woman walked up to me and said, "Hi,

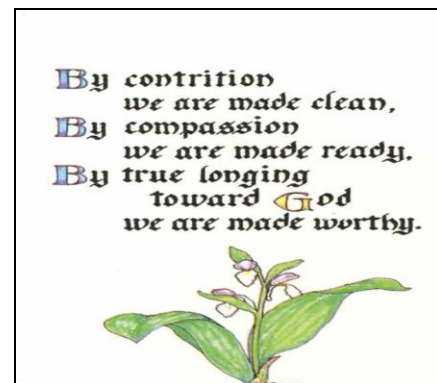
remember me?" I drew a blank. She then said, "Of course you don't remember me. I am the woman in the wheelchair who last year could not walk. God has completed most of my healing and I have come back to receive the rest." Needless to say I rejoiced greatly with her.

I need to state very clearly here: *not all illness is due to the sin of the person who is ill but, as a result of the fall, sin was brought into the world and with it all manner of suffering.* This being true, there are, however, all too many situations where our sins do lead us to sickness of spirit, soul and body.

Up to this point, I have talked about forgiveness and physical healing. Now I would like to give you an example of the healing of a marriage through forgiveness. I was with a couple whose marriage was in serious trouble after the wife had caught her husband in the act of adultery with another woman. This was, of course, a serious breach of the marriage vows the husband had made to God and to his wife. Also, sexual immorality is an open invitation to Satan to work in highly destructive ways in our lives. Saint Paul tells us that this is sin we take into ourselves.

This couple had little or no relationship with Christ even though they attended church. It also became obvious to both husband and wife that they each had responsibility for the deterioration of their marriage. As the couple gave their lives to Christ and renewed their commitment to one another, their marriage was restored and there was much forgiveness extended and received. Eventually the couple led the woman, with whom the husband had the adulterous relationship, to the Lord.

This is an important example of what Christ is able to do when we are willing to allow Him to work in our lives. His desire for us is healing and reconciliation, which defeats Satan and brings life and wholeness to each of us. I pray God will give us all the courage to practice giving and receiving forgiveness and may we also grasp a greater understanding of God's love for us through His healing ministry.



ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

Because of limited resources, we have had to reduce the size and frequency of our newsletter. We plan to send them out quarterly . We have also had to reduce the size of our mailing list. If you know someone who is no longer receiving our newsletter and desires to do so, have them write or call us, and we will be pleased to put them back on the mailing list.

HEALING WORDS BY EMAIL

If you would care to receive future newsletters via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to lijhealingwords@gmail.com. Not only will this save us paper and postage, but give you the added benefit of seeing each edition in color and the opportunity to save it to your computer, print it, or share it with others.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by Philip C. Zampino

Jean and I have spent a great deal of time over the past months soul searching and seeking Jesus as to what He is calling us to do next. We have sought Him with tears and deep prayer, crying out to Him, concerning His desire for the next steps for our lives. Numerous people have encouraged me to take a fresh look at God's original call to the healing ministry. As I have reflected on this, the Lord keeps reminding me of Romans 11: 29, "For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable."

The healing ministry is where Jesus led me very early on, and I believe He is calling me back to the beginning. I do not feel things will be just as they were, for the times are different and the Holy Spirit works in many different ways, but God's intent to heal and bring salvation to a hurting world has never changed.

I believe I am to begin with healing services scheduled on a regular basis, as well as focusing on the theme of healing in Sunday morning worship services, Sunday school classes, and in the newsletter. I am praying to discern God's will regarding other avenues of ministry.

Right now we are in a time of personal inner healing, learning, resting in the Lord, and listening for His still small voice. We want to learn all God wants to teach us during this transitional time and we greatly desire to grow closer to him. I am praying as Moses did in Exodus 33: 13-15, "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight..." And (God) said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' Then (Moses) said to Him, 'If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.'" (NKJ)

Please stand with us in prayer as we wait for God's Presence to lead us.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

As we are in the process of reorganizing, we have many needs in the areas of prayer, volunteer aid, and financial help.

1. Prayer is the undergirding strength of any ministry. We need people who are willing to pray daily for our general needs and also those we can call upon for specific needs as they arise. Praying in our chapel or on prayer walks around the property is especially valuable.
2. Volunteer aid is needed for lawn mowing, gardening, helping in the office, working with computers, and helping with general maintenance of equipment and buildings. We could also use a faithful volunteer who has a background in organizing volunteers.
3. Financial needs are always present and we are so grateful for those of you who have and continue to contribute financially. This is a time of economic challenge and we are aware that many of you are experiencing financial hardships. We are thankful for any offerings you are able to send, but only after your local church and family obligations have been met.

If you are interested and feel you may be called by God to help in any of the above ways, please contact me. Please pray for us that we may move forward in our Lord Jesus Christ's healing ministry and that He will supply all the qualified help and finances that are needed

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Services of Holy Communion, preaching, and healing prayer are held every Sunday morning at 9 AM at the Life in Jesus Church, followed by teaching for adults and young adults on various aspects of Jesus' healing ministry.

HEALING SERVICES

7:30 pm

June 16

September 15

July 14

October 13

August 11

Artwork by the Sisters at All Saints Convent, Catonsville, MD. All scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1951, 1971 by the National Council of Churches, unless otherwise noted. Scripture quotes marked NKJ are from the New King James Version © 1972, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.