

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

## Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

### 91- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 2

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#### **Matthew 9:18-35**

**18** While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

**19** Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples.

**20** And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak;

**21** for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."

**22** But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

**23** When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,

**24** He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him.

**25** But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

**26** This news spread throughout all that land.

**27** As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

**28** When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

**29** Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

**30** And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

**31** But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

**32** As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

**33** After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

**34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."**

**35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;  
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now we are examining a very important Passage in Matthew's Gospel Record that illustrates the Divine Power and Authority that Jesus had over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death. And what I want to examine is this:

**Is this Event in the Bible to give us a "Formula" for how we can emulate Jesus' Authority in our Day?**

... in other words, are we – as God's people supposed to be able to heal Diseases and Disabilities; cast out Demons; and raise the Dead in the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Does God expect us to follow behind Jesus in performing all these Miracles or did Matthew put this in his Gospel Record to simply inform his Jewish readers (and us) that Jesus was God Almighty in human Flesh?

Another Way to ask that Question is this: *"Are the Gifts of the Spirit; and the Ability to operate in Signs and Wonders as well as Miracles active today- OR have those amazing Abilities been replaced with something even better?"*

So, the Issue is this: Should the Church of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century adopt a "Cessationist" Position or a "Continuationist" Position? In other words, have these amazing and breathtaking Signs; Wonders; Miracles; and Gifts that we read about in the Bible- "ceased" - or are they "continuing" to be in operation today? That is what we will explore in this mini-series from **Luke 9**.

Now during Super Bowl 42 on February 3, 2008- Michael Strahan- the Hall of Fame Defensive Tackle for the New York Giants was walking up and down the Sidelines during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of that Game- trying to encourage his Teammates. The New England Patriots had completed the entire 2007 Season with 16 wins and no losses- and many of those wins came during the final few minutes due to the amazing ability of Tom Brady- the Quarterback.

It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and the Patriots had just scored and were leading the Giants 14-10. So, everyone was expecting the Patriots to win and complete the first unbeaten and untied Season since the Miami Dolphins had gone undefeated back in 1972.

So, Strahan was going to his Teammates (most of whom were Unbelievers) and trying to lift their spirits by saying, “*If you believe- we will win. Trust me. If you will just believe- it will happen!*”

And with only a few seconds left- Quarterback Eli Manning threw a Touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress and the Giants won- 17-10. And millions of people, who were watching, were now convinced that Strahan’s Theology was correct; and they began to apply it their own Life. And that Theology basically says,

**As long as you have Faith- you can get whatever you want!**

... which is a *horrible* perversion of **Matthew 7:7-11** that says:

**7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

**8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

**9 Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?**

**10 Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?**

**11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!**

During Super Bowl 47 on February 3, 2013, the Hall of Fame Middle Linebacker of the Baltimore Ravens, Ray Lewis, was recorded on the Sidelines- encouraging his Teammates by taking **Isaiah 54:17** completely out of Context. 600 years before Jesus was born, the Old Testament Prophet was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to *infallibly* and *inerrantly* write:

**No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord.**

... but Lewis (whom I personally believe DOES love the Lord) was walking back and forth on the Sidelines- repeating,

*“No weapon; no Weapon; no Weapon formed against us will prosper!”*

Now Lewis was NOT quoting a portion of that verse to suggest that satan will not *ultimately* win out against God’s people- therefore everyone should cease from Sin and trust in Jesus- which is how EVERYONE should understand that Verse. Instead, Lewis was using the first section of that verse to say that- if his Teammates (who were mostly Unbelievers) would simply repeat that phrase over and over and over again; and if they would just believe- then the San Francisco Forty-niners football Team’s attempt at winning the Game- would not succeed.

And since Lewis’ Team won the Super Bowl- that kind of *misuse* of the Scriptures was “proven to work”- and is now used by *more* people than ever before- to get what they want by repeating a biblical phrase- repeatedly- like eastern Mystics repeat a “Mantra”.

First of all- we need to understand that the Popularity of a Teaching does NOT, in any Way, attest to its Truthfulness. For example, there are over 1 billion followers of the *demonically* inspired religion of Islam. And some of those followers (around 100-200 million) are “*true believers*” meaning if they were given the opportunity- they would *replace* the Constitution with “Shariah Law”; they are willing to lie and purposefully deceive as well as kill “*Infidels*” (anyone who is not a Muslim); and they gladly strap bombs to their ten- year -old little children so they can blow up and kill as many Jews as possible- because the Qur’an teaches that Jews are “*the descendants of apes and pigs and don’t deserve to live*”<sup>1</sup>. And Muslim dominated Governments (like Saudi Arabia) pay the Families that do this- \$25,000 to help compensate for the loss of their child.

The point is that simply because a lot of people adhere to a particular Teaching or Religion does NOT mean that it is in accord with the one, true, and living God- the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But that also includes those who say they are, “Christians”; who say they love Jesus; and who say they are following the Bible; but are, in fact, *twisting* the Scriptures to mean things that the biblical writer

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<sup>1</sup> [www.palestine-info/arabic/palestoday/readers/mashhoor/22\\_4\\_01.htm](http://www.palestine-info/arabic/palestoday/readers/mashhoor/22_4_01.htm).

never intended. And nowhere is this insidious “Twisting” of the Scriptures done more and more often- than with the Issue of physical Healing.

Now last time- I told you that Sickness and Disease is:

### **Death at Work in the Body**

... and even though most Sicknesses are NOT fatal- the Fact that we get sick- *repeatedly*- tells us that there is something very powerful at work in our bodies that causes us to get sick- all the Time.

And we found out that when Adam sinned- God cursed him as well as everything that God made- so that now- EVERYTHING dies. But the Bible goes on to tell us that Death is a derivative of Sin- either our own personal sins or the Original Sin of Adam. So, before Adam sinned- NOTHING died and now that Adam has rebelled- EVERYTHING dies! And Sickness and Disease and Viruses and Bacteria are all results of that Divine Curse.

And that means that NOTHING that we do today- will relieve us of having to face Death. Every one of us will die and we will either live forever in “**Joy inexpressible and full of Glory**” (1Peter 1:8) OR we will be “**tormented forever in the Lake of Fire**” (The Revelation 20:15)!

So, whether we experience a temporary Relief of our Sickness through Homeopathic means; or through Medicine; or through Diet; or through Surgery; or through Prayer and Miracles- that Relief is only a temporary Reprieve from the inevitable Appointment we have with Death (Hebrews 9:27). And so, we WILL get sick again; and in God’s Timing- each of us will taste of Death.

So, here in the Passage that Brother Vern just read to us- we see Jesus- acting as God- and temporary lifting the Divine Curse- long enough so that those people experienced a Miracle of physical Healing. And we also saw that 2,000 years ago- the unknown writer told us WHY Jesus and the Apostles had that Ability:

### **Hebrews 2:3&4**

**3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,  
4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**

So, the Power that Jesus and the Apostles had to perform Signs and Wonders as well as Miracles and Gifts of the Holy Spirit- were NOT carried out to banish Sickness and Death from Israel. They did NOT have that Ability so that today- everyone who has enough Faith could do the same or receive the same. That is NOT why Jesus and the Apostles had that kind of Power.

Jesus had that Power because He was God Almighty in human Flesh. And so, by physically healing the sick; by restoring those who had a malfunction going on in their Bodies; by raising the Dead; and by casting out demons- that people would know that Jesus was “**Immanuel**” (**God with us/Isaiah 7:14**) and that they needed to come to Him ALONE for Salvation.

But the Apostles were *temporarily* given that *same* supernatural and miraculous Power- so that the radical Theology of the New Covenant- *specifically* that lost Sinners are forgiven and made Righteous by Faith alone and NOT through participation of the Sacraments or by engaging in religious Works- would have the “*Divine Credibility*” it needed so that the people would know that what the Apostles taught was of God and from God and NOT Man.

The Signs and Wonders; and the Miracles; and the Gifts of the Spirit that we read about in the four Gospel Records and in a few of the Epistles- were needed and used to accomplish three main Tasks:

1. Bring in the New Covenant
2. Cause the Old Covenant to become Obsolete
3. Establish the Church (Christianity) on the earth

But once those three things were accomplished- those supernatural Manifestations were no longer needed. The Church will ONLY be established on the earth one time. The New Covenant will ONLY become Reality one time; and the Old Covenant will ONLY be replaced one time. Those Events are non-repeatable Events that happened one time and will NEVER happen again.

The Old Covenant will NEVER be revived. The New Covenant as well as the Church will be in effect and will be operating on the earth until Jesus returns. So, the Gifts and Signs and Wonders and Miracles that did those three things- *ceased* their Purpose for existence- once those three things were accomplished. Another Way to look at this is

that the Gifts and Signs and Wonders and Miracles that were given to prove that Jesus was God and that made the Old Covenant obsolete and that brought into existence the New Covenant as well as the Church- succeeded! They did their Job! They won! And once that Victory was brought about- the Instruments by which that Victory was accomplished had no further need to exist.

And that is a wonderful thing! It is purely Victorious! God won! Jesus won! The Holy Spirit won! And everything that God wanted to do by using those Signs and Wonders and Miracles and Gifts- was done! So, those who bemoan this by saying that God must have lost His Power; or that we don't believe the Bible; or that we are "quenching the Spirit" are just flat out wrong! That which God intended to happen in, by, and through those supernatural Manifestations- actually happened! And that is Cause to celebrate!

So, what we need now are NOT the supernatural Manifestations that did those three things- precisely because those three things were done. What we need now are the Gifts and the supernatural Manifestations that will help the Church *propagate* the already established Church and Christianity around the world- so that the Gospel is preached to every Creature!

Beloved, we need to realize how hard it must have been for people, who had been taught their entire Lives from Moses- to sacrifice animals- to suddenly stop! You see, by the Time the Jew had reached the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- Moses had taken on an almost divine Quality. His Word was Law- and NOBODY could teach ANYTHING contrary to it.

And 1,450 years earlier, God the Holy Spirit had "moved" on Moses to tell the sons and daughters of Abraham that they HAD to sacrifice animals. And if they refused- they could be put to death.

But now- here in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century a "rag-tag" group of "unlearned and ignorant men" (**The Acts 4:13**)- *none* of whom was a Levite; and none of whom was a Priest; and none of whom had a minute of theological Training- were filling "**Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.**" (**The Acts 5:28b**).

Those men were literally turning Jerusalem upside down- by proclaiming that Jesus was the "one and only" (begotten) of the Father; that He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Moses; that He was the long-awaited Messiah; and that His "once for all" Sacrifice of Himself on the Cross- had FOREVER made what Moses received from God- totally obsolete! That was truly a

“hard-sell” for those Jews.

And so, the average Jew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century was VERY reluctant to “leave” or “abandon” the “**elementary Teaching about the Messiah**” (**Hebrews 6:1**) and stop doing what Almighty God had commanded Moses to do- so they could adopt what those fishermen and outcasts were telling them to do. How could they know for sure- that Peter and James and John and Andrew were telling them the Truth? On what Basis should they STOP doing what God had Moses write down in the first five Books of their Bible and START doing what these itinerant Teachers were saying?

If Peter and the others expected the Jew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to believe and obey what they were teaching- the Jew needed MORE than mere words. They needed a Sign from Heaven. And so, in **The Acts 5:12-16**- Dr. Luke gave us an Example of what God did in, by, and through the Apostles that was powerful enough to convince the Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century that what they were teaching was from God!

**12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.**

**13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.**

**14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number,**

**15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.**

**16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.**

... and so, God gave the Apostles the *temporary* Ability to perform Signs and Wonders and Miracles of Healing- so that the people of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century would know and believe that the radical Theology of the New Covenant was *absolutely* from God.

But once that happened and the New Covenant had been verified that it was, in fact, from God- the “spiritual Tools” that God used to bring about that Divine Credibility were no longer needed.

So, the Purpose that Jesus had to perform all these Miracles- was NOT to remove all Disease from the earth. He WILL do that when He



comes back- but He was NOT doing that during His 1<sup>st</sup> Advent. And neither was Jesus giving us a “Formula” that we could follow- so that we could heal the Sick in our Day. No! Jesus healed the Sick and cast out devils and raised the Dead to prove beyond any Doubt- that He IS God Almighty in human Flesh!

And Jesus did that- so that He alone would be the “*Object of our Faith*”- so that the “Followers of Jesus” would NOT simply “Believe” in *anything*; and *for* anything; or that their “Belief” or “Faith” would stand- alone by itself. Because Faith *cannot* stand alone. And Faith CANNOT operate like that. And it never has.

In the Bible- Faith; *true* Faith; *biblical* Faith- ALWAYS has an “Object” to their Belief. And so, in the Old Testament- “God” was the “Object of the Faith of those Believers. And now that Jesus has come and lived and died and has risen again- Jesus is now the “*Object of our Faith*”. So, because we are NOT pagans or barbarians- we do NOT simply “have Faith”- as the lost world teaches; and as Michael Strahan was teaching during Super Bowl 42.

As Christians, we ALWAYS have Faith- IN JESUS! And so, we do NOT use Faith as a Tool to get whatever we want from God- like Ray Lewis was doing during Super Bowl 47. That is NOT using Faith to God’s Glory- it is an *abuse* of Faith!

But because we have been chosen by God from before the Foundation of the world- God has graciously blessed us with the “Gift of Faith”- in other words, with the “Ability and the Desire to Believe; and to Hope; and to Trust” IN Jesus ALONE!

And because we are able and willing to believe IN Jesus- personally; and IN His finished Work- we can be forgiven and we can be made Righteous- IN, By, and THROUGH our Faith IN Jesus! And because we have been so radically transformed (by what God alone has done for us)- we now find the Fullness of our own Joy- in God’s Will being done in the earth- to the *same* Degree and with the *same* Urgency that the Will of God is done in Heaven!

And so, if God desires for us to be used to display the Glory of His Grace by us being physically healed- then we find Joy- in that! And if God desires for us to display the Glory of His Steadfastness and Faithfulness by us loving and obeying God WITHOUT being healed- then we find Joy- in that! We find Joy in yielding to God’s Will to prosper us; and we find Joy in yielding to God’s Will to NOT prosper us!

And that isn't true because we are Tough; or Strong; or because we do not Weep and Groan under the heavy Hand of God's Will- because we do. We hurt; and we cry; and we struggle- because we are Human. So, we do what Job did- and we *agonize* and *grieve*- because God's Will for us is sometimes very Hard. But then we also do what Job did- and we *worship*- NOT because we do not feel the Weight of that Suffering- because we do. We worship God simply because we believe IN Jesus!

So, in our Suffering- our Faith is NOT used to simply get us out of the Suffering as fast as possible. NO! Because the Object of our Faith- as we suffer- is still Jesus! And we seek NOT to simply be *relieved* of the Suffering- but we seek for God's Will to be done- over against whatever *our* Will is. And we know, from reading the Bible- that God is a healing and a saving God- by Nature. And so, we know that God saves; and that God graciously heals sick bodies.

But that's NOT all that God does. We also know that- *sometimes*- it is absolutely God's Will that His people burn! And it is *sometimes* God's Will for His people to suffer; and to NOT be delivered from that Suffering- as quickly as we would like. But we also know that sometimes- it is God's Will for us to suffer and to NOT be delivered- AT ALL! And Faith rejoices in that, too!

But we know that Scripture declares *clearly* and *repeatedly* that the Purpose of Suffering- whether it is from Persecution or Cancer- is to lovingly *transform* us into a people who are able to "share" in the very Holiness of God Himself (**Hebrews 12:10**)! And so, Faith *refuses* to believe that God is a Liar. And so, we latch our Hope on what the Bible says and what the Bible teaches- rather than what *our* Will might be.

And so, the deciding Factor as to who is healed and who is not- has little to nothing to do with how much Faith we have or don't have. The deciding Factor in physical Healing- is the WILL of God! And Faith rejoices that God's Will is done on the earth and in us- MORE than we rejoice that *our* Will is carried out.

Now as good a middle Linebacker as Ray Lewis was- he did NOT *invent* the Theology that he has bought into. And as good as Michael Strahan was- he didn't invent his Theology either. So, from where did Lewis and Strahan get their Theology? Well, sadly, they got those wayward Theologies that teach- we are to ignore what our eyes see; and repeat a phrase over and over and over again- in order to be healed; or to

be prosperous; or to get whatever we want from God- in Church. Both Lewis' Church as well as Strahan's teach it. But so do tens of thousands of other churches. Because even though their Theology is completely unbiblical- it is one of the most popular Theologies that exist today on planet earth. But who started that Teaching? From where did that Theology originate?

Back during the mid- to late 1800's Medicine was NOT very reliable. And people got sick; and were not healed; and many people died from listening to Doctors; and from taking Medicine; and from having Surgeries. And that isn't because Medicine and Doctors and Surgeries were evil- it was because the 6,000 year old Effort to relieve the Divine Curse that God placed on all of Humanity was simply NOT as Good as it would become.

But as we say that- we have to understand that NO Effort to relieve Sickness and Suffering and Death is perfect. God has cursed the entire human Race. And when Jesus returns to this earth- He will destroy the "**Last Enemy**"- Death (**1Corinthians 15:26**). So, Death will die. And with the Death of Death- no one will ever get sick again! Praise God! But until that happens- Death as well as Sickness is a part of this Life.

But ever since the Garden- people have been trying to find a Way to either reduce or mitigate or even to escape the Divine Curse that God placed on all Mankind. And there has been a relentless and continuous Effort by millions of people- both saved and lost- to find the Answer to this vexing Problem.

And back in the early 1800's, a young woman, who suffered many debilitating Diseases; and spent much time in bed- believed that God had given her the Answer as to why people get sick and why people die. And she wrote her Answers down and published them in a Book called, "*Science and Health with Keys to the Scriptures*" in 1875.

And in that book, Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy Frye (she had a Problem with Husbands) wrote down what would become the foundational Teaching of what is today called, the "*Church of Christ, Scientists*" or what is usually called, "*Christian Science Practitioners*".

Now John MacArthur has said that the Cult of "Christian Science" is a lot like "Grape Nuts". Grape Nuts is neither grapes nor is it nuts. And Christian Science is neither "Christian" nor is it "Science". But as of yesterday- somewhere between 100,000 and 400,000 souls around the

world have been deceived by the unbiblical and unchristian Cult of “Christian Science”.

But as I have studied the historic Heresies extensively, I have found that Heresies as well as Heretics are right and correct about some aspects of Christianity. And that is what fools many people. And Christian Science correctly teaches that God is the greatest Reality in the Universe. But then they take that Truth and quickly pervert it by adopting ancient Gnostic Beliefs to go on and teach that everything that is “God” is true while everything that is “non-God” is false.

So, everything that is “non-God” and “false”- doesn’t really exist. So, ALL Sin and ALL Evil- is “non-God” and it is “false” and therefore- it does NOT exist. So, in reality- satan doesn’t exist. But Disease and Sickness as well as Death itself- is all “non-God” and is “false” and therefore, they don’t exist either.

Now your eyes see all the things that they teach are “non-God” and that are “false”; and therefore, don’t exist. But that is because your mind is “fallen” and is simply “thinking incorrectly”. This is supposedly where the “Science” part of this Cult comes in. So, physical Sicknesses and even Death itself- is nothing more than a product of your Mind that is fallen and doesn’t think correctly.

So, to a Christian Science Practitioner- “Salvation” is NOT about Jesus literally saving you from God’s Wrath against your Sins- it is about God empowering you to “think correctly” and to learn how to ignore everything that is “non-God” and that is “false”.

So, for example, if you break your leg and the bone is sticking out of your leg- that is “Bad”; and it has to do with the “Flesh”. And, like the ancient Gnostics, people deceived by the Cult of Christian Science believe that EVERYTHING pertaining to the Flesh is always “Bad”. And since it is “Bad”- it is also “non-God”. And that makes it to be “false”. But it also makes it to not really exist.

So, to a person deceived by Christian Science- physical Healing involves them to NOT “believe”; and not to “accept”; and to NOT speak about- everything that is “non-God” and “false”- like the Issue of Disease and Sickness; or, in our example, the broken leg.

So, the Way that these people are taught is to *categorically* reject everything that is “non-God”- like Cancer; or a Tumor; or the broken leg. And the way to do that is to refuse to utter a “*negative Confession*”. And a “negative Confession” is defined as saying something; or

believing something that is “non-God” or that is false”.

So, for example, making the Statement, “*My leg is broken and it hurts!*” when you actually break your leg and the bone is sticking out from the skin- is making a “*negative Confession*” to those people. And by making a “*negative Confession*”- you sin- because you just gave Power to the devil to cause something that is “non-God” or “false” to become Reality.

So, it isn't that your leg is broken and that it hurts. You have sinned- because you allowed your Flesh to overpower your Spirit and you made a “negative Confession”- which empowered satan to take something that didn't exist and make it the new Reality.

So, all you need to do to be “Righteous”- is to not give satan that kind of Power- by *refusing* to agree with him that your leg is broken; and that it hurts- because it really doesn't exist anyway. Simple, right?

Now sadly, what I just said- goes beyond Christian Science and has become a very popular Teaching found today in the Pentecostal; Charismatic; Full-Gospel; or New Apostolic Movements. And these Groups teach that people MUST “*Utter a positive Confession*” or “*Speak the creative Word*”; or to “*Only say what agrees with Scripture*”. And by doing that- this wayward Teaching says that human beings can literally “*create Matter*”; or we can “*create a different Reality*” that is in line with God's Will.

So, for example, they go to the Doctor and the Doctor runs tests on them; and he tells them, “*Your leg is broken; and I bet it hurts a lot*”. But instead of saying, “*Thank you for finding out why my leg hurts so badly*”- they say, “*Well, I'm certainly not going to accept what that Doctor says- I'm going to believe the 'Report of the Lord!'*” Because now, in their mind- the Doctor is of the devil; because he is trying to get you to believe and confess that your leg is broken- which is a “*negative Confession*” and NOT a Confession born of Faith!

So, if you want to please the Lord- these people teach that you ignore the Doctor; and you go forth in Faith- speaking words that would make you to be a very fine “Christian Science Practitioner”. And so, the Pressure is on them to speak “creatively”. They must believe and speak ONLY that which is “born in Faith” and NOT speak or believe or agree with what satan is trying to do in their Lives.

Because if they ever utter the words, “*My leg is broken; and it hurts*”- because their leg is broken; and it hurts- then they have sinned against

God- because they have handed over to satan their God-given “birth-right” and they have *empowered* satan to *keep* their leg broken; and they have literally *stopped* God from healing them! So, their supposed lack of Faith actually *stopped* God’s Will from coming to pass!

But if they try to go to the Emergency Room so the doctors can set their broken leg; and give them some pain medicine to stop it from hurting- they have sinned by surrendering their “Position in Christ” by acting in a Way that is NOT born in Faith.

Dear friends, this Foolishness is not only a ridiculous false Teaching- it is utter Blasphemy! Because God is the one and ONLY Creator. God alone creates Reality. God alone creates everything out of nothing (ex-nihilo). Human beings do NOT create Reality- nor can they. And Teaching like this cannot be found *anywhere* in the Bible- because it originated with another ancient false Teaching from the Gnostics that says that as Believers grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of God- we can literally become gods! And the Mormons were happy to pick up on that part.

So, in the case with our broken leg- those in the Pentecostal Camp have taken the false Teaching found in the Christian Science cult and they have *refined* it and *repackaged* it into one of the most common and popular Teachings today (that is entirely false and unbiblical) that literally millions of people believe and put their Trust in.

Now it is commonly thought that the Concepts of “speaking the creative Word” or uttering a “positive Confession” or “believing the Report of the Lord”- were invented by a man named, Kenneth Haggin around the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. But that isn’t true. A Heretic by the name of E.W. Kenyon (1867-1948) was the man that satan used to invent all those unbiblical Concepts; and who first brought them into the American Church. Haggin simply plagiarized Kenyon’s Teachings as though they were his own Ideas.

In the late 1800’s Kenyon was a Student of the “*New Thought Movement*” that was sweeping the world at that time; but was also heavily influenced by the unbiblical Teachings coming out of the “*Holiness Movement*”; as well as the “*Faith Cure and Higher Life Movements*” of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is important to understand the Dynamics of what was going on during this Time that allowed Teachings (that had much more in common with ancient Gnostic Heresies than they did with the Bible) to

become so popular. Firstly, during those Days- there was a huge Move by the lost world to *replace* Christianity and the Bible with what was termed to be “Science”. And so, Darwinian Evolution was waging War against the biblical View of Creation and so-called “Science” was actively drawing people away from the Church and away from Belief in the Bible.

And so, to “fight back”- many inside the Church thought that by making fantastic Claims (that could never be proved) of miraculous Healings and supernatural Miracles- people would be encouraged to believe in God rather than believe in Science.

But the opposite actually happened. Because once the Claims were proven to be false (because they WERE false)- even more people left the Church- completely *disillusioned* by the effort to draw people in by resorting to sideshow and Carnival maneuvers. So, in their Panic to try to stop the great exodus of people from the Church- the Leaders back then had forgotten what God the Holy Spirit moved on the Apostle write down in **1Corinthians 1:18-25:**

**18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."**

**20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

**22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;**

**23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,**

**24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

**25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

... and ...

**1Timothy 6:20&21**

**20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" [Science]—**

**21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.**

Now what helps to propagate these false Teachings is the very shallow Way that people; read the Bible today. So, for example, when they read what Matthew wrote in **Matthew 9:18-35** and they come away from that Passage by believing, "*All I need to be healed is Faith*"- because that is what this Passage seems to say. And if this was the **ONLY** Passage in the Bible- I would agree with them. But it isn't the **ONLY** Passage in the Bible. So, when we put everything else we know to be true in the Bible along side of this Passage- we get an entirely different Understanding about **WHY** Matthew put this in his Gospel Record. And that is,

1. There are Times when it is God's Will to heal sick bodies. And He may do so by magnifying the Glory of His Grace in using Himself in supernatural Miracles; or He may do so by using Common Grace.
2. There are Times when it is **NOT** God's Will to heal sick bodies. And so, God will empower His people to magnify the Glory of God's Faithfulness by remaining Faithful **IN** the Sickness or the Suffering

... but the false Teaching that says it is **ALWAYS** God's Will to heal the sick bodies of His people and the **ONLY** Reason people remain sick is because they didn't have enough Faith- literally destroys people.

And so, a person, who belongs to one of these Groups, and who is sick or dying now believes they are failing God; or that God is angry with them- if they are not healed- but they really don't know why or how to fix this Problem. Because they *tried* to believe. Many of them fasted and they really put forth great Effort to believe. Yet they remained sick. And now- because of false Teaching- they feel as though they are the modern-day equivalent of the Lepers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. So, not only are they sick and dying- but they think God is angry with them and He doesn't love them the Way He loves the ones He has healed.

And so, many sick people remain sick; or they die- honestly believing that they have failed God terribly because they weren't



healed. And I have personally witnessed this. And so, I tell; you on the Authority of God's Word- this Teaching is of the Devil and is NOT of God! And I categorically reject it!

And what is so sad- is that most of the people who have been deceived into accepting such blatantly false Teachings have no idea that these Teachings are NOT new. The Leaders of those wayward Groups did NOT invent this Teaching; and God did NOT reveal it to them. Because this is an *ancient* false Teaching from a group of Heretics called, the "Gnostics".

So, this is NOT a Christian Teaching; and it is NOT biblical! And yet, after the Christian Church confronted those Gnostic heretics and cast them out of the Church many Centuries ago- Teachings like this abound in our Day; and are MORE popular; and have MORE followers now than they did almost 2,000 years ago! Why? Two reasons:

1. The population of the modern American Church are some of the most biblically illiterate people to ever call themselves, "Christians"
2. False Teachings please the carnal mind and the unredeemed Flesh of lukewarm and unsaved people

I mean, who doesn't want to be healed? What sick person wants to stay sick? *"You say that Jesus ALWAYS heals your Body when it gets sick? Sure I'll serve your Jesus!"*

Now most of the people who promote a false Teaching; or who lay claim to have some spiritual Gift of Healing- are very Evil and Wicked people who are nothing but Charlatans- posing as people who have some supernatural Gift- so they can take advantage of sick and desperate people. But there are actually some people who are very honest and very sincere about all this. They just want to help sick people get better; and they want to give Hope to those who are dying. And they have read a few verses in the Bible (taken out of Context) and they think that they can genuinely help people by teaching them what they think God has shown them.

Now even though there are many, many different variations of all false Teaching concerning physical Healing- there are about 6 Basics Concepts that are common with all of them:

1. God is Good

2. God loves you
3. Satan is bad
4. Satan causes sickness
5. It is ALWAYS God's Will to heal you
6. People are NOT healed because they don't have enough Faith

.. and this is very Simple and easy to teach. And it's easy to learn; and easy to believe. The only Problem with it- is that it isn't biblical. The Bible does NOT teach this and never has.

And yet we are told clearly and repeatedly to pray for the Sick. And we should *always* pray- *believing* and hoping that God will answer our Prayers. But because we do NOT know what God's Will for that person at that particular Time is- we should ALWAYS pray for Healing with Humility- saying, "*If it be Your Will*"- because we simply don't know.

And this is *why* we need to be taught correctly about physical Healing and learn what the Bible actually teaches about this serious Subject. And that is why I am spending Time on that Subject in this small Series on Healing.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.