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DARE
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DARE
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THE TRUE POWER OF FAITH TO WALK
IN DIVINE HEALING AND MIRACLES

BECKY DVORAK

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DEDICATION



THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED first to my Heavenly Father, who gave me so much; to the Holy Spirit, who has led me every step of the way; and to my Lord Jesus Christ, who healed and delivered everyone in this book by the shedding of His most precious blood. I love You, Father! I love You, Holy Spirit! I love You, Jesus!

Then I want to thank my fun and loving husband, David, for a life filled and overflowing with adventures together. We have seen our Lord Jesus do the most amazing and unexplainable miracles for us, in us, and through us during these past 32 years of marriage, and I believe the best is yet to come!

I pray that the words in this book would become a legacy of faith to pass on to our children: Annie and her husband Adam, Micah and his wife Rebecca, Aaron and his wife Deisy, Ricardo, Jorge, Joaquin, Andres, and Marcos— and to our grandchildren; Addison, Jeremiah, Olivia, and the other little ones who have not been born yet.

I thank all of you for your love and support and for being my family. You are a special gift from God to me. I love every one of you very much!

To my parents, who endured all of my growing up years—you raised a brave and adventurous girl. I will always cherish you in my heart.

To my dear friend, Linda Ryan, who has accompanied me on numerous ministry trips around the world, I say, thank you for being willing and faithful to intercede during all the conferences and seminars and to help me minister to the long lines of sick and hurting people. Our friendship is centered on Jesus!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



TO MY HUSBAND, David, thank you for believing in me, for giving me the gift of time to write this work, for listening to me as I read and reread to you what I wrote, and for sharing with me your wise counsel.

And to the Destiny Image team, I thank you for presenting this message to the world with a spirit of excellence.

ENDORSEMENTS



I have known Becky Dvorak for almost 20 years. I have watched her walk by faith and grow in her understanding and practice of healing and press forward boldly to do whatever God asks her to do, whatever the cost. It has been an honor and privilege to travel together as one of her intercessors and see the Lord use her mightily in healing, miracles, and deliverance. She is an anointed and powerful Bible teacher with a heart on fire for God. She hears the Lord clearly and regularly steps out in faith to follow His leading. Her desire to teach and empower the Body of Christ worldwide inspires everyone who hears her. God is continually increasing her gifts and blessing His ministry through her.

As Becky has prayed for people around the world, I have witnessed God open their blind eyes and deaf ears. I have seen Him heal countless backs, knees, shoulders, feet, and teeth. I have seen tumors healed and limbs straightened and strengthened. These accounts are not exaggerations, but the truthful testimony of God's faithfulness and healing power. Becky will rejoice as all the glory goes to God as she continues to follow His lead.

Linda Scott Ryan
Greater Works Ministry
St. Paul, Minnesota

I have known Becky Dvorak since 2004. I thank the Lord that I have had the chance to travel and to do the work of the ministry with her for all these years.

I traveled with this great servant of God from the Northern to Southern part of my country, Tanzania, from the Maasai to the Nyakyusa people groups. I have been blessed to see how the Lord has been using her mightily. She teaches the Word of God in a powerful way, and not only does she teach the people theoretically, but she also shows them how to put into practice and live out that Word. Lessons like “Knowing Who You Are in Christ,” “The Holy Spirit,” and “Dare to Believe,” along with many other teachings about healing, have changed the lives of many people everywhere we went.

As her interpreter, I witnessed many miracles the Lord performed through her ministry. I’ve seen people come rolling, crawling, and walking with hands and feet bound together, and I’ve seen them leave upright and free after she prayed for them. I’ve seen blind eyes opened, deaf ears healed, short limbs grown out, tumors healed, and many other sicknesses and diseases healed. I give glory to our God for using His servant.

God Bless You!

Pastor Piniel Lucumay
Tanzania, Africa

Becky is one of our mighty servants of God with the gift of healing. She not only teaches, but also demonstrates and teaches you how to minister healing through the Holy Spirit. Some of my co-workers and I have served with her ministry in Shanghai, Changsha, and Xinyang Cities (Mainland China) with many Churches since 2008. I praise our Lord to have her demonstrate and witness to us the power of the Holy Spirit and to help many to truly understand and experience God’s powerful blessings on us!

Those who have not experienced the Holy Spirit’s divine power, who have been unaware of their true identity as God’s children, and who are suffering from physical pains and illness must have a good look at this book and learn from her gifted experience.

Albert Chang
Twin City Bay Church
Shanghai, China

For many years, my husband and I have been encouraged and blessed by the incredible stories, testimonies, and miracles of God through Becky and David's missionary ministry. You will find that Becky's book, *Dare to Believe*, is not only an account of their life's journey and amazing miracles, but it is an actual dare! A dare and challenge to study the Bible, to understand the Scriptures—what they mean for us in our everyday lives— and to believe that God still does the miraculous if we dare to believe!

Terry Maston
The CENTER Church
Granada Hills, California

I see the manifestations of the Kingdom of God with power, touching the physical bodies and the hearts of the people—these words describe David and Becky Dvorak.

The experience of knowing them and seeing them minister in the power of God has been edifying for our congregation. Their lives and the teachings that they have imparted to us have challenged the hearts of those who know them and have heard them to search for a life filled with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and manifest the power of God to bless the people.

Pastor Enrique Rodas González
Iglesia Verbo Antigua, Guatemala

CONTENTS



	FOREWORD	17
	PREFACE	19
	INTRODUCTION	21
CHAPTER 1	REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE	23
CHAPTER 2	HEALINGS AND MIRACLES	65
CHAPTER 3	RESOLVING DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS	77
CHAPTER 4	HOW TO RECEIVE HEALING	109
CHAPTER 5	BY THE BLOOD AND OUR TESTIMONY	123
CHAPTER 6	A SPECIAL ROD	135
CHAPTER 7	POWER FROM ON HIGH	143
CHAPTER 8	A SPECIAL TOUCH	153
CHAPTER 9	FAITH PRINCIPALS IN JESUS' LIFE	157
CHAPTER 10	FAITH PRINCIPALS FOR HEALINGS AND MIRACLES	161
CHAPTER 11	MARCOS	175
CHAPTER 12	ANDRES	195

CHAPTER 13	RICARDO	201
CHAPTER 14	SIPERONI	205
CHAPTER 15	OTHER HEALING TESTIMONIES	209
CHAPTER 16	CHILDLIKE FAITH	283
CHAPTER 17	COMMISSIONED TO HEAL	295
CHAPTER 18	SIGNS AND WONDERS POINT TO JESUS	303
CHAPTER 19	THE ARK AND HIS PROMISE	307
	ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUESTIONS	311
	FAITH ASSIGNMENTS	321

FOREWORD



THE BOOK YOU ARE HOLDING, *Dare to Believe*, is a wonderful account of God's unconditional love for you. I really believe that as you read this manuscript, you will understand in a greater dimension the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross—which provides for us everything the Father has promised to us in the New Covenant of grace!

Learn to *believe* and *receive* God's healing for your life. The presentation that Becky Dvorak provides is a wonderful description of what redemption is all about and what Jesus did to provide all of us with so great a salvation.

Becky and her husband, David, have pioneered the LIFE Homes in Guatemala. Since 1994, they have been faithfully serving the Lord by rescuing abandoned street children and HIV babies. The team that they have trained and mentored and the property that has been developed and maintained are not only a testimony of God's assignment that they carry in their hearts, but also a testimony of their faithful diligence to pursue God's purposes and *dare to believe*.

I believe that the accounts of miracles, and the amazing stories that Becky relates will not only encourage you and give you more reason to give God praise, but also help you position yourself for God's miracles and victory for your personal life. Get ready to *receive* as you *dare to believe*. Enjoy!

Keith Hershey
Founder, Mutual Faith Ministries Int'l
Mission Hills, CA

PREFACE



I ONCE TOLD a Christian woman that she needed to exercise her authority over satan and the attack of cancer against her son's body. She was very puzzled by this statement and wondered how she was to do such a thing. My desire for this book is to teach people how to do just that. I will be covering topics such as the authority we have in Jesus Christ; how He redeemed us from the curse of sin, sickness, and disease; where that curse originated from; and how to put our faith into action to attain our miracle.

He really cares about you! It doesn't matter how hopeless the situation looks. He is able to heal you, and more importantly, He is willing to heal you in spirit, soul, and body.

I have listened to countless numbers of people as they told me that the sickness or disease attacking their bodies was a blessing in disguise from God or that God was using it to teach them some deep truth about His goodness or that it was their cross to bear for His glory. I pray that I am able to shed the light of truth on such gross misconceptions about God in this area. God is good, and every good and perfect gift comes from Him. There isn't anything good about sickness and disease. He is not the one responsible for these afflictions, but He can deliver us from them.

If you are suffering, I want to lead you down the path of healing and deliverance that is found only in Jesus Christ.

DARE *to Believe*

If I were to describe myself, I would say I am like a spoon that God uses to stir people's faith. I like to go beyond theology in the Word and discover the purpose of its meaning for today. I want to teach you how to access and apply His healing power to your everyday life. I want to impart the secret of empowering your life by entering into His presence. And I pray that the personal testimonies will proclaim His abundant goodness toward you and me. I'm sending forth a clear challenge that God is who He says He is and that He will do exactly as His Word says. I encourage you to *dare to believe*.

Behind this book is a life filled with tears, trials, and victorious triumphs that can only be manifested for His glory. Much time has been spent with the Lord, and that has been for my good. This book has been stirring within my spirit for quite some time, and I believe now is the time to share it with you.

I pray that your spiritual eyes will be enlightened to the endless possibilities that you possess in Him. I pray that you will be challenged to the very core of your being to trust Him for what seems impossible and to allow His glory to shine forth through your life. May you experience the empowering of the Holy Spirit with magnificent signs and wonders that will glorify your Heavenly Father and win a lost and dying world to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Dare to believe!*

INTRODUCTION



DARING TO BELIEVE GOD is a matter of the heart. It is a quality decision that happens when a heart is truly surrendered to the grace of God that abounds toward us and not against us. It comes from the revelation of the Living Word—the revelation that it is no longer about doing good works to appease God to gain His favor, but about confidently relying on the power of the costly blood of Jesus Christ, which purchased our redemption from the curse of sin, sickness, disease, and every other form of the curse that attempts to overtake us. This divine understanding of God and His Word comes from time spent with the Spirit of God. In the secret place, He releases the true power of faith to walk in divine healing and miracles. This bold, but child-like faith put into action manifests the presence of God’s glory around us. And those things which were deemed impossible become possible.

Once I was sharing with a group of Bible students, and I was stirring their faith with personal testimonies of healing and miracles. One of these students spoke up and said, “You make it sound as if you and David walk in healing and miracles on a daily basis.”

I replied to him; “Yes.” And I say to those who are holding this book, “That’s as it should be, and it can be for you as well.”

I admonish you, whoever you are, that it matters not what you have or have not done in the past. It matters not what you have or have not said in the past.

DARE *to Believe*

Today is a new day; today is your day of salvation. Jesus Christ paid the price in full with His blood for the forgiveness of all of your wrong-doing and for your deliverance from every attack that satan has launched against you and your loved ones. He took upon His physical body all sickness and all disease so that you can receive His free gift of divine healing today. *Dare to believe!*

CHAPTER 1

REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE



A YOUNG COUPLE WAITED with anticipation for the birth of their first born child, and on November 17, 2010, a beautiful baby boy was born into this world. What started out as a celebration of life, very quickly turned into a life-threatening emergency as their newborn son was struggling to breathe his first breaths. Everything was happening so fast, and their baby was now being transported to another hospital.

Upon their arrival, the medical staff worked hard to stabilize the baby. Afterward, the head physician spoke with the couple and gave them the diagnosis, Meconium Aspiration Syndrome, and told them their baby was in critical condition.

They were both exhausted after a long night of labor and now in shock after all that had taken place. The situation was not good, and the reports were bad; this was not how they had imagined this day would be.

But they were not alone, nor were they without hope. They were Christians, and they knew the Word. The word of faith was in them. They had been taught that they had covenant rights with their heavenly Father for the healing of their baby through the blood of Jesus. But would they dare to believe what they had been taught? Could their faith in God's Word over-ride the negative reports, their five senses, and their human reasoning? And would they put their faith into action and exercise those covenant rights? Did they possess the power that

it takes to fight their enemy and take back the very breath of life that satan was trying to steal from their son?

This testimony is about our first grandson, Jeremiah. And his parents did dare to believe; they put their faith into action, they stood on the promise of healing for their baby, and they obtained that promise; he is alive and well.

I remember being in the intensive care ward with our son, Micah, Jeremiah's father, and despite the numbers we were or were not seeing on the machines that Jeremiah was connected to, our son Micah stood firm on the Word of God, and he was quietly speaking words of faith, declaring words of life and healing over his son.

How could this Christian couple stand firm in their faith in God and His Word for the healing of their baby? What exactly had they been taught that gave them such confidence in their God? I am going to give you the keys that unlock the true power of faith to walk in divine healing and miracles for you, your family, and for those around you.

Before we can exercise the true power of faith to walk in divine healing and miracles, we need to believe that God is willing and able to heal us. In order to believe this, we need to be fully convinced. We need to eliminate all doubt and hidden unbelief from our hearts that God's divine healing is for today and that it is for everyone and anyone who will believe and receive—including you and me.

How do we do this? How do we rid ourselves of doubt and unbelief? We do it by going before the Lord God and asking Him to reveal the truth of divine healing in the Scriptures to us. As the Word says, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*" (James 1:5). And, "*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*" (Rom. 10:17).

There is much to be said and there are so few words to describe all that Jesus Christ did for us in God's plan of redemption. Before meditating on the benefits of His amazing acts of love toward us, we need to examine the curse of sickness and disease and where it originated. We must build a strong foundation in the Word to base our faith upon in order to remove all doubt and confusion from

our minds and hearts as to whether or not it is God's will to heal and to deliver all people from all sickness and all disease.

Let's start at the beginning with the first man, Adam. Adam was created in the image of God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

On the sixth day of creation, God created a special being that would be different from the rest of His creation. He created a man, and He created him in His image. As God is, so was the man created. The word *image* means to mirror or reflect.¹ When we look into a mirror, what do we see? We see our image. We see ourselves as we really are. Adam reflected God's image. As God was, so was Adam created. Adam was the first created being created in the mirror image of God. He was created to reflect God's image. And he was created to have dominion over all things and to subdue the Earth.

So God created man in His own image in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28).

Adam was created to be *fruitful*, to be successful, to produce good results at whatever he put his hands to. He was to engage in spiritual *multiplication* and bring increase and add to the goodness of this Earth. He was to make this Earth *full* with the fruit of God's glory. This magnificent creature was created with the God-given ability to *subdue*, overcome, and bring under control anything that would try to disrupt Divine order in the Garden.

As the psalmist wrote, “*You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; You have put all things under his feet*” (Ps. 8:6). This word *dominion* means “to govern, to lead, to rule.” Of all of God’s wonderful creation, Adam was created and elected to rule. *All things were to be under his feet.* This signifies authority. God, Himself authorized humankind, whom He created in His mirror image, with the power to control this Earth—not to abuse, but to subdue. These words *authority, dominion, and subdue* are words of power. Adam was ordained to rule. He had been entrusted with great responsibility.

Then God fashioned a perfect bride for Adam from the man’s own body, and He presented Eve to him:

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (Genesis 2:21-23).

Adam represents the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ), while Eve represents the Bride of Christ. This is a beautiful analogy of the union between the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, and us, the Bride of Christ.

They had perfect fellowship with God, and He would come to talk with them in the cool of the day. Their relationship was authentic, genuine, intimate, and refreshing to the soul. “*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day*” (Gen. 3:8a). Everything was perfect. There was no sin, no sickness, no disease, no sorrow, no shame, and no pain. There was no corruption or interruption between God and people. It was a perfect world. “*Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed it was very good...*” (Gen. 1:31).

— The Fall —

If God created the world to be so good and perfect, then why is it imperfect today? Let’s continue on in the Book of Genesis to find out just what went

wrong. Most of us have heard about the fall of humanity, when Eve was tempted by the serpent (satan) to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (see Gen. 3). She ate the fruit and gave it to Adam, and he ate of it, too. Let's look closer at what really happened here. This account in Scripture is more than just disobeying Daddy's rules and stealing apples!

I find it interesting that the serpent of old cowardly avoided the governor, Adam, and went instead to the vice-governor, the helper, Eve, in order to set in motion his plan of deception. Let's observe what the serpent (satan) said to Eve and find out why he tempted her.

And the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5).

Satan lied to Eve when he said that she would be like God. He was playing with her identity by twisting words. She was *already* like God. She was created in the mirror image of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But satan was deceiving her into thinking that the knowledge of evil was something to be desired. However, he didn't tell her the end result. I wonder why? She knew what good was, but she did not know evil. As she meditated on what he had said to her, she convinced herself that it would be satisfying to her body and that it would make her wise. She ate of the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam. Adam could have refused to eat the forbidden fruit, but he didn't. He was just as guilty as Eve (see Gen. 2).

If we want to breakthrough in healing, we need to understand the answers to some important questions. Why did satan tempt Adam and Eve? Why does he bother tempting us today? Who exactly is satan? And what does all of this have to do with being redeemed from the curse of sickness and disease? We need to know more than just the fact that we are redeemed from the curse. We need a deeper understanding of where the curse originated. When we understand who is behind the curse and what the curse really is, it will be easier for us to receive divine healing into our physical bodies.

— Who Is Satan? —

Scripture talks about the fall of lucifer. He was a beautiful angel whom God created. But he deceived himself and became full of pride because of his beauty, and he thought he was greater than God. He even deceived a third of the angels to believe his deceitful lie and convinced them to rebel against God with him. Scripture says that he fell from Heaven (see Isa. 14:12), but before he fell, it says that he was the anointed cherub who covered and that he was in Eden, the Garden of God, as well as on God's holy mountain (see Ezek. 28:13-15). But lucifer was evicted from these places and, more importantly, from God's presence, and his name was changed to satan (the devil). The angels who fell with him are now called demonic spirits. And God has a place prepared for them called hell, the worst part of which is separation from God, Himself. His foolish pride cost him everything; he lost it all (see Isa. 14:12-21; Ezek. 28:12-19; Rev. 12:4,9; 20:10).

*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations
(Isaiah 14:12).*

You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you (Ezekiel 28: 13-15).

— Why Did Satan Go After Adam and Eve? —

He was jealous over what he had lost, and he was even more envious of these beings who were created in the mirror image of God. Before lucifer fell, he was

created as a beautiful angel (see Ezek. 28:12-19), but he had not been created in the mirror image of God. The first man, Adam, was so special. He was so different from the rest of creation. Not only was he created in the mirror image of God, but he was created to have authority and dominion over all things on this Earth (see Ps. 8:6), and that included Satan. Satan wanted Adam's authority and dominion on this Earth, and that's why he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. And as soon as they ate of that forbidden fruit, they handed over their authority and dominion on this Earth to Satan. That's what he coveted and pursued, and that's how he got it (see Luke 4:6).

— **Why Does Satan Go After Us Today?** —

He is venomously envious of us because he knows that we are created in the mirror image of God. He knows that we, as believers in Jesus Christ, have been given back that authority and dominion on this Earth that he stole from Adam and Eve back in the Garden of Eden. When Jesus Christ took our place at Calvary, He restored humanity's original authority on the Earth.

— **A Little Lower than Elohim** —

For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:5-6).

In Psalm 8:5, the Hebrew word translated in some versions as angels is *Elohim*. *Elohim* is a Hebrew name for God. There is a big difference between angels and God. Let's read from another translation of Psalm 8:5-6.

Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (NASB).

In Psalm 8, the angels are conversing with God concerning humanity and the position that people have been given by God in the realm of all of His creation. I believe Psalm 8:5-6 is a confirmation of Genesis 1:26-28—that God created people in His mirror image and gave them authority and dominion over all things on the Earth.

In searching the word *Elohim*, I have found several definitions. *Elohim* is plural and could be referring to God (God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit), gods, angels, or heavenly beings.² I believe, in this portion of Scripture, *Elohim* is referring to God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit.

Surely, we as Christians agree that we have not been created a little lower than the gods (false gods) that a large part of the world worships. False gods are made by the hands of people who are deceived by satan. Because I minister to people of different cultures and because of the rise of New Age in the Western World, I want to highlight what the Scriptures say concerning idol worship.

“Has a nation changed its gods, which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory for what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate,” says the Lord. “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. ...Saying to a tree, ‘You are my father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave birth to me.’ For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, ‘Arise and save us.’ But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; for according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah” (Jeremiah 2:11-13, 27-28).

They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image. Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass (Psalm 106:19-20).

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, or were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature, rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen (Romans 1:20-25).

As a missionary ministering in different cultures, I have seen firsthand multitudes of lost souls bowing before idols, kissing the ground before them, and kissing their feet made of wood and stone. I have seen them religiously prostrate themselves before the temples in freezing cold temperatures, spin wheels, send messages to dead relatives and false gods, and sacrifice animals. I have seen them march for hours upon hours carrying heavy statues to pay penance for their sins, and I've heard them chanting and crying out to false gods that can neither hear them nor help them.

I have also seen many fall prey to the evil trap of New Age because they were searching for something more than dead religious acts. They wanted to experience something real, and satan gave them a poisoned morsel of the supernatural to taste. But they don't realize that without Jesus Christ they miss the banquet feast of the miraculous realm of the Holy Spirit. I have known numerous Christians who have fallen and slipped into the occult world because they fell out of a love relationship with Jesus Christ and lost their way. They have exchanged the glory of Elohim (God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit) for the image of a false god that was made by human hands and a false religion that does not glorify Jesus Christ.

In their times of trouble, as they cry out to their human-made idols and trinkets and philosophies, they struggle more than we would, because they lack the guidance that comes from an intimate relationship with the one true God who knows all things. Sticks and stones do not hear, nor do they speak! Others are being misguided by literal voices of demonic spirits. Without Jesus Christ, they have no hope, and they can only wish that things were better because they lack the confidence that comes from a close relationship with the one true God who really cares.

Such people live from one day to the next with a deep inner loneliness because they cannot have true relationship with a god that does not exist or with an evil being that only exists for their destruction. They search high and low for something or someone to fill that void in their lives. Tragically, they are deeply deceived and are being misguided by demonic spirits and the father of all lies, satan. He leads them down a very dark and meaningless path that leads to destruction on this Earth and forever in eternity.

We who have discovered the truth and freedom that is only found in Jesus Christ possess a great gift and have inherited a great responsibility, as well. We are to be about our Heavenly Father's business (see Luke 2:49) and win souls for Jesus Christ (see Prov. 11:30).

As Christians, we agree that we have not been made a little lower than false gods. But, what about the possibility that people were created a little lower than angels or heavenly beings? If we were created a little lower than angels or heavenly beings, then satan would have authority over us because satan (lucifer) is a fallen angel. And that would not line up with the Scripture in the New Testament that says we have been given authority over satan and all his works (see Luke 10:19). I personally refuse to be beneath satan!

Many will agree that we have not been created a little lower than fallen angels (satan and demonic spirits), but they've read that we've been created a little lower than angels. Let's look at some Scriptures to see the role angels are to play in regard to people. "*Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?*" (Heb. 1:14 AMP). Through this passage we can see that after the creation of people,

who were created in the mirror image of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see Gen. 1:26), the assignment of angels changed to include serving God by serving people.

Many people idolize angels, and it's not correct. Angels are created-beings, created by the Creator to serve Him as He decides. We are to worship the Creator and not the creation. They were not created in the mirror image of God, as God chose to create people. Rather, it is the will of God that angels would serve Him by serving people. If we were created a little lower than angels, we would be serving angels, rather than the angels serving God by serving us. But as we read in Hebrews 1:14, angels are servants of God sent out to assist those who inherit salvation. Humans are the ones who inherit salvation. In First Corinthians 6:3, it says that we (Christians) are to judge the angels. If we had been created a little below angels, they would be judging us, not we judging them. When we look closer, the Scriptures are quite clear that we have not been created a little lower than angels.

To clarify, I am not saying that people have been created equal with God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit. It says that we've been created a *little lower* than God. God is the Creator, and we are His creation. We are fully dependent upon God, while God is independent and above all. We are to reflect His image and walk in His ways.

I've used the example of the sun and the moon to explain this truth to the Maasai Tribe. The sun is the greater light. It is independent and contains all the energy within itself to produce light. While on the other hand, the moon is a powerful light in the darkness, but it has no light within itself. It cannot produce light; it only reflects the light of the sun. It is fully dependent upon the sun to shine light into the darkness. So, it is considered the lesser light. In fact, if it was not for the power of the sun, the moon would not shine in the darkness.

And that's how it is with us. In this simple example, God represents the sun and we (believers in Jesus Christ) represent the moon. We are called to be a light in the darkness, but without our Heavenly Father's Son, Jesus Christ, and His power source, the Holy Spirit, we would not be able to be a light in the darkness. We have no light within ourselves. We are fully dependent upon Him. He is our

power source, and our light comes from Him. Like the moon reflects the light of the sun in the darkness, so we reflect the Son in the world. We reflect the light of His mirror image into the spiritual darkness of this Earth.

Our true identity is probably the most important truth that satan tries to conceal from us because he knows that once we start to unveil the truth about who we really are in Christ and who Christ is in us, we become lethal to satan and his kingdom of darkness. Once we start to recognize who we are in Christ, we start to seize our authority over satan, the temptation of sin, and the consequences of living in a fallen world, such as sickness, disease, and every other foul curse that comes our way. In other words, we start to dominate satan and his evil works, instead of him dominating us. It is amazing that satan can identify those who start to comprehend their identity and operate in their authority in Christ.

I remember traveling to the Maasailand in Northern Tanzania for the first time. Before an evening evangelistic campaign, a demon-possessed man whom I had never seen before ran up to me and knelt before me. The demons within him started crying out to me in English (for I did not understand the Maasai language), "Why have you come to torment us?" I was astounded. *How can they perceive when we know who we are in Christ?* I believe it is partly by watching how we start to speak and act. There is also an actual unveiling of the glory of God that takes place in the spirit realm that they identify and that requires them to yield to and admit defeat.

There were other Christians present in that meeting, but the spirits in this man paid no attention to them. Instead, they cried out to the believer who had started to see a glimpse of who she was in Christ. I have no arrogant intentions in sharing this with you. I am certainly not the only Christian who walks in this revelation. This understanding of the Word came through much time abiding with God in His Word, daring to believe His Word is truth, and then acting upon that truth.

In Exodus 34:29-35, Moses came down from the mountain with the second set of stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. After being in God's presence, his face shone so brightly that the Israelites were afraid to come near him, so he covered his face with a veil. There was no doubt in their

minds that Moses had been with God. Others can see when we are in God's presence. His reflected light shines brightly through us, and that light penetrates into the darkness of this world. There will be people in our lives (including satan) who will try to convince us to cover up that light of truth within us, but we must not do it. We must let His light shine through us.

The understanding of our true identity in Christ and the position Elohim gave to humankind is of utmost importance. Many Christians do not know who they are in Christ. They have not been taught that they were created in the mirror image of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and they are oblivious to their spiritual rank—*"a little lower than Elohim."* Therefore, they do not enforce their authority in which they are to walk on this Earth. They believe that the promises of God, such as divine healing, will only be fulfilled after they enter into their eternity with Him. They fail to understand that there is no sickness, no disease, no death, no pain, and no sorrow in Heaven to be delivered from, because the physical body is left behind in this world. Only their spirits live on for eternity.

These promises of healing and deliverance were given for use today, while they live on this Earth, so they can live in the divine grace of Jesus Christ. But as long as these believers in Christ take a passive stance toward the attacks of satan, they will never walk in the victory that Christ gave to them and intended for them to use. That's exactly what satan wants, passive, lukewarm Christians who walk in defeat.

Does satan have you hoodwinked so that he and others cannot see Christ within you? It's time to lift the veil of truth and see who you really are. Listen to what the Word of God says:

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).

Brethren, the Greater One in us is Jesus Christ, and as He is, so are we in this world. Jesus Christ is all powerful over satan and all his wicked works, and because of the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, we too are all powerful over satan and all his works. The more time we chose to spend abiding with God and His Word, the stronger His presence becomes in our lives. And the stronger His presence becomes in our lives, the greater His glory will shine through us. Our enemy, satan, recognizes the presence of Jesus Christ, and he will surrender when he sees Him manifested in our lives.

— The Glory Lifted —

Let's return to the Garden of Eden. As soon as Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked (see Gen. 3:7). This portion of Scripture is talking about more than just being physically naked. These two perfect created beings were crowned in glory and honor (see Ps. 8:5). But as soon as they chose to succumb to temptation and eat of the forbidden fruit, the glory of God, (their covering) lifted off of them. They were now spiritually naked.

What is the glory of God? It is the *habitation* of His manifested presence. A *habitat* is where something naturally grows, like a plant or an animal. Of course, in this case, we are not talking about a natural habitat, but rather a spiritual one. The miraculous supernaturally grows in the habitat of God's manifested presence.

The psalmist wrote, "*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty*" (Ps. 91:1). The word *dwells* means "to live as a resident or to reside."³ So, we could say, "He who resides in the secret place..." The words *secret place* mean "hiding place."⁴ "He who resides in the hiding place..." The word *abiding* means "continuing."⁵ "If we reside in the hiding place of the Most High, we shall continue under the shadow of the Almighty." Let's think this through even further. The word *shadow* means "a mirrored image or reflection, shelter, protection, or a shade within clear boundaries."⁶

Thus, we can conclude that, if we reside in the hiding place of the Most High, we will continue in His mirror image or reflection under the clear boundaries of His shade, shelter, and protection of His presence. There is an actual hiding place that we can find when we choose to reside in close fellowship with Him. It's a secret place under the clear boundaries of His shade. It's a place like no other. His presence is tangible, His voice is audible, His love is overwhelming, His grace is unexplainable, His guidance is unmistakably clear, His provision is abundant, and His miraculous power is released all around.

This is what it was like for Adam and Eve before they fell into sin. They resided in the habitation of His manifested presence. And even though they were not equal with God, they had intimate fellowship with Him that caused them to live in the creative shadow of His unlimited, miraculous blessings. They were in God's habitat and lived in His holy environment. Within the clear boundaries of the habitat of the Most High, everything is perfect; there is no corruption, no evil, no lack, no curse, but only blessings. He's the Creator of blessed perfection.

When Adam and Eve chose to willfully disobey God, the habitation of His manifested presence immediately lifted from their presence. Though they tried, they could not cover or make up for what they had done. There is only one way, and it's God's way. Then they heard the sound of God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day. They felt fear for the first time in their lives, and they hid behind the bushes (see Gen. 3:7-8). But as they were to find out, they could not hide from God, and neither can we. "*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*" (Ps. 139:7).

The Lord then called out to Adam and said, "*Where are you?*" (Gen. 3:9). God is omniscient, all knowing. He wasn't asking Adam to tell him his physical location. He was asking Adam to identify where he was spiritually. God already knew, but Adam needed to confess it.

Imagine what happened to Adam and Eve. Like many people today, they did not know that fear was and is an actual spirit. The spirit of fear seized the opportunity and invaded that Garden with a very real and evil force, and they didn't even understand what they were experiencing because they did not know evil. They were as vulnerable as babies in the midst of ravenous wolves.

About this, Paul wrote, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind*” (2 Tim. 1:7). A spirit of fear strips people of their power, their love, and their sound mind. Adam and Eve lost everything; in an instant, they lost their identity, their authority, their confidence, their security, their innocence, their love, their peace, and their joy. Most painful of all, they lost their intimate fellowship with God. It was a sad and grievous day. I believe that all of creation in Heaven, on Earth, and in hell felt what had just happened. All the authority and dominion that had been given to Adam in the beginning to rule this Earth very suddenly changed management. At this point in time, sin was introduced into our world and so were the consequences of that sin, which include sickness, disease, and every other curse. On that day, corruption on the Earth and in the physical body was birthed into our world.

Adam and Eve had entered into a fallen state, and there was a chance that they would eat of another tree in the garden, The Tree of Life, and live forever in that fallen state (see Gen 3:22-24). They simply could not stay. Thus, they were evicted from God’s Garden, the Garden of Eden, the habitat of God’s manifested presence. Adam and Eve no longer lived in a perfect world. As soon as they sinned, the perfect became imperfect. The Earth was now cursed, and their physical bodies were corrupted as a result of willful disobedience to God. The process of deterioration and degeneration began, and eventually their physical bodies died (see Gen. 3:16-19).

— Satan’s Character and Motives —

We know that satan deceived Adam and Eve and that he opposes us, but let’s look more closely at who he is so that we can understand our opponent. Then we will examine who we are through the sacrifice of Jesus and how we relate to our enemy. The Bible calls satan a thief, and tells us his motives are to steal, to kill and to destroy us.

The thief [satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

The Bible also refers to him as a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour, saying that he is our adversary. *“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet. 5:8). Jesus also referred to him as the father of all lies:

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).

In Revelation it says that satan deceives the whole Earth:

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9).

It also says in Revelation that satan is the accuser of the brethren:

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down” (Revelation 12:10).

We see from these passages that satan is a deceiver and a liar whose ultimate mission is to destroy us by distorting the mirror image of God within us on this Earth so that he can keep us bound to the curse of sin, sickness, and disease. But as we continue on, we will see that Jesus undid the works of satan so that we could walk free from the curse.

— What Jesus Did —

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of satan.

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

When Jesus first announced Himself as the Messiah, He did it by reading this passage from the Old Testament, which specifically outlines the curses of the enemy and the way that Jesus came to break them:

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:16-21).

Jesus came to undo the works of satan, and the Bible clearly lists what Jesus came to do. Thus, we can conclude that the works of satan include physical sickness, disease, depression, oppression, possession, poverty, and every other form of the curse.

In these passages we can clearly see that satan is the source of all sin and all corruption on this Earth and in our physical bodies. And sin is the cause of all earthly and bodily corruption, such as sickness, disease, and every other brutal and cruel curse that results from that original sin.

— **God Had a Plan** —

Despite the fall of Adam and Eve, God had a plan to redeem people to Himself. God prophesied that satan (the serpent) would bruise the heel of Jesus (foreshadowing the suffering inflicted upon Jesus' body at Calvary), but that Jesus would bruise his head. May it be clearly understood that Jesus willingly gave His life for us at Calvary. He willingly allowed people to brutally wound His body. It's obvious that Jesus had a clear understanding of the power and purpose behind the shedding of His blood, while satan was totally disillusioned, thinking he had crucified our Lord (see Gen. 3:15).

I received further understanding of this portion of Scripture when we first started ministering with the Maasai. When they hunt down a snake, they first hit, crush, or chop off its head. In the Maasailand in Northern Tanzania, the brethren knew that David and I were interceding for and witnessing to the witchdoctors of that area. At first, the brethren had a difficult time with us visiting them, but after they understood our intentions, they said, "Oh, you are going after the head of the snake!" That's what Jesus did with his heel; He crushed satan's head and destroyed his evil power over us.

We can also see a type of this plan of redemption when God clothed Adam and Eve with tunics made of skin (see Gen. 3:21). This was a powerful and prophetic act of God's mercy toward people and a sign of things to come. Just as there was the shedding of blood to make a temporary covering (the tunic of skin) for Adam and Eve, God had an eternal plan to redeem people—and His name was Jesus Christ. Jesus would shed His blood for our eternal redemption. In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as the Second Adam, and He came down to Earth from Heaven to redeem people to Himself (see Rom. 5:12-21).

What does it mean to be redeemed? The word *redeemed* means "to save from a state of sinfulness and its consequences, recover ownership of by paying a specified sum, to set free, rescue or ransom."⁷

Jesus Christ did all of this at Calvary for us. His redemption set us free from all guilt and shame and rescued us from eternal damnation—from the hell that we so rightly deserve. By His grace and His grace alone, this redemption liberates

us from the consequences of those sins, which are sickness, disease, demon-possession, poverty, and all manner of spiritual and physical corruption. Through His grace, He fulfilled the specified payment found written in the Scriptures—His blood.

Everyone has committed sin. We've all thought, said, or done something that we shouldn't have. "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*" (1 John 1:8). Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, we were all born into sin. All people, no matter how good or bad they are, need to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

— The First Step —

Because the greatest sickness that exists is a spiritual condition and lost souls are condemned to hell, the first step to being redeemed from sin and the curse of sickness and disease is to confess your sins and commit your life to Jesus Christ. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

Right now, if you have never asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, pray this simple prayer and mean it from your heart.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come before You in the name of Jesus Christ. I have examined my heart, and I do acknowledge and admit that I have sinned against You and Your Word. Your Word says, in Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart, that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Father God, I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He died on the cross to save me from my sins,

went to hell in my place, rose again three days later, and is alive and seated at Your right side in Heaven.

Jesus, forgive me of all my sins. Thank You, for saving me from sin, hell, and myself. I ask You to come into my life to be my Lord and Savior. Thank You for loving me and accepting me just as I am.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

If you've prayed this prayer from your heart, then you've taken the first step to being redeemed from sin and the curse of sickness and disease. The first and greatest miracle—salvation—has taken place within your spirit.

Maybe you are a believer in Jesus Christ already and are battling with sickness and disease in your body. Let's make sure that you've dealt with any sin or unforgiveness within your own heart. Ask the Lord to reveal any offense that you may be hanging onto. Ask the Lord to forgive you for not dealing with the offense correctly. Then forgive by faith and release the other person who has hurt you so that you too can be released. This is a very important step to being free in spirit, soul, and body. This is not based upon your feelings, but upon pure surrender to the Word of God.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Matthew 6:14-15).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

— Tribulation and the Thief —

If you have dealt with all unforgiveness, yet still are not well, it is possible that this sickness or disease attacking your body is a direct attack from the enemy, satan. The Word teaches us that in this world we will have tribulation. We will face difficult times. But Jesus also said that we can “*be of good cheer,*” because He

has overcome the world (John 16:33). He overcame the world at Calvary. He did not tell us to be of good cheer because we are being attacked, but because He overcame. And because He conquered the enemy, we now have hope to overcome the attack in His victory. It's in His victory alone that we have reason to be hopeful, to be full of confidence and thanksgiving, knowing that we too will overcome.

Jesus said, "*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10). As we discussed before, satan comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. Sickness and disease steal from us and our loved ones. They steal our time, our resources, our peace, our joy, our health, our strength, and even our lives. They kill and destroy us and our loved ones—our hopes, our dreams, our desires, and our future.

But Jesus came that we may have life and life more abundantly. The abundant life is not living with sickness and disease. If it was, we would not visit doctors and take medications to make us feel better. If we truly believed that sickness and disease were part of living the abundant life, we would want to remain in that abundant state. But it obviously is not living in abundance. Every good and perfect gift comes from God (see James 1:17). Health and healing are good and perfect gifts, not sickness and disease.

— Blessings and Curses —

Let us look briefly at blessings and curses. The definition of *blessing* is "something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity."⁸ God desires that we walk in His blessings, but the decision is ours. "*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers*" (3 John 2).

The blessings and curses are found in the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 28. (Please read the entire chapter, which is found in the Old Testament of the Bible.) Let's first start with the blessings of God found in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I

command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 28:1-2).

Notice that it says, “...*If you diligently obey...*”; this promise of blessing is purely conditional. The Israelites had a choice to make. If they chose to obey—not just obey, but *diligently* obey—the voice of the Lord their God, then all the blessings listed in verses 1-14 would come upon them. Not only would they come upon them, but the Bible says the blessings would *overtake* them. This promise of blessing was for the nation as a whole and for the individuals also. God gave them the key to living the blessed life.

We can clearly see that the blessings come through obedience to His ways. Let’s read the list of blessings in Deuteronomy 28:3-13 and ponder upon the Word:

1. Dominion, Authority, and Identity

- ♦ God will set us high above all nations (dominion).
- ♦ We shall be the head and not the tail, above and not beneath (authority).
- ♦ The people shall see that we are called by the name of the Lord (identity), and they shall be afraid of us (authority).

2. Divine Favor

- ♦ Wherever we are (city or country) we will be blessed (divine favor). No matter the location or the surroundings, we will be blessed because the promise of blessings starts within the heart, a decision to love God and to follow after His ways.
- ♦ The Lord will establish us as a holy people onto Himself (divine favor).

3. *Divine Prosperity*

- ♦ The Lord will open to us His good treasure (unlimited supply of blessing).
- ♦ God will bless us with children, good harvest, and increase in livestock.
- ♦ Our needs (basket and kneading bowl) will be met abundantly.
- ♦ Our travels will be blessed (in our comings and goings).
- ♦ Our work (the work of our hands) and the fruit of our labor will be blessed.
- ♦ We shall be the lenders to many nations and not borrowers.
- ♦ Even our weather will be blessed (rain in its season).

4. *Divine Protection*

- ♦ We will have divine protection from our enemies.

The blessings under the old covenant were obtained by strict adherence to the Law of Moses and through sacrifices. But since Jesus Christ became the Supreme Sacrifice for all, these blessings (including divine healing) are now obtained through a new covenant of His grace (see Rom. 5:15). Grace is unmerited favor, something that we did not earn or deserve, but that was freely given to us to receive. The new covenant of grace made the old covenant obsolete (see Heb. 8:13). If all these blessings came upon the people under the old covenant, consider how blessed we are to be under the new covenant. No longer do we need to sacrifice, but we believe and receive by faith.

Since we no longer live under the old covenant, let's turn to the new covenant or the New Testament to find out what the greatest commandment is.

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love

your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

The greatest commandment in the New Testament is loving God with our whole selves. When our whole selves—our hearts, souls, and minds—are involved in our relationship with the Lord, a transformation takes place, starting from within. That inward change affects our outward or physical beings and those around us as well. When we become enveloped in the love of God, our faith becomes fully activated to receive His blessings that are promised to us in His Word.

Paul explained this when he wrote, “*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love*” (Gal. 5:6). Faith does not work through the law, but by the love of God only.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples (John 15:7-8).

The key to manifesting the blessings of God in our daily lives is abiding, dwelling, and actually residing in the habitation of His manifested presence. When we choose to reside in the secret hiding place of the Most High—continuing to reflect His mirror image and living under the clear boundaries of His shade, shelter, and protection that are found only in His presence—the blessings of God will come upon us and overtake us.

Keeping in mind the theme that we are discussing in this book—divine healings and miracles—we can see that the blessing of the miraculous supernaturally grows in the habitat of God’s manifested presence. Those who desire a miracle from God must chose to reside in the habitat of His manifested presence where miracles naturally grow.

Now, let’s look at the curses. The definition of *curse* is “to bring evil upon or to afflict.”⁹ Deuteronomy 28:15-68 talks about the curses.

But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28:15).

Again, the Israelites were given a free choice; they could choose to obey or to disobey. But *if* they chose to disobey, they were forewarned about what would happen. It would be up to the individual people to make the choice. If they chose to obey, they would live in the blessings of God. If they chose to disobey, they would live in the curses. Just as the blessings of God would overtake the obedient, so too, the curses would overtake the disobedient. There would be no escape from the curses except to repent from a rebellious heart.

Just as it was for the Israelites back then, so it is for us today. If we do not love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, if He doesn't hold first place in our lives, and if we do not love others as ourselves (if we are holding onto grudges, are unkind, are critical, are disrespectful to others, are dishonest, and so forth), then we may be opening ourselves up to the curses in this life.

Knowing this, why would we willingly subject ourselves to a curse? Deuteronomy 28 tells us what the curses include. No matter where the cursed were, evil came upon them, and they were afflicted in spirit, soul, and body. Their offspring, their crops, their livestock, their daily provision, their businesses were all cursed. It's amazingly dreadful, but at the same time, it is an eye-opener as to what the Lord calls the curse. Many of the things that people consider "blessings in disguise from the Lord" to teach them lessons in patience and suffering are really part of a curse. Terrible and incurable diseases are listed in the curse, and these horrific diseases would pursue them until they perished.

We must read the curses and each make our choice. The blessings are conditional; we've been given the responsibility of free choice, but hopefully now that we've seen the difference between the blessings and the curses, we will be able to make a wise choice.

— Redeemed From Sickness and Disease —

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of sickness and disease. As I mentioned previously, to be *redeemed* means “to be delivered or rescued from something.” Jesus delivered and rescued us from *all* sickness and disease. *Redeemed* also means “to be repurchased, or recovery of something by payment.” Jesus Christ repurchased healing for our physical bodies by the payment of His blood. Let’s keep this definition fresh in our minds as we read how Jesus Christ redeemed us from sin, sickness, disease, and every other form of the curse by the shedding of His most precious blood.

There are seven places recorded throughout the story of His crucifixion where Jesus willingly shed His blood for us.

1. In the Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus knew that His appointed time was at hand. As He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, His mind, will, and emotions were in great agony with the foreknowledge of the suffering He was about to endure for us, that He sweat great drops of blood. He was entering into His destiny—becoming the Supreme Sacrifice for us. Our Lamb of God was about to be painfully slaughtered because of our willful disobedience against God and His ways. At this moment in time, He overcame the temptation to give into the will of human flesh, surrendered all to the will of the Father, and offered His life by His redeeming blood.

Maybe you are in the middle of a ragging battle to give up and to give in to the sickness or disease that is attacking your physical body. I pray that your faith will be strengthened, that you willfully chose to glorify God with your human will, chose life, and overcome this deathly attack.

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being

in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground (Luke 22:41-44).

2. The Plucking of His Beard

Then, having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ...Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him (Luke 22:54,63-65).

I gave my back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).

Jesus was shamed, disgraced, dishonored, and humiliated for us and because of us. He willingly allowed them to rip His beard from His face, and along with His beard came pieces of His flesh. He was literally going to "lose face" or be shamed because of our sin. And again, the Lamb of God gave us the redeeming gift of His blood.

During a vision that God gave me (that I share more in depth in Chapter 16, "Childlike Faith") I saw Jesus being whipped. I walked up to touch His face, but as soon as my hand touched His face, He blurred His face from my view. He spoke to me in an audible voice and said, "Becky, you could not stand to see My face at this point in time; by My stripes you are healed."

Perhaps something terrible has happened in your past; maybe you were the victim or you were the cause. Either way, it is preventing you from receiving the power in His blood for your healing to manifest. I want to encourage you that Jesus took your shame so that you can stand before Him shameless.

3. By His Stripes

Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified (Matthew 27:26).

Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole (Isaiah 53:4-5 AMP).

By His *stripes*, the bloody wounds that were inflicted upon His body by the whipping He received, we were healed. Jesus was whipped severely, almost to the point of death, so that we could be healed. But it was not His time yet to die. Our health and well-being were so important to Him that He offered His back and allowed them to brutally whip Him with a leather strap embedded with sharp pieces of metal and bones that literally tore his flesh from His body with each strike. With each crack of the flesh-ripping whip, He repurchased healing for every sickness and every disease, known or unknown, that ever was, is, or is to come.

In the vision I mentioned earlier, I saw Him at the whipping post being brutally whipped for my healing. I will never forget what I saw and heard. There are no words to justly describe that scene, but during it all, our eyes were fixed on one another. The Lamb of God lovingly gave us His blood to restore healing to us—the ones He loves.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16-17).

4. The Crown of Thorns

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. Then when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified (Matthew 27:27-31).

Thorns are symbolic of the curse. After the fall of Adam and Eve, the ground became cursed with thorns and thistles. God said to Adam,

...Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field (Genesis 3:17-18).

After Jesus was scourged, the Roman soldiers mocked our King and fashioned a crown of thorns for Him, and He willingly allowed them to push those large, thick thorns into His skull. Then they beat upon His head, causing Him severe pain, and again the Lamb of God willingly bowed His head and gave His Blood for us. I believe this crowning of thorns is symbolic of being crowned as "the Curse." And the Blood on this accursed crown removes the power of the curse that was caused by our sin. Thus, we no longer need to suffer the consequences of sin, and we are free from all sickness and disease.

5. The Nailing of His Hands

And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified

Him, and two others with Him, one of either side, and Jesus in the center (John 19:17-18).

There was the shedding of His Blood as they nailed His hands to the Cross. Those precious hands that reached out and healed all those who came to Him were now being willfully nailed to that wooden cross. Our precious Lamb of God willingly opened His healing hands and gave of His blood freely so that we could be healed and so that we could also extend His healing power through our willing hands as well.

6. The Nailing of His Feet

Our Lamb of God willingly walked to Golgotha, to offer His blood as a sacrifice on that wooden altar so that we could walk in His authority, have dominion, subdue the Earth, and be free from all forms of the curse, including sickness and disease.

7. The Piercing of His Side

But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ...For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced" (John 19:33-34,36-37).

As they pierced His side, the last of His blood and water gushed out from His body with a great force. This great force is the power in His blood that He gave to us, the spiritual Body of Christ, who have been born-again by the living water, Jesus Christ.

God's Plan of Redemption was very thorough; He willingly shed His Blood for us so that we could be completely and perfectly free from all sin and from all consequences of sin, sickness, disease, and every other form of the curse.

— He Became the Curse —

Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived (Numbers 21:4-9).

The Israelites had sinned against God and Moses. They were discontented, and they complained about everything, so God permitted a plague of fiery serpents to be released among the people. They bit them, and many people died. Then the Israelites, in the midst of their crisis, called out to God through Moses for His deliverance. God responded and instructed Moses to fashion a fiery serpent and to set it up on a pole. If anyone who was bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, then that person would be healed. What God instructed Moses to do not only delivered the Israelites, but also served as a prophetic sign of God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ at Calvary. *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up"* (John 3:14).

Jesus Christ redeemed us. He delivered and rescued us from *all* forms of sickness and disease. He repurchased healing and health for our physical bodies by the payment of His blood at Calvary. *"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes*

you were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24). The truth of the matter is that we have already been healed. Now, we need to learn how to activate the promise of His healing power in our lives today.

The crowning of thorns symbolized when Jesus Christ was crowned as "the Curse":

When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand, and they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:29).

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:13-14).

When Jesus Christ hung upon the Cross, He not only bore our sin and the consequences of that sin—including all sickness and disease and every other curse—upon His body, but He actually *became* sin, sickness, disease, and every other curse for us. Every debilitating sickness and disease, in their worst form, came upon Him. Every pain, sorrow, and injustice, in their most perverted state, clung to Him. All grief, loneliness, and abandonment fell upon Him. These curses not only came upon Him, but they also clung to Him, and He actually transformed into the curse for us. In the natural, those standing nearby could not even recognize Him as being human any more.

[For many the Servant of God became an object of horror; many were astonished at Him.] His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men—but just as many were astonished at Him (Isaiah 52:14 AMP).

The One who was blessed transformed into the cursed. In becoming the curse, He endured the most painful event of all, separation from the Father. His Heavenly Father's presence was lifted from Him. Forever they had been one in spirit, and now they were separated. The Father could no longer look upon His Son, because His Son had become the curse for all wickedness. And in deep anguish and despair, He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46). To be *forsaken* means to be abandoned, deserted, or disowned, to have another's back turned on a person. Jesus was forsaken for us and because of us.

Because He became the curse for us, we've been redeemed. We've been rescued from the consequences of every sin. He repurchased healing and deliverance from *all* sickness and disease for us. "I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him" (Eccles. 3:14). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

— A Swindler, Not! —

Jesus Christ willingly fulfilled His Father's will and plan of redemption for us. He knew full well the price that He would pay to redeem us from sin and the results of sin, which are sickness, disease, and every other heinous form of the curse. Jesus Christ also willingly fulfilled the law and His Father's will and plan of redemption for us as a man and not as God. He was not a swindler. He did not cheat. He did not use His God powers to escape the dreadful pain and suffering that He would endure at Calvary.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

He took upon His physical body every type of arthritis, tumor, cancer, and asthma; every excruciating pain, sickness, and disease; known or unknown; that ever was, is, or will be. He did this not as God, but as a man would, so that we

could be delivered and healed from it all. God did not cheat! He could have used His God powers and commanded the pain and torture to cease with the power of His words, but He didn't utter a word. He did not deceive us. A swindler, He is not!

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).

The place in the Scripture which He read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth" (Acts 8:32-33).

Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously (1 Peter 2:23).

— Paid in Full —

Jesus Christ, by His grace alone, paid for us the price in full with His own blood so that we could be forgiven of sin and be free from the consequences of that sin—all sickness, disease, and every other form of the curse. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21). "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed (1 Pet. 2:24).

When Jesus said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30), He was declaring that the Plan of Redemption was complete. He willingly shed His blood seven different times during the crucifixion. Seven is a very significant number in the Bible. It represents the completion of something, and in this case, it signifies the completed

work of redemption. Nothing was left undone. He conquered satan and all of his evil works.

Jesus paid the debt for all sin and for all sinners and for the results of that sin—corruption in the Earth and in our physical bodies through sickness and disease. He finished what He came to do on this Earth. He willingly and unselfishly erased our debt with His precious blood by His grace, His unmerited favor toward us; it is a free gift to anyone who will believe and receive.

One of the redemptive names of God is Jehovah-Rapha. When translated, it means, “I am the Lord your Physician” or “*I am the Lord who heals you*” (Exod. 15:26). This is not a name that someone else gave to Him, but a name God prophetically spoke about Himself. With confidence in His Word, we can go boldly to our Jehovah-Rapha, our Lord Jesus Christ, and receive the healing and deliverance that He recovered by the payment of His shed blood at Calvary. The price has been paid in full!

— Exceedingly Far More Powerful —

What Jesus did at Calvary for us is exceedingly far more powerful than the wicked consequences that humankind suffered from the fall of Adam and Eve. According to the Word, there is no comparison (see Rom. 5:15). He superseded the curse. He did away with it completely, and there is total freedom from the curse for those who choose to believe and receive His free gift of grace.

But God's free gift is not at all to be compared to the trespass [His grace is out of all proportion to the fall of man]. For if many died through one man's falling away (his lapse, his offense), much more profusely did God's grace and the free gift [that comes] through the undeserved favor of one Man Jesus Christ abound and overflow to and for [the benefit of] many (Romans 5:15 AMP).

We've been released from the power of the curse. We do not need to live lives dominated by the accursed things in this world any longer. He gave us authority and dominion over the curse. He set us free from sin and the consequences of

sin. We deserve eternity in hell, but instead He offers us eternity with Him in Heaven. In place of the curse of sickness and disease, He offers us divine health and healing. Instead of poverty, He offers prosperity in spirit, soul, and body. He offers all of this and more, and it's free, paid in full, for anyone and everyone who will receive this divine gift of grace.

— The Glory Returned —

After the redeeming power in His blood was released to undo the curse, Jesus died, and three days later, He rose again from the dead, giving us eternal life with Him by conquering death itself. Jesus Christ is alive. He gave us the power of His redemption in His resurrection. And as He ascended into Heaven, He gave to His Church the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

That same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now dwells within the spirit of every true believer in Jesus Christ. His Holy Spirit is the manifested glory of His presence within us. And when we choose to dwell in the habitation of His manifested presence, that resurrecting power of the Holy Spirit, by the redeeming power of the blood of Jesus Christ, is released and activated in us and through us, and all things become possible.

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent

Me, I also send you.” And when He has said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:19-22).

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

— Confidence in Him —

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own Blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:11-12).

As I continue to examine the power of His blood and enter into a deeper understanding of how we’ve been redeemed from the curse of sin, sickness, and disease; and as I ponder and meditate upon the new covenant of grace that we have been given in Jesus Christ; I have found myself in His presence, boldly daring to stand against pain, sickness, disease, and even death for the sake of others and for myself. We have an eternal blood covenant with the Father that cannot be changed or erased.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him (John 5:14-15).

We have studied the curse, what it is, where it originated from, and who is responsible for the curse. We have specifically focused in on two of the consequences of the curse of the original sin—sickness and disease—and how the curse and these consequences are affecting the inhabitants upon the Earth today. More importantly, we have formed a scriptural foundation on which we can confidently stand upon with the revelation knowledge that Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of sin, sickness, and disease so that we can boldly obtain divine healing for our physical bodies.

As I travel around the world teaching others how to activate the healing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, I meet many people with severe physical needs who are struggling with doubt and unresolved questions concerning healing. I would like to address some of these issues in the next few chapters. I pray that the words of this book will encourage your heart to seek after God, to confidently trust in the power of His blood, and to put your faith in His Word into action. Claim what is rightfully yours in the name of Jesus Christ and *dare to believe!*

— Endnotes —

1. *The Free Dictionary by Farlex*, s.v. “image”; www.thefreedictionary.com/image; accessed September 24, 2011.
2. *Blue Letter Bible*, s.v. “elohiyim” (Strong # 430); www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=H430&t=KJV; accessed September 24, 2011.
3. *The Free Dictionary by Farlex*, s.v. “dwell”; www.thefreedictionary.com/dwells; accessed August 25, 2011.
4. *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1984), Hebrew # 5643, 5641.
5. *The Free Dictionary by Farlex*, s.v. “abiding”; www.thefreedictionary.com/abiding; accessed August 25, 2011.
6. *Ibid.*, s.v. “shadow”; www.thefreedictionary.com/shadow; accessed August 25, 2011.

7. *Ibid.*, s.v. “redeemed”; www.thefreedictionary.com/redeemed; accessed August 25, 2011.
8. *American Heritage Dictionary*, s.v. “blessing”; www.answers.com/topic/blessing; accessed August 25, 2011.
9. *Ibid.*, s.v. “curse”; www.answers.com/topic/curse; accessed August 25, 2011.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. According to Genesis 1:26-28, Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. What does the word *image* mean?
2. In Psalm 8:6, it says that all things were to be under people’s feet. What does this signify?
3. What was it that satan wanted from Adam?
4. *Elohim* is a Hebrew word for?
5. Since the creation of humanity, what is the assignment of angels?
6. What is the most important truth that satan tries to hide from Christians?
7. What is the glory of God?
8. What were the results of the sin of Adam and Eve?

9. Despite the fall of Adam and Eve, God had a plan. What was it?
10. What does the word *redeemed* mean?
11. What is the definition of *grace*?
12. Who is the thief and what did he come to do?
13. What do sickness and disease do?
14. What did Jesus come to give us?
15. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. What are two good and perfect gifts?
16. What is the definition of a *blessing*?
17. What is the key to manifesting the blessings of God in your life?
18. How do we believe and receive the blessings of God in our lives?
19. What is the definition of a *curse*?
20. List the seven ways Jesus shed His Blood for us.
21. What did Jesus become for us?
22. Jesus Christ willingly fulfilled the law and His Father's Plan of Redemption not as God, but *how*?
23. What is the Holy Spirit within us?
24. What do we have with God that cannot be erased?

