

NEURO – HEALING

Apart from the fact that Mrs. Penn-Lewis taught the security of the believer, and opposed “tongues,” her ministry was definitely well within the realm of “holiness.” The following material reveals her further progression into error through her “additions” to Romans Six truth.

QUESTION- “Does the Christian have a claim upon God for all his physical needs, as well as spiritual?”

J. PENN-LEWIS- “Everything that has ever come to me from God, has come through my fuller apprehension of the meaning of the Cross, on the ground of my identification with Christ. Isaiah said, ‘By His stripes we are healed.’ I could not see how we were, until one day I saw this Hebrew rendering, and then I got the inside clue: The words may be rendered, ‘In His healed wounds there is healing for us!’ Then it dawned on me, that Christ was carried to the tomb with great jagged, gaping, raw wounds, caused by the soldier’s spear; and when He rose out of the tomb, they were **all healed**. What healed them? **The resurrection life**, which raised Him from the dead by the Spirit of the Father—the Life-Giver.

“Then I understood that just as we are ‘crucified together with Him’, and share in His victory over sin and Satan, so in a still deeper sense ‘crucified together with Him,’ when we stand in victory over sin and Satan, the life of Jesus ministered by the Spirit indwelling the spirit, can heal the bruised and broken bodies of all who thus by faith apprehend their identification and union with Him; and just as that life healed the raw wounds of the Saviour, so, as I stand in identification with His death, the **very life** that healed Him, which comes to me as I am joined to Him in spirit, can heal my broken body and quicken it for His service. It is ‘identification’ again, with Him in His death, and a deeper appropriation of His Risen and healing life.” (1911 Overcomer, p. 187.)

“There are many who are seeking to be delivered from the power of demons, manifested in their bodies in abnormal suffering. In some cases they must deal with God for healing, as well as for deliverance from the power of the enemy. Put in your claim for all Christ did for you at Calvary, and let your

preconceived ideas go. Do not put a limit on God's truth, and the possibilities of faith by the limited grasp of your mind, but launch out to the uttermost for all you can experience (sic) of the promises of God.

"If you decide that God shall only do as much for you as your mind can grasp, then you are putting limits on God. If He cannot do something more than you think, you will have a very small portion of Calvary's victory. Let me plainly say, that on the basis of Romans Six you may put in your claim for the healing of any bodily disease." —J. Penn-Lewis. (1914 Overcomer, p. 134.)

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The following thoughts may give some needed light on the tremendous "healing" claims one hears so much of in many circles today.

DOCTRINE- The basic claim of the Healing Movement is that healing is in the Atonement in the sense that it is not God's will for any to be sick, but that all should be in perfect health. In the light of this doctrinal premise, the following points might be considered:

1) "God can, and does, heal today, but not always. He is not committed to a covenant promise today, but is perfectly free to exercise, a proper discrimination regarding the spiritual advisability of doing so where His people are concerned. No believe who has a history with the Lord will deny that He has used physical weakness and sickness as a means to develop the graces of the Holy Spirit and a spiritual dependence upon the power of God. At the same time there are many who have prayed earnestly for deliverance and have received it. In both cases the Lord works on the principle of the highest benefit to the believer, which is his or her spiritual life and growth." —C. H. Maskery

2) Concerning God's principle of the highest benefit to the believer: "Hudson Taylor once told me that his greatest spiritual blessings had come to him in connection with his various sicknesses; and later he made to me the remarkable statement that all of the most important advance movements which had taken place in connection with the China Inland Mission, including its inception, had come as a direct result of some physical breakdown through which he had been called to pass." —Henry Frost

3) In the book, "If You Need Healing Do These Things," the author writes, "Healing is in the Atonement therefore it includes all" (p. 42). "This error would be avoided if people had a fair knowledge of dispensational truth, and would remember that the removal of the entire curse placed upon the human family is in the Atonement. But we have not received all that was wrought out for us in the Atonement. We are still 'waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body' (Rom. 8:23)." —B. F. Gate.

DIAGNOSIS- Another important consideration is: Just how correctly diagnosed are the many so-called cases of cancer, T. B., deafness, etc., that are claimed to be cured in the healing meetings?

1) "It is extremely easy for a layman to be misled regarding the exact nature of a disease. No layman is qualified either to diagnose his own sickness, or to determine whether he is completely healed. Public testimonies of healing at moments of great excitement and emotional stress are worthless. For that matter, even doctors with all their scientific means of diagnosis are occasionally deceived. We have all known cases where doctors disagree." — W. H. Boggs, Jr.

2) "After three years of investigations, a special committee of the British Medical Association has this to say in their report, 'Divine Healing and Cooperation Between Doctors and Clergy': 'As far as our observation and investigation have gone, we have seen no evidence that there is any special type of illness cured solely by spiritual healing which cannot be cured by medical methods which do not involve such claims. The cases claimed as cures of a miraculous nature present no features of unique and unexpected character outside the knowledge of any experienced physician or psychiatrist. We can find no evidence that organic diseases are cured solely by such means as spiritual healing. The evidence suggests that many such cases claimed to be cured are likely to be either instances of wrong diagnosis, wrong prognosis, remission, or possibly of spontaneous cure'."

PSYCHOSOMATIC ILLNESS- It has been admitted from the platform of a large healing campaign that 70% of all who apply for healing cards are nervously afflicted. It is a very small percentage of these who sometimes experience temporary relief through the healing efforts applied. In the light of this, consider the following:

1) "One often hears healing claims concerning goiters, tumors and cancers, such as, 'They disappear right before your very eyes!' But: 'There was a woman in St. Luke's Hospital, in N.Y. City, who had a tumor, to all, even the most skilled, diagnosis. But the tumor simply disappeared on the administration of ether and the consequent withdrawal of nervous action.'" — B.B. Warfield

2) "First of all, the majority of the patients cured under such conditions (Lourdes) are neuropaths. That is to say, they are persons whose illness is to a preponderating extent due to mental causations."

GOD'S WILL- Finally, consider God's will and purpose in the matter of healing.

1) "God's primary purpose for His children is the forming of the image of Christ in them (Rom. 8:28 and 29). Whether He heals or not will depend upon which will contribute to the accomplishment of that purpose." — Alexander Hay.

2) "I would witness to the fact that the deepest, most precious, and the most abiding spiritual lessons which God has been pleased to teach me were learned in consequence of and during my various experiences of sickness. This last is particularly true in respect to the prayer-life, the praise-life, the life of dependence upon God, and the life which chooses to live, not for the seen, but for the unseen, not for the temporal but for the eternal." — Henry Frost.

(THE BIBLE & THE BODY, by R.V. Bingham, is recommended. It is available at many Christian bookstores.)