

Touching Jesus

By

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Introduction

The power of Jesus Christ in securing redemption for fallen man and the sin-cursed earth is the central theme of the entire word of God. It is true that the Bible records the history of man's fall and the sad results experienced by the human race, and for good reason. One can only appreciate his position in Christ by seeing the ruined condition from which he came.

Many develop a bleak attitude toward the future when observing the attempts of man to redeem himself and the society in which he lives, by his own efforts. Everywhere is seen the weakness and failure of mankind to bring the world back to a more sane and sensible course. With each change that is made, instead of becoming better, mankind only sinks deeper and deeper into the despair of life. Thus it is seen that society has little respect for law and order and the old ways that were tried and found to be true by the fathers of the faith.

Lawlessness abounds as is evidenced by drive-by shootings, assaults upon the citizens in robberies, thefts, etc. Marriage vows are ignored by the many, and lack of covenant-keeping abounds on every hand. Financial contracts are violated, moral obligations are ignored, and religious commitments soon are put aside for the joys of the flesh. No one will deny that the world offers enjoyment in the pleasures of sin. Yet, some, as Moses in past ages and down through the present, have made the choice of suffering affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy what the world has to offer. For one to esteem the reproaches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, one must be in touch with Jesus on a daily basis.

Moses looked past the pleasures of this life: 1) The lust of the flesh, 2) The lust of the eyes, and 3) The pride of life, and valued the recompense of the eternal reward over the pleasures of sin for a season. Not many have or will see and understand what Moses did, because God's word says that he acted by faith. Faith is defined in the word as, the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Heb 11:1.**

The natural man, or the one who is walking in and governed only by what is seen and felt, will be unable to experience the power of Christ. He is not walking by faith and the things of the Spirit of God are foolishness to him. The saddest sight in the world is the picture of man who progresses not much above the animal kingdom and is governed by the same laws as the animal kingdom.

How great are the possibilities of mankind if he would only touch Jesus for the power to live and walk with him in this life. The Lord took fishermen, tax collectors, and assorted uneducated, unrefined men and made them Apostles and fishers of men. He took a well educated, polished, proud Pharisee of the Pharisees, and empowered him to be the great Apostle Paul who went to the Gentiles and established churches throughout the whole area.

He blessed ladies of varied backgrounds and reputations, and used them as helpers in the Lord's work. They even instructed preachers who were not sound in the faith, the more perfect way of the Lord. He took a lad's lunch and fed thousands just because he was willing to let the Lord use what he had. The power of Christ is immeasurable. It is always available to those who desire to touch him to be made whole.

Dull and powerless lives can be made alive, set free from encumbrances to serve the Lord with a new zeal and determination never before experienced by the Lord's people. This can be accomplished by just touching the Master as he says "**Thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.**" **Mark 5:34**. Let all hear the question of Jesus to the man who had been impotent for thirty eight years that is recorded in **John 5:6**, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

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TOUCHING JESUS

Chapter One The Sickness

1. Standing in the Need of Touching Him.

The Bible tells the story of many who stand in need of Jesus. Blessed are those who understand this need and seek to remedy

it. Mark chapter five tells of three of these who sought Jesus each for a different reason, representing needs of man today.

A. The man of Gadara who was possessed with an unclean spirit. He has been called a maniac by some, but this is not Bible term.

1. The response to the presence of Jesus is seen in **Mark 5:2**

And when he was come out of the ship, immediately they met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.
He

met Jesus immediately. This man is like many who are living among the dead and possessed of unclean spirits. He is described below.

Mark 5:3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs. Crying, and cutting himself with stones.

He was living among the tombs, a cemetery or burying place of the dead. Satan and his demon spirits prey upon those who can not or will not help themselves. Dead people are defined in many places in the scriptures as those who are away from the Lord in spirit. These are ripe for being controlled by Satan as described in:

Eph. 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Unclean spirits control people who do not have the Spirit of God in their lives.

Matt 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man,

he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

It is admitted that the primary application is to Israel, who is seen in the expression “this wicked generation,” yet the principle is there for each individual or church today. See the reference made by the wise man, Solomon.

Prov. 21:16 The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

2. No one was able to bind him. The idea is that he could not be controlled any longer, even with chains. They had tried it, but he broke them, even chains and fetters. It seems that the chains were on his arms and the fetters were on his feet and he broke both of them.

No man could tame him. It seems that the thought here is that he was out of control; no one could subdue him. This is the sad picture of men apart from the presence of Jesus Christ. Even God’s people are not immune from being controlled by Satan. See the words of the Lord to Peter in:

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold,

Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

3. The actions of this man demonstrated his pitiful state in **verse five. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, Crying, and cutting himself with stones.** Always, day and night. When Satan is in control, it is a constant thing, all the time. He lived in the burial grounds, with dead people for neighbors. Most folks

today are living with the dead (separated from the power of Jesus Christ) and do not even realize it. All are alike and unable to help one another.

Day and night crying. Comes from word “*Kpazo*” meaning “*his loud scream or screech like other demoniacs in Mark 1:26; 3:11; 9:26.*” AT. Robertson’s *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. J.H. Thayer in his *Greek English Lexicon* defines this crying as “*to cry out, cry aloud vociferate; particularly of inarticulate cries.*” it was the cry of the man’s only child who was possessed of a spirit. **Luke 9:39**. It is the same sound of the cries of Jesus on the cross as recorded. **Matt. 27:50 and Mark 15:39**. It was also the cry of fear of the Apostles when they saw Jesus walking on the water. **Matt. 14:26**.

It is also demonstrated in the cries of the mad Pharisees as they martyred Stephen. **Acts 7:57**. The woman of Canaan who had a daughter grievously vexed with a devil cried this cry. **Matt. 15:22**. It is also illustrated when God heard a cry from the ground from the blood of murdered Abel. **Gen. 4:10**. God also heard it in the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah in his ears. **Gen. 18:20**. It is a cry of misery and sorrow that is not able to be understood by man.

Satan brings sorrow and loud crying of unintelligible speech to all who are influenced by or tormented by his presence. He causes people to suffer pain, agony and death. This man cried these terrible sounds from the graveyard. He cried all the time. Morning; noon, evening and midnight are all times of crying for those possessed with evil spirits.

Jer. 13:16 Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

4. This man ran and worshipped Jesus. **Verse 6. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him.** The unclean spirit asked what Jesus had to do with him and implored Jesus not to torment him. **Verse 7. And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.** Jesus cast the unclean spirits out, and they entered into a herd of swine and were choked in the sea. **Verse 13. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.**

5. The results of the presence of Jesus is seen in **verse 15. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.** Quite a change is seen in the life of one who was shunned, feared, etc. Jesus and his power make a difference in the lives of people. But a warning should be sounded here.

Please refer to **Matt. 12:43-45** shown above. Jesus has the power to cast out the demon spirit, and he did for this man. But one should be reminded that the Lord expects something from one whom he had so abundantly blessed. This man could be a representation of Israel when Jesus came on the scene. He made it possible that Israel could have been brought out of the terrible darkness and region of death (see the demon possessed man living among the tombs) into the marvelous light of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Matt 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

1 Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light

Whether this reference is to a single individual or to God’s covenant people who needed his power, Jesus was ready to bring a blessing into a life that Satan had controlled for so long.

A life of waste and suffering for this man was translated into a witness for Jesus Christ among the people that knew him. This may be the idea in God’s word in:

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Satan has lost his grip and now this one is in a position to glorify God, the purpose for which all mankind was created.

Isa 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

B. Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue, whose daughter lay at the point of death.

Mark 5:22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth

24 at the point of death: *I pray thee* come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

24 And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house* certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as *Jesus* heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue. and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her. *Talitha cumi*; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age of* twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

.43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

1. He was a ruler of the synagogue and he fell at the feet of Jesus. He told of his sick daughter who was at the point of

death. He requested that Jesus lay his hands on her that she might live. Death brings all to the common ground of man's inability to control things at that time.

EccI. 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Jairus realized his weakness and turned to the one who had the power to deal with the grief he was experiencing. Jesus started to return to Jairus' home when a messenger came and told Jairus that his daughter was dead, Jesus told him, **"Be not afraid, only believe."**

2. They arrived at the house where the people wept and wailed greatly. Jesus told them that the damsel was not dead, only sleeping. This is the New Testament term used when referring to the death of one of the saints of God.

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

What a vast difference in the care of Jesus for his people and the treatment that Satan gives to his followers.

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

It is further stated in **verse 22** that when Lazarus died he was **"carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom."** It is strongly implied in the scriptures that the Lord's people have an angel that cares for each one.

Matt. 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

This angel is often referred to as our *"Guardian angel."* Though this word *"guardian"* is not in the scriptures, the care of the Lord for his saints by *"their angels"* fits the expression that so many use.

Sleep is a beautiful metaphor for the death of the saint. Jesus promised the believing thief on the cross that he would be with him in paradise. No separation from Jesus is the promise seen here. Comfort and assurance of receiving a glorified body at his return are great blessings.

Death flees from Jesus. He raised the daughter of Jairus back to life. He raised Lazarus from the dead.

**John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.
44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, loose him, and let him go.**

He raised the dead son of the widow of Nain.

Luke 7:12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

- 13 **And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said unto her, Weep not.**
14 **And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.**
15 **And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.**

Jesus himself testified of this.

Matt. 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

There is no account found in the word of God where Jesus came into contact with a dead saint, or a loved one of his people, that he did not bring that one back to life. There is no account found in the New Testament of any of the saints of God ever dying while Jesus was present.

C. The woman with the issue of blood.

- Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,**
26 **And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.**
27 **When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.**
28 **For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.**
29 **And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.**
30 **And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched me?**
32 **And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.**
33 **But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.**
34 **And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.**

1. Her problem was symbolic of all who are away from Jesus Christ our Lord. She had this problem for a long time, even twelve years. The problems of life go on for sinners away from the Lord. Many physicians had treated her, evidently without any success at all, and at the expense of her substance and discomfort at their treatment. Many are the "Physicians of no value" as Job told his so-called friends in Job 13:4, as a result of their bad advice.

This is especially true of the spiritual "*quacks*" or "*Physicians*".

Of no value that are seen practicing today. Electronic evangelists, unscriptural preachers, mis-guided pastors, intentional charlatans, false prophets, etc. are all treating the sin problem by the millions. This goes on for a long time and the "*doctors* keep on treating the sinner as long as the patient keeps on coming to see him.

"She spent all that she had." These "*Physicians of no value*" will take your money, your talent, your time, your energy, and your devotion to their cause. Most of all she had spent twelve years of her life in misery. Physicians, whether in the fleshly realm or the spiritual realm, should see some improvement in that time, or else, refer them to someone who has the ability to take care of the problem.

2. **"And was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse."** The "*Physicians of no value,*" when they are finished, will leave one penniless, disappointed, discouraged, and at the point of despair. One who claims to be a physician should be able to help people. God will call these people into account, who trifle with humanity in such manner. We are our brother's keeper. This is illustrated in the life of Cain and has been God's intent ever since.

If one is professing to be a healer, either in the body or the spiritual realm, he had better leave his patients better and not worse after treating them. All should be a blessing to every one with whom contact is made in life. The Devil's crowd

always leaves one devoid of assets and with a hopeless attitude after having dealt with them. When hope is gone there is only despair.

Luke 10:30 And Jesus answering said. A certain man went Down from Jerusalem to Jerico, and fell among thieves. which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Some physicians are unable to help because they are not qualified. In the physical realm, they are called quacks. It is quite easy to identify these when their credentials are examined. Those without a proper license to practice medicine are forbidden to practice by the authorities, on threat of monetary fine or sentencing to prison or both.

3. The “*Physicians of no value*” in the spiritual realm are viewed in a much different manner. Almost all religious movements are tolerated by the masses and approved by those who become a part of their followers. Many will take the position that a person should not criticize a religion, regardless of their doctrine and influence upon their adherents. Many spiritual physicians do not help their listeners. They rather leave them in a worse condition than they were before meeting these false apostles.

Only when mass suicides happen to their flock, or some other problems that cause the death of some of their followers, do folks become concerned about unqualified spiritual physicians. Many who do not profess to be a preacher or a pastor of a congregation, will dispense spiritual medicine to any and every one that will listen.

Spiritual advisers who claim to be experts, abound, even when these have little or no knowledge or understanding of the word of God. In the scriptures, Jesus says they that are sick need a physician. Jesus is the great physician and true followers of him will direct the sick soul to Christ for help. Jesus can and will help that sick soul.

Matt 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

4. It is recorded in **verse 27**, that when she had heard of Jesus, she came to him. She had exhausted her resources and had to come to one who would help her without monetary cost. She demonstrated the condition of most of mankind. She tried many physicians without receiving help. She came to the place that Jesus could help her, for she surely was in despair. Many times the Lord will wait until one reaches the end of all hope and then he sends one to tell them about the help available in him.

Mankind is afflicted with great pride and this will prevent most from coming to Jesus and acknowledging their true condition. Thus, sick and destitute, she came to the final ray of hope for her problem. She showed determination to get to Jesus in that she had to come through the crowd to get to him. She came through the press (crowd) behind him and touched his garment. Many did so later as recorded in the word.

Mark 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment and as many as touched him were made whole.

Matt. 14:36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

5. She had said in verse twenty-eight that she would be made whole if she could touch his clothes. Her faith led her to Jesus and caused her to trust him for help. When she touched his garment, she was healed of her plague according to verse twenty-nine. Jesus knew that virtue (power) had gone out of him and he asked who it was that touched his clothes in verse thirty. When she came to him, she told him all the truth as is told in verse thirty-three. Jesus told her that her faith had made her whole, to go in peace, and be whole of her plague.

TOUCHING JESUS

Chapter Two --- The Diagnosis

A. THE WOMAN WITH ISSUE OF BLOOD.

1. A woman was sick. The female gender is normally used in the scriptures when referring to organized religion. It may be speaking of false and evil religion, which is described as the enemy and persecutor of the saints in **Rev. 17:1-7** and her destruction that is predicted in **Rev. 18:1-8**, or the chosen people of God. God referred to Israel as his elect, his peculiar treasure, conditioned upon their keeping the covenant that he made with them. He set his love upon them, and conditioned his continuance of that love upon their loving him in return.

Isa. 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Exo. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

**Deut. 7:7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people: for ye were the fewest of all people:
8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

She is referred to as the virgin of Israel. She is called the fallen vrszm later, and was promised captivity as a result. He pictured her unfaithfulness to him in the experience of Hosea, who took for himself, a wife of the whoredoms. He took Gomer, who bore two children to him, then a third son that pictured the offspring of Israel when they conceived while playing the harlot This child was named "Loammi," which meant "ye are not my people, andl will not be your God"

Jer. 18:13 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing.

Amos 5:2 The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land: *there is none* to raise her up.

Amos 7:17 Therefore thus saith the LORD: Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line: and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.

Hosea 2:5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

Hosea 1:9 Then said *God* Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your *God*

2. The fallen virgin, Israel, is pictured in the woman with the issue of blood. This condition is described in the Old Testament as Israel worshipped under the law.

Lev. 15:25 And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she *shall be* unclean.

26 Every bed whereon she lieth all the days of her issue shall be unto her as the bed of her separation: and whatsoever she sitteth upon shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her separation.

27 And whosoever toucheth those things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes, and bathe *himself* in water, and be unclean until the even.

28 But if she be cleansed of her issue, then she shall number to herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.

29 And on the eighth day she shall take unto her two turtles, or two young pigeons, and bring them unto the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

30 And the priest shall offer the one *for a sin offering*, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for her before the LORD for the issue of her uncleanness.

31 Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

These were declared unclean by the priest, and were not permitted to worship in the house of God until they were pronounced clean. This is the very thing that happened to this woman, Israel. She was unclean and could not worship acceptably until the priest declared her clean. This happened as recorded in **Mark 5:34** when Jesus pronounced her whole of her plague. It should not be surprising that the solution to the woman's problem was her *'faith'* in Jesus and his ability to make her whole. See **verse twenty-eight**. Some will want to make this healing a type of salvation of the spirit. There is some justification for this position because of the word used to convey the thought **"made thee whole."** The word is "sesooke" and is used in the New Testament to denote *"save, rescue, preserve, cure, heal, restore to health"* and many other things, governed by the context.

God's word to Israel was to a people of covenant, not to the lost. Her main concern was being healed of her sickness, not in being saved. She believed that Jesus could heal her and he did, however, it seems that he was unaware of her being healed until he felt virtue (power) go out of him. She was healed when she touched his clothes. Jesus told her "thy faith hath made thee whole." Yet it must be understood that the power of Jesus healed her. Her faith was the instrument used to access the power of Christ.

3. Salvation of the spirit comes when a lost person exercises repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Acts 20:21**. This is the message that Paul says that he preached to the Ephesians who were Gentiles, and afar off and aliens to the commonwealth of Israel as recorded in the word of God. This is what the Gentiles were required to do to be saved and become eligible for New Testament church membership and partaker of the New Covenant.

When God addressed Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament, it is understood that he is speaking to those who had already experienced salvation.

Eph. 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

The Israelite was saved when he offered a blood sacrifice for his sins, and saw, by faith, in that sacrifice, the blood of Jesus that would be shed for his sin. **Heb. 9:12**.

The message that Israel needed to hear, being the covenant people and addressing them as children of God, was “**Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” This is the message spoken to Israel by John the Baptist and recorded in **Matt. 3:2** and Jesus, himself, as recorded in **Matt. 4:17**. Israel needed to repent of their unbelief in the covenant promises of God. God promised in **Exo. 19:5** that they would continue to be his people as long as they obeyed his voice and kept his covenant. Israel quit believing God’s promises, became the fallen virgin, and God cut them off from his promises.

Rom. 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

23 And they also, if they abide not still In unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them In again.

Rom. 9:25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it not* by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

God promised that a remnant would be kept out of Israel by the grace of God to enter into the New Testament church. His promise says that Israel would be grafted in if they did not continue in unbelief. The woman with the issue of blood is a fulfillment of this promise and evidence that God keeps his word. Jesus was the stumblingstone and rock of offence to most of Israel except the remnant, and this fact kept them from repenting of their unbelief in his promises and returning to the covenant blessings.

Rom. 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And it by grace, then *is* it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it *be of* works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

4. Rejection of Jesus as their Messiah was the one thing that caused the downfall of Israel and their being rejected and scattered throughout all the world. God took the fence down that he has around his chosen people, his vineyard. It was eaten up, the wall was broken down, trodden down, laid waste, and in it came up briars and thorns, and it did not rain on it. The writer the book of Hebrews reminds the New Testament church members who were Jews, that the Lord expected better things of them than what Israel produced for God.

Heb. 6:8 But that which beareth thorns and briars *is* Rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

9 But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

The woman with the issue of blood may be representative of the remnant of Israel who received the Messiah, had her sickness healed, and was qualified to enter into the designated place of worship to offer up sacrifices, acceptable unto God.

1 Pet. 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

This is the promise that Jesus made to Nicodemus in John chapter three and many other places in the New Testament. One must realize that many of the perishing in the days of Jesus could have been saved, rescued, healed, kept safe, had they only believed in the Jesus who came to them as their Messiah.

A. THE MAN WITH THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT

1. This man lived in the country of the Gadarenes and he could be the representative of Israel who rejected the hope that came in the person of Jesus as recorded in **Mark 5:1-20**. Jesus came and cast out the unclean spirit that possessed this man. The unclean spirit possessed Israel when they lost contact with God some 400 years before Christ was born. God sent no prophet to Israel until John the Baptist came on the scene. He is designated as the last of the Old Testament prophets,

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

2. Jesus came and made it possible for Israel to receive their Messiah and to receive the rest that Old Testament Israel did not receive because they did not believe

Heb. 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

Heb. 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Now Jesus comes, effectively running the evil spirit away from Israel, out of the house, and promises the Holy Spirit to the people who would enter into the new covenant relationship with him in the church. Most of Israel, persuaded by their leaders, refused the invitation to come to Jesus. The unclean spirit comes back with seven other spirits more wicked than the first. They enter in, and the last state is worse than the first.

Matt. 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

3. This man with the unclean spirit could also be a representative of the small remnant of Israel that was concerned enough about their spiritual condition that they came to worship the Messiah when he came on the scene. The description of this man is very much a parallel to the lives of many today, whether they be Jew or Gentile. A person apart from Jesus is living among the dead. One who does not have the power of Christ and the influence of God's Holy Spirit and his people, becomes unruly and unable to be tamed.

The present, ungodly world will use and possess a person until he becomes uncontrollable and useless to God and society. He will then be abandoned to live among the dead to cry and abuse himself, a hopeless derelict on the sea of life. Folks try other measures to bring peace and calm to a person, but the power of Jesus Christ is the only thing that will prevail.

The mistake that Israel made, as do many others in life today, is that they abandoned the God that delivered them from Egypt and bondage. Egypt of old was a type of the world and God brought them out to be a separate and holy people unto him. The Lord's people, then and now, are to be different from the world, and should shine as lights in a sin-

darkened world instead of becoming like the world. They became dissatisfied with God's manna, the heavenly food that was provided by him.

John 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Exo. 16:15 And when the children of Israel saw *it* they said one to another, *It is manna*: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, *This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

18. And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

31. And the house of Israel called the name thereof

Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it *was* like wafers made with honey.

Num. 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *mere is no bread, neither is there any water*; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

One must be careful that the unbelief of many in Israel is not present in the life of the saint of God even now. Jesus is the bread of life, but it seems that many have become dissatisfied with him and have gone into the world to find the melons, garlic, leeks and onions that Israel sought instead of the manna from God. See **Num. 11:5**. God had gone to great lengths to provide a saviour and a mediator in Jesus Christ. Israel cast him aside as the head of the corner. He did not fit in their religious plans and, as a result, they did not fit into his plans for the future people of God, so he cut them off as his people.

B. JAIRUS, ONE OF THE RULERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE

1. The experience of Jairus could also be a representation of what happened to Israel and more pointedly, their children, because of their unbelief and failure to come out of Judaism and into the new order of things. Some tried to put new wine (New Covenant) into old bottles (the Old Covenant) and it would not work.

Matt 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

They tried to patch an old garment (The Law Covenant) with a piece of new garment (New Covenant) but it also was a disaster.

Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

2. It is such a tragedy that millions of Israel have been without a homeland for nearly two thousand years because they refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Millions have died physically in their sins because they have no mediator nor intercessor who serves as their high priest. One is not lost because he has no mediator in life, yet he loses that assurance of salvation and remission of sins apart from that intimate fellowship with Jesus in his daily walk. This is the teaching in the scriptures below.

Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.

- Heb. 8:10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
- 11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
- 12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he ye shall die in your sins.

- Heb. 9:11** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
- 12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*
- 13** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
- 14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- 15** 1 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The condition of the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue. Jairus, symbolizes the condition of Israel when Jesus came on the scene. God had warned in several Old Testament scriptures that the iniquity of the fathers would be visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation.

Exo. 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation of them that hate me*;

Exo. 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means *dear the guilty*: visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Num. 14;18 The LORD Is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generatioin*.

Deut. 5:9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God. visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation of them that hate me*.

This warning became a sad reality in the life of David when he sinned in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. God promised him through the mouth of the prophet, Nathan, that the sword would never depart from his house.

2 Sam 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

God's word reflects the terrible things that his children suffered because of David's sins. Most children learn from their parents' actions and will either be blessed or suffer as a result.

- Gal. 6:7** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
- 8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

3. This promise was realized also by the nation of Israel many times, according to the record of the Old Testament. One example is the time that Israel came to Kadesh-Barnea on their journey from Egypt just prior to the time to enter into the land of Canaan. God had promised that he had given them the land, that they only needed to go in and possess it. Instead of taking God at his word, they sent spies to spy out the land.

Ten of the twelve spies returned with an evil report including the fact that there were giants in the land and **“we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” Num. 13:33.** They wept all night and wished that God had let them die in the land of Egypt or in the wilderness. Then they voted to make them a captain and return to Egypt lest they be killed and their wives and children should be a prey.

The Lord reminded them that they had seen miracles in Egypt, in the wilderness, and because of their unbelief, they would not see the land that he had promised them through Moses. They wandered in the wilderness until all the men died that were twenty years old and upward when they left Egypt. The wives and children that the men worried about inherited the land instead of the unbelieving fathers and husbands.

But these children learned well from their fathers. They spent their lives murmuring against God and their leaders. God let them be taken captive time and time again, until finally, he stopped sending prophets to Israel about four hundred years before Christ. The Lord quit talking to Israel and they became as the nations in their attitude toward God. Because of their unbelief, God cut them off as his covenant people.

**Rom. 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.
20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but tear:**

The sins of these people were visited upon their children for about four hundred years just prior to the coming of Christ. According to the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, by Harris, Archer and Waltke, a generation is defined as *“the circle of a man’s lifetime, from birth to death.”* *“in the time of the patriarchs, it was reckoned at a hundred years.”* *“Among the Romans the word was used to denote a century.”* Moses lifetime was 120 years according to **Deut. 34:7.** The normal lifespan was reported by the Psalmist to be 70 years in David’s day and apparently continues to this present day. See **Psa.**

90:10.

It should be remembered that nations or groups such as the churches are made up of individual people and the action of the nation or group is determined by the individuals that make up that group. The decisions that affect the children are made by the parents and will bring blessing or suffering as a result.

TOUCHING JESUS

Chapter Three — The Medication

A. JESUS IS THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

1. Jesus reminded Israel that he was the bread that God gave to them that came from heaven. This is the one thing that Israel would not accept. They would not receive Jesus as their Messiah. He told them that a man could eat of the heavenly manna and not die. Israel ate of the manna and died in the wilderness.

John 6:48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Jesus described the condition of Israel precisely in the word.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

This was the problem with the Jewish leaders. They would not accept the words of Jesus that he was the bread that came down from heaven. It is true also among many church people today. It has been determined by many who preach the gospel and accept accolades from the religious public in general, that Jesus is the answer and that one meal of Jesus is all that is needed.

When Israel ate manna in the wilderness, it sustained their physical lives, yet they eventually all died as does all flesh. If one eats of the true bread, Jesus Christ, he has eternal life and will be raised up at the last day, in the first resurrection.

2. The other comparison of the manna to Jesus is seen in that Israel was instructed to gather the manna every day except on the Sabbath. On this day, God would give no manna. The previous day they gathered twice as much as the other five days.

Exo. 16:20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto

Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

21 And they gathered it every morning, every man

according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot it melted.

22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man.

Some gathered more than one day's supply, but the next day it bred worms and stank. What should be seen here is the necessity of eating the food from heaven each day. We are instructed in the model prayer to pray that God would give us this day our daily bread. How much more is there a need for spiritual food? Is this saying that if we do not pray daily and lean upon the Lord daily, that our lives will begin to stink?

2 Cor. 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

3. It would be foolish to eat a good meal and then think that one would never eat again. Jesus is making the comparison of spiritual things to fleshly things (himself to manna). It will be profitable to make the comparison today. The thinking is quite prevalent in the religious world, that one eats of the true bread from heaven, Jesus, in salvation. After salvation, it is thought by many that Jesus is not absolutely necessary on a daily basis. Many will quote the statement "*Jesus is the answer*" without defining the question.

May the appeal be to the words of Jesus for the true meaning of statements made in **John 6:54 "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life,"** and **John 6:58 "He that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."** The force of these statements is that the one who eats of the true bread Jesus, has eternal life and lives forever. These statements go far beyond the promise of salvation of the lost who repents of his sin and places his faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ, though this is a requirement before one can eat of the bread from heaven. This salvation brings spiritual life to the sinner, but is this what Jesus is speaking about here?

4. The statement in **John 6:54** “**whoso eateth**” is described by AT. Robertson in his *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. He says it is “*Present active participle for continual eating or habitual eating like the word ‘believe’ in verse 29. He further comments on **verse 29** concerning the word believe, “*Note the present active subjunctive “pisteuete” That ye may keep on believing.*” This answer was given to the question asked in **verse 28**, “*What shall we do that we might work (that we may go on working) the works of God.*”*

So the answer of Jesus is “*Keep on believing*” in order that that one may “*Go on working the works of God.*” The answer from Jesus also is to “*Keep on eating*” the bread from heaven and it will result in living forever in **verse 58** and having eternal life in **verse 54**. These statements of Jesus will cause the re-thinking of the traditional position of believing unto salvation and having that close vital relationship with Jesus on a day to day basis as a result of that initial believing unto salvation of the spirit.

There is no question that at the point of repentance and faith, one is saved and his spirit is now able to communicate with the Lord. Is that all that a person desires of the Lord, and is this all that the Lord requires of thee? Is a child being born into the world all that is expected of the child? Absolutely not, for the instructions from God are found in the writing of the Apostle Peter when he said by inspiration in:

1 Pet. 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

5. Scriptures also tell the babe in Christ to “*Add to your faith*” the many things enumerated in:

**2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

The promise is that if these things be in the saint and abound they will produce fruit in that life. If these things are not added, then this one is blind and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

**2 Pet. 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they
make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

The benefits of adding these things to salvation is that one’s calling and election is made sure, he shall never fall, and an entrance shall be administered unto this one abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Pet. 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do
these
things, ye shall never fall:
11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Jesus made two promises concerning those who would eat the true bread from heaven that correspond to the promises of **2 Pet. 1:5-11**. Jesus said in **John 6:54** “**hath eternal life**” and in **verse 58** that he “**shall live forever.**” The promise in **2 Peter** is that “**he shall never fall.**” The statement “shall live forever” is translated by some from “eis ton aionon” as “into the age.” The next age that follows the present church age is the millennial kingdom age of one thousand years. In that age, Jesus will be king over all the earth, and the resurrected saints will reign with him.

2 Tim. 2:12 **If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*, if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:**

Rev. 20:4-8 **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them,**

and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

6 **Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

In previous pages, it is seen where Jesus cast an unclean spirit out of a man who could not be bound nor tamed. He healed a woman with a physical problem that prevented her from going into the temple to worship. He also healed the daughter of one of the religious leaders who had died. Jesus dealt with each of these physical problems and brought the desired result to the one who petitioned his help.

It will be profitable to look beyond the natural life in this age, and examine the word to see how greater blessings lie ahead for the saints of God. The physical body will die one day, so it would seem reasonable that one not concentrate all his time and effort on the present life. There are some things that will affect our well-being in the ages to come that one should give his time and effort to secure. These things involve securing for one’s self a better resurrection as in **Heb. 11:35**.

Touching Jesus

Chapter Four --The Cure

A. LIFE IS IN JESUS CHRIST

1. The New Testament does not tell of one place that a person became sick nor died in the presence of Jesus. Rather the opposite is true. He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the dead to prove that he was the Messiah, and that this “life into the age” might belong to those who continued in this faith. This promise that brings the saint into the millennial kingdom age, guarantees the well being of that person while in the presence of Jesus for the entire one thousand years. Long life seems to be the character of those who live in the millennial kingdom.

Isa. 65:20 **There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *being* an hundred years old shall be accursed.**

The Septuagint version of the above scripture will shed a little more light on the longevity of those who live in the Millennial kingdom age. It is as follows.

Isa. 65:20 **Neither shall there be any more a child that dies untimely, or an old man who shall not complete his time: for the youth shall be a hundred years old, and the sinner who dies at a hundred years shall also be accursed.**

2. The other promise, found in **verse 54**, relates to the person who eats of his flesh and drinks his blood. It states “**hath eternal life,**” the force of which is “has age life.” The truth of this scripture is that which was promised in **2 Pet. 1:10-11** in that his calling and election is sure (see the rest promised in **Matt. 11:28-30**), he shall never fall (**Psa. 37:24**), and

assurance of abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Once the saint enters into the millennial kingdom age, he is in the presence of Jesus and the benefits mentioned above are all his to enjoy.

These are the real benefits that accrue to the one who “keeps on believing,” and “keeps on eating” the true bread from heaven as he lives in this life, it seems that few place importance on walking with Jesus after he has saved them. Many do not think it is necessary. The customary thinking is that “*I am saved, and all else is not important.*” It is not surprising that some saved live dull and uninteresting lives, out of contact with our Lord on a daily basis.

3. One must deal honestly with the word of God and attempt to understand what is lost when the unacceptable works are burned. It is said that “**he shall suffer loss**” in **1 Cor. 3:15**. The general attitude is that it does not make any difference since salvation is not lost. One is made to wonder if it made no difference to the sailors when they were in the storm as recorded in:

Acts 27:10 And said unto them. Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

Paul told them that they would suffer much “damage” and used the same word as in **I Cor. 3:15** where it is translated “loss.” It could have been prevented.

Acts 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said. Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Jesus said that the slothful saved person would “lose” his own soul (*life*). **Matt. 16:26**. Does this not alarm the one who lives only for himself? Life is lost when it is wasted on worldly things to the neglect of Jesus. Paul said that he suffered the “loss” of all things that he might win Christ, The saved must do this or suffer “loss” at the time of the judgment of works.

Phil. 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee:

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness Which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

4. One needs only to examine the record concerning the three that were introduced at the beginning of this writing. They were all a part of Israel, the elect of God, and as the inspired word tells us. They had the adoption, the glory the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God and the promises.

Rom. 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises;

What went wrong, or what could possibly go wrong, with all the benefits and blessings that God promised to Israel, his chosen, elect people? Why is this one of Gadara possessed with an evil spirit instead of being led of the Holy Spirit of God? Why is the religious leader’s child dead instead of being alive in Christ Jesus? Why is the woman sick for twelve years and not able to worship acceptably before God, with not one person being able to help her?

5. These physical problems are all an indication of deeper problems, that is, spiritual ones. It is only necessary to look at the life of Job, and the experiences of Israel, and see that God protects and provides a hedge around those that serve him.

Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

**Isa. 5:1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:
2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a wine press therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.**

**3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.
1 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?
5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:
6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged: but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.**

When the fence came down from around Israel, the rain stopped, the vineyard was eaten up, trodden down, laid waste, and not pruned nor cultivated. Instead of grapes it brought forth briers and thorns

Let it be understood that not all the physical problems of life are a result of sin in an individual's life. Some things come upon the saints because of sin in the world that is dominated by Satan and his crowd. Sickness was a situation that was understood and accepted by our Lord when he said **"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."** Matt. 9:12.

Yet physical problems can some times be an indication of a life not in tune with God.

**Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**

B. ONLY IN CHRIST CAN ONE FIND TRUE LIFE

1. The point that is missed much of the time is taught in the word when Paul wrote by inspiration that **"For in him we live and move, and have our being;"** Acts 17:28. Jesus himself also said, **"Without me, ye can do nothing."** John 15:5. The latter reference is speaking of the vine and branches, and the saint bearing acceptable fruit for the Lord. Man's pride keeps him from humbling himself and coming to the realization that the best that man can do by his own power is sin.

Prov. 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

2. It should be noted here that the term *"wicked"* does not apply to bank robbers and adulterers only. It is applied by God's inspired word to his chosen people, Israel, when he defined the righteous and the wicked very simply in the following scripture:

Mat. 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

It must be admitted that the division that the world places between the righteous and the wicked is not according to the scriptures.

C. LIFE IS NOT IN THE HANDS OF MAN.

One must begin to question his own ability to attain unto life, even more so, how to maintain life with God after salvation. Satan is pleased when a saved person becomes satisfied with his position, and fails to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Pet. 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1. Jesus made the statement **“I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6.** This statement is made in response to the question of Thomas in **verse 5, “Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?”** Mankind has lost the way to joy, peace and righteousness because the multitudes have “turned every one to his own way” according to **Isa. 53:6.**

2. Does any dare to say that salvation of the spirit of man is all there is to it? Jesus saved us and many say, at least by actions, *“Praise the Lord, but I do not need your power in my life.”* This attitude has produced demon possessed religious people, spiritually sick folks who go to spiritual quacks that are unable to help, and finally become dead in trespasses and in sins because they are separated from daily walk in fellowship with God. See The statement of the Lord concerning this and the sins that he is charging against them in:

Isa. 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you

and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Can any person honestly say that the Lord’s people do not do these things? Many will say that if a person is truly saved, they will not commit these acts. Let us be careful lest we convict all of Israel as unsaved, for these words are written to them. Would any dare to say that David was less a Christian than themselves? David lusted, committed adultery, committed murder, etc. This is the problem that must be admitted and dealt with if one desires to live acceptably before the Lord.

D. DEFINING THIS LIFE IN CHRIST.

The statement is made in **John 1:4 “In him was life.”** The

words “in him” are used numerous times in the New Testament and indicate the necessity of this relationship if one is to have “life.” Scriptures do not relate “life” to salvation that is received at the time of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This act is but the beginning of a vital, living fellowship with Christ on a daily basis that will lead to life as explained in:

Matt. 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

One is required to be saved, then enter the strait (a difficult passage) gate and then walk the narrow way before one come to the life that is in Christ. This is the reason that Jesus said in the word in two places:

Matt. 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last for many be called, but few chosen.

Matt. 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

1. These scriptures require more than salvation of the spirit to enjoy the life that is “in Christ.” Life is more than being saved, and this statement is supported in the word when it states that we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and that while we were enemies to him.

Rom. 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

This death of Jesus allows God to receive a repentant one into friendship after having been his enemy. This is done when a sinner receives Jesus as his sin-offering to God by faith. God receives this offering for sin and established a position with the sinner where enmity did exist. Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God and became the basis on which the reconciled one may walk with God and be pleasing to him.

Gal. 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2. This is what is meant by “**Shall be saved by his life**” in **Rom. 5:10**. “Life” as used in the New Testament is defined as “*life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in himself and which he gave to the incarnate Son to have in himself which he manifested to the world*” *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself: so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself:

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it* and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Thayer’s *Greek -- English Lexicon* defines life as follows: “*life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection, to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body) and to last forever.*” The following scriptures teach this great truth:

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:

and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:

the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and *they* are life.

John 1 4:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Rom. 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Col. 3:4 When Christ, *who* is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life

Eph. 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart

2 Tim. 1:1 Paul. an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.

3. The writers of the Old Testament have anticipated this truth, in their way, by employing the word “life, to denote a happy life and every kind of blessing.

Deut. 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;
19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Prov. 8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Prov. 12:28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway *thereof there is no death.*

Let it be noted here that none of the above New Testament nor Old Testament scriptures is speaking of the life of the spirit of man in the salvation act. It rather is speaking of the good, quality life that one has as he walks in fellowship with Christ.

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it* and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The word “life, that is used in the Old Testament has to do with the quality of life rather than the life principle itself. According to the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, life is “*the exercise of all one’s vital power to the fullest, death is the opposite. The verb, ‘to live, involves the ability to live somewhere on the scale between the fullest enjoyment of all the power of one’s being, with health and prosperity on one hand, and descent into trouble, sickness and death on the other.*”

4. So this life, real, genuine, active, vigorous, devoted to God, and blessed, is seen to reference the quality of life after salvation rather than life that one has when he is reconciled to God. This salvation should be the beginning of this quality life as the saved grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the context of the usage of “In Christ” as it is used seventy-seven times in the New Testament, and does not by context refer to reconciliation to God in salvation.

E. THE WORD TEACHES THE POWER OF CHRIST.

Luke 9:43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Rom. 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
4 And declared *to* be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

1 Cor. 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1. It is understood that Jesus has the power to forgive sins and to bless one’s life, being demonstrated in the three miracles performed in Mark chapter five. It is shown that he has power over demon spirits, over problems that cause one to be miserable in life to the extent of being unable to worship God acceptably, and power over death. Great assurance should come to the saint because of the knowledge of the power of Christ. This power must be appropriated to one’s life

for it to be effective personally. It is not enough for one to know that Jesus has power; one must be able to tap into that power for blessing and to be useful in his service.

1 Cor. 13:4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Heb. 5:18 That by two immutable things, in which it *was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Eph. 1:19-20 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*

Eph. 5:15 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

F. Saints should want to be near and to touch Jesus.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit for without me ye can do nothing.

I. The key thought in the above scripture is “for without me ye can do nothing.” The failure of man is written in multitudes of history books. His weakness, because of his sin nature and his warped sense of purpose in life, speaks of God’s creation running amok. Multitudes are demonstrating a homicidal mania rather than respecting the other person as a creation of God. To strike out against one’s fellow man is to strike out against God, for man was made in the likeness of God. This is another justification for capital punishment. God saw that it was very good, and man has no right to destroy what God has declared as good.

Gen. 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and. Behold, *It was very good.* And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2. On the other hand., Paul was inspired of God to write “**I can do all things through (in the one) Christ which strengtheneth me.**” **PhiL 4:13.** Strengthen is defined as “*to empower, to pour power into one.*” Paul repeated this truth in **1 Tim. 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me.**

“Enabled” comes from “dunamis” that is the root word in the Greek language for “Power.” A.T. Robertson in his *Word Pictures in the New Testament* said “*Paul had such strength as long as Jesus kept putting power into him.*” Near the end of life, Paul stated in **2 Tim. 4:17 the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me.**

G. EVIDENCE OF THE POWER OF CHRIST

This power is seen in the lives of those who touched him and also those whom he touched. Not only did he heal the woman with the issue of blood, cast the unclean spirit out of the citizen of the Gadarenes, but he also raised the dead daughter of the ruler of the synagogue. Multitudes of others were blessed by the contact that they had with Jesus.

1. The people of the land of Gennesaret came to touch the hem of his garment, and as many as touched him were made whole.

Malt 14:36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

2. It is further stated that where ever he entered into villages or cities or countly, they laid the sick on the streets and besought Jesus that they might touch the border of his garment, that in so doing they would be made whole.

Mark 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country. they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if ft were but the border of his garment and as many as touched him were made whole.

3. People came from Judea, Jerusalem, and Tyre & Sidon to be healed. The whole multitude sought to touch him; virtue (*power*) went out of him and he healed them all.

Luke 6:17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed *them all*.

Mark 3:8 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea. and *from* beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon. a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

9 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

Mark 6:5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*

Luke 4:40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

Luke 13:13 And he laid his hands on her and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

H. PURPOSE OF THE HEALING POWER OF CHRIST.

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

1. Some insist that faith in Christ is a pre-requisite to being healed, and confuse the healing with salvation of one's spirit. The palsied man was healed when Jesus saw "Their faith" that is. the faith of the four that brought him.

Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Luke 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

One must wonder how much faith Lazarus had when Jesus raised him from the dead. How much faith did the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue have when she was brought back to life by our Lord Jesus?

2. The miracles of Jesus should be left where Jesus placed them. By them, he proved to Israel that he was their Messiah. The greater issue that Jesus set forth is ignored by the religious community in the most part. The issue is "That believing

ye might have life through his name.” John 20:31. There is a life beyond the spirit life of man that was made alive in the salvation process. These three miracles in Mark chapter five illustrate this fact very vividly.

This life is the “Abundant life” of **John 10:10**. It is called “full joy” in **John 15:11**, and permits one to abide in Jesus and bear fruit for him.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Saints are required by the word of God to leave the principles, literally the “first principles” of the doctrine of Christ and go on to perfection (maturity or spiritual manhood) in the work of the Lord. Jesus meant something when he made the statement in **John 20:31** “**That believing ye might have life through (literally “in” from the Greek word “ev”) his name.**” The word “might” indicates the subjunctive mode and indicated a conditional promise based upon whether the saved person continues in the faith. “Believing” is a present participle and tells one that he has this abundant life as long as he continues to believe.

3. He is not saying that one loses his salvation, but that he does not continue to enjoy that abundant life in Christ. According to J.H. Thayer in his *Greek English Lexicon*, the definition of the word “Abundance” is “*More than is necessary, superadded, over and above.*” It applies to the quality of life and not life itself. Some call it the “Good life” when referring to one who is rich, has fine cars, a mansion for a home, and the best food available to eat, best clothes to wear, etc. in this present life. He has no more life than the beggar who is destitute of this world’s goods, but he has a better life as long as his resources hold out.

The resources of the saint will continue as long as one continues to believe “In his name.” This is the very bed-rock foundation of this presentation. How can one touch Jesus as the people did, whose actions are recorded in the Bible? He can be touched and one can and will have this abundant life when in his presence and touching him. This is accomplished by continually believing in his word as one walks with him in the faith of Jesus Christ.

L. THE VALUE OF THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST.

It is first pictured in the Bible in the word of God where the tree of life is first seen.

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Adam and Eve had the option of eating of the tree of life and living forever. They chose the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After Adam’s sin, they were barred from the garden of Eden and cherubims were placed there to keep them from eating of the tree of life and living forever as sinners.

Gen. 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

21 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Mankind lost the promise of eating of the tree of life and living forever when Adam sinned. Until Jesus came on the scene, the offspring of Adam was not offered the promise of quality life. The statement is recorded in the scriptures when it refers to Jesus himself in **John 1:4** “**In him was life.**” Jesus was referring to his ministry when he stated in:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The “way of the tree of life” had been barred by the angels, but Jesus opened that “way” again and he made it possible to live forever through “truth” that brought back this “life.”

Jesus is not “*a way*” but rather “the way” and his followers are so designated several times in the New Testament as followers of “the way” in:

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Reference to “the way” or “this way” is also found in **Acts 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22**. It is called “a new and living way” in **Heb. 10:20** as opposed to Judaism that was decaying and waxing old.

Heb. 8:13 In that he saith, A new *covenant* he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *Is* ready to vanish away.

Jesus died on the cross, being made sin for us, thereby paying the sin debt, broke the bands of death when he rose from the dead, and became the firstfruits of the resurrection. He overcame Satan, death and the grave. When he returned to the Father, he took the dead saints out of Hades and placed them in Paradise, in his presence.

2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should beholden of it.

1 Cor. 5:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Eph. 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

2 Cor. 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Rev. 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

This last scripture speaks of eating of the tree of life in the paradise of God. This is a promise made to the overcomer and is figurative of the spiritual blessings that Jesus gives to the faithful saint. This is the first appearance of the tree of life since Adam was banned from eating of it when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. It is noteworthy that the promise is made to the overcomer in the Ephesian church. Ephesus represents the first church age beginning with the establishment of the church by the Lord during his personal ministry.

2. He tells the Ephesus saints that the church is his body and is an holy temple unto the Lord and the habitation of God through the spirit.

Eph. 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him *to be the* head over all things to the church.

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

When speaking of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church, who would be their comforter, he reminded them that he would not leave them comfortless, but would come to them.

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

When speaking in response to the question, “**When saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?**” **Matt 25:39. Jesus said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matt. 25:40**

The Lord can continue to be touched today by one’s becoming faithful in the membership of the Lord’s church. It is his body. a temple of the Lord, a habitation of God in the person of Holy Spirit. As one thinks and responds to the teachings of the New Testament church,, he is thinking and responding to Jesus Christ, since Jesus and the church are essentially the same thing, according to **Matt. 25:39-40.**

3. At the end of the church age, Jesus will return to receive the saints to himself The saints who are asleep will be raised, the living saints will be changed and go to be with the Lord, to be with him forever.

**1 Thess. 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

At this time Jesus becomes king of kings and Lord of lords.

Rev. 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

**1 Tim. 6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ
15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who* is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;**

Rev. 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

He will establish a world-wide kingdom and rule it with his bride, the New Testament church saints for a period of one thousand years. Great changes were made upon the earth when God cursed it because of Adam’s sin

Gen. 3:17 And unto Adam he said. Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Great changes will come upon the earth when Jesus becomes the ruler because of his obedience to God where Adam failed.

Heb. 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof *he* hath given assurance unto all *men* that he hath raised him from the dead.

Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Death for the obedient also may cease to be during this time.

Isa. 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *be,ig* an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Satan will be bound for the entire one thousand years of the millennial kingdom reign of Jesus on the earth.

Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Satan being bound will contribute greatly to the peace that will exist during this entire time. The bride will reign with Christ as he sits on David's throne in Jerusalem. Jesus judges and destroys the great whore, the religious usurper to the position of the bride in this present age.

Re 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. {harlots: or, fornications}

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Re 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

In the place of the great whore, the marriage of the Lamb takes place with the virgin bride who hath made herself ready by her righteous acts which she performed in this life white waiting for him. This is done as she is washed and made clean by obedience to the word of God. The bride is the New Testament church as addressed by the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 1:1.

Rev. 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

21 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin* to Christ.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

It is to the choice position in the bride of Christ that the mother of James and John was aspiring for her sons. She requested that they be permitted to sit, one on the right hand and the other on the left in his kingdom. It appears that this is a choice place in the kingdom rule of Christ, for he said that it would be given to them for whom it had been prepared of the Father. This position is to be gained by walking in the steps of Jesus and suffering for him.

Matt. 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping *him* and desiring a certain thing of him.

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.*

Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Tim. 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*, if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

It seems that some have forgotten that this is the aim of the saints of God in the millennial kingdom and also into the eternal ages in the holy city new Jerusalem on the new earth. Saints of old were very familiar with this theme. It gives rise to such songs as “*Nearer my God to Thee,*” “*Close to Thee,*” “*Face to Face,*” “*My Saviour First of All,*” “*Saved by Grace,*”

and many others. This idea greatly overshadows the idea of a cabin in the corner of glory land where the family all gathers around grandpa and grandma. One wrote that his greatest desire was to hear his mother pray again in heaven.

5. Jesus will have center stage in the kingdom and also in the eternal ages. He will be praised for his accomplishments in the redemption plan that resulted in men qualifying to be kings and priests.

Re 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Re 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. {odours: or, incense}

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

It should be noted in the above listed scriptures that verses 8-10 speak of four living creatures and four and twenty elders that praise him. In verses 11-12 the angels join the beasts and the elders and they all praise him for being worthy, and in verses 13-14 all creatures in the whole universe praise him. No one else is worthy of this praise, and no one else will receive praise except our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, and that for his accomplishments.

6. The character of the millennial kingdom is seen in the ruler and his armies, the faithful saints who will reign with Christ for the entire one thousand years.

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw the* souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast neither his image, neither had received *his mark* upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived
and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
B Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

It appears that this relationship of Christ and his bride reigning over all the earth will continue into the eternal “*Ages of the ages.*” which is the literal meaning of “For ever and ever,” as opposed to ‘*Age*’ which is the literal meaning of “Forever.” Many times in the word of God, the word “Age” is used to define some particular desirable or undesirable aspect of a particular era Jesus speaks in the parables of the “End of the world,” using the word “*aiov*” which is the usual word for “forever” in our King James Version of the Bible. This is not speaking of the length or duration of the age, but rather the event of Jesus Christ coming back and bringing the age to a close.

J. PROPHECY OF THE RETURN OF JESUS

In the prophecy regarding the return of Jesus and the kingdoms of the world becoming his kingdom, it is stated “and he shall reign for ever and ever.” This is the term that usually denotes “*never ending.*” It is found many places in the scriptures beginning in the Old Testament and continuing through the New Testament also.

Exo. 15:18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

Gal. 1:5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Phil. 4:20 Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim. 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

2 Tim. 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Heb. 1:8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Heb. 1 3:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Pet. 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak as the oracles* of God: if any man minister, *let him do* it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified
through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying.

Rev. 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said. Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

1. This expression “for ever and ever” is used to describe the continuation of the relationship of the bride, called the servants.

Rev. 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face: and his name *shall be in* their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

It is stated that they shall reign for ever and ever, meaning that it will never change. This is the servants who make up the bride, that have taken the name of Jesus and have his name written in their foreheads. These are the faithful saints that are mentioned in the word and described as to their activities and devoted faithfulness to Jesus.

Rev. 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

This may be the same people that are designated in:

Rev. 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

The statement of **Rev. 22:5**, “they shall reign for ever and ever,” may have reference to reigning over the nations and all others outside the city that are not included in the bride of Christ. It seems that the holy city new Jerusalem and the bride are one and the same according to **Rev. 21:9-10**. Since the promise of “for ever and ever” is terminology that is peculiar to the eternal ages, it would behoove us to determine how one can attain unto this position of being near to Christ until he reaches the eternal ages. One may be assured that the words “for ever and ever” imply strongly that this is a position that is never altered once a person reaches this period.

2. A strong promise is made in **John 10:26-28** regarding “hearing, believing, never perish, not be plucked out of his hand, etc.” These are terms that will secure for the saint an unchanging relationship in eternity. At least eleven other times in the gospel of John. eternal life or everlasting life is in, by, or through Jesus Christ. As long as one is with Jesus, this life will continue. This truth is seen in the fact that the tree of life, which is a type of Christ, has been made available to the saints on a continuing basis.

3. That which was lost by Adam in being barred from the tree of life is being restored by Jesus Christ and will be in place in the eternal ages. By man (Adam) came death and by man came the resurrection of the dead. **1 Cor. 15:21**. That man was Jesus, and to be near him to touch him means life for ever and ever. The saint is ever nourished by Jesus Christ as pictured in the tree of life bearing twelve manner of fruits, and yielding her fruit every month. This is not true of the nations outside the city, for only the leaves of the tree are available to them, and that for their healing from the Greek word “*therapeian*” from which we get our word “*therapy*“. which is used in health maintenance and not curing as we know it.

4. Only the overcomer in the Lord’s churches have the promise of the tree of life, since the promise was written to the church at Ephesus according to **Rev. 2:7**. The virtues of Jesus are found in the tree of life and its fruit was pictured in the manna that God gave to Israel as they wandered in the desert on the way out of Egypt into the land of Canaan. It was a sweet, honey flavored wafer-like food that was good for the infants on through old aged people. Jesus is sweet to the taste and suitable for all people of all ages. Some rejected the manna, became tired of it and complained.

Num. 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, to bite the people, and many Israelites died. A fiery serpent of brass was put upon a pole and all who looked upon the brazen serpent lived.

Num. 21:8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

That brazen serpent became forever a type of Christ who died on a cross and became the one who would deliver the sinner from a spiritual death if he would only believe in him for life into the age according to:

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Once the believing one enters into the next age, he is in the presence of Christ and he will keep him and his condition will never change.

EccI. 11:3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

The same principle is set forth by Jesus himself, set in a little different expression when he said in **John 10:28**, “they shall never perish.” See also:

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

CoI. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Access to the tree of life is limited to those who have a guaranteed entrance into the holy city.

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

“Doing his commandments” is a prerequisite to having the right to the tree of life.

K. THE CAUTION AND CHALLENGE

1. A caution is in order regarding the time and method in which one becomes in touch with Jesus. It should be noted that the three people mentioned in the beginning of this article were all members of the Jewish faith, and were probably already saved. This is the attitude one would take regarding those who are members of the Lord’s churches now. However they lacked something in their life that caused each one of them unhappiness.

Salvation that is received by grace through faith in the crucified lamb, Jesus Christ, will bring peace to the soul of one as he repents of sin and believes that Jesus died for him on the cross. There has, however, in the latter years, arisen a spirit among the people of God that needs to be examined and corrected if entrance into the holy city and the presence of Jesus in the ages of the ages is to be attained.

2. Satan has taken advantage of the spirit of easy believism in the present age. He is singing a song to the saved that is causing them to be lulled to sleep in the attitude of “*serve me first.*” The thought of repentance and faith unto the salvation of the spirit of man is thought to be all that is required of the saved person. This is being told in the pulpits of the land by a large portion of those who assume the position of leader of God’s people.

When one hears this story over and over from week to week, with no challenge to serve God, it is understandable that many will accept this line of thinking. Soon, one will find himself in the grip of evil spirits, false religion and abiding in death, apart from a real, vital connection with the living Christ who is able to provide the power to overcome these enemies of the saints. This one will expect to die, “*Go to heaven*” and live happily ever after. Satan knows the nursery rhymes also, and his spirit will cause some to believe the lie about the foolishness of living by faith in the one who died for all on the cross at Calvary.

3. We are to try the spirits for many false prophets are gone out into the world. These fellows are not preaching in honky-tonks and the dens of iniquity found in the dark corners of the world. The false prophets are preaching the false gospel in the false churches of the land. A spirit is there, but the vital, vibrant connection with Christ is missing, and this life becomes dull and uninteresting, and Satan has another unwitting follower.

One is not guaranteed entrance into the holy city on the basis of being saved. Note the condition in **Rev. 22:14** “**they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life.**”

There seems to be a clash of preaching in the modern day with the teaching of this scripture that needs no interpretation. There is a spirit of lawlessness loose in the world and it is affecting the people of God to some degree. It is the spirit that is described by the Apostle Paul to Timothy in:

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

4. This is the spirit of the world, and has been taught by example to some of the Lord’s people by members of his churches. One of the most damaging thoughts in society and in the minds of some of the church folks, is that of the description in verse three above of “*aspondos*”. It is a compound word consisting of (a = negative and sponda = a

libation) meaning without a truce, as a libation accompanied the making of treaties and compacts; then, one who cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant. Defined by Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*.

This is seen in the world in the violation of contracts made with banks, insurance companies, state licensing bureaus, classroom department, marriage contracts, etc. Then it comes into the minds of those who are inclined to become a member of the Lord's churches and begin to find a way not to enter into covenant with the church body and the Lord regarding their life. This one begins to live like the world, in that, covenants are meaningless to him and he is not willing to be subject to the teachings of the scriptures.

This person then begins to neglect church attendance which is contrary to the word of God.

Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

5. These individuals become ripe to be controlled by demon spirits as did the wild man who lived in the cemetery in Gadara, to have problems in life that are incurable as did the woman with the issue of blood, and to bring misery and destruction to the children in the family as illustrated in the death of the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue. Being in the Lord's house from time to time will not guarantee immunity from these things, but being in touch with Jesus cured the problem in each life that has been studied.

It is time that the Lord's people become as admonished by the Apostle Peter in:

1 Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be

sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Please note that one can lose his closeness with Jesus through lack of dedication to his cause, and faithful attendance at the house of God and fellowship with his people. Are you near enough to Jesus to touch him? Do you have the desire to be blessed of him, yet are not? Reach out and touch him, and be blessed of the wonderful Saviour and Lord.