

Rules 4 Miracles

By Dave Leach

God offers us miracles. But not if the miracles you want are for wealth, fame, and pleasure beyond what will even really satisfy you. Probably not if you want for yourself what you have denied to others.

God has a few simple common sense conditions we must meet before He will answer our prayers consistently and predictably. But He does not step out of the picture and let our answers to prayer depend solely on how skillfully we apply certain principles. What a nightmare we would live if we did! What terrors we would suffer while we are getting the hang of those principles! What terrors we would suffer after we master said alleged principles and learn the hard way how little satisfaction there is in the goodies we worshiped!

Introduction and Updates:

- A. Introduction to TV show: My Wife Has Cancer (www.Saltshaker.US, select Bible Study)
Part 1: Updates Timeline
 - A. Feb 10 (2009) Email: In 3 days, 2nd biopsy will reveal whether God Cured cancer ◊ “Natural Healing” Regimen ◊ Why I Publicly Announce God WILL Cure BEFORE God Cures ◊ Reasons I Give God ◊ A Man Cured of AIDS
 - B. Feb 13 Email: Cancer Remains ◊ Hope Remains! ◊ Reasons We Pray ◊ At Stake: Our Ability to Pray Without the “thorn in the flesh” Escape Clause
 - C. Feb 17 Reflections (not emailed) Why is it so important to God that we not only receive His answers to our prayers, but that we believe we will, before we get them? *Summary: “Even when a Christian has no doubt that God CAN answer any prayer, and is content if God will not, it is a tantrum – by God’s standards of how much joy and peace He desires for us – to be the least bit unsure that it is God’s will to answer prayers which God’s Word declares it is God’s Will to answer.”* ◊ I hold up God’s standards, not to judge you, but to ask: “Can we help each other reach them?”
 - D. Feb 17-20: Test Prayers ◊ Why Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” Cannot, Biblically, Limit our “Prayers of Faith” *Summary: “1 Cor 12:7 describes Paul’s “thorn in the flesh”, the only prayer in the whole Bible which wasn’t answered, though even then God told him, so Paul could move on. It was life threatening – so it justifies no doubt that it is God’s Will to heal a deadly disease. It was not crippling – so it justifies no doubt that it is God’s Will to heal a disability that hinders our service to Him. It was visible to others and embarrassing, perhaps grotesque – so it justifies no doubt that it is God’s Will to heal an affliction that is not visibly embarrassing. It was given to a man to balance his unique revelations in Heaven – so it justifies no doubt that it is God’s Will to heal anyone whose revelations from God are ordinary. Paul’s prayer was for himself! Not for another! Huge theological problems would result from taking this incident as a warning that before I go all out in prayer and fasting for another, I had better first investigate whether their pride may be serious enough that God’s Will may require more sickness!”*
 - E. Feb 19 Meeting the Surgeons (surgery scheduled for March 6). Surgeon feels hardness at lymph nodes (indicating cancer is not contained) ◊ Bold, Encouraging Words *Sample: “We’re pressing through the things that haven’t changed and the things that haven’t budged, and we’re not letting them dictate the Gospel! We’re keeping the Gospel in its rightful place so it dictates the things that must budge!”* ◊ My prayer should make no one feel guilty!
 - F. February 28, 2009 AD email to only a few: “Help me peer into God’s Junction Box as I am about to rearrange the wires that power my life.”
 - G. 36 Hours To Go Wednesday, March 4, 2009 (email)
 - H. 24 Hours: My Prayer (not emailed)
 - I. Failure and Success. 2:45 pm, March 6, 2009 AD, Broadlawns Hospital.

Part 2: selected miracles in the Bible, and my analysis

Part 3: complete list of all the miracles in the Bible

Introduction to TV show which was filmed 2/14/9 and first aired 2/21/9:

This show was produced and aired BEFORE my wife's 3rd biopsy, which will prove God has cured her cancer. In most Bible miracles, humans publicly announced their faith that God would answer their prayers BEFORE God answered them.

It would be safer to wait until AFTER the results to credit God. Safer, that is, if God does not answer prayers consistently or predictably. That way we wouldn't embarrass ourselves and God by reporting our prayers, in case He doesn't answer THIS time. We would just wait until God DOES answer a prayer, and just report that. But who would that comfort? When we need a prayer answered, and we need it now, we need evidence that the Bible is true when it promises answered prayer consistently and predictably.

But when Bible heroes publicly announced their faith that God would answer prayer, BEFORE He did, weren't they putting God on the spot in case it wasn't His Will?

Aren't I putting God on the spot, *publicly* announcing my faith that He will answer my prayer?

Not among Christians who think God answers prayer unpredictably, because the Bible does not reveal His Will, or explain His conditions. Among them, only my own theological reputation is at risk.

Not among Christians certain God answers "yes" consistently. The only risk among them is that they may question my faith, or perhaps suspect unrepented sins.

But among Christians undecided about God's will for answered prayer, failure of my prayer will discourage them from believing God wants us to plan our lives as if we can COUNT on his help.

And among non-Christians, who do not believe there is a God Who heals anything, the *Bible's* reputation will suffer if God does not heal my wife. They will think, "What a stupid book, which, reasonably interpreted by a reasonably intelligent public figure, totally embarrassed him and anyone listening to him."

My announcement has raised the stakes beyond my wife's health. How God responds will affect the faith of others that God even exists, and that His promises are for everyone, all the time. Not just for healings, but for victory over evil within us, and surrounding us.

But God doesn't seem to mind being "put on the spot". Most of the miracles in the Bible took place after people publicly "put God on the spot". That's why I'm doing it. It's not as if God will have any trouble answering any prayer.

(Cut from the introduction for lack of space:)

You don't have to read very much of the Bible before you are impressed that it is really, really important to God that we have faith as we pray. God knows that anyone who publicly announces their faith that God will answer a prayer is putting themselves in the same "spot" they are putting God, which is itself a fair test of faith.

More amazing than God's power, is God's love, to offer to rearrange the universe at the request of mere men.

My wife's cancer has motivated me to do a Bible study of all God's miracles more intense than ever before. This report acknowledges that two biopsies have already shown my wife has cancer. This report will be updated with the third biopsy report which will prove that my wife's cancer has been cured!

I'm riding to church in another town as I'm writing. I just looked up and saw gaggles of geese flying overhead. I have watched geese on the ground, up close, and the feat of getting those fat bodies up in the air is beyond my comprehension. I felt God reassuring me, (not in words but in concepts), "If I am smart enough to figure out how to teach a goose to fly, and I can care enough for a goose to manipulate the laws of physics for him, I am smart enough to cure cancer, and compassionate enough for you and your wife to do it."

A • Tuesday-Wednesday, February 10-11, 2009 AD. In 3 days, 2nd biopsy will reveal whether God Cured cancer.

My wife has cancer. Thursday morning, Feb 12, 2009, Dorothy will have her second biopsy for breast cancer. I want her to be well so badly that I am going to do something which risks serious embarrassment. I am going to tell you of my reliance upon God to heal her without the need of surgery. I am going to tell you even though I know many on this list will be skeptical of several things: of whether it is presumptuous for a Christian to expect God to answer “yes”; of whether God even exists; of whether God heals anyone today. I am going to tell you now, BEFORE I know the biopsy results.

Why? Because the following Bible study indicates that reliance upon God, articulated publicly BEFORE God moves, moves God to move. Anyone can believe God will act, AFTER He does.

Forgive me for bothering you, if that is your reaction to this information. I just want my wife well. So that is why I am sending this to most of the folks who have shared your email addresses with me. (If you want me to remove you from my list, just let me know.) But if your reaction is to join our prayers, we are ready to be grateful.

Perhaps you don't believe God exists or will answer prayers with any predictability, and you are just annoyed that I am determined to believe, and embarrass everybody else in the process. You want me to just accept that she has cancer, and put up with all the medical treatments that the doctors can think of. But it's my wife. I'm not interested in expecting that for her. Perhaps you are annoyed because you have suffered enough things in your life that you wouldn't have had to suffer were I right about God's willingness to answer prayer. Perhaps you are facing very similar circumstances right now, but are more willing not to hope for better, and are annoyed that I suggest you hope, after you have already ruled hope out. Believe me, it is not my intention to judge anybody. If you chose not to hope in the past, we're still travelers on the same road, because I have too. It's the future where we can still hope, no matter what we have done in the past. I invite you to hope with me. God is ready to enable us to accomplish mountains more than we can without Him.

“Natural Cure” Regimen. Dorothy's first biopsy, about a month ago, showed that her lump, 3 centimeters, was cancerous. About that time some friends had a cancer diet invented by Hulda Clark, who isn't a medical doctor much less an oncologist, which includes wormwood, extract from black walnut hulls, and cloves. Her books have case histories of people she has cured, but her critics point out that those “case histories” did not include recognized diagnoses before and after, to see if there really was cancer before treatment which left after treatment; (she relied on a biofeedback electrical device to diagnose cancer, which has never been proved to have any diagnostic or curative value for anything, and which reason suggests should have no more medical value than walking past a light switch), and the studies did not follow up for 5 years to see if any of them remained alive, much less cancer free. Nevertheless, Dorothy faithfully followed this regimen. If the second biopsy shows cancer still, we have decided to schedule a surgery as soon as possible.

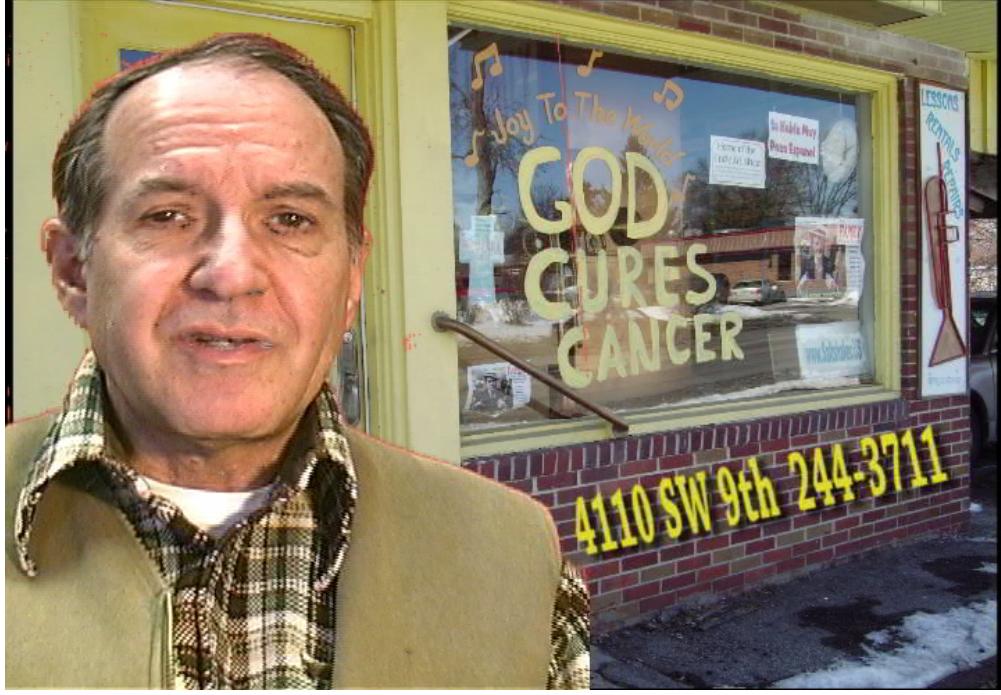
(Regarding Clark's status as a doctor: her book says she got a Ph.D. in Physiology in 1958. Stephen Barrett, MD, of Quackwatch.com, says her major was zoology and her minor was botany, and her thesis was about the ion balance in crayfish muscle.)

As skeptical I am of this, I must admit that I knew a man, a Christian Scientist, who used the Black Walnut part of this concoction, and got full healing of his cancer of the lip. I saw the ugly huge sore, eaten away part of the flesh, and later I saw it perfectly cured.

Why I Publicly Announce God WILL Cure BEFORE God Cures. The experience of miracles in the Bible, and in the perception of Christians, seem like two different worlds. In the Bible you have to struggle to find a case where prayer was NOT answered, but Christians behave as if they have to struggle to remember when prayer WAS answered. So I am going through the list of God's miracles again, looking for patterns to help me understand God's Will.

One pattern I am reminded of is that it is easy to believe something happened AFTER it does, and afterwards it is easy to rationalize it as coincidence, some “force” available through any other religion too, etc. But faith is believing, and publicly declaring that you believe God, BEFORE God acts. God seems especially inclined to act in those cases.

So, since I am especially desirous that God will act for Dorothy's benefit, I am writing this and publishing this BEFORE the second biopsy. I have painted “God Cures Cancer” in huge letters on our storefront.



Below are the passages that have inspired me to this action, and my observations about them. Part 2 is a complete list of every miracle in the Bible, with references. You will see at which verses the idea came to me of the window sign.

Reasons I Give God. Why am I praying for this biopsy to come up negative? Is it because I am just a weenie who can't take a little suffering? The first thing to clarify is that I don't consider our situation any more worthy of God's help than anybody else's! I don't ask God for any help which He is not willing to give anybody else.

My personal reasons are:

(1) I believe God has shown me things which can greatly help our nation. I can't believe God would give me such blessings and not give me time and opportunity to share them. As Isaiah said, "Isa 66:9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut *the womb?* saith thy God." I appear to need a little more time and opportunity to get this information where it is needed. Dorothy is a tremendous help to me. The need is too urgent to tolerate any more delays.

(2) Dorothy has already suffered so much from her broken leg in the auto accident. Another surgery, followed by more months of radiation or other treatments, is not what I want for her.

(3) Jesus was never unwilling to heal, although He often played with people to get them ready for a blessing. Why should I now doubt that it is God's will to help us? This is not just about healing. This is about whether, as we set our sights on all the evil that God calls us to overcome, we will set our scope on an anthill or a mountain. I want to move mountains of evil. Praying for cancer is a little thing, compared to this. Little victories are preparation for big victories. David's victory over bears and lions prepared his courage for Goliath.

5pm Tuesday: A Man Cured of AIDS. The first benefit of putting up that sign: a customer who had purchased a guitar earlier today saw it, and came in and told of a man who came to his Hispanic church who had AIDS and colon cancer. He "came forward", spoke in tongues, and two weeks later was baptized. He had his colon cancer surgery, but was still taking pills for AIDS that cost \$5,000 per month. One night the Holy Spirit told him to stop taking those pills, so he did. Later the doctors called him stupid for doing that. They didn't want to take another test, but just wanted him to resume taking them. But finally they took the test, and the man came out cured. I asked our customer, **Juan Santano**, to introduce me to this man so we can interview him and document the cure.

B. Friday, February 13, 2009: Cancer Remains.

(If you don't want my next email announcing the biopsy results that will tell whether God has cured Dorothy's cancer, let me know. So far as I know, all the names on my list are folks whom I've met personally and you have given me your email address.)

The news came about 1 pm. The biopsy shows my wife still has cancer.

Hope Remains! But I haven't stopped praying!

So why won't I give up? Because yesterday, I was amazed to hear Doctor Nuss, who by the way trains cancer doctors at Broadlawns, say that there would be still another biopsy, just to be sure, right before the surgery. So assuming I heard him correctly, we have one more chance to pray for God's healing! (Dorothy doesn't remember him saying that.)

Except that this time, not one iota of our credit will go to any diet or other non-medical "cancer cure". I think we have refuted Hulda Clark's claim on the cover of her book that 3 weeks with her diet will cause your oncologist to cancel surgery. When the next biopsy shows no cancer, there will be nothing left to explain it but the Grace of God.

Reasons We Pray. I want to clarify the motives behind our prayers.

Not financial. Our fears aren't financial, any more. God has mercifully removed that burden from our worry list. He's proved to us many times over that He keeps the promise He made in Phil 4:19 to meet ALL our needs!

Not fear of death. Although everyone dies, there is little reason to fear Dorothy will die from cancer. The kind of cancer Dorothy has is one of the easiest to treat successfully. There still may be grueling radiation and chemotherapy treatments, and some die after all this, but most don't.

That leaves:

Pain, Health. This apparently will be nothing like the pain Dorothy suffered for about two years when her right upper leg was crushed in a car accident. The first metal plate broke; her second surgery replaced it, and her third removed the second one. And there was a 4th hospital stay between the 1st 2 surgeries to deal with blood clots in both lungs. Her recovery is finally, 3 years later, 99.9% complete, not counting her inability to squat. By contrast, cancer surgery should only keep Dorothy home one week. But many months of radiation or chemo may be necessary, which take one's health down a notch. I pray Dorothy may be spared further suffering. I would think if anyone should be due a turn at suffering in my family, it should be me.

At Stake: Our Ability to Pray Without the "thorn in the flesh" Escape Clause. I believe the bottom line is our ability to pray, and our ability to serve God.

At issue is whether we ought to add an escape clause to all our prayers, as many have urged me.

To wit, "if it be thy will".

My father died of cancer 14 years ago despite my prayers of faith. My faith was under attack from every quarter, people insisting I insert escape clauses in my prayers. Even my dad's pastor, after hearing my bold prayer for my dad, used his vocal inflections to double underline his Escape Clause as he "prayed" for Dad.

As nearly as I can tell, **an escape clause, and "the prayer of faith" that "shall" save the sick, James 5:15, (in other words a prayer "without wavering", James 1:6), are logically incompatible.**

However, if any reader can help me reconcile the two, or show me where such a clause is Biblical, I will submit and again use it.

Until then, I will perceive the standard "escape clause" as a loophole to "the prayer of faith" wide enough to float a fleet of river barges through sideways. Our faith that God will answer is a perfect zero, since whenever our prayer is not answered, we can say "must not 'a been God's will."

Only four times did the sick, appealing to Jesus, insert this escape clause: Mark 1:40, Luke 5:12, Mt 8:2, John 11:22. It was always Jesus' Will, although He often "played" with people to prepare their faith. In the rest of the cases, no escape clause was offered, and *none was ever advised*.

The closer our age approaches to the unveiling of the Antichrist, the more we had better learn to pray the way the Apostles did: successfully. The better we had better *learn what is and what is not* God's Will. The belief that we have no right to pray and expect God's "yes", leads us to make our plans on the assumption that the only resources we will be able to count on, as we attempt to serve God, will be our own. This will make us feel

justified in scaling down our service to God – our march against evil – to a microscopic fraction of what we would take on if we really believed the whole mountain is ours for the moving.

Did you know Friday the 13th is a GOOD day for Christians? There were 13 tribes in Israel, counting the Levites. 13 is the age of adulthood for Jews. There were 13 colonies in the U.S., represented by 13 leaves in the olive branch of the right talon of the eagle on a \$1 bill, 13 arrows in the left talon, 13 stripes on the shield, and 13 stars in the cloud. When Israel left Egypt after the firstborn in every family were slain by the Angel of Death, that was the 14th day of the month by Israeli reckoning, going from sundown to sundown, but the 13th by Egyptian reckoning which measured from sunrise to sunrise. A book I read generations ago said the earliest records of anyone calling the 13th unlucky was from Egypt about that time. They wrote, “do not do anything on the 13th. That is a very bad day.” Every day is a good day for those who trust Jesus.

Another miracle occurred this week: I have finally lived long enough to pay off my child support! And my children aren’t even 40 yet!

C.

Reflections Tuesday, Feb 17: Why does God care if we Believe BEFORE He Answers

Prayer?

A 6-year-old throws a tantrum. Utterly unreasonable. Upset in the midst of Child Heaven. Stubbornly unwilling to acknowledge a single blessing, or that anything is going right, or ever will. Determined to blame his own parents for the blessings they shower upon him. Suspicious of their motives. Demanding “why” this, “why” that, less out of curiosity than out of hope daddy will tire of explaining and just lower his expectations.

Kind of like Adam and Eve.

Kind of like Atheists.

Kind of like Israel, fresh from slavery, following God in the desert, complaining that God will surely not meet the next impossible need just because His most recent awesome miracle to meet their needs was only a couple of days ago.

“You aren’t going to feed me what I want. You aren’t going to give me the toy I want. I don’t want to clean my room. I don’t like this healthy food.”

Hebrews describes their attitude as not entering their “rest”, their Promised Land, because of their unbelief. It concludes there remains a Rest to the people of God.

To this day, our unbelief has kept us from entering all the way into the Rest which remains for us.

What do parents do with such a child? After reasoning is exhausted and the tantrum persists, they put blessings on hold. Food, if present, is withdrawn. Toys are put away. There may be a spanking.

Why? Are parents mean? The poor child is already miserable; why make the child more miserable? What does that accomplish?

Every parent knows punishment restores a whining child to happiness. Does any parent understand why it works? Perhaps. Whining, complaining, meritless suspicion, misery, are choices. It is not children alone who are very comfortable griping! Punishment makes the grousing less comfortable. It pressures the child to choose happiness.

The whole point of blessing a child with toys, food, entertainment, and a good education is to enable the child to grow in his capacity to interact with his environment, in which one finds meaning and joy. Interaction with environment is the definition of “life”. But joy and Life is not something another can impose. It is something you must choose, and work towards. When one chooses to ignore the evidence of blessings, blame everything good, and wallow in misery, the choice to remain miserable must be made more costly. It is ironic but true that when misery becomes miserable enough, one is pressured to reject misery and choose joy. The choice is not limited by outward circumstances. Joy/meaning is available in the midst of punishment, just as misery is available in the midst of Paradise, simply by choice. Of course, the more miserable the parents make it for the child to choose misery, while at the same time holding out the promise of renewed blessings just as soon as the child chooses happiness again, the sooner the child will want to capitulate and come to himself.

God’s standards are higher than human parental standards. God wants greater joy in His children than

human parents can conceive. Therefore the barest hint of a tantrum, by human standards, is grievous to God, and will move God to withhold blessings.

Food, toys, entertainment, health, education, cannot give joy to a human who chooses misery. Withholding them does not cause misery. When God does not yet answer prayer, that is not a cause of misery. Trust in God is a *source* of joy, regardless of how God moves.

Even when a Christian has no doubt that God CAN answer any prayer, and is content if God will not, it is a tantrum – by God's standards of how much joy and peace He desires for us – to be the least bit unsure that it is God's *will* to answer prayers which God's Word declares it is God's Will to answer.

But, you say, you are not sure it is God's Will to heal, because you aren't that familiar with the Bible? It is a tantrum, by God's standards of how much joy and peace He desires for us, to not study God's Word thoroughly enough to know what it reveals about God's Will.

I hold up God's standards, not to judge you, but to ask: "Can we help each other reach them?"

Perhaps none of us are smart enough to figure out God's Will from God's Word, all by ourselves. But by helping each other, perhaps we can understand it. James 5:15 says the Elders of the church can help, meaning, in Bible language, the pastors of the city, plural; but today our city's pastors do not particularly share their knowledge with each other, so that leaves it more up to us, if we are to see the healings the Bible promises.

I should clarify again that I am the last one to criticize anyone who wants to trust God's healing through a doctor. I myself am about to schedule another dental appointment. Just as soon as I can acquire a Round Tuit. Doctors have skills they have learned, just like the rest of us have skills upon which doctors rely. God made us as parts of a body, which need each other. It is no more doubt, to go to a doctor, than it is to take your car to a mechanic. It is weird, however, to trust in some untested cure; it would be like taking your car to a self proclaimed mechanic who only has a screwdriver, who has no interest in reading manuals, and no interest in starting your car after he has screwed around with it to test whether it still actually runs.

D.

Tuesday-Friday, Feb 17-20: Test Prayers. Tuesday I prayed for an amount of money to

come into our music store that was over 5 times our typical income for this time of year.

My main goal is as a test run of our prayers for cancer, which in turn is a test run of all our prayers.

Before I share the results, some will want me to explain the theology.

Gideon put fleece on the grass and asked God to make it wet with dew the next morning, while keeping the grass dry, as a way to test whether it was really God directing him in more important matters than dew. Judges 6:37-40.

Malachi 3:10 invites us to test God's commitment to bless us for tithing.

Luke 11:8 actually appeals to us to "bother God with persistent requests", one definition of "importunity" says!

Some translations of Matthew 4:7 warn us not to "test" God, but one definition of the Greek is to try to "trap" God. The context is Satan tempting Jesus to presume upon God's Grace, by jumping off the cell tower on top of the Temple so the astonished crowds below could see God spectacularly deliver Him just before he turns into roadkill, proving God's care over Him, since God had promised to send the angels to keep Him from so much as stabbing His toe!

But Jesus told Satan, in Matthew 4, that it is a bad idea to presume upon God's Grace. In other words, it is dangerous to see how much we can sin and still demand that God will forgive us. Here are a few commentaries on the verse:

Barnes: The meaning is, thou shalt not try him; or, thou shalt not, by throwing thyself into voluntary and uncommanded dangers, appeal to God for protection, or trifle with the promises made to those who are thrown into danger by his providence. It is true, indeed, that God aids those of his people who are placed by him in trial or danger; but it is not true that the promise was meant to extend to those who wantonly provoke him and trifle with the promised help. Thus, Satan, artfully using and perverting Scripture, was met and repelled by Scripture rightly applied.

Clark: The Hebrew word טֹבַת "tempt", as Manasseh ben (f) Israel observes, is always taken in an ill part, and is to be understood of such who would try the power, goodness, or will of God.

Matthew Henry: Some who have obtained a persuasion that Christ is able and willing to save them from their sins, are then tempted to presume that he will save them *in* their sins. How he *misquoted* it; and that was *bad*. The promise is, They shall *keep thee*; but how? *In all thy ways*; not otherwise; if we *go out of our way*, out of the way of our duty, we forfeit the promise, and put ourselves out of God's protection. Now this word made against the tempter, and therefore he industriously left it out. If Christ had *cast himself down*, he had been *out of his way*, for he had no call so to expose himself. ...How he *misapplied* it; and that was *worse*. Scripture is abused when it is pressed to patronize sin; and when men thus wrest it to their own temptation, they do it to *their own destruction* 2Pe 3:16. This promise is firm, and stands good; but the devil made an ill use of it, when he used it as an encouragement to presume upon the divine care. **Note, It is no new thing for the grace of God to be turned into wantonness; and for men to take encouragement in sin from the discoveries of God's good will to sinners. But shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? throw ourselves down, that the angels may bear us up? God forbid.**

My little “test” is a test of my understanding of how to walk with God. Its results will affect how I walk with God in the future.

Over 30 years ago, I experienced 3 weeks of miraculous income for our music store in answer to prayer. I remembered that and decided to pray that way again. I prayed for a figure only half the figure I prayed for then, but which is over 5 times our present average daily income, which I will call our ADI. (Then, we had about 7 employees; now, just me and my wife.)

That was Tuesday. Only 30% more than our ADI came in. I reflected that I had not even remembered my prayer until late in the day, and when I remembered it I found it hard to believe so much could come in as I had asked.

So on Wednesday, I scaled down my prayer to a level that didn’t scare me: twice our ADI.

I think it is important to not pray for more than I am ready to believe God will provide, although this in turn is influenced by the depth of our need. Our financial need is not desperate, but it is real. This is our slow season.

Wednesday evening, we had taken in \$10 over my prayer target of 2 x ADI! And in the mail when we came home, was a \$200 check for some music we played, where we didn’t expect anything at all!

We were ready to pray for another 2 x ADI Thursday!

Thursday would take a bit more of a miracle, since we will have the store open only 4 of our usual 7 hours. The rest of the time we will be talking to a doctor about surgery. And during one of those hours that Dorothy will keep the store open, I will be in a hospital visiting a friend recuperating from cancer surgery.

Remember, it’s not just the money that excites us, although we really need it. It’s the encouragement, like Gideon’s fleece, that God’s Will is to answer our prayers for cancer. And it’s not just the cancer that concerns us, although I truly do not want my wife to have to suffer the surgery, and the months of chemo or radiation that usually follow it, but our relationship with God! We don’t want to throw any more tantrums. We don’t want any more fear. When God declares He wants to bless us, we don’t want to stress ourselves any longer, doubting Him. And it’s not just us. We want God’s help reaching the lost in our nation and abroad, and generating revival in our churches. We yearn to accomplish infinitely more than we have the power or intelligence to do alone, and I know just the Friend who can actually help us do infinitely more!

Thursday, we were \$27 short of twice our Average Daily Income. But in came a clarinet overhaul, which will be picked up in a few days and will bring in 150% of our ADI, and it is almost profit, being mostly labor with small cost for materials, compared with our income from selling goods where our profit is less than 50% of income.

On Friday, we were \$8 short of 2 x ADI, and two sax overhauls came in, which when picked up in a few days will give us 5 x ADI!

On Saturday we received \$40 over twice our ADI, which is just a bit over the “prayer target shortfall” of the previous 2 days! Now I wish we had kept records to the penny instead of rounded figures, to see how precisely God met our Prayer Target!

How does this make me feel? Giddy? Euphoric? Tearful? In some moments. The rest of the time, it

assures me that God's Will has been to be faithful beyond anything popular theology tells me I have any right to hope for, and that makes me want to be faithful to Him, in return.

More than that: it reassures me that being faithful to Him is going to be *safe!*

1 Samuel 17:38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; [GNB: tried to walk, but he couldn't] for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

There are greater prayer "battles" I long to "win" than those for myself. But no more than David could safely go into the great battle against Goliath with armor with which he was unfamiliar, can I safely put everything on the line relying on prayer habits which I have not practiced.

E.

• February 19, 2009 Thursday afternoon Meeting the Surgeons.

The doctor says another biopsy just before surgery – during the same operation – is *not* standard procedure, as I had understood from Dr. Nuss. In fact, it is not possible. They can't process their tests that quickly, I guess. Can't, or won't. They would schedule the events on different days. However, they can check the lymph nodes in the armpits while she is waiting on the operating table.

Today Dr. Baccam and Nemechek felt hardness in a lymph node, indicating the cancer has spread beyond the breast. Surgery was scheduled for March 6, Friday afternoon.

We also learned that if lymph nodes are removed, my wife for the rest of her life will experience occasional numbness and weakness in her right arm.

As one might expect, Dr. Nemechek discussed, only reluctantly, the "hypothetical" possibility that God has cured Dorothy's cancer. But he said even if he knew the lump was benign, he would still advise removing it in a woman of my wife's age, and *even if he found no lump, he would still proceed with the surgery!* My wife and I find that odd. Our prayer now is that God will do something to make it very clear to us that the cancer is gone, at which time we would cancel the surgery and perhaps schedule a 3rd biopsy. One example of what God might do would be to remove the lump, so that we can no longer feel it.

Critics may notice we don't have sufficient faith to just cancel all further treatments and go home and read the Bible. Well, one reason I want to proceed is to acquire the documentation that I need to prove to you and others that God really did cure the cancer. But hypothetically, should the lump remain and God give us no other sign, we are committed to continue.

It seems important to not pray for more than we can actually believe God will do. The stress of trying to make yourself believe more than you can can be quite high. My wife is not ready to schedule another biopsy, to prove there is no cancer, without a further sign from God. So yes, our faith is limited, but I am praying God will work with our limitations to eliminate the need for surgery. My wife will be content if God uses the surgery as a cure, meaning that there will be no further need for chemo or radiation; but my prayer remains for elimination of the need for surgery.

The surgery is 2 weeks and one day away. that gives us more time to pray for Jesus to build our faith, and more time for anyone still reading these notes to pray with us, and study the Word of God to build your own faith.

Bold, Encouraging Words

Music minister Rick Arrowood, in response to my emails about my wife's cancer, brought me a CD of a visiting evangelist to his church, Heartland Assembly. A bit past the center was this which I wanted to transcribe:

"Does everybody we pray for in a wheelchair get up? No, and I don't like it, and it's gonna change! I'm not gonna say 'yeah, but not everybody's healed, brother!' You gotta get out of that shallow thinking. We've got to take the privilege and responsibility of faith and grow up in Him in all things to the full measure of the stature of Christ. If we were already there we wouldn't be called to grow. We wouldn't even gather to teach and train. If we were already there – if 'what you see is what you get', why would we even meet? Let's just go live our

Christian life. No! We're training for battle! We're preparing for war! We're building up our heart in faith! **We're pressing through the things that haven't changed and the things that haven't budged, and we're not letting them dictate the Gospel! We're keeping the Gospel in its rightful place so it dictates the things that must budge!** We're not intellectualizing, 'well, let me assess this, brother. Obviously God heals some and doesn't heal all.' Aaarrgh! AS SOON AS YOU EMBRACE *THAT*, you've cast away faith. You'll never move in confidence. It's just a whim and a prayer. If God does, He does, and if He doesn't, He doesn't, and guess who it all falls on again? I guess God chose not to heal. I guess God this. I guess it wasn't His time. I guess. I wonder if we're lacking revelation and we don't really understand our place. I wonder if we're not praying from a position of authority where the enemy recognizes the Lord and Christ and bows his knee!" [Dan Mohler sermon, at Heartland Assembly in Des Moines, November 12, 2008.]

I am frustrated with evangelists who hardly EVER quote a single verse, like Mohler! But the conclusion he reaches is the same logic I have. The familiar escape clauses, and Jesus' many unequivocal, absolute promises to answer prayer, are mutually exclusive. Logically incompatible. They cannot coexist in peace on the same planet. They must ever be at war. Is God, or isn't He? Is He smart enough to write clearly, or isn't He? Can we trust His promises, or not? What is reality: millions of Christians all around us who only see their prayers answered rarely, or God's Promises? Which is more real?

My prayer should make no one feel guilty!

Guilt: I need to address the feeling I have had at the other end of discussions like this, which I have been reminded others feel too. I am told I am offensive, by making others feel guilty, who were in similar situations and experienced no miracles. My yearning to see the miracles God promised is seen as condemnation of anyone who has not performed miracles themselves. Or who hasn't even tried.

I am a bit bemused by this response. In the first place, if there is any condemnation, it cannot be by me because I have not attained to miracle working status either. I am just stupid enough to not quit on God. I am an out of the closet Christian. In the second place, I suppose it is always natural, when gazing upon the light of one of God's standards for us, to be scared by the darkness cast by our own sinful shadows.

Romans has a lot to say about this tension between God's standards for us, and our failure to reach them. Law, and Grace. In Romans 8 I see evidence that God's standards are not merely to make us feel guilty; they are to draw us higher than we will ever climb if we ignore them. When Paul despaired in the end of chapter 7 that the good he wants to do, he cannot, the book does not end! Nor is his race over! He still has miles to run, and he intends to reach the prize!

I give music lessons to students who never, during their time with me, exceed the highest goals I can set for them. (Although a few have gone on to exceed my own abilities.) But if any of my students appear to feel guilty, rather than excited by the journey, I counsel them!

I have no expectation or desire that your prayers duplicate my prayers! Nehemiah and Ezra illustrate how equally godly men can pray on different levels of boldness. Nehemiah prayed for boldness to ask the king for a military escort for himself to Jerusalem, but Ezra was ashamed to ask the king to protect him after he had proclaimed his trust in the Lord!

Ezra 8:22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

Nehemiah 2:7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;

So if you choose to pray differently than I, when similar circumstances befall you, you will hear no complaint from me. I only wish for you that for whatever you choose to pray, you believe God loves you enough to really want very much to satisfy you!

F. • February 28, 2009 AD email to 32 of my 182 list

I need your help double checking my Bible study on healing my wife's cancer. I feel like I am at a

crossroads kind of like when I am working on electricity and need to stick my hand into a junction box full of live wires. I am not afraid to work with electricity, or with the Bible, but I would shudder at the thought of violating their rules. I just need you to peer into God's junction box with me to see if the wire nuts I am about to unscrew are the right ones.

I am just asking a small number of friends whom I know are well qualified to help me peer into the box, and who will hopefully not skim over what I write so hastily that they will misread these very personal, very vulnerable statements.

My wife's cancer surgery is scheduled for next Friday, March 6. Inspired by Bible miracles done after people publicly declared their confidence that God would heal them, I publicly declared my expectation that God would heal Dorothy before our scheduled surgery. I sent out 3 or 4 reports to my email list of people I have met, numbering 177, painted "God Cures Cancer" in huge letters in the front window of our music store on a busy street, and have made it the subject of three TV shows.

The time is growing short. Since Monday night I have been checking my wife's lump morning and evening. It was still there this evening. I don't know exactly when the deadline is, but it would be very helpful if, before canceling surgery, we had time, after no longer feeling the lump, to schedule a 3rd biopsy to prove to my wife and to the surgeons that the cancer really is no longer there.

Please do not skim through this paragraph! I have not previously appreciated how high the stakes could become. Don't take, from what I am about to say, that I have fear of falling away from God, or that I am losing my faith in God. Or that I expect God to not grant what I ask. I just had a regrettable experience tonight with a couple of friends who did not listen carefully to what I am about to point out to you, and imagined all kinds of terrible things. Here is the situation: walking with God, in obedience to the Bible, requires confidence that I have at least some ability to accurately understand at least some of what the Bible says about how to walk. If what has become crystal clear to me, about God's Will to answer our prayers predictably and consistently, is proved wrong by God NOT healing Dorothy's cancer before she goes in for surgery, how will I be able to trust *my* interpretation of anything else in the Bible? Such an unthinkable outcome would force me to reexamine all my theologies so thoroughly that I would probably need to retreat from any public presence because I would be left with little to say about God in which I could have confidence. It is not that I would even then be ready to doubt God or the accuracy of His Word, but I would lose my confidence in my ability to understand the commandments of either of them.

The help I ask of you is to tell me of anything you know in the Bible which can account for why God might not heal my wife before then. That would adjust my theology to better conform to His nature, and I could go on with my Walk with God, happily adjusted to a more conservative walk, with lower prayer expectations. It wouldn't even bother me particularly that I have just made a fool of myself in my home town. But to read in the Bible that it is God's Will to heal my wife's cancer, and then for it not to happen, and for me to still lack any rationale for reconciling what God says he will do, with what He just did, would *cripple my walk with God*.

My Bible study is "Rules 4 Miracles" at www.Saltshaker.US, click on Bible Studies. A very short synopsis of key points follows.

If I am right, then may this study help some of you forever discard today's theological Escape Clauses to the Prayer of Faith, and pray as effectively as you have ever dreamed!

Key points of my Bible study

A. There is only ONE time in the whole Bible, that God did NOT answer "yes" to the prayer of a righteous man or woman, that I can find. That was the familiar "thorn in the flesh" which Paul prayed 3 times to remove. And even that time, God answered! God did not leave Paul to waste several more years trying to push that mountain into the sea, instead of moving to another mountain with which God was willing to help him!

B. Although commentators are all over the map in speculating what "Paul's thorn in the flesh" might have been, there are 5 things everyone can agree on about it, which rule it out as an Escape Clause to the Prayer of Faith in most cases. For explanation, search for "Paul's Thorn" in my article, Rules4Miracles, at www.Saltshaker.US, click on Bible Study.

C. Job's experience can't be cited as an Escape Clause to the Prayer of Faith, because Job was healed! And he didn't even pray for it! In fact, he prayed that he might die, and instead, from the age of 70, God gave him 140 more years! He prayed that he could just talk with God about it, and God granted that prayer! Not only

that, but Elihu said one of two common ways God talks to men is by sickness to the point of death, and then, *if there is an intercessor*, restoration to full health! Job 33:19-30. In fact, the symptoms that Elihu listed in his example describe cancer!

D. Elijah's prayer was very specific, and gutsy. He told King Ahab that to prove his stupid rain god, Baal, was as phony as a Stimulus Package, there would be no more rain in his kingdom for a few years. That was quite a claim, and remember King Ahab had never ratified First Amendment Freedom of Speech. I have searched in vain for any clue that God told Elijah to say that, but James 5 says Elijah was just an ordinary guy who prayed, and God answers prayer, and that is the only reason it didn't rain for 3 years.

I could wear you out with words in order to cover all bases and address all the objections I anticipate you might think of, but I would rather just refer you to my online Bible study, and plead with you to write me of anything you think I may have missed. Don't hesitate to write for fear it is something I have already thought of, or that I would be too stubborn to consider. I really need a few friends peering into God's Junction Box with me right now.

G. 36 Hours To Go Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Surgery is scheduled for Friday morning. It is now Wednesday morning. We have been checking for the lump daily. It is still there. Time has grown very short for the specific request we make: that the lump will disappear in time for us to cancel the surgery and schedule a 3rd biopsy to prove the cancer is gone.

Thank you for your scores of emails saying you are praying with us. My Bible study shows many verses which underline the value of intercessors. Some of you will not pray with us that the healing will be in the manner we request, but you are willing to pray that it will be healed by *some* means. Thank you for whatever prayer you are willing to offer us.

Thank you also for your dozens of emails containing some theology of healing, to help me double check my understanding of what God offers us. I have added all your responses to my online Bible study with our replies, Rules4Miracles, at www.Saltshaker.US, click on "Bible Study". I have removed email addresses and last names, except for a very few cases where I sense that a person might appreciate the advertisement for their ministry. (If I have guessed wrong about you, let me know and I will change it.) I have color coded your responses to make it easy for you to skim the 70 pages of responses for what interests you. Blue is healing theology. Red is Bible verses. Green is home cancer cures submitted to us. Boldface is testimonies.

Your responses have helped me refine my Bible study to the following comprehensive, yet reasonably brief, explanation of why I cannot abandon our specific prayer, not even now, with our deadline fast approaching; in fact, why I DARE not!

Don't think for a moment that I feel some "right" to have my prayers answered, or to live one more second!

On the other hand, do I have any "right" to doubt God's spectacular promises, along with His pleas for me to pray for good and believe He will help, that my "joy may be full"? When a Father tells His Son "stretch out your hand, because I want to give you an egg", dare I answer "I am afraid to stretch forth my hand because it might actually be your will to give me a scorpion"? Luke 11:12.

I will offer a few verses which compel me to conclude that God delights in creative prayers. That is, prayers made by us, in which we exercise creativity.

Part 1: God Wants Creative Prayers. Part 2: Theologies of Doubt. Part 3: Why Prayers Aren't Answered

Luke 11:5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him: 7 and he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee? 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity [bold persistence] he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

What human parent does not wish his children to make their requests creatively, rather than expecting their children to conform their requests to whatever toys, or careers, they guess their parents would prefer? Why does God make the willingness of parents to take delight in the creative requests of their children an analogy of His willingness to take delight in our own creative requests, if the analogy is not accurate? Why does God invite us to actually pray persistently, expecting God to answer "yes", even when there is the possibility it isn't what God would have wanted? Does this passage actually say it is God's Will to invite us to make our prayers bold and persistent, even when we are not positive they are for things which God would have wanted for us had we not asked?

When our Father leans over and says "Son, stretch out your hand! I would like to give you an egg!" Dare I answer, "I don't want to stretch out my hand, because it might not be your will to give me an egg, just because You have given me Your Word. It might be your will to give me a scorpion!" ???

Matthew 21:18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. 19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. 20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! 21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Whatsoever ye shall ask? All things? Does Jesus assume it is not possible for us to ask anything outside God's Will?

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Where is the evidence that God told Peter to ask to walk on the water? Where is the Scriptural precedent that emboldened Peter to consider such an enterprise within the Will of God? Did not that request spring from childlike spontaneity? Yet how simple Jesus' answer! "Come!" And when he sank in fear, Jesus saved him and chided him, not for his presumption in asking something so ridiculously creative and outside any imaginable theology of the Will of God, but for doubting that God would delight in preserving him even through so brash an adventure!

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

How could Jesus have said any more clearly that He delights in filling us with delight, by offering us our heart's desire? Dare we not, then, ask our heart's desire? Do we give glory to God by answering God, "I shudder to ask you what I really want, because You are only going to do whatever You were going to do

whether or not I ask for anything. I will just suffer along as nobly as I can, waiting for the wonderful things you have ‘prepared for those that love’ You, and hope it doesn’t take you too long because the waiting down here is really killing me.” ???

Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

What could that mean? I could understand Jesus saying it is God’s Will for us to *live* in the Kingdom of God. But “give” it to us? This is as strange as that verse that says we will sit with God in His Throne!

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

These verses force us to do one of two things: (1) ignore them, or dismiss them with “we will understand when we get to Heaven; meanwhile they are too far outside my theology to even think about them. I am just an average Christian, lacking the Bible knowledge and theological skills needed to explain them away”; or we can (2) accept a radical new theology, dramatically contrary to traditional theologies: that *it is the Will of God to prepare us to rule with Him by consensus!*

It is not *under* Him That God means for us to rule, but *with* Him, *in His very Throne!* The verses about becoming “of one mind” are not afterthoughts of God but are goals which God is determined to achieve! God will *not* achieve “unity” with us by erasing not only errors from our minds but any thought which He does not think. God will *not* make our minds in agreement with His by forcing out of our minds anything He doesn’t agree with. The verses about freedom do not stop at freedom *from* sin but go all the way to freedom of thought and speech, to unleashing our creative juices, that we may walk and talk and reason with God as conscious beings who actually contribute creative ideas to God – if we dare believe Jesus’ assertion which would be quickly labeled “heretical” had it been me saying it:

Matthew 25:26 Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

No wonder God ignored my heartfelt prayers of the past that God would just speak to me, and tell me what to do, and what to want, and what to pray for, that I might be wholly conformed to His Will, and free from sin and safe from Wrath! I prayed like the servant whom Jesus calls “wicked and slothful”! His theology was my theology! I wanted to be a dutiful robot, with no will of my own, no creativity of my own, with no pretense of adding anything to God’s Treasury! I had no idea God actually places value on anything within my capacity to contribute! God remained silent because He wanted me to unleash my own will.

Jesus invites us to understand God’s love for us by reflecting on parental love for children, and then at least doubling it. So...

Parents take their son to a toy store. The child looks around, wide-eyed, smiling huge, a sight that gives joy to his parents. Then the smile fades, the eyes glaze, the boy looks up to his parents and asks, “Which toy is it your will for me to have, Daddy? I want only to do your will.” Daddy walks over and picks up a pad of paper and a pencil.

Not!

Yet we appeal to God with such an odd prayer which grieves God because of the unbelief in His Love which it expresses. He answers, “I don’t know. Which toy would *you* like to play with, son?”

Part 2: Theologies Saying God Never Answers Predictably (Overview)

Several passages are commonly cited to prove that under no circumstances whatsoever may we pray with confidence that God will grant our specific requests.

A. There is only ONE time in the whole Bible, that God did NOT answer “yes” to the prayer of a righteous man or woman, that I can find. That was the familiar “thorn in the flesh” which Paul prayed 3 times to remove. And even that time, God answered! God did not leave Paul to waste several more years trying to push that mountain into the sea, instead of moving to another mountain with which God was willing to help him!

B. Although commentators are all over the map in speculating what “Paul’s thorn in the flesh” might

have been, there are 5 things everyone can agree on about it, which rule it out as an Escape Clause to the Prayer of Faith in most cases. For explanation, search for “Paul’s Thorn” in my article, Rules4Miracles, at www.Saltshaker.US, click on Bible Study.

C. Job’s experience can’t be cited as an Escape Clause to the Prayer of Faith, because Job was healed! And he didn’t even pray for it! In fact, he prayed that he might die, and instead, from the age of 70, God gave him 140 more years! He prayed that he could just talk with God about it, and God granted that prayer! Not only that, but Elihu said one of two common ways God talks to men is by sickness to the point of death, and then, *if there is an intercessor*, restoration to full health! Job 33:19-30. In fact, the symptoms that Elihu listed in his example describe cancer!

D. Elijah’s prayer was very specific, and gutsy. He told King Ahab that to prove his stupid rain god, Baal, was as phony as a Stimulus Package, there would be no more rain in his kingdom for a few years. That was quite a claim, and remember King Ahab had never ratified First Amendment Freedom of Speech. I have searched in vain for any clue that God told Elijah to say that, but James 5 says Elijah was just an ordinary guy who prayed, and God answers prayer, and that is the only reason it didn’t rain for 3 years.

E. Righteous David’s prayer for his dying son was denied. 2 Samuel 11. Righteous Jesus’ prayer to escape the Cross was denied. If the prayers of these were denied, what hope have we? But look again: they prayed contrary to the revealed Will of God! It should be encouragement enough for us to pray boldly when our prayers seem consistent with the Will of God, that Jesus and David both prayed contrary to the revealed Will of God and did not think it sin! They saw no harm in asking! But why would they even ask, knowing God will never alter His Will? Oh, He won’t? But look at the times He did: Moses prayed for God to spare Israel after God had plainly told him it was His will to destroy Israel, Exodus 32:14, and God changed His plans! Hezekiah prayed for more years after being plainly told God’s will was for him to die then, 2 Kings 20:3, and God not only budged, but budged the Earth backwards in its orbit 10 degrees just to build Hezekiah’s faith that he would indeed recover!

Jesus did not tell anyone to pray “not my will but thine be done”. That is how He prayed when He was knowingly praying contrary to God’s revealed will. The only other time this clause is found in the Bible is when leprous people said “if you will, you can make me clean”, and Jesus consistently answered, “I will! Be thou clean!”

F. Argument from logic: If everyone was cured, no one would die. We all need to die. (I didn’t say the logic was particularly *good*.)

The point of prayer for healing, or of any other prayer, is not to escape death, but to “do...with thy might” “whatsoever thy hand findeth to do” while we are here, because “there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Ecclesiastes 9:10. 1 Corinthians 13 agrees that in Heaven there will be no “knowledge”. John 9:4, Jesus says He must work while He can, before “night” in which “no man can work”. Rev 14:13 says in Heaven we “rest” from our “labors”, although Hebrews speaks of “today” as the day in which we are invited to “rest” through faith, where the meaning seems to be labors for the necessities of life, as opposed to our work for God which gives us fulfillment. “Wisdom”, in the Old Testament, typically means skills ranging from music to masonry to theology. I understand there will be music in Heaven, but not the kind that requires muscle training like here. What we have now will be superseded there, by what is more “complete”, which is the definition of the KJV “perfect”.

But the love we have now is of the same kind as what we will know there. Love inspires me to pray for this miracle for my wife, and not just for my wife but for hundreds who are watching to see if God will act, will move, indeed if God really means it when He promises our heart’s desire, “that your joy may be full”, inviting us to pray not only creatively, but as Peter in the boat did, even perhaps occasionally whimsically! But always with faith!

Part 3: Why Prayers Aren’t Answered

So then why aren’t so many prayers answered? Does Faith require stepping outside reality? Are we to blind ourselves to evidence and see only through “eyes of faith”? Are we to “claim our miracle” only in our imagination but not where our bodies live, on planet Earth?

A theology which cannot account for reality is not yet complete. A theology in fear of reality is

determined to never grow up. Reality is not the enemy of Faith. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”, Hebrews 11:1. Not, “Faith is the blind acceptance of evidence which only the imagination will ever see.” Faith is the vision of the possible. It is the vision of a colorful flower vase in a clump of clay, which will become seen by everybody through persistent vision, hard work, and God’s watering upon our seed.

The evidence before us is that many prayers are not answered, and many others are, but the norm we see around us is to not pray. We also see evidence that when prayers are answered, factors seem to include Bible promises and interaction with God. If we want to act rationally, we will neither blindly accept miracles without evidence, nor blindly reject evidence of miracles. We will allow logic to force us to conclude that miracles occur, we are told they are ours

God has several guidelines for effective prayer. A negative way of saying this: we must meet a few conditions before God will answer our prayers. But these conditions are not negative. They are reachable! Where our sins have contributed to the conditions we now pray to relieve, God receives repentance!

I did not begin with these conditions because American Christians have so much resistance to believing it is God’s Will to answer prayers predictably and consistently, even under perfect conditions with the most righteous imaginable prayer warriors, that first it seemed necessary to build hope that God actually desires our input into what He will do.

So here are a few Guidelines for Effective Prayer:

A. Be as faithful to others as you are asking God to be to you.

Honor your wife as your spiritual equal. *1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Be Faithful to your wife. *Malachi 2:13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.*

B. God will be slow to hear your prayers for relief from the natural consequences of what you knowingly did in conscious rebellion against God.

God will not hear voters who vote to give away their freedoms, and then pray to have them back, to the extent they understood their choice. (Literally, this was about voters. Josephus confirms Israel had voted for their leaders under Jethro’s system, and they traded that for the tyranny of a king!) *1 Samuel 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.*

C. God will not deliver you from oppression to the extent you remain, yourself, an oppressor. (How do you treat those who depend on you – your children, customers, charities? Do your votes support just, fair government?)

Psalm 66:18-19 God will even hear the prayers of sinners. (After they repent.) Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. (Geneva Bible note: If I delight in wickedness, God will not hear me, but if I confess it, he will receive me.)

God will not hear the prayers of those whose hands are full of blood, until they “reason together” with God, permitting God to wash their sins white as snow. *Isaiah 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; 17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. 18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

God will not hear the prayer of an unrepentant oppressor/murderer, except a prayer to be saved, which God is always willing to do. *Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 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.

An intercessor is told to stop interceding for people who resent God's help. *Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.*

Jeremiah 11:14 An intercessor is told not only to stop interceding, but that God will not hear even when they ask for help. Except that the context is that at every step of Judgment, God created a way of escape for those few finally willing to obey Him. Indicating God meant He would not hear prayers for the safety of the nation as a whole, but would still save a faithful remnant. Though through famine and sword, 14:12. This is a judgment for refusing to hear God, to the extent of persecuting His prophet, 14:12, 17:23, 19:15, and yet as late as 22:5 God was still offering blessings if the people would finally repent! *Jeremiah 11:14 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.*

Ezekiel 8:17-18 when the violent pray for deliverance from violence, God will not hear. *Ezekiel 8:17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.*

Deuteronomy 32:16 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, With abominations provoked they him to anger. 17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; To gods whom they knew not, To new gods that came newly up, Whom your fathers feared not. 18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, And hast forgotten God that formed thee. 19 And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them, Because of the provoking [including the slaughtering] of his sons, and of his daughters. 20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: For they are a very froward generation, Children in whom is no faith. 21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; They have provoked me to anger with their vanities: And I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people [a weak nation will conquer you]; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Amos 5:21-27 God does not hear the words or even praise songs of the violent, but looks for actions. (v. 24, compare with Micah 3:4 God will not hear the words of torturers being punished.) *Amos 5:21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. 23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. 24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. 25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.*

D. Forgive Others.

The mercy God will have for you, in answering your prayers for relief from what your own sins have caused, is governed by your mercy towards the sins of others. *Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

E. Stop Doubting.

Why is it so important to God that we believe He will answer our prayers, *before* He does?

Why does Jesus' brother warn that faith must not even waver?

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Why did Peter sink instantly as he began to fear?

Mat 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Why does Hebrews say unbelief is what kept Israel from entering Rest?

Heb 3:11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ...18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Also Hebrews 4:1-11.

Why did Job suffer precisely the same thing which he had greatly feared?

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. 26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

You've seen it. A 6-year-old throws a tantrum. Utterly unreasonable. Upset in the midst of Child Heaven. Stubbornly unwilling to acknowledge a single blessing, or that anything is going right, or ever will. Determined to blame his own parents for the blessings they shower upon him. Suspicious of their motives. Demanding "why" this, "why" that, less out of curiosity than out of hope daddy will tire of explaining and just lower his expectations.

Kind of like Adam and Eve.

Kind of like Atheists.

Kind of like Israel, fresh from slavery, following God in the desert, complaining that God will surely not meet the next impossible need just because His most recent awesome miracle to meet their needs was only a couple of days ago.

Kind of like Christians today when our Father tells us "stretch out your hand, because I want to give you an egg", and we dare to answer "I am afraid to stretch forth my hand because it might actually be your will to give me a scorpion!" Luke 11:12.

"You aren't going to feed me what I want. You aren't going to give me the toy I want. I don't want to clean my room. I don't like this healthy food."

To this day, our unbelief has kept us from entering all the way into the Rest which remains for us.

Indeed, if our hearts are determined to fear, what power does God have to give us Rest? Unless God chooses to squash our Free Will, snuffing out our existence as conscious beings, what difference does all the Paradise around us make, if we are too busy being afraid to enjoy any of it?

What good was all Job's wealth, influence, fame, power – apparently the most powerful man in the world, Job 29 – when he "greatly feared"? If chapter one expresses why he feared, it was that were his faith tested, he would flunk.

Rest is incompatible with unbelief. Blessings are of no value in the presence of fear. When Job experienced the very thing that terrified him, he found in it the very blessing he had never dreamed he could have: a face-to-face with God! When Peter became terrified of sinking, he experienced even in sinking the consolation of instant safety by the Hand of the Lord.

When you find joy in your worst fears, because you find the Lord walking with you through them, you no longer are afraid of *anything*!

What do parents do with a tantrum-throwing child? After reasoning is exhausted and the tantrum persists, they put blessings on hold. Food, if present, is withdrawn. Toys are put away. There may be a spanking.

Why? Are parents mean? The poor child is already miserable; why make the child more miserable? What does that accomplish?

Every parent knows punishment restores a whining child to happiness. Does any parent understand why it works? Perhaps. Whining, complaining, meritless suspicion, misery, are choices. It is not children alone who are very comfortable griping! Punishment makes the grousing less comfortable. It pressures the child to choose happiness.

The whole point of blessing a child with toys, food, entertainment, and a good education is to enable the child to grow in his capacity to interact with his environment, in which one finds meaning and joy. Interaction with environment is the definition of "life". But joy and Life is not something another can impose. It is something you must choose, and work towards. When one chooses to ignore the evidence of blessings, blame everything good, and wallow in misery, the choice to remain miserable must be made more costly. It is ironic but true that when misery becomes miserable enough, one is pressured to reject misery and choose joy. The choice is not limited by outward circumstances. Joy/meaning is available in the midst of punishment, just as misery is available in the midst of Paradise, simply by choice. Of course, the more miserable the parents make it for the child to choose misery, while at the same time holding out the promise of renewed blessings just as soon

as the child chooses happiness again, the sooner the child will want to capitulate and come to himself.

God's standards are higher than human parental standards. God wants greater joy in His children than human parents can conceive. Therefore the barest hint of a tantrum, by human standards, is grievous to God, and will move God to withhold blessings.

Food, toys, entertainment, health, education, cannot give joy to a human who chooses misery. Withholding them does not cause misery. When God does not yet answer prayer, that is not a cause of misery. Trust in God is a source of joy, regardless of how God moves.

Even when a Christian has no doubt that God CAN answer any prayer, and is content if God will not, it is a tantrum – by God's standards of how much joy and peace He desires for us – to be the least bit unsure that it is God's will to answer prayers which God's Word declares it is God's Will to answer.

But, you say, you are not sure it is God's Will to heal, because you aren't that familiar with the Bible? It is a tantrum, by God's standards of how much joy and peace He desires for us, to not study God's Word thoroughly enough to know what it reveals about God's Will.

F. Encourage discussion of Scriptures within your church, within your denomination, and between denominations.

James 5:15 categorically says the prayers of elders will heal the sick. Why isn't that our consistent experience today?

James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

But elders then were drastically better equipped than elders now. Back then, there was only one “church” per city.

Ac 8:1 “...the church which was at Jerusalem...” Ac 13:1 “...the church that was at Antioch...” There was only ONE church at the cities of Ephesus, (Ac 20:17, 2 Tim 4:22), Cenchrea, (Rom 16:1), Corinth, (1 Cor 1:2), Laodicea (Col 4:16), Thessalonica (1 Thes 1:1), Crete (Tit 3:15), & Babylon (1 Pet 5:13). There were churches, plural, in regions like Galatia (1Co 16:1), Macedonia (2 Co 8:1), Judaea (Ga 1:2), Asia (1Co 16:19). In fact, Asia had 7 churches: one per city. Rev 1:11 the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Not that there were only enough Christians to fill one building! The Church At Jerusalem had 8,000 converts in just 2 days!

Ac 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls. ◊ Ac 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. ◊ Ac 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ◊ Ac 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

The difference was that then, when disagreement arose, the Elders, representatives of the small groups, met to resolve it; today, there is virtually NO theological dialog between denominations.

Ac 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

In other words, all the congregations of the city were in communication with each other. It was like having a large circulation newspaper. If we did it today, Christians would have their own news source. News was shared, vetted, and rumors were discarded.

That included news of healings. When healings occurred, and also when they did not occur, all the elders of the city had a way to compare notes and learn from each other.

Today, by contrast, we have the “charismatic” churches, which believe in healings, and typically proclaim healings without medical scrutiny or followup reports, [Mat 8:4, Mark 1:44, Luke 5:14] so that it is very hard to find out from them whether any particular person whom they claim was healed actually was. And then we have the “mainline” churches which go so overboard on scrutiny that they disbelieve in any healings

whatsoever, and will not even study the passages on healing seriously.

Can you see how the two extremes need each other? Charismatics need the spirit of scrutiny of the mainstreamers, and the mainstreamers need the enthusiasm about healings of the charismatics.

This accounts for why the Bible makes a link between today's denominations and unanswered prayers for healing.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

What is "the Lord's body"? Is it the taste of bread offered at today's communion services? Catholics think so. They are so determined that it is literally the physical body of Jesus, that for centuries they were willing to burn Protestants at the stake, and then damning them to Hell, just for not believing the bread literally turns into Jesus' physical body. Do Protestants now think verse 29 means we are damned if we fail to reverence the bread of communion as Jesus' body? You would think so, from reading Protestant commentators Barnes, Geneva, Gill, Henry, Vincent, Wesley, Wiersby, and Word Pictures.

But Carson's *New Bible Commentary* says Paul meant the Corinthians' "Failure to recognize the body of the Lord, i.e. the body of believers (*cf. 10:16*)". 1 Corinthians 10:16 defines the bread and cup as the fellowship of the blood and body of Christ. KJV says "communion", but the Greek word is *koinonia*, the same word usually defined "fellowship".

Jamieson & Fausset assert "The Church is 'the body of Christ' (1Co 12:27). The Lord's body is *His literal body* appreciated and discerned by the soul in the faithful receiving, and not present in the elements themselves." 1 Cor 12:27 explains "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

Walvoord & Zuck say "the body of Christ is the church, which consists of individual believers (*cf. 1 Cor. 12:12, 27*). His body, the church, is also pictured by the bread of Communion (5:7; 10:16-17). Thus to sin against another believer is to sin against Christ (8:12). Those **guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord** were those who despised a poorer member by utter disregard for his need (11:21-22)."

It is outside our experience to have church members dropping over dead because they have the wrong attitude during communion, or at a church potluck. But it is well within our experience to see the prayers of elders fail to heal the sick as James 5 guarantees, and that failure is entirely accounted for by the divisions in the Body of Christ, caused by failure to discern entire vital parts of our own Body, which directly reduces the information available about healing, among other important things.

The warning about not discerning the Body of Christ was followed 4 verses later by an entire chapter explaining the Body of Christ, meaning the Body of Believers. It was preceded 10 verses earlier by more scathing scolding about the four denominations which chapter one said they were breaking into.

1 Co 11:17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. 19 For there must be also heresies [literally, division] among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Paul's vexation with Corinthian denominations is a thread tying 1 Corinthians together. Chapter one introduces the problem and exposes its stupidity. Chapter three calls them a bunch of crybabies who are "carnal", since they have "divisions" based on following the human leaders identified in chapter one. After chapter 12's explanation of the value of differences to the functioning of the body, is chapter 13's explanation of what love is all about, followed by chapter 14's appeal to them to all learn from each other by "prophesying" (defined in v. 3 as exhorting, edifying, and comforting) to one another. Chapter 15:25-27 says Christ's goal will be the ultimate unity.

But it is not just denominations which make today's elders a theological shadow of the elders of those early days when all Christians communicated with one another. Not only did elders then communicate across what later turned into denominational lines, but then they benefited from vigorous verbal interaction within each assembly. For details about this, see www.Saltshaker.US, click on "Presentation: Do you really want revival?"

H: Final Prayer. Thursday, March 5, 2009. 9:42 am

Father, in exactly 24 hours Dorothy is scheduled to be wheeled into the operating room. We have prayed and checked daily, for Your removal of her cancerous lump, and it is still there this morning.

You Word promises it is Your Will to grant our specific requests – sometimes even when contrary to Your Revealed Will, and certainly when within Your Word, and attended by faith.

I have not feared in all this, though we both have much to lose. When this began Dorothy had more to lose than I, but as a result of my public proclamation I have as much to lose, though a different loss.

I have proclaimed that You answer specific prayer, predictably and consistently enough that You beg us to trust that you will! In fact, you demand that we trust, and even make our trust a condition of your granting our requests! How can we trust that You will answer our prayer, if we do not believe You answer prayer consistently and predictably to such mere humans as we are?

Surely these are facts about You that You want known to man, especially in these last days when the Powers of Darkness are being unleashed with more strength than can any longer be resisted by mere cerebral theology. Surely my prayer, therefore, is for the kind of good thing, the kind of Sign of Your Glory, which You throughout your Word most readily grant! How can we step out in faith if we do not know in which direction to step? If we cannot know in which direction to step off the seeming safety of what we can “control”, or rely on, we simply cannot step, responsibly, in any direction.

I have stepped off what I know, in the direction Your Word tells me. If it is wrong to trust Your Promises in Your Word, I cannot take effective action against evil. I must make my plans only based on what I can do, not on what I could do with Your help if I just knew I could rely on Your help.

Has my Bible study not been thorough enough? Theoretically it may always be said that I have probably missed something. But I have pondered these passages, practiced them, and seen healings by their strength and even through my own hands, over a period of decades. And for this past month or more I have spent hours every day re-examining Your Words on the subject. Moreover I have publicly proclaimed My confidence in You, which has brought my way dozens of conversations helping me scrutinize my theology – which means my study of what Your Word says – of healing. Although many still do not accept my conclusions, they do not reject them for reasons which I have not addressed.

If, after this degree of testing, with myself at an advanced enough age that I do not have that many more years to pursue this study, I still ought not pray with confidence that I understand Your prayer principles accurately, when, then, will I be ready to pray with the trust which you demand even of a young man?

I must proceed with confidence in my theology, or I never will! If I must wait to pray with Faith, and publicly witness to Your Faithfulness, until I have studied Your Word better, what layman can ever be qualified to pray with Faith and to witness? We know this requirement is not of You, because You grant miracles to Chinese martyrs who have seen only a page of Your Word.

It is inconceivable to me that I could ever stop trusting You. It is inconceivable to me that after all these years of fulfillment in living by Your support, I should suddenly face evidence that I have no ability to understand Your promises, so that therefore I need to stop trusting them.

Therefore it is inconceivable to me that the next time I feel for my wife’s lump, that I will be able to feel it.

My confidence, therefore, that so short a time remains before you will grant our request, fills me with “full” joy.

I. Failure and Success. 2:45 pm, March 6, 2009 AD, Broadlawns Hospital.

God did not grant my request regarding cancer. But God granted a lesser request during the same time, spectacularly, making it impossible for me to be wholly discouraged. First, about the cancer.

The doctor came out. The operation was “successful”. They “found what we expected.” Cancer had not spread to the skin, or into the chest; lymph nodes were enlarged but that could have been caused by the two biopsies. The pathology report on whether the removed flesh was cancerous, and if so of what type, won’t be ready until late next week. Not until then will recommendations be made about chemo and radiation, but at this point my wife is not convinced that these treatments will do more good than harm, and does not want to take them. The operation ended at 2:45 pm. At 3:35 my wife was wheeled from recovery into her private room, very tired, and very white.

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

I have told thousands of people what the Bible says about healing. I said that, based on my study, my prayer that God will remove her lump in time to cancel surgery is a prayer God will honor.

My conclusions were wrong. You can disregard them, if you haven't already. If my publicly expressed expectation counts as claiming to speak for God, then Deuteronomy 18:20 says I merit the death penalty. I have a theory, though, about what went wrong, and some ideas about testing it.

Not that I can bring myself to doubt Him for one nanosecond! God has done plenty of other miracles in our lives. To doubt Him now would be not only a betrayal, but irrational.

I can relate to most of what Job says below. Like Job, I found great consolation in God's Promises in the Bible. I proclaimed them, both because of my enthusiasm for them and because I just had to press for discussion of them (1) in order to test my own understanding and (2) because they are so compelling that I just can't stand to see them ignored. (v. 13, below.) I accepted risk to myself: from the potential ridicule of men, and from the displeasure of God in case I misrepresented Him. (v. 14) And now, even if it subjects me to a death sentence, how can I cease trusting Him? (v. 15) For all these hazards, I still feel safer pursuing God than walking away from Him. (v. 16)

Job 13:13 Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will. 14 Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my zlife in mine hand? 15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. 16 He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him. 17 Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears. 18 Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.

I can even relate to "I know that I shall be justified", (v. 18), but please understand the Hebrew word does not mean "I shall be *proved to have been* right", but "I shall be *made* right", or "washed clean". The very thought of allowing myself to be discouraged by this failure brings to mind the answer of Peter after Jesus had said so many heretical-sounding and irrational-sounding statements that his hundreds of disciples all left him along with the crowds, leaving only the 12.

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Test Prayers that did Not Fail: Feb 17-Mar 3, 2009 AD

Over 30 years ago, I was in a believing mood. I prayed for our music store, then owned by my mother, to receive 5 times our Average Daily Income (ADI). For a solid week, that is exactly how much came in! With some to spare! My concern wasn't the money: although my mother was in desperate financial condition, my desire was to apply the Faith I was studying to some helpful purpose.

My faith faltered after that first week, and for the next two weeks income "dropped" to only twice our ADI. Then after that my faith died and income resumed its previous low levels.

I decided, beginning February 17, to pray that way again. I prayed for 5 times our daily average income.

On that Tuesday, only 30% more than our ADI came in. I reflected that I had not even remembered my prayer until late in the day, and when I remembered it I found it hard to believe so much could come in as I had asked.

So on Wednesday, I scaled down my prayer to a level that didn't scare me: twice our ADI.

I think it is important to not pray for more than I am ready to believe God will provide, although this in turn is influenced by the depth of our need. Our financial need is not desperate, but it is real. This is our slow season.

Wednesday evening, we had taken in \$10 over my prayer target of 2 x ADI! And in the mail when we came home, was a \$200 check for some music we played, where we didn't expect anything at all!

We were ready to pray for another 2 x ADI Thursday!

Thursday would take a bit more of a miracle, since we will have the store open only 4 of our usual 7 hours. The rest of the time we will be talking to a doctor about surgery. And during one of those hours that Dorothy will keep the store open, I will be in a hospital visiting a friend recuperating from cancer surgery.

Remember, it's not just the money that excites us, although we really need it. It's the encouragement, like Gideon's fleece, that God's Will is to answer our prayers for cancer. And it's not just the cancer that concerns us, although I truly do not want my wife to have to suffer the surgery, and the months of chemo or radiation that usually follow it, but our relationship with God! We don't want to throw any more tantrums. We don't want any more fear. When God declares He wants to bless us, we don't want to stress ourselves any longer, doubting Him. And it's not just us. We want God's help reaching the lost in our nation and abroad, and

generating revival in our churches. We yearn to accomplish infinitely more than we have the power or intelligence to do alone, and I know just the Friend who can actually help us do infinitely more!

Thursday, we were \$27 short of twice our Average Daily Income. But in came a clarinet overhaul, which will be picked up in a few days and will bring in 150% of our ADI, and it is almost all profit, being mostly labor with small cost for materials, compared with our income from selling goods where our profit is less than 50% of income.

On Friday, we were \$8 short of 2 x ADI, and two sax overhauls came in, which when picked up in a few days will give us 5 x ADI!

On Saturday we received \$40 over twice our ADI, which is just a bit over the “prayer target shortfall” of the previous 2 days! Now I wish we had kept records to the penny instead of rounded figures, to see how precisely God met our Prayer Target!

After that I totally forgot about my prayer, yet God did not! Here are the results for that week and the following week, up through the surgery:

Tues Feb 17	65%
Wed Feb 18	205%
Thur Feb 19	86%
Fri Feb 20	96%
Sat Feb 21	120%
Mon Feb 23	49%
Tue Feb 24	174%
Wed Feb 25	93%
Thur Feb 26	99%
Fri Feb 27	29% (at least; forgot to record it all)
Sat Feb 28	(forgot to record)
Mon Mar 2	133%
Tue Mar 3	111%
Wed Mar 4	60% (not sure all was recorded)
AVERAGE	101.5%

I have a theory why my prayer target for cancer failed, while my prayer target for our store finances succeeded. I had thought my prayer for cancer had “enough faith” because I could honestly say I felt no fear about the outcome 95% of the time. But now as we look ahead to the prospects of Dorothy’s recovery from here, I can see the difference. Now there is no doubt in my mind that she will fully recover. 100% of the time, versus 95% of the time. *Of course* she will recover, and the cancer will not recur. I don’t even have to pray for it. I just know it. All that is left for me to do about it is thank God when I think about it.

I felt the same peace the instant I regained consciousness after our auto accident in March 5, 2006. I was absolutely certain, as I heard the doctors talking about whether the xrays indicated my neck was broken, and figured out we must have been in a car accident, that both of us would fully recover.

We did.

I felt nearly the same peace about our store finances.

I wrote in my previous email why I think it is so important to God that we trust that He will answer our specific prayers. Blessings given to a Christian afraid blessings will not come, or will not last, would be as useless as a toy given to a child trembling in fear that his parents will not allow him to play with it.

So here’s what I can do to “build my faith”: I can spend a lot more time in prayer, and here is what I will do with that time: (1) pick prayer targets that are good, and that I can monitor. (2) remember past answered prayers, and the Scriptures which promise future answered prayers, until my peace and confidence about them is perfect. (3) pray about, and plan, what actions I can take to work alongside God in making them happen – in those situations where there are things I can do – in the spirit of James 2:13-18. (4) plan, also, how to monitor the results, and keep a log. The log needs to record who the prayer is for, something about their involvement in the prayer, some discussion or evidence of the benefit of the prayer, evidence that after prayer there was an actual change which can be documented.

In other words, I need a log complete enough that were I to produce a video documentary of it, I could tell a story to which people could relate, and glorify God.

Then when a prayer is not answered, I need to stay in touch with those people until the prayer is answered, or until they tire of me.

It started as I read a couple of miracle stories in the Bible and noticed how God's healings followed public declarations of belief. It occurred to me to paint "God Cures Cancer" in huge letters on our music store window. As a "fleece", Judges 6, I dropped a clarinet pad on the floor, with the promise to God that I would, if the pad landed skin side up twice in a row. It did.

282-6030 hospital room
240-2975 Jewellyanna
237-9918 Lady, wants a trumpet repaired. Called 3:31pm Friday.

Job's Fear

Matthew Henry: . Even in his former prosperous state troubles were continually feared; so that *then* he was never easy, Job 3:25, Job 3:26. He knew so much of the vanity of the world, and the troubles to which, of course, he was born, that he was *not in safety, neither had he rest* then. That which made his grief now the more grievous was that he was not conscious to himself of any great degree either of negligence or security in the day of his prosperity, which might provoke God thus to chastise him. (1.) He had not been negligent and unmindful of his affairs, but kept up such a fear of trouble as was necessary to the maintaining of his guard. He was afraid for his children when they were feasting, lest they should offend God (Job 1:5), afraid for his servants lest they should offend his neighbours; he took all the care he could of his own health, and managed himself and his affairs with all possible precaution; yet all would not do. (2.) He had not been secure, nor indulged himself in ease and softness, had not trusted in his wealth, nor flattered himself with the hopes of the perpetuity of his mirth; yet trouble came, to convince and remind him of the vanity of the world, which yet he had not forgotten when he lived at ease. Thus his way was hidden, for he knew not wherefore God contended with him. Now this consideration, instead of aggravating his grief, might rather serve to alleviate it. Nothing will make trouble easy so much as the testimony of our consciences for us, that, in some measure, we did our duty in a day of prosperity; and an expectation of trouble will make it sit the lighter when it comes. The less it is a surprise the less it is a terror.

Keil & Delitzsch, late 1800's:

Nevertheless fresh trouble always comes; but the "nevertheless" is incorrect, for the *fut. consec.* indicates a close connection, not contrast. The *praett.*, Job 3:26, give the details of the principal fact, which follows in the *fut. consec.*: only a short cessation, which is no real cessation; then the suffering rages afresh.... If a man, on account of his sufferings, wishes to die early, or not to have been born at all, he has lost his confidence that God, even in the severest suffering, designs his highest good; and this want of confidence is sin.

Barnes: **Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared** - Margin, As in the Hebrew "I feared a fear, and it came upon me." This verse, with the following, has received a considerable variety of exposition. Many have understood it as referring to his whole course of life, and suppose that Job meant to say that he was always

apprehensive of some great calamity, such as that which had now come upon him, and that in the time of his highest prosperity he had lived in continual alarm lest his property should be taken away, and lest he should be reduced to penury and suffering. This is the opinion of Drusius and Codurcus. In reply to this, Schultens has remarked, that such a supposition is contrary to all probability; that there was no reason to apprehend that such calamities as he now suffered, would come upon him; that they were so unusual that they could not have been anticipated; and that, therefore, the alarm here spoken of, could not refer to the general tenor of his life.

Adam Clarke: **Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly reared** - Literally, the fear that I feared; or, I feared a fear, as in the margin. While I was in prosperity I thought adversity might come, and I had a dread of it. I feared the loss of my family and my property; and both have occurred. I was not lifted up: I knew that what I possessed I had from Divine Providence, and that he who gave might take away. I am not stripped of my all as a punishment for my self-confidence. **I was not in safety** - If this verse be read interrogatively, it will give a good and easy sense: **Was I not in safety? Had I not rest? Was I not in comfort? Yet trouble came.** It is well known that, previously to this attack of Satan, Job was in great prosperity and peace. Mr. Good translates, I had no peace; yea, I had no rest. Yea, I had no respite, as the trouble came on; and refers the whole to the quick succession of the series of heavy evils by which he was tried. There is a similar thought in the Psalmist: Deep crieth unto deep at the noise of thy water-spouts; all thy waves and thy billows have gone over me; [Psa 42:7](#). One evil treads on the heels of another.

Geneva: **Job 3:25** For the thing which I greatly (^(p) feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. (^(p) In my prosperity I looked for a fall, as it now has come to pass.

John Gill: **Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me**,.... Some refer this to his fears about his children, lest they should sin and offend God, and bring down his judgments on them, and now what he feared was come to pass, [Job 1:5](#); others take in all his sorrows and troubles; which, through the changeableness of the world, and the uncertainty of all things in it, and the various providences of God, he feared would come upon him at one time or another; and this he mentions to justify his expostulation, why light and life should be continued to such a man, who, by reason of his fear and anxiety of mind, never had any pleasure in his greatest prosperity, destruction from the Almighty being a terror to him; [Job 31:23](#); but I think it is not reasonable to suppose that a man of Job's faith in God, and trust in him, should indulge such fears to such a degree; nor indeed that he could ever entertain such a thought in him, nor even surmise that such shocking calamities and distresses should come upon him as did: but this is to be understood not of his former life, in prosperity, but of the beginning of his afflictions; when he heard of the loss of one part of his substance, he was immediately possessed with a fear of losing another; and when he heard of that, he feared the loss of a third, and even of all; then of his children, and next of his health: **and that which I was afraid of is come unto me:** which designs the same, in other words, or a new affliction; and particularly the ill opinion his friends had of him; he feared that through these uncommon afflictions he should be reckoned an ungodly man, an hypocrite; and as he feared, so it was; this he perceived by the silence of his friends, they not speaking one word of comfort to him; and by their looks at him, and the whole of their behaviour to him.

It's about an event in Heaven with Angels: New Bible Commentary, Bible Knowledge Commentary, Tyndale, Bible Reader's Companion, Wiersbe.

Albert Barnes, Adam Clark, John Wesley: the incident adopts the language of a king who receives reports from his ambassadors who have just returned from observing the land, but that doesn't mean it describes a real event in Heaven. It is likely only a parable.

John Gill believes it describes a church service, in which saints come before God in prayer, while Satan's accusations mingle with the saints' prayers:

John Gill: it is not possible that Satan could come among [angels]; he is fallen from heaven, being cast down from thence, nor can he, nor ever will he, be able to find a place any more there, see [Luk 10:18](#) it seems better therefore to understand this of the people of God, of professors of religion, who, earlier than the times of Job, were distinguished from the men of the world by this character, "the sons of God", [Gen 6:2](#), such that were truly godly being so by adopting grace, and which was made manifest by their regeneration by the Spirit of God, and by their faith in Christ, and all were so by profession: now these assembled themselves together, to present themselves, their bodies and souls, before the Lord, which was but their reasonable service; as to pray

unto him, and praise him, to offer sacrifice, and perform every religious exercise enjoined in those times; the apostle uses the like phrase of the saints' social worship, [Rom 12:1](#) and on one of these days thus fixed and agreed on was the above meeting, at which Satan came among them, as he frequently does in the assembly of the saints, to do what mischief he can; by snatching away the word from inattentive hearers, and by directing the eye to such objects, and putting such things into the mind, as divert from the service of God; or by suggesting to the saints themselves, that what is attended to does not belong to them, with many other things of the like kind:

Matthew Henry says it either means a church service of men, or an actual meeting of angels in Heaven.

Matthew Henry: This means either, 1. A meeting of the saints on earth. Professors of religion, in the patriarchal age, were called *sons of God* ([Gen 6:2](#)); they had then religious assemblies and stated times for them. The King came in to see his guests; the eye of God was on all present. But there was a serpent in paradise, a Satan among the sons of God; when they come together he is among them, to distract and disturb them, stands at their right hand to resist them. *The Lord rebuke thee, Satan!* Or, 2. A meeting of the angels in heaven. They are the *sons of God*, [Job 38:7](#). They came to give an account of their negotiations on earth and to receive new instructions. Satan was one of them originally; but *how hast thou fallen, O Lucifer!* He shall no more stand in that congregation, yet he is here represented, as coming among them, either summoned to appear as a criminal or connived at, for the present, though an intruder.

When the angels (lit., "sons of God"; unfallen angels are God's "sons" in the sense that they are His creation; cf. 38:7) came to present (lit., "stationed") themselves before God to report on their activities, Satan (lit., "the accuser") was with them. He had and still has access to heaven (cf. Rev. 12:10)
Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:719). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Job's three friends said Job was suffering because he had sinned, and that was not true. Elihu said that God was chastening Job to make him a better man, and that was partly true. But the fundamental reason for Job's suffering was *to silence the blasphemous accusations of Satan and prove that a man would honor God even though he had lost everything*. It was a battle "in the heavenlies" (Eph. 6:12), but Job did not know it. Job's life was a battlefield where the forces of God and Satan were engaged in a spiritual struggle to decide the question, "Is Jehovah God worthy of man's worship?"

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1991). *Be patient*. An Old Testament study. (Job 1:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

Normally I would never think such a thing. It's not that I need this. My life is OK. A lot of people have it worse. I have a really good life, by world standards. Such a thing doesn't fit in any theology that I have ever heard of. There are no verses supporting such a silly adventure. I feel foolish asking. I'm not a child any more.

But there you are. Smiling. Inviting. Telling me you want my joy to be full. Offering me The Kingdom. Inviting me to boldly ask even what you wouldn't otherwise give.

And so this crazy thing occurred to me to ask you for, and I asked it, and now you aren't upset at all, but say, simply, with that refreshing grin, "Come!"

So here I come! Doing what I never would have thought possible, or even desirable had I thought more than 2 seconds about it, and yet now that I am doing it, this is the most exciting adventure I could have ever dreamed!

Here I am, walking to Jesus! Walking, not only *by* Faith, but *on* Faith and on nothing else!

This is so easy! My eyes are on You! My mind is full of your many miracles I have seen! How easy, as I remember them, to believe Your Hand will be under my next step, as it was under my last!

What a trip! Say, I think I'll take in some scenery. Oh, my, I hadn't noticed those huge waves! What am I doing out here? Oh, look at those concerned faces in the boat! They're all trying to throw me life jackets! Uh, did I just see a shark fin? Why, it's coming straight for me! This is frightening!

Wha- What's going on? I'm sinking! My eyes turn back to You in time to scream "save me!"
And you do. You always do. You're always there. But I'm not walking now. I'm being dragged through
very cold water.
(unfinished)

Unfinished
I really want to do it.
To step out of the boat.
To walk on Faith and nothing else.

I'm ready, now, to do it,
To step off from the shore.
Leave shaking heads behind me
whom my doubts had welcomed through my heart's door
Of course it's impossible
my mind cannot explain
But there you are before me,
saying, "Come!"

Not that I *need* to do this.
Not that theology
explains how this is Your Will.

with my own doubts

more galore poor pour door floor lore gore four for bore boar core whore roar soar tore wore your chore
The miracles before!

Part 2: selected miracles, and my comments.

Ex 15:22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Israel didn't respectfully *ask* for water, but *whined*. They didn't say "God, we're thirsty, but we are patient. We watched you lay a highway of dry ground at the bottom of the Red Sea, so we know you can do this little thing we now ask, and we know you love us enough to do it!" NO! They complained. They blamed Moses

for leading them to bad water. Will we whine, or ask? Our spirit to ask is encouraged by remembering the previous miracles God has done for us, and that others report done for them. How about the promise of verse 26, that if we obey God, God will heal our diseases? Was that promise just for Israel, or is it for all who obey God? As we stand before God, as obedient to God as we know how, inviting God to show us as we read His Word what sins remain, as Psalm 139 exhorts, can Exodus 15:26 give us confidence, as we pray for healing, that it is God's Will to heal us?

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Exodus 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. 10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

This shows the importance of consistent, persistent prayer, and public witness of your reliance upon God

Num 12:10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. 15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.

The verses before showed that Miriam was given leprosy when she was so upset with Moses for marrying a black wife that she thought herself a truer prophet than Moses! God said in effect, "So you like white? Here's white!" God has a purpose for sickness. In this case, physical leprosy cured spiritual leprosy, which was arrogance in this case. Yet even here, God answered prayer substantially, but let enough sickness remain to achieve its purpose. Miriam's sin was dramatic; therefore God's wakeup call, through disease, was dramatic. When we are sick, that is a good time to search our hearts, as Psalm 139:23-24 describes. But even when we know it was our sins that caused our disease, may we take from this passage the confidence that after our sins are shown us, and after we repent of them, it is God's will to burden us with no more than enough of a reminder to not return to sin.

Num 11:1 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. 2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. 3 And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

God didn't end His judgment of fire until Moses interceded. Whether we pray for others matters. A lot.

Numbers 16:44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 45 Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces. 46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun. 47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people. 48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed. 49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah. 50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.

This was God's judgment on people who were so blinded by their disrespect for God that they just made up accusations against God's people that didn't make a lick of sense. This is the generation that had been delivered from cruel slavery a few months before, by mighty miracles through the intercession of Moses, including the parting of the Red Sea. In the previous week, one of the priests, Korah, had decided God wanted him to replace Moses. So Moses said, let's have God decide. You stand over there with your incense, and we'll stand here. And God opened up the earth and swallowed Korah, his followers, and their families, whole. So now, the people are complaining that *it was Moses and Aaron that killed "the people of God"*? Come on now!

The lesson for us is that [Moses and Aaron interceded for the rebellious people](#). Without intercession, would the plague have wiped out Israel? The lesson is also that we don't need to check the people we intercede for first, to make sure they are perfect!

Numbers 20:2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! 4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? 5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink. 6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. 7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. 9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. 12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

See how rude you can be to God, and still have God love you enough to provide your needs? These grownups were acting like children! Yet God still loved them, like a parent! Moses brought water out of a rock – enough of a stream to water at least 5 million people! That isn't just a little spring! At least a medium size river is needed to water that many, considering that was their only water source! God answered the complaining whining of Israel for water, but judged Moses for his manner in getting it. God had told Moses to raise his staff and speak to the rock, but Moses spoke to the people in judgment and hit the rock twice with his staff. By striking the rock, did that make it seem less miraculous than merely speaking? Could doubters have said "coincidence. The blows dislodged an impediment blocking the stream."

Is it important to rely upon God exclusively? Is it a mistake to dilute reliance upon prayer with reliance upon a discredited herb healer who isn't even a medical doctor? Therefore I pray, today, Tuesday, Feb 10, 2009, that this lump, which was still there last night, will be gone Thursday morning, because no one will mistake that for the effects of any recipe. (Friday update: the lump was still there, but so is the cancer. But it is not too late for the spirit of this prayer to be answered. This 2nd biopsy proves the Hulda Clark claim failed, but there will now be one more biopsy, just before the surgery.)

Numbers 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. 6 And the LORD sent fiery [poisonous] serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 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. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

The people feasted on Manna from Heaven, which Psalms 78:25 calls "angels' food", yet they chose to

loathe it! They chose to imagine they had it better as slaves in Egypt! They chose to complain that God had freed them from slavery only to “die” out here in freedom, where, as a free nation, they had just got done defeating another terrorist nation!

Do we complain like that? We are more likely to, if we believe we are not supposed to count on any of our prayers being answered with a “yes”. We are likely to complain, “why have you delivered me from the last crisis, just to suffer this ‘just get by’ existence?”

When our spirits have fallen so low, God will raise up a symbol of His transforming, healing power. We must at least look at it. Publicly. We have to stop complaining enough to look up.

Josh. 3:14–17; 4:16–18. When the nation was ready to cross the Jordan during its flood season, God instructed the priests to carry the ark right into the water; as soon as their shoes hit the water, the water piled up, upstream, and Israel marched through on dry ground. The priests needed enough faith to step into the water. The very priests bearing the ark. We Christians, publicly bearing our worship of and reliance upon God, need to publicly march right into danger as if it weren’t there, trusting that it will leave as instantly as our feet step into it.

Josh. 6:20. After marching around Jericho all week, Jericho’s walls fell down flat. This was a public declaration of faith that the wall would fall. Had the wall not fallen, the fear of Israel would have left Canaan and they would have been fairly instantly attacked by every soldier in Canaan.

Judg. 7:16–22. With 300 men, Gideon took on an invasion force that filled the valley between the mountains. Another demonstration of faith that would have gone very badly had their Hope let them down. We need to march against evil, though the strategy seems desperate. But we need alert Christians.

Josh. 10:12–14. Joshua wanted more time to chase an enemy, so he commanded the sun and moon to remain where they were for an extra 12 hours. What faith Joshua had, even considering God’s previous miracles to him, to stand “in the sight of all Israel” and command the sun and moon to stay still in the sky for a whole extra day! How public that faith! How trashed his ministry, his ability to lead, would have been had his Hope let him down! Hmmm. I wonder about a huge sign on our store window, “God cures cancer”, today.

Judg. 6:37–40 Gideon wanted to test whether it was really God telling him to destroy his father’s idols and then go defend Israel against invaders, so he put fleece outside in the grass all night and told God he would believe him if the next morning the grass was wet with dew but the fleece was dry. It was. So then he said to God, OK, now I will really believe if, next morning, the fleece is wet while the grass is dry. It was. I have just now let a clarinet pad drop on the floor, after telling the Lord that if it lands twice in a row, skin side up, I would put that sign on the window.

1 Sam. 5:1–4. The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. But wherever they took it among their cities, their people would die like flies; survivors suffered hemorrhoids and were overrun with mice! They placed the ark before their idol Dagon, which fell down before the night as if bowing to the Ark. They set it up again, and the next night it had fallen down and smashed. If we try to set God below any alternative, God will make the alternative bow to Him, and if we still try, God will utterly smash it.

1 Sam. 6:7–14. The Philistines decided to test whether all those deaths, hemorrhoids, mice, and their idol falling down were just coincidence. So they took 2 untamed cows, tied them to a cart, put the Ark on the cart, and the cows took it straight to Israel’s tabernacle. When doubters sincerely are open to evidence, God will faithfully provide it.

1 Sam. 12:16–18. After the people pressured Samuel and God to give them a tyrannical king instead of their democracy, Samuel asked God for one final witness against their foolishness: on that first day of harvest, he asked God for a thunderstorm. A man asked God for judgment. He asked publicly. He asked for an instant response. God provided. Had God not, Samuel would probably have been stoned, and his teachings eternally renounced.

2 Sam. 6:1–8 Uzzah helped carry the Ark, but on an ox cart instead of being carried by hand. When an ox stumbled, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, and Be careful how you handle holy things! Such as praying for judgment! Learn God’s rules, and follow them faithfully! We need to “fear” the Lord in the same sense we “fear” electricity when we work with it. We need to obey its rules! Electricity is merciless when we do not!

1 Chr. 21:14–26. It was the Lord who stayed the hand of the destroying angel, but even then waited for David to intercede, confess, and repent, before the threat evaporated that judgment might resume. **God may be waiting for us to intercede, before He delivers others.**

Fire on the sacrifices of Aaron, Lev. 9:24; of Gideon, Judg. 6:21; of Manoah, Judg. 13:19, 20; of Solomon, 2 Chr. 7:1; of Elijah, 1 Kin. 18:38 But Elijah was the only one who publicly announced, ahead of time, his expectation that God would do that. **When Elijah prayed for fire to come down from Heaven on his altar, he said he had prayed “at thy word”.** That doesn’t mean God told him to pray for that; it seems more likely from the text to mean he found plenty of Biblical precedent for believing God had the temperament to answer, and Elijah’s heart ached so much for the sins of his land that he conceived of the miracle it would take to bring revival or at least put the brakes on cruel Baal worship, and put his life and reputation on the line for God, and God honored it. There is absolutely nothing in the Bible to indicate God told Elijah what to pray for that He would answer, and our evidence to the contrary is *“James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”* Our lesson, implicit in 1 Kings and explicit in James, is that what Elijah did, we can do; nothing stops us but our doubt, and sufficient brokenness of heart for the sins of our land to lay our reputations, fortunes, and lives on the line for our nation’s reconciliation with God. Elijah said he had done those things “at thy word”. We can discern God’s Will today, from the record of God’s Will in the past.

1 Kin. 13:3–6. God stopped the king, Jereboam, who dared to arrest His prophet.

1 Kin. 17:9–16; Luke 4:26 Elijah asked a widow for a little bread and water. The widow said all she had was enough for a couple of donuts, which she was about to prepare for herself and her son before they died of starvation. Elijah said, don’t worry, your flour jar won’t run out. But first, make me a donut. The widow needed a lot of faith to prepare bread for Elijah FIRST. **We, too, need a lot of faith to spend what we have, whether our prayer time, or our service time, or money, on God and others first, when we have none to spare.**

1 Kin. 17:17–24 The woman acknowledged that the deadly sickness of her son was the just consequence of her sins, but begged for deliverance anyway, and **God granted it. THROUGH AN INTERCESSOR.**

Rain in answer to Elijah’s prayer, 1 Kin. 18:41–45. Elijah announced to the government first, THEN prayed for it. Then at the first wisp of hope, Elijah warned the King again to hurry, and THEN the sky blackened with rain. **At each step we see Elijah very intent, perhaps anxious, yet ready to announce what God will do way before God does it.** He is like the child who urges his parent to buy him a toy, with urgency and almost whining, but at the first whiff of parental indulgence, way before the parent actually says “yes”, the child excitedly assumes the toy is his and goes and tells everybody.

Elijah brings fire on Ahaziah’s army, 2 Kin. 1:10–12 These commanders deliberately defied God – they KNEW Elijah was a “man of God”, even addressing him thus! Yet they dared arrest him! This explains the fire from Heaven upon them. Later the Apostles asked Jesus if they might similarly call fire down upon the Samaritans. Luke 9:54. Jesus rebuked them for the spirit in them which they didn’t understand, He said. The difference? Maybe because Elijah’s commanders knew they were arresting a man of God; while the Samaritans did not know about Jesus, and their obstruction of Him was much less. Less presumptuous, less restrictive, less defiant. Also, the Samaritans were not threatening Jesus’ life. While the army had come to take Elijah to his execution. **Lesson: If we are to call for judgment upon God’s enemies, let it be proportionate.**

Elisha sweetens the waters of Jericho with a cruse of salt, 2 Kin. 2:19–22 Very public. Very bold. He spoke for the Lord. The text does not indicate or even imply that God told him to pray for that. Other than when he said “thus saith the Lord”, but nothing indicates God said it before the desire to help these people welled up within Elisha, and Elisha simply sensed this is the kind of thing God would support, so He said “thus saith the Lord” with the intention of praying until God answered. **God waited for a man to speak for Him, before healing the water.**

Elisha increases a widow’s oil, 2 Kin. 4:1–7 The widow prefaced her request with “thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord”, and her request was urgent enough: “the creditor is come to take my two sons to make them bondmen”. **Although no man is without sin, God had said obedience is a condition to answered prayer. Therefore it strengthens our faith when we can say we have been as obedient as we have known how, and what righteousness we lack, we are willing to acquire.**

Elisha raises the widow’s son from the dead, 1 Kin. 17:17–24. In the middle of this story we learn that

Elisha normally has things revealed to him by the Lord, but not this time. This resurrection didn't go the way Elisha expected at first; he tried 3 times. First he instructed his helper to lay his staff on the child's head, but that did nothing. Then Elisha went to the boy, and the boy became warm, but did not rise. Elisha paced back and forth for awhile, then went to the boy again, who sneezed 7 times and rose. This describes a lot of effort and persistence on the part of the intercessor. Not to mention publicly announced faith. If even Elisha was that persistent, taking that much effort, not to mention publicly going on record, to raise the dead, neither should we give up our intercession after a few seconds. But notice another example for us: don't just announce victory and walk away, not caring if nothing actually happened. Go check on things. And then keep trying, keep praying, keep doing what you can until God delivers.

Elisha feeds one hundred men, 2 Kin. 4:42–44; Elisha says "thus saith the Lord". This seems half prayer, and no more than half premonition – perhaps none. As if the two are one. It doesn't seem as if this is where Elisha was just watching TV, minding his own business, and thunder roared and Elisha said "you want me to do WHAT?" It seems rather that Elisha's heart went out to the hungry men, he prayed in his heart that this small bit of bread would stretch to feed them all, he was convinced this was something God would support, so he just said "thus saith the Lord, this bread will not only be enough, but there will be bread left over."

Elisha cures Naaman, 2 Kin. 5:1–19; Elisha got involved when he heard the king of Israel rent his clothes because a huge fortune had just arrived from the King of Syria with a request to heal the king's Commander in Chief of leprosy. The same Commander in Chief who had just invaded Israel! Israel's king logically concluded "is the king of Syria concocting an excuse for another invasion? Who am I, to heal leprosy?"

Elisha stepped forward at the news. "Send him to me, that he may know there is a prophet in Israel." Turns out Naaman had found out about Elisha from a woman he had taken captive. Elisha offered **a cure more designed to test his humility and faith in God than to bear any relationship to anything that would logically cure anything**. In fact Naaman logically concluded if taking a bath was the cure, the waters of Syria would be cleaner. he was angry at first and was not going to do it. His servants pointed out that he would have been ready to do something very costly; how much more should he be willing to do something simple? **Likewise with healings today: we are ready to exhaust all we have to go to hospitals; how much more should we be willing to pour all we have into falling on our faces before God?**

Elisha struck Gehazi with leprosy, 2 Kin. 5:26, 27 Elisha says what Gehazi did, following Naaman against Elisha's orders, to accept the gift Naaman had offered Elisha but which Elisha had declined, was revealed to him in detail.

Elisha causes the ax to float, 2 Kin. 6:6 This is like Jacob putting striped sticks in front of lambs. **Throwing a stick in water has no physical or logical relation to making an axe head float! The act is of faith in God. But then is that like throwing Hulda Clark's recipe on cancer?** The difference is that no one will think a stick thrown on water is what made the iron rise. But many will think Hulda Clark's recipe, not God's power, cured the cancer. Likewise no one, looking on the brass serpent, thought it was anything but obedience to God that saved them, but generations later the serpent was destroyed because people did worship it.

Elisha reveals the counsel of the king of Syria, 2 Kin. 6:12 As the Syrian army moved against Israel, Elisha revealed its movements in advance to the king of Israel so it could stay out of danger. Evidence that God revealed to Elisha what governments were scheming. Certainly God communicated to Elisha. Does this prove God told Elisha what to pray for regarding the bad water and the scarce food? So that what Elisha accomplished, we cannot, because God isn't telling us what to pray for? James 5:17 indicates otherwise. But **it is common sense that the more willing we are to intercede, to the extent of risking our lives, reputations, and fortunes, the more desperately and passionately we will pray and study God's Word, which in turn will give us convictions more often about what God's Will is, which in turn will be fertile ground for moments of conviction about things not knowable by human capacity.**

Elisha causes the eyes of his servant to be opened, 2 Kin. 6:17 Evidence that Elisha could see angels.

Elisha strikes with blindness the army of the king of Syria, 2 Kin. 6:18 Evidence that Elisha was not told, ahead of time, what to pray for. Surrounded by the Syrian army, Elisha waited until they had reached him, then prayed "smite them with blindness".

Destruction of Sennacherib's army, 2 Kin. 19:35; Isa. 37:36 This story is full of the boasting of the

wicked against God contrasted with God's mocking of the wicked through Isaiah, between which Hezekiah had to choose, while surrounded by the Assyrian armies. And all this concluded 20 years of God blinding Israel for ignoring God through Isaiah.

Return of the shadow on the sun dial, 2 Kin. 20:9–11; Hezekiah's cure, Isa. 38:21 here a "natural cure" was used. Hezekiah asked for more years. Hezekiah had prayed: "**Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.**" God gave him 15 more years to live. Not that there were no evil consequences: during that 15 years, he foolishly showed Nebuchadnezzar the map to his treasures, not even caring when shown his foolishness, and gave birth to wicked Manassah.

Deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, from the furnace into which they were thrown for not bowing to Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Dan. 3:23–27; **Extremely publicly, they defied the government that demanded their obedience, and declared their faith in God to deliver them should He so will.**

Daniel 6:22, Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for worshiping God, but God shut the lion's mouths. Daniel told the king, "**My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.**" A clean conscience helps a prayer.

Luke 1, Elizabeth, an old woman, conceived John the Baptist. Zechariah had run out of hope but God still remembered his prayer. When promised what he most wanted, he questioned it! The angel gave him the sign he requested, but he probably wished he hadn't asked. **Lesson: if God has to wrestle with us very much to persuade us we can relax now, He WILL answer our prayers, but God might give us more from which to pray for deliverance!** This is almost frightening. It is at least sobering. But it makes sense. What would a parent think of a child who is so doubtful whether his parents will give him good things, that after asking for them, and being reassured, the child still whines that the parent probably won't give them?

Mat 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-80. Mary also questioned her promise from an angel, but was not punished. But a couple of differences: (1) Zechariah had prayed for decades for a son, while the concept had never entered Mary's mind. (2) Zechariah expressed doubt: how is that possible? Mary expressed curiosity: since I am not married, and Your Law is against getting pregnant without a husband, is there anything I need to know so I can adjust my plans? **Lesson: it is useful to think about which way God may answer your prayer, so you can prepare to orient your life around that likelihood. It is useless to question WHETHER God will answer your prayers. God will still do His best to answer them, but will have to wrestle you to the ground first.**

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Water made wine, John 2:1–11 Mary didn't directly ask. She just told Jesus the need. Jesus' answer has been interpreted as advice to wait for the right time, when He would indeed act. Mary's wise response was to advise everyone involved to "do whatever He tells you." That prepared for the possibility of a miracle. **Let us, in prayer, not fear God will be offended if we state the need, even though we know He already knows. God needs to know that we know, and that we are so concerned about the need, that we are willing to advise everyone who shares our concerns to do whatever Jesus says to do, so that God will be free to do His miracle through our willing hands.**

Heals the nobleman's son, John 4:46–54. When the nobleman asked Jesus to travel to his town to heal his son, Jesus played with him a little. Tested him. Said "except you see miracles, you will not believe." Actually Jesus said "you", plural, meaning Jesus was addressing the skeptical crowds around him with the same statement. Jesus was preparing the nobleman to have greater faith: to believe that not only could Jesus heal the boy if he traveled with the man, but He could heal even if He didn't. The man just answered by begging Jesus to travel with him. **This step was important: even though the man's faith had not quite bumped high enough to anticipate long distance healing, the little delay had made the man much more desperate, which is good because that made him desperate enough to believe more than he had been ready to believe.** Jesus was then able to answer again by saying don't worry – your son is fine, already, without me coming with you. The man finally believes, leaves, and learns from messengers that they boy was healed the same hour Jesus pronounced it.

Now, what was going on? **Why is it so important whether the father believes? If Jesus heals the boy, isn't that what is important? Why does the father need to stop worrying about the boy, before he gets home?** Revelation 21:8 says the fearful and unbelieving will go to Hell. Which is almost a play on words, since fear

and unbelief essentially IS Hell. Suppose you are a parent and your child will not accept your reassurances that you truly will, indeed, feed him at suppertime. What would you do with such a child? Your child's happiness while growing up under your roof is about the most important thing to you. If your child is paranoid about your commitment to provide him the best, providing him the best becomes less important than his peace of mind. If your child is not patient enough, not trusting enough, to survive until the best is ready, you have to hurry and give him less than the best, maybe a peanut butter sandwich instead of a steak, just to prevent a heart attack. What good is the best, without the power to enjoy it? Paranoia cancels the power to enjoy. Lesson: be careful when you pray for more than you are ready to believe God will answer! God wants to answer but may need to wrestle you. You will need to read God's list of miracles in the Bible a few times to build your faith so you can pray without having a heart attack. Many have prayed desperate prayers that included a promise to begin obeying God throughout their lives if God would do this: this is not a superficial "aha! I've got you!" for God to deliver under such circumstances. It is when someone is obedient that God is able to do miracles, just like it is when a boy is taking trumpet lessons that a teacher can help him play music!

Draught of fishes, Luke 5:1–11. In this miracle, Jesus offered Peter a miracle for which he had not asked, but which had been his childhood dream, surely. So many fish that his nets started breaking, he needed help from other fishermen to haul it in, and so many in the boat that the boat was about to sink! Peter recognized not only a power to make his dreams come true, but a power greater than any dream he had yet conceived. He submitted to it. Surely every human being has known miracles of great magnitude, and known them to be the Hand of God. Romans 1:20 says God is satisfied that creation itself is evidence of an omnipotent and benevolent God which no sincere intellect can rationalize as occurring by itself. Your own birth and growth was a miracle beyond your comprehension. But what is your response when you hear of such things? Do you ponder them? Are you curious enough to document them? Do you REMEMBER them? Continually the Bible urges people to REMEMBER God's last miracles so they will have faith to endure the next without a heart attack.

Cleanses the leper, Matt. 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16. This is a story that makes the reader fill with compassion too: the leper approaches Jesus, says "if it is your will, you can make me clean." Jesus, moved with compassion, reached forward and touched him. This is not something one normally does to a leper! He said, "It is my will. Be thou clean." Never did Jesus say to anyone, "it is *not* my will for you to be healed of your sickness!"

Paul's Thorn In The Flesh

Only once in the whole Bible, 2 cor 12:7, did God decline to answer a prayer, and God did not even then leave Paul to wonder why, but explained clearly the advantage to Paul of not answering. Or, to use today's strange grammar on this point, to answer "no".

And yet that one exception has been dragged into a Faith Loophole that excuses every Christian of weak faith. We say "well, not always does God answer our prayers." "My Grace is sufficient for thee" is daily stretched far beyond Paul's circumstances to eliminate the need for every prayer a Christian might make. Do you pray not to die in this accident so that you can finish raising your children? Unnecessary because "My Grace is sufficient for thee." Do you pray that your children will receive Jesus? Unnecessary because "My Grace is sufficient for thee." Truly, God's Grace is sufficient to endure every hardship with joy; my quarrel is not with the sufficiency of God's Grace, but with the application of this concept to undermine the Prayer of Faith which God again and again appeals to us to have.

This escape clause is articulated by The Bible Readers Companion:

Christians and good health (12:8–9). Some say healing is provided believers in Christ's crucifixion. But Paul was not healed. Some say God will answer any prayer if we only believe hard enough. Paul did not lack faith, but he was not healed. This and other N.T. passages such as Phil. 2:25–27 remind us that Christians can suffer poor health and other difficulties without the cause being either sin or a lack of faith. God had a purpose in permitting Paul's suffering.

How good to be confident of two things. When we suffer, God does have a good purpose in view. When we are weak we can expect God to show His power in and through us. [Richards, L. O. (1991;

So let's deal with this passage, and see if it really does undermine every other verse that promises consistent, predictable answers to prayer.

2Corinthians 12:7 **And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.** 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

We don't know what the "thorn in the flesh" literally was. Every commentator has an opinion, and an argument why the next commentator is wrong. The Greek word indicates a sharp pole. Vincent's Word Studies gives a nice overview of the range of opinions:

VWS: Only here in the New Testament. Frequent in classical Greek in the sense of *a pale or stake*. It occurs once in Euripides, meaning *a stump* ("Bacchae," 983). It is a **stake for a palisade, or for impaling; a surgical instrument; the point of a fish-hook**. In the Septuagint it occurs three times, translated **thorn** in Hos 2:6, where, however, it is distinguished from ἄνθης *thorns; brier* in Eze 28:24, and **prick** in Num 33:55. Nine different Hebrew words are rendered by *thorn*, for which, in the great majority of cases, Septuagint gives ἄκανθα. The rendering *thorn* for σκόλοψ has no support.

The figure is that of the impaling stake. Herodotus, alluding to this punishment, uses ἀνασκολοπέειν (i., 128; 3, 132). In the ninth book of his history, Lampon says to Pausanias: "When Leonidas was slain at Thermopylae, Xerxes and Mardonius beheaded and *crucified* (ἀνεσταφωσάν) him. Do thou the like by Mardonius.... for by *crucifying* (ἀνασκολοπίσας) thou wilt avenge Leonidas" (ix., 78). The verb seems, therefore, to have been used interchangeably with *crucify*; and clear instances of this occur in Philo and Lucian. At least one text of the Septuagint gives ἀνασκολοπέω in Est 7:10, of Haman's being *hanged*. See further, on Gal 2:20. The explanations of the peculiar nature of this affliction are numerous. Opinions are divided, generally, between mental or spiritual and bodily trials. Under the former head are sensual desires, faint-heartedness, doubts, temptations to despair, and blasphemous suggestions from the devil. Under the latter, persecution, mean personal appearance, headache, epilepsy, earache, stone, ophthalmia. It was probably a bodily malady, *in the flesh*; but its nature must remain a matter of conjecture. Very plausible reasons are given in favor of both epilepsy and ophthalmia. Bishop Lightfoot inclines to the former, and Archdeacon Farrar thinks that it was almost certainly the latter. [VINCENT'S WORD STUDIES, Marvin R. Vincent, D.D., Baldwin Professor of Sacred Literature in Union Theological Seminary New York., Covenant Parsonage, New York, October 30, 1886.]

OK, so what facts do we know about the "thorn" that everyone agrees on?

1. It was not life threatening. It was chronic, having lasted since Paul's trip to Heaven 14 years previously, and Paul lived several more years after writing about it, and even then Paul died from a sword, so if it was deadly it sure took a long time to kill. Therefore, there is no precedent in this story for God to decline to heal any serious, deadly disease.

2. Whatever "weakness" the "thorn" gave Paul was not crippling. It allowed him to function, to travel under very strenuous conditions, to write, to reason with people, and to serve. Therefore, there is no precedent in this story for God to heal any disease which hinders serving Him.

3. The "thorn" was visible to others, and apparently made Paul look grotesque enough to others that Paul had to tell the Galatians, "**Gal 4:13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. 14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.**" Whatever this was, must have been embarrassing. My buddy Regina Dinwiddie, a nurse, thinks it was glaucoma, which makes the eyes swell and look terrible. The problem with that theory is that glaucoma does not normally maintain that condition for decades, without causing blindness. I wonder if Paul's "thorn" could be anything like my embarrassing eye twitch which I have had for about 55 years, even though I have hosted a TV show for about 14 years? In my case, I have occasionally noticed that

prideful thoughts really set it off, making me look more ridiculous, the prouder I feel. (Fortunately, I have not had a prideful thought for several years now. I am very proud of that.) Apparently we do not, therefore, have a precedent in this incident for God to decline to heal a sickness which is not visibly embarrassing.

4. The “thorn” was given to balance Paul’s revelations, which included a trip to Heaven. Indeed, I have received many wonderful revelations from the Word of God, although no more than others, reading it, find. Different revelations, maybe, but not more. But apparently we do not have, in this incident, a pattern of God declining to heal someone who has not been blessed with spectacular revelations from God!

5. Paul’s prayer was for himself! Not for another! Huge theological problems would result from taking this incident as a warning that I should not pray with absolute faith for the healing of someone else because God *might* consider that person in need of this sickness in order to mitigate their runaway pride! That would put me in the position of looking for sins in another and guessing whether they are serious enough for God to not be interested in healing them, before I go all out with perhaps several weeks of persistent Believing Prayer and perhaps 2 or more weeks of fasting!

But love does not take inventory of evil, according to 1 Corinthians 13:5. That is the definition of the Greek (*οὐ λογιζεται τὸ κακόν*) which the KJV translates “thinketh no evil”. Love doesn’t take out its ledger sheet and write down an accounting of each sin, with a value for its seriousness. Love “does not keep a record of wrongs”, translates the Good News Bible. If we did that, we would place ourselves under the curse of God judging us with the same level of scrutiny which we apply to others! Matthew 18:23-35, 7:2, 6:14-15. God gives us authority to exhort people to inspire them to victory over sin, Hebrews 10:24-25, Leviticus 19:17, but not to take inventory of another’s sin before we decide whether to help them!

As the study below shows, Moses and Aaron interceded many times for the children of Israel, which they never would have done had they first done a pride survey to determine whether they were deserving! Because they suffered chronic runaway pride! Yet Moses and Aaron interceded. Likewise Jesus intercedes for us, and in fact even gave His life for us, “while we were yet sinners”, Romans 5:8!

To say this another way, if we perceive pride in the one for whom we intercede, or any other sin, definitely, let us exhort that person, for sin definitely is one cause of illness, according to several passages, as my study shows. Let us follow Jesus’ example of offering counseling for people suffering from doubt; at times he even seemed to tease, or toy with people, to build their faith. But let us not go hunting for sin, and decide whether to pray based on what we find! Our knowledge of their sin may affect *how* we pray, but let it not affect *whether* we pray! Often the greatest “sin” that may be causing the sickness, if any is, is unbelief, which is not healed by throwing in more doubts based on unworthiness to be healed because of sin!

Mat 9:2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

Several intercessors had climbed up on a roof carrying a crippled man on a stretcher, removed the roof tiles, and hoisted the man down on ropes in front of Jesus where he was ministering to people! That took a huge dose of faith, and love! Jesus saw THEIR faith, and that was enough to inspire Him to forgive the man’s sins, prior to healing him!

In conclusion, Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” incident cannot be taken as a warrant for limiting the faith of intercessors, without spiritual danger to intercessors!

By the way, when Jesus prayed, in Gethsemane “nevertheless not my will but thine be done”, He was knowingly praying contrary to God’s revealed will, just as Hezekiah prayed for more years after being plainly told God’s will was for him to die then, 2 Kings 20:3, and Moses prayed for God to spare Israel after God had plainly told him it was His will to destroy Israel, Exodus 32:14. This cannot be an example to us of adding the escape clause “thy will be done” to our Prayer of Otherwise Faith, where we have no reason to think it may not be God’s will, and where God’s revealed Will is that we believe, and be healed. **3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.**

I have considered the theory, of the identity of the “thorn”, that it was only the blurring of vision that everyone else normally experiences with old age and even middle age, which today we correct with glasses. If that were it, perhaps Paul was praying for the same blessing Moses enjoyed: “Deu 34:7 And Moses *was* an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.” Perhaps Paul’s

prayer had included, “let your majesty be shown today, through perfect vision in an old man, once again, as you did through Moses.” It wouldn’t quite have seemed miraculous, of course, since there are a few old people with perfect vision without a miraculous testimony to go with it. Had Paul lived to 120, as Moses did, and still have had the vigor of a young man, now THAT would have been a miracle! God’s answer was, in effect, “my glory is also shown when an old man, bent down with age, can accomplish more than a young man.” But I have no good reason to suppose that is what the “thorn” was. In fact, this theory would leave unexplained why the Galatians had to overcome their natural aversion to Paul’s “infirmity” just to listen to him.

For anyone interested, I will devote a few pages just for Bible commentaries which have analyzed these passages:

Bible Knowledge Commentary: 12:7-9. So that Paul would not forget this, God gave him a constant reminder of his weakness. Countless explanations concerning the nature of his **thorn in the flesh** have been offered. They range from incessant temptation, dogged opponents, chronic maladies (such as ophthalmia, malaria, migraine headaches, and epilepsy), to a disability in speech. No one can say for sure what his was, but it probably was a physical affliction (for the work of **Satan** in this, cf. 1 Cor. 5:5; 10:10). It is understandable that Paul would consider this thorn a hindrance to wider or more effective ministry (cf. Gal. 4:14-16) and that he would repeatedly petition God for its removal (2 Cor. 12:8). But he learned from this experience the lesson that pervades this letter: divine power (**My power**, v. 8; **Christ’s power**, v. 9) is best displayed against the backdrop of human **weaknesses** (cf. 4:7) so that God alone is praised (10:17). Rather than removing the problem God gave him **grace** in it. This grace is **sufficient** (*arkei*, i.e., adequate in the sense of providing contentment). (The Gr. words trans. **to keep me from becoming conceited** occur in 12:7 twice, at the beginning and end of the verse. The NIV translates only the first one.) [Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:583). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

Albert Barnes: If Paul’s speech had been affected, and his face distorted, and his nerves shattered by such a sight, how could he doubt whether he was in the body or out of it when this occurred? Many of the Latin fathers supposed that some unruly and ungovernable lust was intended. Chrysostom and Jerome suppose that he meant the headache; Tertullian an earache; and Rosenmuller supposes that it was the gout in the head, kopfgicht, and that it was a periodical disorder such as affected him when he was with the Galatians; [Gal 4:13](#). But all conjecture here is vain; and the numerous strange and ridiculous opinions of commentators is a melancholy attestation of their inclination to fanciful conjecture where it is impossible in the nature of the case to ascertain the truth. All that can be known of this is, that it was some infirmity of the flesh, some bodily affliction or calamity, that was like the continual piercing of the flesh with a thorn [Gal 4:13](#); and that it was something that was designed to prevent spiritual pride. It is not indeed an improbable supposition that it was something that could be seen by others, and that thus tended to humble him when with them.

[Barnes seems to assume that the “thorn” was given Paul *while* he was in Heaven, an assumption I can’t confirm from the Bible, and which seems to me ridiculous.]

People’s New Testament: Generally supposed to be some painful physical infirmity. See [Gal 4:13-14](#).

John Wesley: St. Paul seems to have had a fresh fear of these buffetings every moment, when he so frequently represses himself in his boasting, though it was extorted from him by the utmost necessity. [John Wesley’s Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible]

Bible Reader’s Companion: *Paul’s thorn (12:7)*. There is much debate over just what chronic illness Paul had. One suggestion is that it was a most unattractive eye disease. The argument is supported by a reference at the end of Galatians to Paul adding a postscript to that epistle in “large letters.” [Richards, L. O. (1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996). *The Bible readers companion* (electronic ed.) (784). Wheaton: Victor Books.]

New Bible Commentary: Instead of making capital out of his experience Paul immediately explains how he was kept from being too elated about it. It is important to recognize that in both the OT and the NT Satan has no power other than that allowed him by God, and that even his evil designs are made to serve God’s purposes. In this case, the messenger of Satan was used by God *to keep me from becoming conceited*, clearly not what Satan had in mind. There has been much speculation about the nature of Paul’s thorn in the flesh, but there is simply insufficient data to decide what affliction he suffered. [Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary : 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (2 Co 11:16-12:13). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.]

Bible Exposition Commentary: Paul’s thorn in the flesh was given to him to keep him from sinning. Exciting spiritual experiences—like going to heaven and back—have a way of inflating the human ego; and

pride leads to a multitude of temptations to sin. Had Paul's heart been filled with pride, those next fourteen years would have been filled with failure instead of success.

We do not know what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. The word translated *thorn* means "a sharp stake used for torturing or impaling someone." It was a physical affliction of some kind that brought pain and distress to Paul. Some Bible students think that Paul had an eye affliction (see Gal. 6:11); but we cannot know for sure. It is a good thing that we do not know, because no matter what our sufferings may be, we are able to apply the lessons Paul learned and get encouragement. [Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (2 Co 12:7). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.]

A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory: *thorn in the flesh*—(Nu 33:55; Ez 28:24). ALFORD thinks it to be the same bodily affliction as in Ga 4:13, 14. It certainly was something personal, affecting him individually, and not as an apostle: *causing at once acute pain (as "thorn" implies) and shame ("buffet": as slaves are buffeted, 1Pe 2:20)*. *messenger of Satan*—who is permitted by God to afflict His saints, as Job (Job 2:7; Lu 13:16). *to buffet me*—In Greek, *present*: to buffet me even now continuously. After experiencing the state of the blissful angels, he is now exposed to the influence of an evil angel. The chastisement from hell follows soon upon the revelation from heaven. As his *sight* and *hearing* had been ravished with heavenly "revelations," so his *touch* is pained with the "thorn in the flesh." [Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. On spine: Critical and explanatory commentary. (2 Co 12:7). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.]

Matthew Henry: 1. The apostle was pained with a thorn in the flesh, and buffeted with a messenger of Satan, v. 7. We are much in the dark what this was, whether some great trouble or some great temptation. Some think it was an acute bodily pain or sickness; others think it was the indignities done him by the false apostles, and the opposition he met with from them, particularly on the account of his speech, which was contemptible. However this was, God often brings this good out of evil, that the reproaches of our enemies help to hide pride from us; and this is certain, that what the apostle calls a thorn in his flesh was for a time very grievous to him: but the thorns Christ wore for us, and with which he was crowned, sanctify and make easy all the thorns in the flesh we may at any time be afflicted with; for *he suffered, being tempted, that he might be able to succour those that are tempted*. Temptations to sin are most grievous thorns; they are messengers of Satan, to buffet us. Indeed it is a great grievance to a good man to be so much as tempted to sin.

2. The design of this was to keep the apostle humble: *Lest he should be exalted above measure*, v. 7. Paul himself knew he *had not yet attained, neither was already perfect*; and yet he was in danger of being lifted up with pride. If God love us, he will hide pride from us, and keep us from being exalted above measure; and spiritual burdens are ordered, to cure spiritual pride. This thorn in the flesh is said to be a messenger of Satan, which he did not send with a good design, but on the contrary, with ill intentions, to discourage the apostle (who had been so highly favoured of God) and hinder him in his work. But God designed this for good, and he overruled it for good, and made this messenger of Satan to be so far from being a hindrance that it was a help to the apostle.

3. The apostle prayed earnestly to God for the removal of this sore grievance. Note, Prayer is a salve for every sore, a remedy for every malady; and when we are afflicted with thorns in the flesh we should give ourselves to prayer. Therefore we are sometimes tempted that we may learn to pray. The apostle *besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from him*, v. 8. Note, *Though afflictions are sent for our spiritual benefit, yet we may pray to God for the removal of them: we ought indeed to desire also that they may reach the end for which they are designed*. The apostle prayed earnestly, and repeated his requests; he besought the Lord *thrice*, that is, often. So that if an answer be not given to the first prayer, nor to the second, we must hold on, and hold out, till we receive an answer. *Christ himself prayed to his Father thrice*. As troubles are sent to teach us to pray, so they are continued to teach us to continue instant in prayer.

4. We have an account of the answer given to the apostle's prayer, that, *although the trouble was not removed, yet an equivalent should be granted*: *My grace is sufficient for thee*. Note, (1.) Though God accepts the prayer of faith, yet he does not always answer it in the letter; as he sometimes grants in wrath, so he sometimes denies in love. (2.) When God does not remove our troubles and temptations, yet, if he gives us grace sufficient for us, we have no reason to complain, nor to say that he deals ill by us. It is a great comfort to us, whatever thorns in the flesh we are pained with, that God's grace is sufficient for us. Grace signifies two things:—[1.] The good-will of God towards us, and this is enough to enlighten and enliven us, sufficient to

strengthen and comfort us, to support our souls and cheer up our spirits, in all afflictions and distresses. [2.] The good work of God in us, the grace we receive from the fulness that is in Christ our head; and from him there shall be communicated that which is suitable and seasonable, and sufficient for his members. Christ Jesus understands our case, and knows our need, and will proportion the remedy to our malady, and not only strengthen us, but glorify *himself*. *His strength is made perfect in our weakness.* Thus his grace is manifested and magnified; he ordains his praise out of the mouths of babes and sucklings. [Henry, M. (1996, c1991). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (2 Co 12:1). Peabody: Hendrickson.]

Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary: 12:7–10 Under God's Direction

Paul's sphere of boasting was in his weakness (12:5–10; cf. 5:12; 11:16–33). No one knows for sure what Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (12:7) was, but it has been speculated that it was some kind of eye disease (cf. Gal. 4:13–15; 6:11). The focus in these verses is on Paul's weakness. He had asked God for deliverance from a specific weakness three times. Finally, a direct word from God showed Paul that he was, in reality, trying to throw away God's gift that kept his fleshly nature from boasting of his privileged position. Paul may have been caught up to heaven, but during his time of struggle with his "thorn," God had kept him in the dark. His affliction had to meet grace in order to bring about its God-intended result.

Paul thought God's grace would include the removal of the suffering. But God's grace was related to his sufficiency at all times, not to the presence or absence of suffering. Paul wanted to increase his power by the removal of the "thorn." God showed him where his true sufficiency was. Power came through seeing weakness as the very vehicle for manifesting the power of Christ, not through gradually eliminating mortal weaknesses. Weaknesses show the inadequacy of the vessel and affirm the ever-present grace and power of the Spirit within. This had been Paul's argument throughout the letter (1:9; 4:7, 11, 16–18). [Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). *Tyndale concise Bible commentary*. Rev. ed. of: New Bible companion. 1990.; Includes index. The Tyndale reference library (574). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.]

Wiersbe: II. The Thorn in His Flesh (12:7–10)

We do not know what this thorn was, but the best suggestion is an eye ailment. Paul was supernaturally blinded when converted (Acts 9:9), and it is possible that some weakness remained even in later years. Galatians 4:15 and 6:11 ("with what large letters") suggest eye trouble. This would have been a trial to Paul both physically and emotionally, and could honestly be called a thorn (stake) in the flesh. (Sometimes prisoners were impaled on stakes and left to die a horrible death.) Whatever the thorn was, it was a burden to him, and it brought pain. He asked to have it removed.

The presence of this thorn was proof of his heavenly experience related in vv. 1–7; for God gave him the thorn (what a gift!) to keep him from getting proud. The enemies at Corinth had been accusing Paul of being weak (see 10:1 and 10; 11:6 and 29), and now he admits that he was weak, but that his weakness was a gift from God. The very weakness they accused him of was actually an argument for his apostolic authority!

There are several very practical lessons to be learned from Paul's experience with the thorn:

(1) Spiritual blessings are more important than physical ones. Paul thought he could be a better Christian if he were relieved of his weakness, but just the opposite was true. "Faith healers" who preach that sickness is a sin have a hard time with this chapter.

(2) Unanswered prayer does not always mean the need is not met. Sometimes we get a greater blessing when God does not answer our prayers! God always answers the need even though it seems He is not answering the prayer.

(3) Weakness is strength if Christ is in it. Read 1 Cor. 1:26–31 for proof; remember Gideon's pitchers, David's sling, and Moses' rod.

(4) There is grace to meet every need. Grace enabled Paul to accept his weakness, glory in it, and take pleasure in it! Paul knew that his weakness would bring glory to Christ, and that is all that mattered. See 2 Cor. 4:7. [Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (508). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.]

Willmington's Bible handbook 12:7–10 Thorns and grace. Following his ecstatic experience (12:1–6), God allowed Satan to severely afflict Paul, lest he become proud. After repeatedly asking God to remove the affliction, Paul finally learned to thank God for it, realizing how much it had taught him about the sufficiency of grace.

Some scholars believe Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was chronic ophthalmia, a disease of the eyes not too painful but at times repulsive to the onlooker. The onset of Paul's ailment, 14 years before this time (12:2),

would have coincided with his entrance into Galatia, which had been occasioned by some sort of physical infirmity (Gal. 4:13–15; 6:11) [Willmington, H. L. (1997). *Willmington's Bible handbook* (696). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.]

Was the “thorn” related to Paul’s eyes?

Galatians 4:15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

This has been taken by some as a clue that Paul’s “thorn” was some problem with his eyes. That would seem to rule out the theory that it was only the normal blurring of vision that attends old age, since everyone else’s eyes grew old, too. Here is how commentators explain Galatians 4:15:

Clark: Dearer than one’s eyes, or to profess to give one’s eyes for the sake of a person, appears to have been a proverbial expression, intimating the highest tokens of the strongest affection. We find a similar form of speech in Terence, Adelphi, act iv., scene 5, ver. 67. - *Di me pater Omnes oderint, ni magis te, quam oculos nunc ego amo meos.* “O father, may all the gods hate me, if I do not love you now more than my own eyes.”

Gill: so fully persuaded was the apostle of their strong and sincere affection for him at that time, that he was ready to attest the truth of this in any form to any persons; that were it a possible thing for them, and could it have been of any advantage to him, they would even have plucked out their eyes, than which nothing is dearer, or more useful to a man, and have parted with them to him, and for his sake; and doubtless persons so affected would cheerfully have laid down their lives for him;

People’s New Testament: So great was then their joy and sense of obligation, that they could not do enough to show their gratitude. Why, they would even have given him their own eyes!--a proverbial expression denoting very strong devotion.

Vincent’s Word Studies: **Your own eyes** (*τοὺς ὀφθαλμὰς νὗρον*) Better, *your* eyes. Eyes, as most treasured possessions. Comp. Psa 17:8; Pro 7:2; Zec 2:8. Some have found here evidence that Paul was afflicted with disease of the eyes. See Dr. John Brown’s *Horae Subsecivae*. Accordingly they explain these words, “You would have given me *your own* eyes to replace mine.” But *νῦρον* is unemphatic, *your*. All attempts to connect the passage with Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” (2Co 7:7) are to be dismissed as fanciful. [Marvin R. Vincent, D.D., Covenant Parsonage, New York, October 30, 1886.]

[Vincent’s point seems to be that were “*own*” in the Greek, viz. “*your own eyes*”, that would have reinforced the idea of *their* own eyes, as opposed to *Paul’s* weak eyes. But the Greek is “unemphatic”, meaning it adds no emphasis to “*your*”, or to the quality of their eyes compared with Paul’s eyes. It seems to me this evidence gives some weight against the “thorn” affecting Paul’s eyes, but does not entirely rule it out.]

Miracles in order, resumed:

Heals the paralytic, Matt. 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:17–26.

Matthew 9:1 And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. **2** And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; **Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.** **3** And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, **This man blasphemeth.** **4** And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, **Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?** **5** For whether is easier, to say, **Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?** **6** But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) **Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.** **7** And he arose, and departed to his house. **8** But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

In this amazing story, Jesus heals more than the mere body. He heals the conscience. Everyone in those days understood that sickness results from sin. So that sickness cannot be healed, while the sins remain unforgiven. So Jesus’ first response was “your sins are forgiven.” I can relate to that as a music teacher, “forgiving” my student’s past missed notes, once the student determines to practice and correct them. Only if the student will not practice do I remind him of his mistakes, as annoyances which only practice will remove. Jesus saw in the man’s desperation a determination to obey Jesus in the future, which made it the right time to forget the past. Although Israel’s preachers had not previously questioned Jesus’ authority to heal, which their own understanding of the causal relationship between sickness and sin should have assured them Jesus also had the power to forgive sins, now they questioned his authority to forgive sins. So Jesus answered that to prove

“the son of man” - not himself alone but other men too, especially those who will also heal – has “authority on Earth to forgive sins”, he turned to the paralyzed man, and told him to get up and carry out his stretcher. It was not the man’s faith alone that reassured the man: the Bible says “when he saw THEIR faith he said”. Meaning the men carrying the stretcher. They had so much faith that when Jesus was in a house too crowded for them to enter, they climbed up on the roof with the invalid, pulled off some roof tiles, and let the man down through with ropes! This shows the power of the faith of intercessors! If your child not only asks for something alone, but his siblings come with him and beg for this thing for their little brother, how much more moved you will be! How much more you will want to do something which will restore peace, not only to one child, but to all your children!

Healing of the invalid, John 5:1–16.

Joh 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. **5** And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, *Wilt thou be made whole?* **7** The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. **8** Jesus saith unto him, *Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.* **9** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, *It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.* **11** He answered them, *He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.* **12** Then asked they him, *What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?* **13** And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. **14** Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, *Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.* **15** The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. **16** And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

God stepped into this invalid’s life with “do you want to be well?” Instead of “of course”, Jesus heard a list of excuses why that would be impossible. Can you relate to that? Can you list all the reasons why what your heart longs for are impossible? Jesus simply said “stop talking and start walking.” He did. But this story warns of the danger to you, if God heals you before you are ready. The Palestine Preachers said “who told you to carry your bed on Sunday? We want to arrest him.” The man didn’t know, but saw Jesus later, who warned him “You are well. But sin not, lest a worse thing happen to you.” The man sinned, promptly identifying Jesus to the Palestine Preachers. Physical disability really is a natural consequence of spiritual disability, GENERALLY SPEAKING. It is dangerous to come to God only for the candy, when you are determined to keep Him a stranger.

Restoring the withered hand, Matt. 12:9–13; Mark 3:1–5; Luke 6:6–11.

Mark 3:1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. **2** And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. **3** And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, *Stand forth.* **4** And he saith unto them, *Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?* But they held their peace. **5** And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, *Stretch forth thine hand.* And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Palestine’s Preachers were waiting for this one. All eyes were on Jesus, whether He would heal on the Sabbath. Surely the man with the crippled hand felt eyes boring into his back as Jesus told him, “stand up in the middle of all these furrowed eyes.” Then Jesus made a statement to defend the rightness of helping people. The man heard it, understood Jesus would not have defended healing if there were no hostility towards it, and knew he was now the target of all this scrutiny. And yet when Jesus said again to him, “stretch out your hand which you have not been able to stretch out for years”, he chose to defy all church authority to accept God’s healing. Let us, today, listen to and believe the Word of God when it defies prevailing theology! Let us accept God’s healing!

Restores the centurion’s servant, Matt. 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10.

Mat 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, **6** And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. **7** And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.** **8** The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. **9** For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. **10** When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.** **11** **And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.** **12** **But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** **13** And Jesus said unto the centurion, **Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.** And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

In this amazing story, a Roman centurion – commander of 100 soldiers – sent Jewish Elders to Jesus to beg Jesus to say a word to heal his son. This is a reverse of the previous story of the nobleman who came to Jesus personally to ask Jesus to travel with him back to his town, to heal his son. Here, Jesus said, “I will go to him.” Apparently his house was in the same town. But before he got to the house, other messengers came and said the Centurion didn’t feel worthy to have Jesus come under his roof, but “just say the word”, and I know that if I have authority over men, so that I can order men around, you are enough greater than I to have authority over diseases. Jesus “marvelled”, the Bible says! Our marvelous God marvelled? Jesus said he had not found that much faith anywhere! Part of this story is the testimony of the intercessors. When you can get Jewish Elders to witness to the generosity of an occupying Roman Centurion in a political environment of legal hostility towards every healing of Jesus, that must have been a very generous man! Not that any man is virtuous enough to “deserve” healing, but when human intercessors feel convicted that a fellow human ought to have his prayer answered, God shows Himself the more willing to respond!

Stills the storm, Matt. 8:23–27; 14:32; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25. Walks on the sea, Matt. 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52; John 6:16–21.

Mat 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. **23** And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. **24** But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. **25** And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. **27** But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.** **28** And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. **29** And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. **31** And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?** **32** And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. **33** Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

My commentary on this is in my song, “On The Water”.

On the water I am walking because my Lord has bid me come
Got no money underneath me, to help me get my Lord’s will done.
I’m walking to my Lord. Walking to Him, is my reward.
I’m walking in His Word! With every step I’m closer home.

On the water, roars the thunder, the rain is splashing in my eyes
Unbelievers, whispering, they say I’ll never reach the prize.
My eyes turned from the Lord, from His promise, in His Word.
The laborers in His fields, seem to few to help me reap its yields
Boat’s behind me, on the water. I can’t just quit and climb back in.
I have come too far from safety, and now I’m sinking in my sin
I cried out to my Lord, “Come and save me!” And at my word
His hand reaches out to me! And rescues me from doubt’s rough sea!

Now the water all around me is smooth as glass, the boat is still!
I’m astonished, beyond all measure, that answered prayer could be God’s will!

My boldest, bravest prayers now seem likely! How vain my fears!

“Oh ye of little faith!” His sweet laughter wipes away my tears!

Casts devils out of two Gadarenes, Matt. 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39.

Luk 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. 27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. 29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, **What is thy name?** And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. 32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. 33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. 34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. 37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. 38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, **Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.** And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. 40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

These men were so wild that other men dared not go near them. They were possessed by a “legion” of devils. Yet they were able to “worship” Jesus, begging Him not to torment them. Jesus had no thought of tormenting either the men or the devils! He released the men from the bondage of the devils, and even answered the prayer of the devils! At least one of the men (the Mark and Luke stories only tell of one of the men) was so grateful that he wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus made him an evangelist to several cities. Lesson: God will come closer to you than any man will dare, for the violence of your thrashings, with no desire to torment but to save. What will you then do? Will you tell others?

Raises from the dead the daughter of Jairus, Matt. 9:18, 19, 23–26; Mark 5:22–24, 35–43; Luke 8:41, 42, 49–56.

Mat 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. 19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. ... 23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, 24 He said unto them, **Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth.** And they laughed him to scorn. 25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. 26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Coming to Jesus was costly to Jairus. Inviting Jesus *into his house* was costly to Jairus. He was a ruler of the synagogue, and the theological establishment in those days was very hostile to Jesus. Yet Jairus publicly came to Jesus.

Cures the woman with the issue of blood, Matt. 9:20–22; Mark 5:25–34; Luke 8:43–48.

Mar 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 my clothes?** 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, 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.

A woman with a chronic menstrual blood flow, who had exhausted her fortune on doctors in vain, secretly touched the hem of Jesus' talit (kind of a sacred Jewish poncho) and knew she was instantly cured. But why did Jesus make such a big deal out of making her confess publicly? Why did He pretend not to know who it was, and challenge the crowd to produce the person who touched Him, until she, trembling, stepped forward to confess? And why was she even afraid to confess? Maybe because what she did was illegal! She was "unclean", making it illegal for her to touch anybody. By exposing her, He cured not only her disease but her fear of stepping boldly into the presence of God. For the crowd, He cured them of a merciless attitude towards the down and out.

Restores two blind men to sight, Matt. 9:27–31.

Mat 9:27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. 31 But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.

These men followed Jesus, embarrassing everybody around by crying "Son of David, have mercy on us!" Jesus asked them a rhetorical question to further prepare their faith: "Do you believe I can do this?" They said yes, so He did. **Let us call upon God, and be blind to the crowds who are embarrassed that we believe God wants to help us!** He would not heal them outside, where the crowds could see, but ignoring their cries, stepped inside a house. He made them wait a while, until they were more desperate, enough to believe. It was rude to follow a man inside a house, and ruder to follow a great man inside a house, but they believed not only in Jesus' power but His mercy, so they followed Him inside, where Jesus cured them. Had their faith been weak, they might have supposed that Jesus retreated because He could not heal. Surely part of them wondered. So Jesus brought that doubt out in the open, demanding a yes or no answer: Do you still think I can heal you?

Jesus is not in a hurry to heal. He tested their commitment. He wanted them to really want it. They were blind! It was not that easy for them to chase Jesus around!

My music store rents instruments to parents for their children. Parents are not in a hurry to invest precious money into an instrument that may not be practiced. They take their time, testing the commitment of their children to take responsibility for what they are considering providing. The longer the child is delayed, the more the child is motivated to decide if he really wants it, enough to make a promise which, the delays prove, their parents are determined to hold them to.

Why does Jesus want us to want healing that much? Perhaps because a healing is no good if you won't keep it, just like a shiny new saxophone is no good if you won't practice and learn to play it. One keeps a healing by continuing to trust in God who heals; to trust God – to believe God, is to trust His commandments to be for our benefit – which will motivate us to obey them.

Are you ready to obey God? Can you believe God will heal your sickness, if in return you intend to ignore His path for you? I don't think so. So Jesus took His time, making them burn more and more bridges in their pursuit of healing, committing to obeying God. Had Jesus healed too quickly, before they were ready to face the responsibility of keeping their healing, perhaps they would have retreated into disobedience and sickness.

Exodus 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war; and they return to Egypt:

Deuteronomy 7:22 And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

Why did Jesus then tell the men not to tell others? People's New Testament observes: "Their changed condition would sufficiently tell the story without their indiscreet babbling." One unfortunate thing churches do today is freely proclaim miracles without bothering to verify whether there was actually a sickness before the "healing" which was gone after it, so that made up nonsense is proclaimed equally with bona fide miracles, leaving hearers no basis for distinguishing between the truth and lies, so no one takes them seriously. Could it

be that Jesus wanted the men to witness only to those who saw them blind in the past and asked them? But did not want them proclaiming to those who might legitimately question whether they had ever been blind? My theory has problems, but I see no theory free of problems.

Matthew Henry tries to understand Jesus' limit on witness:

The silencing of those who should proclaim the works of Christ is a judgment to any place or people: and it is just in Christ to deny the means of conviction to those that are obstinate in their infidelity; and to shroud the light from those that shut their eyes against it. (3.) He did it in discretion, for his own preservation; because the more he was proclaimed, the more jealous would the rulers of the Jews be of his growing interest among the people. (4.) Dr. Whitby gives another reason, which is very considerable, why Christ sometimes concealed his miracles, and afterwards forbid the publishing of his transfiguration; because he would not indulge that pernicious conceit which obtained among the Jews, that their Messiah should be a temporal prince, and so give occasion to the people to attempt the setting up of his kingdom, by tumults and seditions, as they offered to do, [Joh 6:15](#). But when, after his resurrection (which was the full proof of his mission), his spiritual kingdom was set up, then that danger was over, and they must be published to all nations. And he observes, that the miracles which Christ wrought among the Gentiles and the Gadarenes, were ordered to be published, because with them there was not that danger.

Heals a demoniac, Matt. 9:32, 33.

Matthew 9:32 As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. 33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

This man could not ask Jesus. He was helpless without intercessors. This is a metaphor of many today who are spiritually “dumb”, unable to ask God for themselves, who must be brought to God by others. (Not that God is impotent, but God likes to work through us, in order to motivate us to love each other.)

Heals the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, Matt. 15:21–28; Mark 7:24–30.

Mark 7:24 And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid. 25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter. 27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs. 28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. 29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter. 30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

Jesus really toyed with this woman! He ignored her pleas so long that the Disciples asked permission to get rid of her. Finally he told her He was only sent to Israel, not Canaan where she lived. What a blow! But she didn't give up. She continued pleading. Then He hit her harder: “It isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” What could account for such brutality from a Loving God? Could it be he articulated the fear within her own heart, and desired to heal her of it by articulating it so she could hear the sound of her own voice articulating why that accusation of Satan should not stand? And could then hear God affirming her answer? She didn't stay down! She rebounded with “but even the dogs lick up the crumbs that fall from the children's table”! Obviously her faith was now strong enough, and her humility had triumphed! Jesus gave her a compliment He had given only 2 or 3 others: “O woman, great is thy faith! Be it unto you as you desire!” Lesson: “1 Jn 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

Restores seizing child, Matt. 17:14–21; Mark 9:14–29; Luke 9:37–43.

s

The disciples had tried to cure the boy. They were ready to believe: afterwards they asked Jesus why they couldn't? Jesus said they lacked belief, but also said they lacked prayer and fasting, necessary to heal seizures. Jesus complained during this healing. He complained to the crowd, calling it a “faithless and perverse generation”. Just like a parent would complain about children whose own arguing is the reason they can't have the peace they want.

Restores ten lepers, Luke 17:11–19. 10 lepers shouted from their legal distance for mercy. Jesus told

them to go show their disease to the priests so they could be pronounced legally cured. On the way they were healed; only one came back to thank Jesus, and he was an Illegal Immigrant! (Or, their cultural equivalent.) God wonders at how little we thank Him for the many things He gives us!

Opens the eyes of a one born blind, John 9. Since sickness is GENERALLY caused by sin, the Disciples asked Jesus who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was BORN blind? In other words, did he sin in the womb? Jesus answered that this time, blindness was not the result of sin, but was arranged to glorify God. Presumably the blind man heard all this. Next thing the blind man heard was Jesus spitting at the ground. He probably heard his robe moving as Jesus stooped down, and maybe heard a stick breaking off to stir the spit into clay. Next thing there was all this gooey mud being smeared on the front of his face! Yuk! Then the words “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.” Not, “let me lead you there.” Not everyone would have endured all that! But the man went, and saw. And then the Palestine Preachers jumped on him for making clay on the Sabbath! The man defended Jesus so valiantly that they excommunicated him! Jesus found him afterwards and encouraged him, and called the preachers “blind”.

“Thy faith hath made thee whole”

Does one’s faith actually have power to heal physical sickness? That’s what the KJV appears to say:

Matthew 9:22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Mat 9:29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

Mark 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Luke 8:48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

Luke 17:19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

It turns out that “made thee whole” translates a single Greek word in each of these verses. The Greek word is σεσωκεν and it means “save”. Used 110 times in the NT, it is translated “save” 93 times, “make whole” 9 times, “heal” 3 times. It is the verb form of “salvation”. Jesus is not saying that faith healed the body, but far more: that it saved the soul!

As a couple of passages above show, physical and spiritual sickness is linked. Here’s another verse: **Jas 5:15** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Not that one saves oneself, all by oneself, any more than a drowning man can save himself by reaching out his hand, all by himself. But if he reaches out for a life preserver which has been thrown him, we say of him that reaching out his hand is what saved him. By that we mean that had he not reached out, he would be dead. No one thinks “reaching out your hand is what saved you” means that reaching out saved him all by itself, without the need of a life preserver. Likewise, Jesus obviously does not mean any of these people saved themselves, all by themselves, just by their faith. The people themselves would have mocked such an idea, since their faith was emphatically in Jesus!

Part 3: list of all the miracles in the Bible

MIRACLES.

Index of Sub-topics: CATALOG OF, AND SUPERNATURAL EVENTS, Of Jesus, in Chronological Order, Of the Disciples of Jesus; CONVINCING EFFECT OF; DESIGN OF; MIRACULOUS GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; MISCELLANY OF MINOR SUB-TOPICS.

Catalog of, and Supernatural Events: Creation, Gen. 1. Flood, Gen. 7; 8. Confusion of tongues, Gen. 11:1–9. Fire on Abraham’s sacrifice, Gen. 15:17. Conception of Isaac, Gen. 17:17; 18:12; 21:2. Destruction of Sodom, Gen. 19. Lot’s wife turned to salt, Gen. 19:26. Closing of the wombs of Abimelech’s household, Gen. 20:17, 18. Opening of Hagar’s eyes, Gen. 21:19. Conception of Jacob and Esau, Gen. 25:21. Opening of Rachel’s womb, Gen. 30:22. Flaming bush, Ex. 3:2. Transformation of Moses’s rod into a serpent, Ex. 4:3, 4, 30; 7:10, 12. Moses’s leprosy, Ex. 4:6, 7, 30. Plagues in Egypt, see **PLAGUES**. Pillar of cloud and fire, Ex. 13:21,

22; 14:19, 20. Passage of the Red Sea, Ex. 14:22. Destruction of Pharaoh and his army, Ex. 14:23–30. **Sweetening the waters of Marah, Ex. 15:25.** Manna, Ex. 16:4–31. Quails, Ex. 16:13. **Defeat of Amalek, Ex. 17:9–13.** Transfiguration of the face of Moses, Ex. 34:29–35. Water from the rock, Ex. 17:5, 7. Thundering and lightning on Sinai, Ex. 19:16–20; 24:10, 15–17; Deut. 4:33. **Miriam's leprosy, Num. 12:10–15. Judgment by fire, Num. 11:1–3.** Destruction of Korah, Num. 16:31–35; Deut. 11:6, 7. Plague, Num. 16:46–50. Aaron's rod buds, Num. 17:1–9. Waters from the rock in Kadesh, Num. 20:8–11. Scourge of serpents, Num. 21:6–9. Destruction of Nadab and Abihu, Lev. 10:1, 2. Balaam's donkey speaks, Num. 22:23–30. Preservation of Moses, Deut. 34:7. Jordan divided, Josh. 3:14–17; 4:16–18. Fall of Jericho, Josh. 6:20. Midianites destroyed, Judg. 7:16–22. Hail on the confederated kings, Josh. 10:11. Sun and moon stand still, Josh. 10:12–14. Dew on Gideon's fleece, Judg. 6:37–40. Samson's strength, Judg. 14:6; 16:3, 29, 30. Samson supplied with water, Judg. 15:19. Fall of Dagon, 1 Sam. 5:1–4. Cows return the ark, 1 Sam. 6:7–14. Hemorrhoids, 1 Sam. 5:9–12; 6:1–18. Destruction of the people of Beth-shemesh, 1 Sam. 6:19, 20. Thunder, 1 Sam. 12:16–18. Destruction of Uzzah, 2 Sam. 6:1–8. Plague in Israel, 1 Chr. 21:14–26. Fire on the sacrifices of Aaron, Lev. 9:24; of Gideon, Judg. 6:21; of Manoah, Judg. 13:19, 20; of Solomon, 2 Chr. 7:1; of Elijah, 1 Kin. 18:38. Jeroboam's hand withered, 1 Kin. 13:3–6. Appearance of blood, 2 Kin. 3:20–22. Panic of the Syrians, 2 Kin. 7:6, 7. Elijah is fed by ravens, 1 Kin. 17:6; by an angel, 1 Kin. 19:1–8; increases the widow's meal and oil, 1 Kin. 17:9–16; Luke 4:26; raises the widow's son, 1 Kin. 17:17–24. Rain in answer to Elijah's prayer, 1 Kin. 18:41–45. Elijah brings fire on Ahaziah's army, 2 Kin. 1:10–12; divides Jordan, 2 Kin. 2:8. Elijah's translation, 2 Kin. 2:11. Elisha divides Jordan, 2 Kin. 2:14; sweetens the waters of Jericho, 2 Kin. 2:19–22; increases a widow's oil, 2 Kin. 4:1–7; raises the Shunammite's child, 2 Kin. 4:18–37; renders harmless the poisoned pottage, 2 Kin. 4:38–41; feeds one hundred men, 2 Kin. 4:42–44; cures Naaman, 2 Kin. 5:1–19; struck Gehazi with leprosy, 2 Kin. 5:26, 27; causes the ax to float, 2 Kin. 6:6; reveals the counsel of the king of Syria, 2 Kin. 6:12; causes the eyes of his servant to be opened, 2 Kin. 6:17; strikes with blindness the army of the king of Syria, 2 Kin. 6:18; the dead restored to life, 2 Kin. 13:21. Destruction of Sennacherib's army, 2 Kin. 19:35; Isa. 37:36; return of the shadow on the sun dial, 2 Kin. 20:9–11; Hezekiah's cure, Isa. 38:21; deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, Dan. 3:23–27; of Daniel, Dan. 6:22; the sea calmed on Jonah being cast into it, Jonah 1:15; Jonah in the fish's belly, Jonah 1:17; 2:10; his gourd, Jonah 4:6, 7. Conception by Elisabeth, Luke 1:18, 24, 25; The incarnation of Jesus, Matt. 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–80. The appearance of the star of Bethlehem, Matt. 2:1–9. The deliverance of Jesus, Matt. 2:13–23.

Of Jesus, in Chronological Order: Water made wine, John 2:1–11. Heals the nobleman's son, John 4:46–54. Draught of fishes, Luke 5:1–11. Heals the demoniac, Mark 1:23–26; Luke 4:33–36. Heals Peter's mother-in-law, Matt. 8:14–17; Mark 1:29–31; Luke 4:38, 39. Cleanses the leper, Matt. 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16. Heals the paralytic, Matt. 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:17–26. Healing of the invalid, John 5:1–16. Restoring the withered hand, Matt. 12:9–13; Mark 3:1–5; Luke 6:6–11. Restores the centurion's servant, Matt. 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10. Raises the widow's son to life, Luke 7:11–16. Heals a demoniac, Matt. 12:22–37; Mark 3:11; Luke 11:14, 15. Stills the storm, Matt. 8:23–27; 14:32; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25. Casts devils out of two Gadarenes, Matt. 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39. Raises from the dead the daughter of Jairus, Matt. 9:18, 19, 23–26; Mark 5:22–24, 35–43; Luke 8:41, 42, 49–56. Cures the woman with the issue of blood, Matt. 9:20–22; Mark 5:25–34; Luke 8:43–48. Restores two blind men to sight, Matt. 9:27–31. Heals a demoniac, Matt. 9:32, 33. Feeds five thousand people, Matt. 14:15–21; Mark 6:35–44; Luke 9:12–17; John 6:5–14. Walks on the sea, Matt. 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52; John 6:16–21. Heals the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, Matt. 15:21–28; Mark 7:24–30. Feeds four thousand people, Matt. 15:32–39; Mark 8:1–9. Restores one deaf and mute, Mark 7:31–37. Restores a blind man, Mark 8:22–26. Restores seizing child, Matt. 17:14–21; Mark 9:14–29; Luke 9:37–43. Tribute money obtained from a fish's mouth, Matt. 17:24–27. Restores ten lepers, Luke 17:11–19. Opens the eyes of a one born blind, John 9. Raises Lazarus from the dead, John 11:1–46. Heals the woman with the spirit of infirmity, Luke 13:10–17. Cures a one with dropsy, Luke 14:1–6. Restores two blind men near Jericho, Matt. 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43. Curses a fig tree, Matt. 21:17–22; Mark 11:12–14, 20–24. Heals the ear of Malchus, Luke 22:49–51. Second draught of fishes, John 21:6.

Of the Disciples of Jesus: By the seventy, Luke 10:17–20; by other disciples, Mark 9:39; John 14:12; by

the apostles, Acts 3:6, 12, 13, 16; 4:10, 30; 9:34, 35; 16:18. Peter cures the sick, Acts 5:15, 16; Aeneas, Acts 9:34; raises Dorcas, Acts 9:40; causes the death of Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:5, 10. Peter and John cure a lame man, Acts 3:2–11. Peter and other apostles delivered from prison, Acts 5:19–23; 12:6–11; 16:26. Philip carried away by the Spirit, Acts 8:39. Paul strikes Elymas with blindness, Acts 13:11; heals a cripple, Acts 14:10; casts out evil spirits, and cures sick, Acts 16:18; 19:11, 12; 28:8, 9; raises Eutychus to life, Acts 20:9–12; shakes a viper off his hand, Acts 28:5. Paul cured of blindness, Acts 9:3–6, 17, 18.

Convincing Effect of: Ex. 4:28–31; Ex. 10:7, 16, 17; Ex. 12:31–33; Ex. 14:25, 31; Judg. 6:17–22, 36–40; Judg. 7:1; Dan. 3:28, 29; Dan. 4:2, 3; Luke 5:4–11; John 2:11, 22, 23; John 4:48–53; John 7:31; John 11:43–45; John 12:10, 11; John 20:30, 31; Acts 8:6; Acts 9:32–42; Acts 13:8–12; Acts 19:13–18; Rom. 15:18, 19 See below, DESIGN OF.

Design of: Ex. 3:19, 20; Ex. 4:2–9; Ex. 7:5, 17; Ex. 8:8–10, 22; Ex. 9:14–16, 29; Ex. 10:1, 2, 16, 17; Ex. 11:1, 7–9; Ex. 12:29–33; Ex. 14:4, 18, 24, 25, 31; Ex. 16:4–6; Ex. 19:4, 5, 9; Num. 14:11; Num. 16:28–35; Num. 17:1–13; Deut. 4:33–35; Deut. 11:1–3 [Deut. 29:1–9.] Deut. 11:4–8; Deut. 29:5, 6; Josh. 2:9–11; Josh. 3:10, 11; Josh. 4:23, 24; Josh. 5:1; Judg. 2:7; 1 Sam. 6:6–9 vs. 10–18.; 1 Sam. 12:17, 18; 1 Kin. 18:24, 37–39; 2 Kin. 5:14, 15; 2 Chr. 7:1–3; Psa. 78:10–32; Psa. 106:9–12; Jer. 32:20; Dan. 2:47; Dan. 3:28, 29; Dan. 6:20–27; Jonah 1:14–16; Zech. 2:9; Matt. 4:3 Luke 4:3, 6. Matt. 11:3–5; Mark 2:9–12 Luke 5:26. Luke 18:42, 43; John 2:11; John 4:48; John 5:36; John 9:3; John 11:4, 40–42; Acts 2:22; Acts 3:1–10; Acts 4:21, 22; 1 Cor. 1:22

Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Foretold, Isa. 35:4–6; Joel 2:28, 29. Of different kinds, 1 Cor. 12:4–6. Enumerated, 1 Cor. 12:8–10, 28. Christ was endued with, Matt. 12:28. Poured out on Pentecost, Acts 2:1–4. Communicated on preaching the gospel, Acts 10:44–46; by laying on of the apostles' hands, Acts 8:17, 18; 19:6; for the confirmation of the gospel, Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3; Rom. 15:19; Heb. 2:4; for the edification of the church, 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12, 13. To be sought after, 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1. Temporary nature of, 1 Cor. 13:8. Not to be neglected, 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; or despised, 1 Thess. 5:20; or purchased, Acts 8:20.

Miscellany of Minor Sub-Topics: Called MARVELOUS THINGS, Psa. 78:12; MARVELOUS WORKS, Isa. 29:14; Psa. 105:5; SIGNS AND WONDERS, Jer. 32:21; John 4:48; 2 Cor. 12:12. Performed through the power of God, John 3:2; Acts 14:3; 15:12; 19:11; of the Holy Spirit, Matt. 12:28; Rom. 15:19; 1 Cor. 12:9, 10, 28, 30; in the name of Christ, Mark 16:17; Acts 3:16; 4:30. Faith required in those who perform, Matt. 17:20; 21:21; John 14:12; Acts 3:16; 6:8. Faith required in those for whom they were performed, Matt. 9:28; Mark 9:22–24; Acts 14:9. Power to work, given the disciples, Mark 3:14, 15; 16:17, 18, 20. Demanded by unbelievers, Matt. 12:38, 39; 16:1; Luke 11:16, 29; 23:8. Alleged miracles performed by magicians, Ex. 7:10–12, 22; 8:7; by other impostors, Matt. 7:22. Performed through the powers of evil, 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:14. Wrought in support of false religions, Deut. 13:1, 2; by false christians, Matt. 24:24; by false prophets, Matt. 24:24; Rev. 19:20; by the Witch of En-dor, 1 Sam. 28:7–14; Simon Magus, Acts 8:9–11. Not to be regarded, Deut. 13:3. Deceive the ungodly, 2 Thess. 2:10–12; Rev. 13:14; 19:20. A mark of apostasy, 2 Thess. 2:3, 9; Rev. 13:13. Swanson, J., & Nave, O. (1994). *New Nave's*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

Part 4: Responses from Friends

(With personal email addresses and last names removed, except for just a few who I figure wouldn't mind the advertisement. Color code: **Scriptures** are in red, **commentary** on Scriptures are in blue, non-medical **cancer treatment** claims are in green.)

From: [Dan H](#)

To: [Dave](#)

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 10:11 AM

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Dave & Dorothy,

Isaiah 43:26 Put ME in remembrance; Let us plead together; declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."

He wants us to lay our problems before Him. He says to plead our case, to remind Him of what He has said,, to set forth our cause, to state our case that we may be justified. So whatever it is that you're praying for, find scriptures that cover your case and lay the matter before God. Remind Him of whaty He has said in His Work that's what he told us to do. It isn't God's will for any believer to die early. God wants us to enjoy LONG LIFE. Dorothy is not an old lady."With LONG LIFE will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." Psalms 91:16

So I rebuke the eenemy in the Name of Jesus, Father God, You promised us long life.

Ephesians 6:18 says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication IN THE SPIRIT and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for allj saints."

John 15:7 If ye abide in me (Jesus), and MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU " You is in that verse 5 times.

Psalms 23:6 "...goodness and mercy ahalll follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Phiilippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jessus."

Take a walk David, and pray in the Spirit while you are walking. Dan is ready for our home church. We will pray for Dorothy

Love Donna

From: [Janeen M](#)

To: [Dave](#)

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 11:09 AM

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Dave,

God is Love. see John.

No matter the human circumstance, God issee Job

God loves us collectively and individually.

and remember the verse BE NOT AFRAID FOR I GO WITH YOU.

May the Love of God the father come to your own consciousness and the steady calm of trust, faith and strength fill you at this time.

It is also good to dwell on every good thing so that those around you know that in God's Goodness there is peace, strength and understanding....

Janeen

From: John&Darcey S

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 11:10 AM

Subject: strength

Dave, we pray for thy will.

John, Darcey, Ross, & Roy

GOD SPEED!!

From: matt R

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 4:11 PM

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Hey Dave, We will pray too. Matt & family

From: Dick B

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 4:41 PM
Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer
we are praying - Dick

From: Michael Bray
To: Dave Leach
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 11:46 AM
Subject: [S]Prayer and healing

My summary of the matter is this: The faith that some have for a particular healing - even a miraculous intervention by God - is given by God at times to *precede* the healing for His demonstrative purposes. But when such a proclamation for healing is made by the one with the faith, the matter rests upon the one proclaiming the faith for the healing, not upon the sick victim. If the healing does not occur, the "failure" is with the one who thought he had in confidence a word from God on the matter.

We continue to make earnest requests for God, calling upon His goodness, mercy, and power.
MBray

From: Dave
To: Michael Bray
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 12:39 PM
Subject: Re: [S]Prayer and healing

That's the way I perceive it, with the amendment that the sick person at least needs enough faith to not be made anxious by the boldness of the prayer.

Dave

From: Dorothy Leach
To: Joy C
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 7:37 PM
Subject: Fw: cancer

Hi Joy,

Linda Lee suggested I contact you since you've already gone through what I'm facing now. And you did it without chemo!

I'm scheduled for a mastectomy and also removal of additional lump under the arm next Fri, March 6. I'm told that with a mastectomy vs. lumpectomy I shouldn't need radiation, but chemo would be determined by what they find in testing the nodes.(and from talking to others it seems like most everyone gets chemo)

Even tho one lady told me not to be afraid of the chemo, it still sounds terribly creepy to me. I met her through a Bible College graduation ceremony that I played for last week, and she invited me to her home for coffee when she learned about my situation so she could share her experience. She said she had it and they have a drug called adovan -- or something like that --- that put in right with the chemo and it simply made her sleep a lot for a day or 2 and she didn't get sick. She says it's not bad at all. But she did lose her hair. She's a wonderful Christian and wonderful musician; but she also thought that drug used with the chemo was wonderful. Not everyone agrees with her. But I am finding that oodles of people have advice for me, which I obviously can't use. One said to go on a 3-day water fast and it will be cured. Just didn't see how that could work. Another said eat asparagus every day, and on and on they went.

Linda tells me you did the surgery and supplements instead of the chemo and everything is going well for you. I've already tried a 3 week diet that was supposed to "cure all cancer", but of course it didn't work. The 2nd biopsy showed it still there.

Are you still being checked from time to time to see if it has shown up again anywhere?

Anything you can share about your experience I'd be happy to hear.

My husband, Dave, and others are still praying that God might take away the lump yet this week, so another biopsy could show the Drs. that God can heal without their assistance. But if God chose to use the surgery to heal, that would be ok, too.

Anxious to hear from you.

Love in Christ,
Dorothy Leach

David W

Thu, 12 Feb 2009

Dave, We are sorry for your wife's cancer. We wish and pray only for wife's recovery and a long life.

You and your wife are not the only ones that we know who are struggling with this disease. My cousin is in remission and several friends are also in remission. A few have the disease and have progressed beyond the treatment that is available. Our daughter in law who is the daughter of a minister and a Christian of deep belief also has the disease and is currently in remission after surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. She has raised and home schooled four Christian children and adopted a Chinese orphan. She has seen her eldest graduate from a Christian college and choose a ministry of music. It is her prayer and her mission that she will become a good Christian grandmother to all of her children. She believes and we agree that the medical treatments that are available to you and to her are also gifts from God that have been revealed to those who seek his will and wisdom. We are fortunate to live in a time when these gifts are available to us. If you wish, we will put you in touch with her by E-mail (she lives in Rochester, NY) if you would like to join her prayer group.

The decision to seek treatment that is available to her or to seek a cure through prayer and God's will is a choice that you and she must make according to your own beliefs.

Kay and I wish the very best for you and your wife and you both will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Dave and Kay Williams

John S

GOD Speed Dave!! John, Darcey, Ross, & Roy S

Randy C (doesn't believe in God, but is kind hearted)

Dave and Dorothy,

We are on the road now in Peoria, so I can't give you a full answer yet to your challenging situation.

Briefly: regardless of whether God exists or not, good things and bad things happen in life. I don't have to tell you about Job, or a thousand lesser known examples. Regardless of whether people believe in God or not, we all have different kinds of luck, and it comes in two basic types. No matter what we do or don't do, we all die eventually including you and me, and we often have close calls along the way. There are several types of breast cancer, and regardless of what doctors do or don't do, some people can't be cured and other people self-cure (or get a cure from God) regardless of what they do or don't do. So, don't follow the natural instinct to worry (too much) because worrying won't change how the pathways of life develop.

There's no way for anybody to know what the right path is to follow, but on average most people have the best luck (in breast cancer cases) with a combination of surgery and/or chemotherapy and/or radiation. We are all made of millions of cells, and when one of them gets out of control it turns into cancer. This happens to anybody who survives long enough to not get some other disease first, kind of like a car will eventually wear out no matter what. But, many repairs can be made along the way and so hopefully Dorothy can be "repaired" and keep going down the road of life for many years to come. Don't blame yourself for anything. **In this kind of situation, it's hard to make a fool of yourself.** But, **if you are afraid of any such thing I can look at what you write before you send it all over the place.** I don't have my own computer, so I can check for e-mails only when I can get to the library. Therefore, if you don't hear from me promptly it's only because I can't get to the library. Good luck, and I am sure that if there is a God Dorothy will be well taken care of, **especially in any after-life there may be.**

Rooting for you, Randy Crawford

From: [Randy Crawford](#)

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 1:49 AM

Subject: RE: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Dave,

[I happened to be on the computer late, and caught your e-mail almost as soon as it came in. If you e-mail sometime and don't hear anything back from me for several days or a week, it's only because I get to the library where the computer is only rarely and unpredictably]

If there is a God, then why would you doubt the wisdom of God's decisions with all your questions? If there is no God, then what importance would any religious interpretations have? If there is a God, isn't this life merely a test in preparation for the more important life in the next world? If there is no God, doesn't it mean there is no afterlife and we all must do the best we can with what there is in this world?

I hope you don't over-torment yourself with endless philosophizing. It seems to me that for any life-and-death situation the few questions I just stated are the central ones. They amount to basically: if there is a God, it's all out of your hands. If there is no God, it's in your hands to the extent you or the doctors have technical/scientific control, and otherwise it's all out of your hands.

Basically, I hope you can minimize your worrying and not rack yourself with anxiety, because worry makes you suffer needlessly and doesn't do Dorothy any good. Worry is a basic animal instinct, so if you rise above it either with religious education or scientific education, hopefully you can find some peace.

Rooting for you and Dorothy and for good luck,
Randy C

To: randy C

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Date: Sun, 22 Feb 2009 18:03:39 -0600

Thank you for your precise questions, which are such a great foundation for a precise answer. These are not questions which only atheists think of; many Christians, likewise, would agree they make a good case not to pray so much.

You ask well, "If there is a God, then why would you doubt the wisdom of God's decisions with all your questions?" In other words, "God, you can do everything! What is left for me to do that you cannot already do just by thinking about it? The closest to anything of value left for me to do is just sit back and do nothing but meditate on your glory!"

Makes sense, right? Logical, right? But Jesus said that is the way to Hell! See if you can figure out why, as you read His astonishing warning: (The scenario: a "talent" is a unit of weight for measuring silver or gold, over 90 pounds. It is about enough money to open a branch bank. Perhaps because of the application of this parable in which this word is used, it has been generalized to mean any capacity that we have.)

Mat 25:14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents.17 And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two.18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is thine*.26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*27 *Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.*28 Take therefore

the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents.²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.³⁰ **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The statement that men can actually contribute to God's wealth sounds heretical, doesn't it? Logic would certainly not require such a strange conclusion! Yet Jesus could not more plainly declare it. Jesus often urges us to understand God by meditating on the parent-child relationship. As a parent, I still treasure the crayola "I love you"s from my children from back when they thought Daddy was the coolest thing since ice cubes. To this day I take delight in what my children create. I like what they have contributed to the world, more than I could have created. Perhaps that is part of what Jesus meant, but I sense Jesus meant more than that.

One reason it is hard to visualize what of value we can do for God which God can't do just by blinking, is that we are accustomed to doing so little, compared with what Jesus invites us to do. Jesus invites us to move mountains! Instead we struggle with anthills.

But Jesus not only invites us to move mountains, but to move them with these mortal bodies we have now. We don't even get to wait until we get cool glorified bodies! Our time is now!

Therefore, our mission is not to question God's Wisdom and Love to do for us what is best for us, but it is to create. It is to take the raw materials God has given us, and create good. Create requires choice. So we are to make choices which God might not have made! Good choices! Not that such choices were beyond God's capacity, but just as children choose good directions to grow which their parents might not have anticipated but are thrilled to support, even so God wants us to choose good ways to serve which God is thrilled to enable!

Whether we are praying for cancer, or for revival, we have the opportunity to create good.

You asked, "**If there is a God, isn't this life merely a test in preparation for the more important life in the next world?**" Surely you have heard this from a great many Christians. To whatever extent it may be true, don't you see the wisdom of passing that test by following God's instructions in this world?

It is true that "the fashion of this world passeth away", 1 Cor 7:31. 1 Jn 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

It is not true that the sins of this world are unimportant to God. God cares as much as you do about the unborn babies you struggle to deliver from slaughter, and uses human response to your messages to gauge whether people are going to be comfortable in Heaven where they will not be allowed to slaughter anybody.

1 Corinthians 13 explains that when we live in our glorified bodies, even knowledge (Noah Webster: "Human knowledge is very limited, and is mostly gained by observation and experience") and languages will be superceded by our resources there. But Love "endureth forever". In other words, language and knowledge are temporary tools we need only here, but the love we develop here will stay with us forever.

Think of it as graduating from high school to life. Is what you did in school unimportant? God did His most important work in this world: on the cross, an action which, even in Heaven, will be the reason angels will praise Jesus! Rev 5:12-13.

You write: "if there is a God, it's all out of your hands. If there is no God, it's in your hands to the extent you or the doctors have technical/scientific control, and otherwise it's all out of your hands. Basically, **I hope you can minimize your worrying** and not rack yourself with anxiety, because worry makes you suffer needlessly and doesn't do Dorothy any good. **Worry is a basic animal instinct**, so if you rise above it either with religious education or scientific education, hopefully you can find some peace."

What makes you think I'm worried? How much more joyful can I be, than to know God is about to heal my wife's cancer? But I sure am glad I do trust God, because I don't know what more potent prescription for worry is, than what you just prescribed!

"It's all out of my hands", is supposed to *take away* my anxiety??!

There *is* a God, and He loves you and me so much that He *has* put "it" IN OUR HANDS! He wants us to create, alongside Him!

From: [Randy C](#)

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:38 PM

Subject: RE: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

It sounds as if you are saying the greater the [sincere] effort, the greater the merit earned along the way. Kind of like the stone money of Yap isn't valued according to the size of the stone, but rather according to the difficulty of acquiring the stone and bringing it to their version of a treasury on the beach. This would mean for instance that martyrdom resulting from crucifixion would confer greater merit than martyrdom from being guillotined, and the fellow who merely dies in bed (without previous achievements or efforts) would be lower on the totem pole all other things being equal.

If you know God is about to heal Dorothy's cancer, why are you concerned with her minute by minute ups and downs? It may be that whatever happens is kind of like what Job was put through (?) Whether there is a designer or not and whether you are being put through a designed test or not, we all live a while and die eventually. So, how do you know whether this is Dorothy's time or not, and when your time or anyone else's will come? Last I knew, for big events no one will know ahead of time "the day or the hour." --END-- Randy Crawford

To: randy c
Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer
Date: Wed, 25 Feb 2009 14:00:59 -0600

I have no idea what your first paragraph is all about, or how it relates to anything I ever wrote or thought. As for the 2nd, why be concerned about anything at all then, if we are not to be concerned with our daily challenges? Job's test was for a reason which the Scriptures explain. Obviously, if you were right that prayer does not enable us to accomplish anything other than through our own strength, you would be right to ridicule my obsession to understand how to pray effectively.

Dave

From: [Randy C](#)
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 6:39 AM
Subject: RE: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

You appear to be saying the effort made is part of what the "test" is all about. The second paragraph isn't about passivity, it's about trying to understand the specifics asked. This is not ridicule-- I'm trying to understand what you are saying. For instance in the latest example: how do you know your prayer is effective? Why do you call your efforts an obsession? If God knows in advance what will happen, and if your praying is of your free will, how can your prayers modify what God has already pre-ordained? --end-- Randy Crawford

From: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
To: randy c
Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer
Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2009 10:53:55 -0600

I know whether my prayer is effective by the same means you have for knowing whether my prayer is effective: observation. Right now my Bible study on healing borders on obsession because of the urgency. Surgery is scheduled for a week from Friday; the lump has to disappear before then. Predestination is a minority view within Christianity. Normally if there is a minority view, I hold it, but not in this case. My Bible study of it, which has some funny moments, is at www.Saltshaker.US, click on Bible Study. Therefore, my understanding of Scripture is that God invites us, pleads with us, to pray creatively, at which time He will enable our prayers just as happily as a parent will enable his child to pursue his dream career which the child, not the parent, has chosen.

Dave

[Editorial note by Dave: I was rash to interpret Randy's questions as ridicule. Ridicule is not in his nature. He is very analytical. His were sincere questions.]

From Randy: Thanks, that explains it. Good luck in your prayers. Randy C

Dallas Kn

I believe God is the God of Miracles! I'm forwarding this to my friend/cousin who has researched cancer and **home type remedies**. Her name is Crystal (Wiechmann) Garrison if she responds so you don't delete her. Danielle

From: [Dallas Kn](#)

To: [Dave](#)

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 7:43 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dave,

Have you ever heard of [Andrew Wommack](#)? He is so into God's healing. I have listened to his cd set entitled [You've Already Got It](#) many times. www.awmi.net You may even be able to listen to it on-line. Not sure. Also, James 5:13-18 is another are in the Bible speaking of effective prayer.

Danielle

FROM: Kathi B

We certainly offer prayers for Dorothy to God . She has been added to the list of cancer victims, alcoholics, drug addicts and other afflicted loved ones that Tom and I pray for.

In my prayers I always ask for wisdom of the Doctor's and healing for the sick. I always preface my prayers with "God's will be done not mine. " Are you asking for your will to be done not His?

A friend prayed her children would not continue to attend a Church that was works oriented. God answered by giving the pastor of that Church the wisdom of grace. He totally turned around his thinking and publicly announced his error and led many to the right path. God did not answer her prayer quite the way she asked it to be answered. Be careful.

What is God's will? That we believe in him and accept his free gift of salvation and live like son's and daughters in the room he prepares in advance for us after we die and join him. Heaven forever.

Often God may use the worldly unfortunate people and frail among us to expose his blessing to others. Dorothy's possible surgery may be used to do just that.

David, you are looking at things from human eyes not God's.

Rejoice in all circumstance, even pain and suffering. It is not about feelings David. **I am not bad because my child died.** God had a purpose in it that I don't understand. Lean on him and not your own understanding. **No whining and why me pity parties.**

Pray to his glory and let him use Dorothy to his glory.

Where were you when God created the moon and stars God asked Job when he asked why he suffered?.

Feel free to argue with God...one man in the Bible did so and lived. In the end though, check your reasons.

What matters a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

Give Dorothy a hug for us. We will pray for miracle if it is God's will.

Kathi B

FROMDave

Reply to Kathi B:

The last thing I want anyone to feel is that if God answers my prayer when He didn't theirs, that they are "bad" compared to me. My own father died of cancer 14 years ago despite my prayers of faith. My faith was under attack from every quarter, people insisting I insert escape clauses in my prayers, as you now insist. Especially my brother and my dad's pastor. As nearly as I can tell, "**the prayer of faith**" that "**shall**" save the sick, **James 5:15**, or a prayer "**without wavering**", **James 1:6**, and an escape clause, are logically incompatible.

Only these times did the sick insert this escape clause: **Mark 1:40**, **Luke 5:12**, **Mt 8:2**, **John 11:22**. It was always Jesus' Will, although He often "played" with people to prepare their faith. In the rest of the cases, no escape clause was offered, and none was ever advised.

I see that when I emailed you, my link to my study was incorrect. It is repaired now. It is my analysis of dozens of passages, looking for lessons for us, what God needs from us before He is ready to move.

Dave

From: [Kathi B](#)

To: [Dave](#)

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:02 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dave,

Sorry to hear the results, but have faith. God has a purpose in all this. Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.

I would suggest that the words " Jesus "playing" with his followers"(previous email) and the statement that we(fellow believers) are suggesting an "escape clause" are offensive.

Jesus did not "play" with anyone, as God did not "play" with Job. His purpose was to instruct us. He had serious teaching to do in a short amount of time. He taught us to pray "Thy will be done on heaven and on earth".

We are reviewing the James passages now. But I do not believe other scriptures support your interpretation. Blessed are those who believe and yet have not touched Jesus' wounds.

Pray for a miracle? Absolutely! Argue and plead. Don't be surprised if he answers yes...or waitor no.....

But in all things God works for the good in those who love him.

We are praying for you and Dorothy.

God give us joy and peace!

From: [Dave](#)

To: [kathi b](#)

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 12:39 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Hi! I wonder if you have looked at my Bible study yet at

www.Saltshaker.US/BibleStudies/Rules4Miracles.pdf? There is where I review the miracles which show Jesus "playing" with people to build their faith. If you can think of a more respectful word for what Jesus does, I would appreciate it.

Since Jesus was "offensive" when He told the truth, I need to ask if you think referring to "if it be thy will" as an "escape clause" is not only "offensive", but not true? It is how I was taught to think, and how I thought, for decades. I certainly experienced it as an escape clause, in my own thinking.

Roxanne G

Dear Dave and Dorothy,

I agree with you that as [we are dependant on the Savior's grace](#) we should expect miracles in our lives. I will continue to pray for Dorothy's deliverance from cancer!

Love, Roxanne G

Levi L

Dave, I believe that God will answer your prayers and mine. I will hold Dorothy in my thoughts- that she may become healed.

Take Care, Levi L

Dear Dave: Danielle Knutson sent me the writing from your desk saying that your wife has cancer and that you are willing to stand on God's Word for healing for her. That is faith.

I am Danielle's cousin. I have gone through many health challenges, resisting the medical community and standing on Rev. 22:2 that the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.

I was diagnosed with ALS 3 years ago. Came on suddenly. Lou Gehrigs is another name for it. It is a slow death

of degeneration, quite ugly for the person who has it and even more painful for the primary caregiver(s). Well, I am well. No further degeneration and actually am stronger since the diagnosis. I am 54.

For the past 10 years I have immersed myself in studying health (ease) vs. ill health (dis-ease). My goal is to find affordable, natural, simple, effective healing. I am getting close. Until one has had a major challenge they are really not in a position to advise unless they are research crazy and not money driven. This is a hard combination to find.

Would love to discourse with you. I believe in healing. The verse that has me challenged is where it says in Mark that we should speak to the mountain (problem) and it will be cast into the sea. **We rather speak to God about the problem instead of speaking to the problem about God. The flip side of speaking to the problem (cancer be gone!) is doing this without any doubt. It is not how much faith we have that heals. The key is NO, NONE, NADA Doubt! That is why if we have faith the size of a mustard seed we will be healed. Well, just a little faith with no doubt is better than lots of faith neutralized by doubt.** I give credit to Andrew Wommack for this teaching.

He is out of Colorado Springs. His CD series I listen to over and again is You've Already Got It! www.awmi.net/extra/audio - 80k

Here is the Amazon link. http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=wommack+andrew&tag=googhydr-20&index=stripbooks&hvadid=1154517521&ref=pd_sl_mftn1ceoq_b

Google: Iodine deficiency breast cancer for a start ;-)

Hope to hear from you.

Don't give in and don't give up!

Crystal G

www.healrachel.com

From: Crystal G

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:59 AM

Subject: faith vs. doubt

Dave:

How much doubt do you have? If any is present, faith is neutralized.

Sincere faith with sincere doubt is doublemindedness and the doubleminded receive nothing from the Lord.

Doubts are subtle....especially the more we listen to the doctor and others.....just going back for more testing is doubt, no?

Keep the faith!

Crystal G

From: Dave

To: Crystal Garrison

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 12:25 PM

Subject: Re: faith vs. doubt

No. When Jesus cured lepers, he told them to tell no one before they go to the priest, who had been given directions by Moses how to diagnose leprosy, to verify that it had been healed, before they could legally mix with citizens. Without reliable diagnosis, claims of cures are just that. Claims. I am praying for a negative biopsy report to follow our two positive biopsy reports, which is the only evidence I can have to prove to my children, among others, that God cures cancer.

Dave

Crystal G:

GREAT RESPONSE.....just so you know, I have walked the road of faith. Our daughter had a stroke 2 days before her wedding. Prognosis, permanent brain damage and paralysis. I said, "NO." to the prognosis. Either death or life. She did not die.....within 4 months she was good enough to live alone and get married, got pregnant right away and now is doing very well, having given birth to a girl.

I continued to refuse the typical diagnosis, the typical treatment and the doctors stood in amazement. We trusted God and refused invasive procedures while doctors kept saying negative things. The negative arrows went right over our shield of faith! It was awesome. A journey we would not have chosen; a journey we would not trade.

All the best to you.

Is your wife taking Iodoral.....100 mgs?

Anyone with breast cancer is iodine deficient! '

Has she been on synthroid?

Has she gotten rid of dental fillings? I can refer you to a dentist in Des Moines ;-)

I hope you will answer these 4 questions for me as I continue to gather data.

Blessings,

Crystal

FROM: Dave, to Crystal

I was looking at your statement again that: We rather speak to God about the problem instead of speaking to the problem about God. The flip side of speaking to the problem (cancer be gone!) is doing this without any doubt. It is not how much faith we have that heals. The key is NO, NONE, NADA Doubt! That is why if we have faith the size of a mustard seed we will be healed. Well, just a little faith with no doubt is better than lots of faith neutralized by doubt.

I question this and wonder what Scripture supports this. Jesus spoke of some faith as "great", expressing His admiration of it - even though it would seem heretical to suggest that anything a man might do, God might "admire", if that didn't seem to be the way God describes His reaction. Anyway, I can't imagine that God moves as surely for small faith.

Yes, Jesus said faith only the size of a mustard seed, and yes, James 1 says there must be NO doubt. Maybe that is what Womack is putting together. But the interpretation I have lived by, whose logic is confirmed by everyday observation, is that your faith needs to be at least enough that you will keep praying. Jesus didn't say the mountain would jump immediately; the mountains moved by the Apostles, and by many modern missionaries, fill their entire lifetimes.

Of course, cancer can't wait for decades. But then healing cancer isn't a mountain, either, on the Gospel scale. It's what the apostles did for breakfast. Planting Gospel seeds in the hearts of brutal dictators was the real mountain for them.

I see questions I never answered: no, Dorothy is taking no synthroid or iodine. I don't know if she has any amalgum fillings left, but starting about 15 years ago we stopped adding them.

So far she has disproved the Hulda Clark 3 week promise, and a promise that cancer is cured by a 3 day water fast.

Dave

David P:

Dave, I am so sorry to hear your wife has one more health burden to bear. I know it is a burden for you too and you want the best for her.

I will be praying that God will work in both of your lives for an outcome that advances His kingdom and righteousness.

Best wishes,

David P

Erma McC

Dave, I know that God is very much still on the thrown! He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords! I know that he loves you and your wife very much and that your lives are in his hands. I also know that he does work miracles and that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. I put all my trust and faith in him to heal Dorothy of her cancer. I will be praying for you both! God Bless, Erma McC

And ask ya'll to as well and email them at unble-ed@iowalink.com
thanks ya'll

From: Don Burgmaier [mailto:donneburg@mchsi.com]

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Thu, 12 Feb 2009 12:07:38 -0800

Subject: Cancer

I can imagine that you are getting swamped with information to cure the cancer.

I have read several places that Vitamin D3 cures cancer and many other things.

Vitamin D cream can be rubbed directly on tumors to make them vanish.

I also suggest that Dorothy spray Miracle II Neutralizer on and rub it in a little.

Dr. Carey Reams states that Breast cancer is caused by a lack of Magnesium.

Reams says all cancer is caused by a lack of minerals.

Don

Don Burgmaier again:

Dave,

I agree with you 100 percent. I am glad to hear that Dorothy is not going the surgery route.

I also suggest Dorothy take the tincture treatment. Do you remember Dick Ziebel. He lived up on the North side of Des Moines. He had cancer or the lip. A friend told him about the tincture treatment. Dick was sick and could not sleep. His lip oozed. Within hours the treatment started working and he slept that night. In 6 months you could not tell by looking at his lip he had any problem. You should be able to get the tincture and cloves at the health store for about \$25 for a month supply. It kills the bad parasites. I can give you more details if you are interested.

You might want to look at Dr. Hulda Clark's web site. I think she basically recommends the tincture treatment. http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:lMqphR1TO08J:www.drclark.net/en/drclark_protocol/cancer.php+Dr+hulda+clarke+cancer&hl=en&ct=c&lnk&cd=2&gl=us&client=firefox-a

I have read for several years that a woman should not have a mammogram.

It pinches the breast and that leads to cancer.

Don

My reply:

Curing cancer is getting easier and easier. Here is the list so far:

1. Eat lots of asparagus.
2. Eat lots of Vitamin D.
3. Don't microwave anything, and make this retroactive.
4. Eat pebbles (a source of minerals like Magnesium).
5. Spray Miracle II on the skin closest to the cancer.
6. Eat ground cloves, wormwood, and green Black Walnut tincture.
7. Electrocute yourself with Hulda Clark's Germ Zapper, which you can make with parts from Radio Shack.
8. Drink Coloidal Silver. OR just go on a water fast for 3 days and cancer will go away.
9. Melaleuca.
10. Go to a good palm reader to have your chokras opened.
11. Apricot seeds.
12. If you have any time left over, pray, although this is strictly optional.

[Apparently not catching my sarcasm], Don wrote back again:

I generate Colloidal Silver in the fine particle size if you are interested in some. You have good information below. Don

From: [Don Burgmaier](#)

To: [Dave](#)

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 11:58 PM

Subject: Miracle II

Dorothy,

A couple months ago I got a call from a woman that has cancer and taking chemo. I got her to soak once in the tub and then she started drinking the Neutralizer. This is her testimony below. Take note that she is now soaking in the tub everyday. The first time she had to have help to get out of the tub. I assume she is still on Chemo.

You need to soak in the tub. Maybe you would like to talk to Donna. You might even know her. Don it is very difficult to go anywhere in the evenings...the meds I am on make me very tired. I feel drained most of the time. I could maybe write something on how the products have helped me and you or someone could read it to your group. I know it sure has helped keep the smell of the chemo calms down....before I started using it, I could smell the meds and it was nauseating to me. I take the de tox baths everyday now. Before, I could barely get in and out of the tub without assistance, now, I do everything by myself. Praise be to Jesus! Thank you for your prayers and support. Blessings to you, Don. Donna

From: Don Burgmaier

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 7:30 PM

Subject: Cancer and Miracle II

Dorothy,

John just told me you have a concern that you have cancer.

Drinking the Neutralizer eliminates cancer.

First, I again suggest you soak in the tub in Miracle II soap and Neutralizer.

Then increase the intake of Neutralizer to at least 1 ounce twice a day.

See the following information.

From: Don Burgmaier

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 7:30 PM

Subject: Cancer and Miracle II

Read The Amazing Testimony Of Dr. Sandra Herbage As She Reported Her Incredible Results On A Conference Call On Sept. 3, 2002

A conference call featured an interview with Dr. Sandra Herbage. Dr. Herbage is an MD, as well as holding a degree in Homeopathy. She is the Medical Director for the Madison Holistic Health Centre in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Herbage told us she diagnosed herself with breast cancer in October 2001. Following surgery, the reports indicated that all malignant tissue had been removed ... everything looked clean and nothing had spread. So Dr. Herbage elected to have no chemo, no radiation. Instead, she began an herbal program, and then, because she was not anxious ... settled down into a standard herbal program, setting aside the herbs.

In February, Dr. Herbage again had a blood test ... a lump had shown up in the breast, and the blood test revealed that she still had cancer! She went back on the intense herbal program; however, the herbs began hurting her stomach ... she developed an ulcer and the stomach pain was so bad that she couldn't eat, and finally had to stop taking the herbs. She had run out of options, and had a long talk with the Lord, asking for direction ... "I don't know what to do."

In April, her husband who was away on a trip brought back some Miracle II. He had used it for his chronic pain, and it went away. He suggested she try it for the breast cancer. Well, This unimpressive little bottle ... this "inexpensive cure-all" did not catch her attention, and she disregarded it. However, her husband kept calling, asking her if she had taken it. Finally, to keep peace in the family ... she condescended to take 7 drops. Dr. Herbage took 7 drops for 7 days. The next week she had another blood test. It was "Normal." Yes, after one week, the blood test was Normal and the lump had gone away! It took her a while to comprehend this. Finally, after one week, when she really understood that she was cured, she read Amazing Grace. She couldn't sleep that night. And now, she turns to Miracle II for everything!

When the breast cancer had been cured after one week of 7 drops, the reading was "Normal" -- 100, just

on the borderline, but... "Normal." Five weeks later, still adjusting to her Miracle, Dr. Herbage had another blood test done. This time, it was fully in the "Normal" range ... 60!

One of Dr. Herbage's breast cancer patients had a mastectomy, followed by radiation. She was so sick after all of this trauma, and had another blood test: 220. Cancer still very active. She went on an alternative program. Another blood test: 180. Cancer still active. Dr. Herbage then got her on 7 drops of Miracle II. One month later she came in for another blood test: 41. No Cancer!

Dr. Herbage's mother is a Diabetic. She got on Miracle II for one month and found it was definitely lowering the blood sugar ... so much so, that it is making her insulin hard to regulate.

Another Diabetes patient, not on insulin, started on Miracle II. He found that the 7 drops did not do it, but ... 10 to 11 drops DID lower his blood sugar ... dropping 10 to 15 points each time!

There was a discussion about cataracts. Dr. Herbage had a patient using 6 to 7 drops in the eye, but it was running out. It was suggested he try an eyecup, as Clayton recommends. Jerry Kraft told his story of improvement of Glaucoma, as well as damaged tissue.

Dr. Herbage told of a patient with sinusitis, who she had just put on Miracle II, when she left for a trip. While she was away, no sinus. But, as soon as she got home, it started. Then she remember ... the Miracle II, took 7 drops ... no headache! Other pain also dropped by 25% to 50%.

Dr. Herbage told of skin improvements after taking the baths. She is still amazed that for almost everyone and their problems, she has one answer: Miracle II!

Dr. Herbage was particularly impressed with Miracle II helping her daughter's Fibromyalgia. Her daughter had just had a 3-day "flare." She was in bed. 7 drops of Miracle II, and the next morning she was 70% better!

One patient with Fibromyalgia was so impressed with the immediate pain results, she purchased two gallons!

One patient with a bad skin problem was told to bathe in Miracle II. He complained he didn't like that "Soap" -- when he dried off, the towel TURNED BLACK! Dr. Herbage commented on the wonder of "Anything that can pull stuff out of our body like that! Amazing!"

Dr. Herbage also commented on people getting on Miracle II after having chemo. "If they take a Miracle II bath, have them then step into the shower and rinse the Miracle II off. If they leave it on, it will continue to pull out the chemo and it will burn the skin." One patient left it on, but really didn't care, saying, "It is saving my life!"

Dr. Herbage said that on chronic problems, like Fibro, people can take their time and work up slowly. However, if someone is dealing with terminal cancer, you must work up as quickly as you can ... and have them drink lots of water! I tell them to take their Neutralizer in water

From: Dan Holman [mailto:truthvan@yahoo.com]
To: music@saltshaker.us,uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Thu, 12 Feb 2009 07:49:00 -0800 (PST)
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer

I know a woman who had a tumor in her breast the size of a billiard ball. She fasted with water for 3 days and it was gone and had not returned 20 years later. This woman was a doctor who did surgery on women who had breast cancer, and she did not want done to her what she did to other women.

donna

Dave Reply:
Can you tell me how to correspond with this doctor?

From: [Dan Holman](mailto:Dan.Holman@iowalink.com)
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:44 AM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancerDave,

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I

do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall He do; because I go unto my Father And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. I just read that the original reads (demand) It says demand twice in that verse. Jesus gave US GREAT POWER. (AUTHORITY) in Jesus's name. My prayer for Dorothy. "Father in Jesus's name I demand that you heal Dorothy Leach of this breast cancer. Satan, in the name of Jesus , I demand that you take your breast cancer away from Dorothy Leach and leave her alone. By Jesus's stripes she WAS healed." And Jesus I thank you in advance for healing her. Jesus your word reads , I , the Lord am your healer. And you word reads that you are the great physician.SeeLuke 10:19 and Matthew 28:20 And Mark 16:17 - 20. Jeses gave us AUTHORITY yOU ARE THE HEAD OF YOUR HOUSEHOILD. USE YOUR AUTHORITY

Donna Holman

Dave to Donna:

You're right! Jesus' word really IS to "demand"! Well, actually the word is broad enough to mean other things too but that is its central thrust.

Here's the word in context of the verse, with Strong's numbers:

Mar 11:24 Therefore^{G1223} G5124 I say^{G3004} unto you,^{G5213} What things soever^{G3956} G3745 G302 ye desire,^{G154} when ye pray,^{G4336} believe^{G4100} that^{G3754} ye receive^{G2983} *them*, and^{G2532} ye^{G5213} shall have^{G2071} *them*.

Now here's the Strong's definition of 154:

G154 αἰτέω aiteō *ahee-teh'-o* Of uncertain derivation; to *ask* (in generally): - ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require. Compare [G4441](#).

Notice that "require" is the final listed meaning. But when you click on 4441, which shows how the synonyms of "ask" differ from one another, you get:

G4441 πονθάνομαι punthanomai *poon-than'-om-ahee* Middle voice prolonged from πύθω puthō, a primary word, (which occurs only as an alternate in certain tenses); to *question*, that is, *ascertain* by inquiry (as a matter of *information* merely; and thus differing from [G2065](#), which properly means a *request* as a favor; and from [G154](#), which is **strictly a *demand* of something due**; as well as from [G2212](#), which implies a *search* for something hidden; and from [G1189](#), which involves the idea of urgent *need*); by implication to *learn* (by casual intelligence): - ask, demand, enquire, understand.

Thanks for the ammo!

Dave

From: Dan Holman

To: Dave

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:49 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dave If the doctor give you a negative report, jus think or say, Idont receive that in Jesus's name.
Amen.Donna Holman

Dave to Donna:

You mean "positive". Positive means there is cancer; negative means there is not. Although a positive report would be negative, wouldn't it? Which only proves some of the most important things in life are upside down. However, in Jesus' Name, I do not receive the possibility that the doctor will give us a report indicating cancer.

Dave

From: Dan Holman

To: Dave

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:27 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dave, I agree with you, in Jesus's name. Donna

From: Dorothy Leach <dleach@iowalink.com>
Subject: PRAYER REQUEST
To: "dan & donna @holman" <truthvan@yahoo.com>
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 10:09 AM

Hi,

Just a few minutes ago I got the results of some tests and it has been determined that I have breast cancer. A 3cm. lump, and it has gone outside the ducts. Said they won't know exactly how serious it is until they "get in there" and test some lymph nodes and whatever. I have a consultation apt. with the surgeon tomorrow aft.

I asked the Dr. I saw today if there was any possibility of going the route of alternative health measures like diet and herbs, etc. She said she's really into alternative medicine, but if she had this problem herself, she'd do both. Said it's important to get it out of there so it can stop growing, but then also do diet, etc.

Our friend here, Frank Brown, who's really into health food diets and cancer treatments said immediately cut out ALL sugars, do Hulda Clark's cancer diet, some juicing, etc. I just talked to him briefly on the phone -- said he'd work up something in writing and get back to me.

I REALLY covet your prayers and any advice you have to offer. "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety".-Prov. 11

Thanks Dorothy

From: Dan Holman
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 10:35 PM
Subject: Re: PRAYER REQUEST
Donna said do a 3 day water fast. dan

Jason M

Dave, I believe. God, thanks you for Your healing touch. Be with Dave and his wife. We believe that you heal. Please heal her. Jason

Rick Arrowood

Dave: I've seen God heal people so many times, to say that He doesn't would suspend reality far more than believing for your wife.

So...an e-prayer...God, we trust in You for complete healing - Your Word is very clear on this, and we call Your promises to remembrance. So to this cancer, we say - be gone in Jesus Name. We pray health and faith and confidence for Dorothy, and for Dave. (**I just heard this phrase in my mind: "You have stood with Him, He will stand with you."** I asked for a little explanation, didn't get much, just that you stood with Him because you love Him, and He loves you so much more.) So Lord, we agree with Your Love for Dorothy and Dave, and as You stand with them, so do we. Make this healing, and their whole lives, a showcase for Your glory. Amen.

-Rick Arrowood

(hey - I'm not at Fort Des Moines Open Bible anymore, but at Kingdom House of Prayer a lot -
www.khopdsm.com and Heartland Assembly)

FROM: Mike, Regina, Kitty

We are standing in agreement with you. God bless you and comfort your hearts. Love, Mike, Regina, and Kitty.

Dick B to Dave:

I will pray with you for Dorothy.

Remind God of his promises when you pray, He is committed to do as we ask so seek his healing.

From Carthage, Mo going to Enid, Okla for the funeral of Karen's Sister-In-Law and then to Wichita for the 1st birthday of Lola, my Great Grand Daughter. I'll try to check with you from time to time.

On the 21st I'll be in Joplin, Mo to speak to a Christian Men's group
God bless you both, Dick

JESUS4MEXICO@aol.com

Don't you worry Dave God is stil God and he is King not cancer. cancer is like a tree in our body and it takes up roots and as JESUS did to the tree we can do to cancer. So I command that cancer to die from the roots and dry up and disappear. I do believe! Be blessed Love Mel

Reply: I can always count on you for a bold prayer! Thank you for keeping the devil scared! And for encouraging us.

Dave

Mel L reply:

No problem I love giving the devil a hard time any way cancer is not King and it has to go. Keep the faith and don't worry about what other will say. , You do what ever you have in your heart to do. Love Mel

Sherry Paulson

link brocken. We ARE praying...*stop by my blog if you get a chance!* dandelionmom.wordpress.com
By God's grace and for His glory-from DandelionEnd ~ Shar

Sherry Paulson

From: dleach@iowalink.com
To: dandelionmom@dandelionend.com
Subject: prayer request
Date: Thu, 22 Jan 2009 19:31:46 -0600

Just a quick note to let you know I've been diagnosed with breast cancer. No time to go into details now, but briefly, for the next 3 wks I'm going to be trying a special herbal "diet" which is supposed to kill cancer. Then I will have another biopsy and see if the cancer is still there. If so, I'll have surgery.

Would greatly appreciate your prayers --- and especially that the "diet" would work like it's supposed to. Thanks in advance.

Dorothy

From: Sharon Paulson
To: dorothy leach
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 9:12 PM
Subject: RE: prayer request
I'll be praying....
stop by my blog if you get a chance! dandelionmom.wordpress.com
By God's grace and for His glory-from DandelionEnd ~ Shar

Dave S

Dear Mr. Leach:

I am praying for a miracle for your wife. Thank you very much for sending out this information.

Respectfully yours,

Dave S

Norwood, PA

Dave wrote:
> Thank you!

From: Dave S
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:59 PM
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Corret LEACH email here: 2-12-09 Rev Lee Roy & Friends Prayfor Leach's wife's cancer]

Dear Mr. Leach: You're welcome.

Rob Leach:

Dave, tell Dorothy our prayers are with her today for a complete recovery however God chooses to accomplish it!

Rob Leach

Judy McN

Hi Dave, I will Pray for Dorothy and please let me know Thursday what the out come it.

Judy McN

From: Judy NcN

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:30 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Thank you Dave.

From: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 2:28 PM

Judy and Kay,

Just want to inform you -- this morning I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Not sure where it goes from here, but tomorrow afternoon I have a consultation apt. with the surgeon. So -- I covet your prayers. Thanks

Dorothy Leach

From: jdmcnamara

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 6:33 PM

Subject: Re:

Oh Dorothy, if you were here I would hug you. I'm so sorry. Please let me know what the Dr. says. Yes, I will pray for you.

Judy

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Judy McN

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:53 PM

Subject: Re: Re:

Judy,

Last night I learned about a "diet" -- actually a heavy herbal routine -- which is supposed to kill any cancer within 3 weeks! Learned it from a friend who's done it himself and shared it with others who've had success.

So- for the next 3 weeks I'm going to try this, and then have another biopsy, and if the cancer is still there, then do the surgery. It could be a lumpectomy or mastectomy -- my choice. Think I'd choose the latter because that doesn't need to be followed by radiation. But, I'm still hopeful that maybe it won't come to that.

Thanks for your prayers--- and pray the "diet" may work like it's suppsed to!

Dorothy

From: Pat H
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 8:42 PM
Subject: Re: new news

I was stunned to read about your breast cancer. PLEASE keep me posted on your Dr. appt. today as you feel you can. I pray for the very best results of medical treatments for you as well as the herbal cure that you wrote about. **I have not heard about the Hulda Clark cancer diet but would like you to send a copy to me.** Perhaps it does not pertain to my type of cancer but would be interested in reading it none the less. You are in my prayers and thoughts....please keep me informed as you can. Yes, I am feeling good. Have my next bladder scoping Wed. Feb. 18th so see what that shows and what the next step will be. Pat

???

Dave I'm sorry to hear about Dorothy having breast cancer. I remember the shock only too well of finding out that your spouse has cancer.

Ken Richards

Dave,

I will pray for your wife and I am going through the same thing with kidney cancer.
Ken

Dave Reply: Thanks, and sorry! Tell me how you are reacting to it?

From: Ken Richards
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 2:45 AM
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.
Hang in there Dae and I have been praying for your wife too. ken

From: Ken Richards
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 3:00 AM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer
Dave,

Again, sorry about your wife but I believe God has miracles stored up just for such life affirming events. No matter what happens, God will renew and strengthen you as a result of what will happen.

In my case, everything is happening very fast and it appears to be early enough that I should fully recover. I may lose my job as a result but we will see on that one.

Keep praying and I know God has a plan for us all.
Ken

From: Ken Richards
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 8:59 AM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
Dave,

I am not as strong as you are with Bible verses but I know in my heart you are close to God and that Jesus hears you. I know in my heart that Jesus has already performed miracles in your life. I know in my heart

that Jesus is already caring for Dorothy but I also know in my heart that God does not always answer our prayers in the exact manner we expect. God answers but for His purposes and for whatever reason He may not cure a disease (Paul proved that). David had God's own heart per the Bible but was unable to save an innocent infant from death regardless of what David did to cause that situation we can be sure the infant was blameless other than original sin.

Do not doubt God or that He heard you. The healing may yet occur but it may occur in conjunction with surgery. My mother was not supposed to live as long as she has with cancer but has defied all survival charts. Her chart says she should have died a long time ago and yet she lives. She is already better than 95% of those diagnosed with her type of cancer and praises the Lord everyday. Dave, I know this is a test of your faith but your faith is stronger than the average bear (as the saying goes) and I know God will renew you and deliver a healing for both you and Dorothy. I do not know what that healing will be but I know it is coming and, in fact, is already in progress even if our eyes cannot see it.

The exact answer to prayer is possible and has been proven time and again in the Bible especially with famous prophets, apostles, and Jesus. I have yet to see anyone move a mountain but apparently it is a small thing to do (yet no human is recorded having done so) but that does not mean we give up. I think it means that no man has even the faith of a mustard seed. And how could we? We worship what we only sense and feel in our very sinful hearts having been cut off from God since the garden.

I believe Jesus hung on that cross feeling every past, present, and future sin of the world to pay for our sins. Not only was Jesus in communion with God but I believe He could see God and Heaven from that cross. If what I believe is true, it means Jesus knew Who He worked for (in a manner of speaking) and could see everything. It would've fortified Him no matter what Satan threw at Him but it also means Jesus hung on that painful cross feeling more sin than any of us could imagine. It also means Jesus hung on that cross in agony for the ages and could see those angels that he said he could call. They waited and could've ended his pain in an instant. He could've decided to abandon Humans and His word is LAW. He would've been right no matter what he did if you think about it. I think that explains why there is no plan of salvation for Angels that fell. It became LAW that they all go to the lake of fire.

What I am saying is we do not know what Jesus will do for us because we cannot have that faith. **I want to have that much faith but so far I have only read about a few prophets raising people from the dead and even they never moved a moutain. Could we move mountains? YES! YES! YES!** But, yet, we do not. Perhaps it is because it does nothing for God since it is a small thing for Him and what does it do for humans? It would demonstrate His existence and affirm faith but anyone with enough faith (a mustard seed) who could demand a mountain to move would not need to see the proof either (another interesting side of this debate). Regardless, nobody lives forever and we have a limit of 120 years on this earth in our present form. God will deliver a miracle for Dorothy. It may not be exactly what you prayed for but it will be God's perfect gift. I believe you have been faithful to God and he will bless you. You are not destined for empty pain and somehow God will reach you and explain why he has not answered your exact prayer. He may answer in a dream or in your heart but He will answer you. And the miracle will still happen.

I believe God will give you this miracle. It may not be EXACT but it will be evident very soon.

This I pray and I pray God gives you more strength than even you knew you had. As for Dorothy, she demonstrated her acceptance the entire time I was with you. She is ready for whatever God has in store. She seemed at peace and I know God is very pleased....

Your friend in Christ,
Ken

From: Dave
To: kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 11:57 AM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

Regarding David's prayer for his child born in adultery and murder: he had been plainly told by God's Prophet that it was God's will for the child to die. Not because of the child's sin, but for the sake of the nation. It was a huge scandal. The child would have grown up facing the ridicule and wrath of the whole nation, a byword

for murderous adultery, although we are not told precisely what God's rationale was. Perhaps it was that there had to be judgment of some kind. Often the innocent must suffer for the guilty.

Here is the heartwarming story. Notice that David prayed for the child's life after being flatly told that it was the will of God that the child die. And notice also that this David, who surely did know the heart of God, believed that even after God's will is known, it is sometimes effective to pray that He will change it! In his case it wasn't so. In Jesus' case, in the Garden of Gethsemane, it wasn't so. He prayed "not thy will but thine be done" knowing as only God can know that it was NOT God's Will that He be spared the cross! But in Hezekiah's case, it was so. God had flatly told him he would die from his infection, but he wept and prayed for more time, and God came back not only with a change of His will, but with a sign enough to muster the derision of every skeptic of anything miraculous: the earth spun backwards in its orbit 10 degrees! 2 Kings 20.

2 Samuel 11:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 8 and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been too* little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 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. 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. 14 Howbeit, **because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.**

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD strake the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. 16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. 17 And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. 18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was *yet* alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him *that* the child is dead? 19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. 20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came *into* the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. 21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was alive*; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. 22 And he said, **While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?** 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. 24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. 25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Regarding mountains: keep in mind that Jesus meant that if we can move as much a mountain, surely God will help us push anything smaller! Although some construction crews have moved pretty close to whole mountains, most of the time a Christian has no interest in moving a physical mountain. But we have plenty of projects that seem about as impossible, which are far more important, and Christians experience God's help moving them all the time. My favorite example is Wilberforce. Notice Jesus did not say the mountain would jump into the sea instantly. In the case of many saints like Wilberforce, it took a lifetime. That is why I keep pushing on theological and political mountains I have never yet seen even tremble, with just enough faith to keep pushing. I have great hope that you will, too, perhaps in the Phillipines.

Dave

From: Ken Richards

To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 12:06 PM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
Dave,

You are correct and my mountains are in the Philippines but the small mountains are in my family as I lead my young daughter to Christ last night so all three of my children have now accepted Jesus as their savior. My next task is to get them into believing congregations or bodies of Christians as well as myself. This is a little more difficult given the distances and multiple people involved but it is my priority. The Philippines will be easy once I get there and stay (retirement) but the groundwork is important so I am plugging into a Baptist congregation near my condos.

As for Dorothy, God has a miracle just for her just believe and I know it will come to pass for you.
[Loved your commentary on King David](#) and I learned a few things or at least thought if it in new ways.
Ken

From: Dave
To: kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 1:03 PM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

If possible, disciple your children so well that they can survive even college. That is where I "lost" mine. Both went to Grinnell. My son graduated from there; my daughter finished in Sioux City. Top honors among men, but they despised their birthright with God.

Dave

From: Ken Richards
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 8:32 PM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
Dave,
But there is always another miracle and chance to reach them...that much I am sure.

From: Dave
To: kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 10:14 PM
Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
That is one of the hopes that sustain me. Actually it would be hard to ask for finer children. Although their resistance to even hearing any information that God might have for them from the Bible endangers them, they are like the Gentiles in Romans 2 who "by nature" are fairly godly people. My son's coolness in the face of stressing people may exceed mine, and my daughter's childlike joy infects me.
Dave

Susan C (called, prayed by phone)

George S:
[Sometimes God heals through the hands of other people, if we let him. She has gone through too much with her leg to let this beat her. I'm praying that she gets healed and that God shows you and Dorothy the way to go. If it can be safely removed by a surgeon's hands with prayer guiding his hands that might be the way to go.](#)

My oldest brother Leroy is in the hospital with leukemia. He has finished one round of chemo and is waiting for the results of tests before going further. He has never gone to church as a child or an adult. I talked with him about getting right with God and forgiveness of sins. I read Matthew 20 to him and left our Dad's bible with him. His wife had a cancerous tumor removed from her breast about 5 years ago and she is doing OK now. Leroy needs prayer for salvation. I've been trying to talk to him about eternity and getting him ready for that. I explained to him that even if we receive a healing from God that it is only temporary. We are only on this earth a number of years. Even if we live to be 120 years old, that is only a drop in a bucket compared to eternity.

Your brother in Christ, George.

Reply From: Dave

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:42 PM

To: George S

Subject: RE: My wife's cancer

Thanks! I can't think of you without thinking of

[personal]

Dave

From: George S

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 9:24 AM

Subject: RE: My wife's cancer

Thanks Dave.

[personal] I have a couple electric sanders if you want to borrow one to

finish your violin.

I started at First Assembly of God and got in the brass section and orchestra there. I really enjoy being a part of the church there. I got some special glasses for reading music. The bifocal part is higher on the glasses and it is set for 30" instead of 12 or 14 like regular bifocals. I still struggle sometimes with some of the songs. I'll always remember playing duets with you. You truly have a gift at improvising.

Dave reply:

I would very much like to borrow a sander. What I used before was a belt sander with a long enough flat surface that I could sand the 11" long fingerboard evenly. Perhaps instead of taking it from you, I could just come out and use it for a few minutes? I am making a video of repairing the violin, so I'd like to get a few seconds of it being sanded.

Dave

From: George S

To: Dave

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:09 AM

Subject: RE: My wife's cancer

[personal] I could bring the sander to church and pick it

up from you the next week if that works. Do you go on Wednesday evenings? We have rehearsal in the music suite from 6 – 7 Wednesday evening or I could bring it Sunday if that works better for you.

Dave to George: Thanks! We plan to be there Wednesday. We struggle to get there by 7 though; we'll sure try to make it. We have a lesson from 6-6:30.

Dave

From: Walter b
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:58 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer
We will be praying for you.

Lynn Bernal

"<http://alternativenaturalcancertreatments.com>" <print out the 18 pages on this link...and this is the answer you were looking for.

To our mutual success,
Lynn M. Bernal, KYANI Director
You Only Need ONE Reason Not To Do It
www.12waystogetpaid.com
Do Not Count Yourself Out

Norm & Rose P:

We certainly will agree in prayer with you for your wife's healing.
Blessings,
Norm and Rose Marie P

From: Carol C

To: 'Dave'
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 10:10 AM
Subject: RE: My wife's cancer
THANK YOU so much for sending me your letter!! It is definitely NOT a bother!!
Dorothy and I have been friends/known each other for so long that I am deeply concerned about her welfare... and yours.
Please keep me posted as to her continuing health.
My prayers are with you both.
Carol C

From: Cook, C

To: 'Dave'
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 8:46 AM
Subject: RE: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer
Hi!
I am so sorry of the continuing problem!!
More and more prayers for both of you!!!
Carol C

From: Cook, C

To: 'Dorothy Leach'
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 8:48 AM
Subject: RE: surgery scheduled
Oh, dear "old" friend of so many years, I am So sorry for your cancer. You are in my prayers daily!
Carol

From: Maureen N
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 8:02 AM
Subject: RE: Moral Story

I've seen that one before. [a recycled cutsey email Dorothy sent]. that's a good one. How are you doing?

From: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 10:37 AM
To: Maureen Nixon (IHC-WDM)
Subject: Re: Moral Story

I'm still doing ok--feeling fine. We've been praying for the lump to go away & we would know God healed it without surgery --- but it hasn't. You probably know surgery is scheduled for Fri of next wk (3/6)

From: Maureen N
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 10:38 AM
Subject: RE: Moral Story

yes. How is Dave holding up through all this? I will keep praying for total healing without surgery and for your marriage to continue in strength through this.

From: Dorothy Leach
To: Maureen N
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 11:01 AM
Subject: [S]Re: Moral Story

Dave's ok, but I think a little discouraged because his prayer has not yet been answered. Thanks for joining us in prayer. I'm also praying God gives a special blessing to each one who's praying for me.

From: Ron G
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 2:25 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer

Dave
I am praying for Dorothy and will continue to do so.
Blessings,
Ron

From: Ken Callison
To: Dave
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:01 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer

Praying for Dorothy and you. Trust in God, while knowing that God works through doctors also, even if they are not believers. He uses any and all of us to fulfill His plan. The only sure thing is that we know the end of the story, and have already read the last chapter in His Owner's manual.

From: Tom G
To: Dave
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:54 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer

Dave, You have our prayers for Dorothy and yourself. Restoration to full health. Amen.
Tom & Dodi

From: mauricio m
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:26 PM
Subject: My wife's cancer

Ed, I am very sorry to hear the news. god and the energy from the universe only work if you believe in it...please receive my positive energy and get as much rest as possible to heal. God bless. Mauricio

From: Shannon V
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:25 AM
Subject: RE: Biopsy: positive.

Dear Mrs. Leach,

I have been reading your husband's email and felt impressed to email you with my thoughts and prayers. My thoughts for you as my mother is suffering from lung cancer right now. She is presently down in Mexico gettin an alternative treatment done for her - treatment that the FDA has not approved of here in the USA. Many people have questioned my mother's decision to go this route instead of the normal chemo and radiation but my mother has firmly stood by her decision as from the Lord. I thoroughly support her as I realize that once God lead us so follow Him, we are to submit not matter how many other people approve! My prayers are with you as I have experienced the heartache of getting bad health news due to mom's current condition. My heart aches for this latest development in your health, but rejoice to know that you are both trusting in our Father to heal you!

May God continue to strengthen you in HIS STRENGTH as you follow HIS LEADING! The verse that I have claimed for my mother's situation is in **Philippians 4 - And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord.** Praise the Lord for HIS PEACE!

Your friend,
Shannon V

From: Margaret G H
To: Dave
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:01 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer
I put Dorothy on my church's prayer list.
Margy

From: John H
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 6:27 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer
Dave, you and your wife will be in my prayers. I'm embarrassed to ask, what is her name? John

Dave reply:
Dorothy. She didn't want her name on all this public stuff I'm doing.
Dave

From: Barbara C
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:16 AM
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Yes, I knew about the 13th and have always called it lucky. I will pray for Dorothy. You must pray without ceasing - but remember in the end, whatever happens WILL be God's will. Take care.

Barbara C

From: John Harvey vocaliowa@mchsi.com

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:41 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dorothy can count on John to pray for her soon recovery. I know of no escape clause for that. Dorothy knows about deep waters and is no stranger to pain.

Mary Gandy, mother of three, and a member of my church, had cancer decades ago. She went through chemo when it was still just an emerging treatment modality. She survived the threat of cancer. In September 2008, she and Wayne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

John

From: Jenifer R

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:09 AM

Subject: RE: Biopsy: positive.

Dorothy,

I am praying for God to heal you Dorothy and I will continue to. I know He is in control of your situation and I know He can make all things good.

Thanks for keeping me updated Dave. Sincerely, Jenifer R

FROM: Frank L

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 12:20 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy, Prayers,etc.

Brother Dave,

Thank you for sharing your heart. I will continue to pray for Dorothy and you and that Our Lord's Will be done. It is indeed an awesome thought, and a most re-assuring comfort to know that when we trust in His Divine Providence we have more than a road map to journey life's pathways- we actually know the "WAY".

And yes, healings and miracles do happen and occur in ways we sometimes never even imagine.

I place Dorothy and you in the Refuge of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the most Immaculate Heart of His Mother, Our Heavenly Mother Mary and pray that His Will be done. I also invoke the third Person of the Holy Trinity and pray, "Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blessed and in our hearts take up Thy Rest. Amen!" Peace.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus,

-Frank L.

From: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:26 AM

To: Sharon B

Subject: Re: [S]tests results/updates

I was just going online to email you when I found yours. Praise God for your good test results. Mine weren't so good. I just got the results a few minutes ago. Positive cancer-- good sized lump, and has gone out of the ducts. Won't know exactly how serious til they "get in there" and test lymph nodes and whatever. Have a consultation apt. with the surgeon tomorrow afternoon.

I do hope your tooth subsides so you can do normal things. On the way back here (store) from the Dr.

we passed a dentist's office & I was reminded of some of the horrible dental things I've had done. At least I thought they were horrible then, but as I thought of it now, my thought was that those dental problems were really nothing compared to what I'm facing now. Please keep praying. Thanks

Dorothy

From: Sharon B

To: (several names)

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:59 AM

Subject: [SJFW: [S]tests results/updates

John and Dorris, and Alison and Ralph. This is the Dorothy that brought Mike Barber to Emmanuel each week.

I told Dorothy that I would send and email to the prayer teams to be praying for her.

I will keep you posted as I receive info from her. Thanks.

From: Kay

To: Dorothy

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 3:31 PM

Subject: Re: (no subject)

Dorothy,

You have my prayers. Keep us informed.

Kay

From: Mike P

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 5:44 PM

Subject: The News

Just curious what the surgeon had to say this afternoon?

Mike

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Mike Perry

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:20 PM

Subject: Re: The News

Just got back. I'm going to try the herbal cancer remedy that I briefly mentioned to Stef (without any great detail) for 3 weeks. Then I will have another biopsy, and if the cancer is still present, I'll have the surgery. He said putting it off 3 wks shouldn't change anything. The cancer is what he called an intermediate stage.

Also discovered that Polk County Health, which is covering the costs, won't cover any surgery or treatment unless I get rid of the tiny little cancer/stroke/heart attack policy that we have. You have to have NO ins. at all for them to turn it over to Medicaid -- and then when you die, Medicaid recovers the cost (or maybe a % of it, not sure which) from your estate! We learned that when Dave's mom died and we had to pay Medicaid almost 4,000! That was really tough! She didn't even have enough ins. to cover her "cheapest you could get" funeral-- we only finished paying that off a few months ago. She had no money, but the reason we had to pay it back is that her name was on the house! So was Dave's, but never mind that, since her name was there we had to pay because that was her "estate"! It's really a screwed up system.

Anyway, pray the herbal diet will work, ok? And I'd be glad to share it with anyone else who wants the details.

Love, mom

From: Stephanie P

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:28 PM

Subject: Re: The News

Thank you for letting us know and you are on the churches prayer list, and some of my friends are also praying. Keep us in touch

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Stephanie P

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:22:50 PM

Subject: Fw: The News

Stef, sending you this, too, just in case you don't see it on Mike's email -- or in case he gets his at work and it's too late to see it today. We had to sit at the Dr. a long time just waiting, so didn't get back to the store til 6 --- now Dave is having a rehearsal with his band of kids-----

From: Dorothy Leach

To:(6 friends)

Sent: Thu, 22 Jan 2009 8:19 pm

Subject: prayer request

Just a quick note to let you know I've been diagnosed with breast cancer. No time to go into details now, but briefly, for the next 3 wks I'm going to be trying a special herbal "diet" which is supposed to kill cancer. Then I will have another biopsy and see if the cancer is still there. If so, I'll have surgery.

Would greatly appreciate your prayers --- and especially that the "diet" would work like it's supposed to. Thanks in advance.

Dorothy

From: Stephanie P

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:28 PM

Subject: Re: movie

The movie starts at 5:30 and I have not heard back from anyone else but you so hopefully we will see others show up. How are you doing, I have been praying for you and the disease and **I am hopeing that the herbals are working and you will not have to have surgery.** When is your biopsy?

Love

Stephanie

From: Roxanne L

To: Dorothy

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 11:07 AM

Subject: Re: prayer request

Dear Dorothy,

We will most definately put you in our prayes and also ask our friends to pray for you too.

Love, Roxanne

From: Dorothy Leach_

To: ; Judy & Kay

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 2:28 PM

Judy and Kay,

Just want to inform you -- this morning I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Not sure where it goes from here, but tomorrow afternoon I have a consultation apt. with the surgeon. So -- I covet your prayers. Thanks

Dorothy Leach

From: jdmcnamara

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 6:33 PM

Subject: Re:

Oh Dorothy, if you were here I would hug you. I'm so sorry. Please let me know what the Dr. says. Yes, I will pray for you.

Judy

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Judy McN

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:53 PM

Subject: Re: Re:

Judy,

Last night I learned about a "diet" -- actually a heavy herbal routine -- which is supposed to kill any cancer within 3 weeks! Learned it from a friend who's done it himself and shared it with others who've had success.

So- for the next 3 weeks I'm going to try this, and then have another biopsy, and if the cancer is still there, then do the surgery. It could be a lumpectomy or mastectomy -- my choice. Think I'd choose the latter because that doesn't need to be followed by radiation. But, I'm still hopeful that maybe it won't come to that.

Thanks for your prayers--- and pray the "diet" may work like it's supposed to!

Dorothy

From: jdmcnamara

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 2:38 PM

Subject: Re: Re:

I will and when you have time send me the diet, as Mac has had it once and it always seems to come back. I will have it and be ready. My heart goes out to you and Dave.

Judy

Dorothy to a few friends:

On Fri, Jan 23, 2009 at 7:26 PM, Dorothy Leach wrote:

Just a quick note to let you know what's going on here. On Mon. eve we were at a meeting where a nutritionist we've known for a long time spoke on cancer. On Wed. I was diagnosed with breast cancer. So Wed eve we went to the home of the guy who spoke and got all the details about the cancer cure diet, which is more of an herbal "ritual" that you add to your daily routine than a diet about what you eat. Yesterday I had a consultation apt with the surgeon, and convinced him to let me try the diet for 3 weeks (it claims to kill the cancer parasite in 5-6 days and all the eggs as well in 3 wks -- lots more detail but that's the gist of it -- and the guy we got it from has had success with it himself), then I'll have another biopsy and if the cancer is still there I'll have surgery. (Wow that was a long sentence! -- hope you followed it)

Needless to say, the surgeon thought I was crazy for wanting to try such a stupid thing, but he agreed that waiting another 3-4 wks would probably not make any difference, so "give us a call when you're ready". The guy we got the diet from is 72 years old, still runs and does race-walking competitions, at which he is a national champion. He's used it for prostate cancer, but it's supposed to work on all cancers. Maybe you've heard of it: **Hulda Clark's Cancer Diet**. Dave called Rob & he thought it wouldn't hurt to try it. It has no side effects and is safe with any medication a person may be on. I'd love to see it work, not only for my own benefit, but so this arrogant surgeon can see the power of God's natural healing and realize he's not the only healer there is -- which seemed to be his attitude. The Dr. who referred me to him was a woman who is open to alternative medicines, but -- oh, well.

That's my quickly scribbled news -- gotta run -- just wanted you to know what's happening.

Dorothy

From: Margaret Leach

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 10:03 AM

Subject: Re: news

Dorothy -

I'm so glad you are going to try the alternative treatment first. There are a number of alternative cancer therapies that have proven much more successful than our western cut and drug therapies! You can do internet searches for some of the others if you are interested. I have also heard of this one but do not know much about it. I wish you all success. And whatever you do, don't give up! Truly there are a number of ways to beat cancer. Our bodies are amazing machines (God planned it that way, of course) and will do marvelous things if just given the proper tools.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help -- besides praying, which I will already be doing, of course. Thanks for letting us know.

Blessings and love,
Margaret

From: Linda W

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 7:22 AM

Subject: Re: prayer request

Dear Dorothy, You will be in my morning prayers until you are well again. Do not be afraid as God will use this for good. Look for opportunities to share his love with those you would not have come into contact with in any other circumstance. May God's peace rest upon you.

Love in our blessed Lord Jesus Christ,
Linda W.

From: Dorothy Leach

Subject: prayer request

To: Regina D

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2009, 6:47 PM

Hi-

Well -- straight to the point. Yesterday I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Today I had a consultation with the surgeon. Last night I learned about Hulda Clark's Cancer diet that's supposed to cure all cancers with an herbal regimen. Learned it from a friend who has done it himself and advised others who've also had success.

So -- for 3 weeks I'm going to try the diet, then have another biopsy and if the cancer is still there, then have the surgery. If it comes to that, think I'd opt for the mastectomy rather than lumpectomy since then you don't need the radiation.

The tumor is 3cm and called a duct cancer (or ductal or something to do with the ducts). He said he would term it intermediate, and waiting 3 wks shouldn't change anything.

So -- I really covet your prayers, both in general, and that the diet will work as it's supposed to.

Those are pretty sketchy details, but all the time I have for now.

Love, Dorothy

From: Regina D

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 8:44 AM

Subject: Re: prayer request

Absolutely I will pray for you, dear friend. You could consider your 3 week diet a Daniel fast. Remember in 1999 I was diagnosed with deadly Ovarian Cancer and even went to surgery with the oncologist in attendance, already given a "cell wash" they were so sure it was malignant, 33 people prayed for me before I went to the OR, of course you know it was not Cancer. Even the doctors eyes shown with joy when he announced it was not cancer.

We will fervently pray for you . Love, Regina

From: Dorothy Leach

Subject: Re: prayer request

To: Regina

Date: Friday, January 23, 2009, 3:19 PM

I had forgotten about your cancer ordeal, but I remember now that you mention it. I really, really appreciate your prayers, and I pray God will give a special blessing to each one who prays for me. I'll try to keep you posted on what's happening. Thanks so much. Dorothy

From: Regina

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 3:25 PM

Subject: Re: prayer request

Dear Dorothy, I am praying, Mike is praying, Andrea is praying and I am asking anyone and everyone I know who prays to pray for you. I am also asking them to ask anyone and everyone they know who prays to pray for you. I am going to write the prisoners this week and I will ask them to pray also. Be of good cheer and strong courage. Love ya, Regina

PS I know that the paramount thing is prayer, but is there anything else I can do?

From: Carol C

To: 'Dorothy Leach'

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:41 AM

Subject: RE: prayer request

Dear Dorothy, Oh, you will be in my thoughts and prayers often!!!!!! Carol

From: Thea

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:53 AM

Subject: Re: [S]Fw: Prayer

Hi Dorothy,

I'll continue to pray for you. Please keep me posted. [I hang onto Rom 8:28 when I don't quite understand what is going on. What is/are your hanger\(s\)?????](#)

I am believing God for you that He is the one selecting the surgeon and that the steps of a righteous woman are also ordered of Him.

Love,

Thea

TERRORIZE THE DEVIL

1- STAY dressed in God's FULL Armor

2- Stay covered under the precious Blood of Jesus Christ

3- Keep short accounts with one another

4- Keep your EYES RIGHT! (on Jesus)

From: Dorothy Leach

To: thea

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:45:30 PM

Subject: Fw: [S]Fw: Prayer

PS-- Thea, you can ignore the line about "tell mike.....". That was for Regina's husband in regard to the foot surgery he had this morning. Thought if I didn't explain you'd think I'd gone off my rocker!

From: Dorothy Leach

To: thea

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 4:34 PM

Subject: [S]Fw: Prayer

I got my results just a little while ago. I'll be going to surgery. Cancer still there. Don't know when yet. Since we don't have health ins. I'm set up with Iowa Cares, which means I have to do it at Broadlawns -- the county hospital. The surgeon I was seeing (he did the 2nd biopsy) has trained the doctors that are there & he says they are very good. So he is going to choose one for me & call them; so now I have to wait for a call from them for an apt. -- don't know who long it will take.

But I know God is still in control, so please keep praying. I appreciate your prayers so much. Thanks Tell Mike we're thinking of him & praying for him, too.

Love, Dorothy

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Thea

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:19 PM

Subject: Re: Prayer

Thea & Regina,

Thank you both sooooo much for your thoughts and especially for your prayers. It *really* means a lot to me; and I know God can heal. I should get the results of this morning's biopsy sometime between Fri afternoon and Tues. morning, depending on how quickly the lab gets the results out -- weekend and all. The Dr. said if it comes out showing no cancer he will do it again because he doesn't believe it could change! What a witness that would be!!

I'll keep you posted. Again, thanks so much to you and all those who've been praying. I'm trusting God no matter what.

Love, Dorothy

From: Michael Dinwiddie

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 6:24 PM

Subject: Re: biopsy schedule update

Thank you so much for the update. We have been so concerned and in prayer. Of course I will be standing with you in prayer from now until Thursday evening. I'm so glad you feel so well. I know many, many others are standing and praying for you also. Thea is such an encouragement. I haven't heard from Shelly Shannon. Do you know if she has been moved? Keep your Chin up kid. It's going to be OK! Love, Regina

From: Carl P

Subject: RE: Prayer request: biopsy schedule update

To: Regina D

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7:13 PM

We will pray for Dorothy tomorrow morning as our Wednesday Prayer Breakfast meets.

From: Michael Dinwiddie

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:26 PM

Subject: Re: Fw: [S]FW: Say what????

Dorothy, those were really day brighteners. I just want you to know that members of our ministry,

Mike's Bible study, My bible study, all prayed for you today. My mom is praying. WE will continue to be with you in prayer and love. We love you much, Regina

From: Regina D

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:35 PM

Subject: Re: Prayer

WE will continue in prayer. We prayed this morning (my mom, mike, and I for a very skilled and HONEST pathologist and that it will be benign. I'm so glad you wrote. My brother Paul had a burst appendix for 2 weeks before he went to the hospital. We thought he was going to die. We went before the LORD in prayer. He went to surgery Monday (11 days after being in the hospital) The surgeon was sure he was going to have to have a colostomy, it was bleak. He came out of the surgery awesomely well and no colostomy. The Most High hears prayers. Mike will go to surgery in the morning for his broken foot. GOD is Good. Love ya, Regina

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Judy McN

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 4:09 PM

Subject: Re: Morning

Well, I just got my results, and I'll be going for surgery. Cancer still there. Don't know when yet; now just have to wait for their call for an appointment.

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers. God still hears and answers -- please keep praying.

Love, Dorothy

From: Judy McN

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 10:19 AM

Subject: Morning

Good morning Dorothy, What did the test show? I did remember to pray for you. Let me know.

Judy

From: Stephanie P

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 6:35 AM

Subject: Re: movie

That is a good thing! I am hoping and praying for good news and please keep me in touch. We love you mom!!!!

From: Sharon P

To: dorothy leach

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:27 PM

Subject: RE: biopsy results

Still Praying--sooo glad God is in control for you.

stop by my blog if you get a chance! dandelionmom.wordpress.com

By God's grace and for His glory-from *DandelionEnd ~ Shar*

From: Carol C

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:37 AM

Subject: RE: biopsy results

I am so sorry!!!!

Do you want me to give you Cinda's and Wanda's e-mails for added prayers?

Carol

From: Jeanette S
To: Dorothy
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:44 AM
Subject: surgery

Dear Dorothy,
I am so sorry to hear you are facing another trial. Please know you are back in our prayers.
Fondly,
Jeanette S

From: Thea
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:35 AM
Subject: Re: [S]Fw: Prayer

Dorothy you are very welcome. Here is the reference you mentioned.

1Cor.10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Hang tuff!
T

From: Regina D
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 7:26 PM
Subject: Re: Prayer

I know God is at work in you and Dave. I want to know is the tumor encapsulated? I know you are adverse to a lumpectomy but, is it at all an option for you? I have been worrying about you all day. I would like to know more if you care to share. Of course I will still be in prayer for you. Mike is doing good. He is not in much pain yet, the numbing medicine is not due to wear off yet. He does have some pain pills from the Dr. He can't walk for 4 days and has to have ice on his foot 45 minutes out of each hour until then.

From: Judy McN
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:01 PM
Subject: Re: Morning

Dear Dorothy, I'm so sorry you have to go thru this. I will be glad to be with you, if you will have me.
Love ya,
Judy

From: Ruth T
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 1:55 PM
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

David and Dorothy,

I am so sorry to hear of the diagnosis, but I know your faith will carry you through. We will be praying for you and we know God answers prayers. Our faith has been challenged this past year, but He has always pulled us through,

Ruth & Clarence Tucker

From: Rick Arrowood
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 2:26 PM
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

You are absolutely right on - the "escape clause" is not Biblical. Keep standing faith. If you want a great, encouraging sermon on this, from a man who has prayed for people and seen them healed of AIDS and Hepatitis C, go to iTunes (sorry - I know, it's Apple, but my church uses them - what can I do?) and check the podcasts for Heartland Assembly. I think this link will take you directly there:

<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=274047481>

The sermon you want is Dan Mohler (Wednesday Evening) posted 11/21/08, with the description "Dan Mohler at Heartland Assembly, 11/12/08" He is adamantly opposed to "the escape clause" and explains that in a very unique way.

Praying with you- Rick Arrowood

Dave, to Rick:

Hi! Thanks for the info. I would really like to hear that sermon, but when I followed the link I came to a page that looked like some entry portal, nothing about this sermon on the page; I searched for "Mohler" and "Heartland", got zero results. Albert Mohler, not Dan, had 4 results when I searched for "Mohler" alone.

Dave

From: Rick Arrowood

To: Dave
Sent: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 11:33:16 -0500
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

We can go low tech - I'll just bring you a CD. I'm assuming I can just drop it off at the music store - if not let me know where.

-Rick

Dave to Rick: Thanks! Sure!

From: Charles H
To: Dave
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: My wife's cancer

Dave,
Sorry to hear about your wife. She will be in our prayers.
Charles H

From: Scott S
To: 'Dave'
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 6:43 PM
Subject: RE: Biopsy: positive.

God Bless Dorothy, you and your family during this time. Another Christian couple that we are friends with back in Cedar Falls just found out that she has cancer. I'm praying for all of you!

Scott

From: Georgia H
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 6:49 PM
Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

I hear you, Dave. I think if it be thy will are a check clause on our plans to do this or that. People need to be open to God's will instead of determining their own route and ask Him to follow. Jesus healed everyone who

came to Him.Dave, we acknowledge that every blessing that we receive is from God, including medicine. All healing is from Him.It is not a lack of faith to acknowledge that He is our source in everything. However the unbeliever sees miracles, and it draws them to Our Yahweh.Your glorifying the LORD in the midst of everything is where He gets glory.

The top pediatric surgeon in the city opened my son to find a cyst enclosing his appendix which also had grown into his major organs. After an ingenious set up of using a pump to drain the cyst, and another pump to drain the stomach to avoid vomiting, amazing enough to bring in many to see what this genius of a doctor had done, he pulled me aside alone. He said something like, "OK, what's going on? He isn't supposed to be getting well this fast. **He was supposed to be in intensive care 48 hours, and it is only 27 and he does not need to be there.**" My point is that my son needed surgery for that doctor's benefit. He needed to see that which was supernatural beyond what he himself expected as the result of good medical procedure. I have known great faith instilled within me like that which brought my mother back from the dead to her funeral to appear before me out of the body with an angel. She shook her head like "no, way". Apparently she was given a choice by God and did not want to come back. **Great faith does not mean I will take no medicine nor eat any differently.** We already know that cancers can be encouraged or caused by what we eat or do not eat including the chemicals on them. I would like to know that she is eating a Levitical diet.

Soy beans are the food highest in phyto-estrogens that retard the growth of any humanly-produced estrogen-fed tumor, including breast cancer in men and women and prostate cancer. 2 Tbsp.per day ensures the rate of growth of a tumor in the prostate to be slow enough that a man would have to live to be 150 years old for it to kill him.

Co Enzyme 10 is produced in the liver. It is most abundantly found in the heart muscle. One woman reportedly took over 300 mg of it per day to which experts previously thought of no benefit and cured her cancer. Remember, the LORD is the source of all true knowledge. Doctors have never found any cancer at a place in the body where enzymes are released into the bloodstream leading them to the understanding that cancer does not do well in the presence of enzymes. Therefore you have diets rich in enzymes for those having been diagnosed with cancer. I have a friend who went away for a weekend instead of having a radical double mastectomy to learn the "Hallelujah Diet", and she is cancer free. Her name is Carol Roach. In the phone book her husband's name, Larry Roach.

Once I went up for prayer for pain that I was having. I went down in the Spirit after the lady prayed for me. On the floor the LORD said one word to me,"Magnesium." That was my answer. Another time I was praying about a friend who was being treated for fibromyalgia. I asked him about Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. He told me that the doctors were thinking about that. The LORD gave me a prescription for him. He told me that he was to take milk thistle for 5 days to build up his liver and then to start a regimen of Olive Leaf Extract. The man started, was feeling great, and then because of fear and lack of faith or pride or something would not proceed with what I was telling him and did his own thing and got his pain back. My point being in these two instances the LORD gave specific Word on consumption of substances as the answer to the prayers for healing. I took my Word from the LORD, he started to but backed out and stayed ill. He put more stock on the label on the herbal bottle than the Word of the prophet.

I know that her pain is your pain. She loves you dearly & vice versa. It shows. You pray according to the Word,you continue until you get His Word for you on it,then you stand on that.

From Dave to Georgia:

Hi! Thanks for the info; it is Dorothy's opinion that they are all good preventatives, but not cures at this stage; and it is my determination to put all faith in the Lord, and not to dilute the credit with anything. We've already tried the Hulda Clark diet and disproved that; I suspect the Lord gave us a positive 2nd biopsy in order to make possible a 3rd result that would glorify Him alone.

Months ago you expressed concern for John's table leaf, and I wrote back that it is under the roof of the woodpile East of the house. It is still there - do you think he really wants it?

Dave

From: Georgia Hasan
To: Dave

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:34 AM

Subject: Table leaf, thank you.

Yes he was very happy to find out that I had the table. I somehow missed your letter that said where the leaf was. Thank you. It is a good and necessary thing to give the LORD His glory.. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. I understand, and I still hold that we must give Him glory for all His gifts, not just those that are termed miracles. Still the man born blind endured much for the glory of the LORD.
Love in Christ,

Georgia

From: Linda W

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:43 AM

Subject: Re: biopsy results

Dearest Dorothy, You are in my prayers. You will see the good that God will bring from this. I spent the day with Cathy Ramey Sunday (she has breast cancer and is undergoing radiation). Please continue to trust in our God as He has a plan for you.

Love always in our blessed Lord Jesus Christ,

Linda

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Linda W

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:17 AM

Subject: Re: biopsy results

Thanks Linda. I'm finding that way more people than I ever thought have either had it or have it now. Since you've gone through it, I'm open to any advice you may have -- in addition to coveting prayers. Thanks again

In Christ's Love, Dorothy

From: Linda W

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:13 AM

Subject: Re: biopsy results

Dearest Dorothy,

Please let me know when a good time to call is, I have that call anywhere once a month fee so it doesn't cost me anymore to call you. Please tell me the time on my Pacific time, thanks.

Love in our blessed Lord Jesus,

Linda

Dorothy to Linda:

Thanks Linda! It would be really good to hear your voice again.

Probably the best time to catch me is at the music store. This is a pretty slow season, and if I did happen to be busy with a lesson or something just when you called, I could tell you when to call back; but most of the time there's not much going on in here this time of year.

I am waiting for a call from the Dr. for an apt., so if no one answers at all, we may be off to the Dr. getting the details set up for surgery. Don't know when that will happen yet.

Our store hours are 11-6 our time, and I think you're 2 hours ahead of us, so that would be 9AM to 4PM your time. In the mornings before we come to the store is about the only time I have to do any housework and "plan ahead" meals, besides getting ready to come, so that's probably not as free a time to chat. And most evenings it seems like we have something going on, or we go out after work trying to collect on bad accounts. (It's amazing how many people "forget" to pay the rent on their instruments --- even though they get 3, 4, or 5

statements in the mail saying it's due! Then there are those who move away and leave no forwarding address, taking the instrument with them!) So evenings would be harder to catch me home as well.

Our store # is 515-244-3711. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

From: Doreen G

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:27 AM

Subject: Hi to Dorothy

Hi, Dave -- Would you please pass along a personal greeting to Dorothy? I'm keeping her in my thoughts and prayers.

She might like to hear that **my sister Mimi had breast cancer over 20 years ago -- I think it was 1986 -- and she has lived a happy and rich life with her husband, seeing their daughters marry and enjoying 2 grandkids.**

We don't know each other all that well, but Dorothy seems to me to be a very strong woman. I know a lot of people must be rooting for her and sending love and support.

With love from Dodi Giles

From: Regina D

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:18 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

A P.S. To your #13 being good for Christians, Mike had his surgery on Friday the 13th. He is doing wonderfully well. Thanks for your writings, Regina

From: Jeff E

To: 'Dave'

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:46 PM

Subject: RE: Biopsy: positive.

Dear Dave, I'm sorry to hear, but glad you are still proceeding in faith. You and Dorothy are in my prayers--& yes, they are for miraculous healing. I do not wish to offend you regarding your link, but I simply cannot add another thing to my reading list right now. I'm carrying 18 credits this semester & already I am planning vacation days to complete the assignments I have committed to.

In Christ, Jeff

From: Arlo L

To: Dave Leach ; Dorothy Leach

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:40 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

H folks,

The news came about 1 pm. The 2nd biopsy shows Dorothy still has cancer.

My goodness, I didn't know this was happening. Dorothy, when did you find out? Do you have a surgery scheduled, then?

Best, Arlo

From: "Dorothy Leach" <dleach@iowalink.com>

To: "Arlo Leach" <arlo@arlotone.com>

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 11:12 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

The mamogram was Dec. 31, first biopsy was Jan. 15 -- now this one. Surgery is not yet scheduled -- I'm waiting on a phone call to let me know. I'm guessing I'll get the call sometime this week, and we'll just go from there.

Thanks for your concern. I feel so good that it's almost even hard for me to realize this is happening. I told your Dad I feel better than I've felt in 3 years! (In a couple weeks it will be 3 yrs since the accident.) Now that I can FINALLY do pretty much everything I did before, new problem to deal with.

We'll try to keep you posted. Hello to Sally, too.

Thanks again.

Dorothy

From: "Arlo L

To: "Dorothy Leach"

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:31 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

As for a visit --- wow! Our morale is always boosted when you guys visit. I would hate to ask you to drive all that way, but if you want to come we'd love to see you and certainly won't tell you not to! Comment from your dad: "Our morale would be boosted even more if you moved here. We could certainly accomodate that!"

Well, let us know if there's a time before or after the surgery that would be good, and if there's anything we can do to help.

As for moving, we put our condo on the market last week, and we are definitely moving to Portland.

Whoo! I don't know how long it will take to sell, but we might be ready to move in May if all goes well.

Cheers, -Arlo

Dorothy to Arlo:

Well, for now I just want to say, if you're moving that far away, that soon, you better come for a visit! We'll look forward to seeing you and will want to hear all about your plans. Sounds like it will be exciting for you. I'll know more about what's going on after Thurs. so will be in touch.

Thanks again, Dorothy

From: Dianne.J

To: Dave

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 8:12 AM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dave,

Continue praying boldly and sending me your updates concerning Dorothy.

Dianne A. Jones

From: Laurie Y

To: Dave

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:57 AM

Subject: RE: Biopsy: positive.

I have added your wife to our pray list for Pray for the Cure group tonight and we will agree with you for her complete healing and a clear biopsy report. You are always welcome to join us, we meet the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Palmer Chapel and we will be meeting tonight. Thanks!

Laurie Y

From: Kay

To: Dorothy

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:02 PM

Subject: Re: biopsy results

Dorothy.

You are and will continue to be in my prayers.

Kay

From: Dena

To: Aguilera M

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:54 AM

Subject: update from Dorothy Leach

Hello Prayer Warriors! I opened this email from last Friday that was sent by Dorothy. Please keep her in your prayers! Dorothy says:

Thanks to those who've been praying for me for the past 3 wks while I tried this natural healing "diet" to cure cancer. Yesterday I had my 2nd biopsy to confirm, and it's still there (breast cancer). Next I'll be going to surgery, but not yet sure when. Waiting on a call for an apt. Would really appreciate your continued prayers that this surgery will go well and take care of the whole problem. Jesus is still the Master Healer and things are still in His control; and He does hear and answer prayer. Thanks to all. Dorothy Leach

Dena's prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I ask now that you be with the surgeons as they operate on Dorothy guiding them to a successful removal of all the cancer and no need for chemotherapy or radiation just as you did my aunt so many years ago who is still alive today. Please let her have a quick recovery and fill her with your Spirit so she feels no pain and has peace throughout the whole ordeal. I also ask that you be with all of us who are concerned for her giving us the same peace. In Jesus' name, Amen

Love and God Bless, Dena

<http://www.shineminiistry.net>

KEEP SHINING because you might be the only Bible some will ever read :) :)

From: Dena

To: aguilera

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:47 AM

Subject: update on Cole's page

Hello Prayer Warriors! Here's an update from Cole's page that I had to share. (I kinda fell into this category of Mom and especially super housewife. Just don't look at my house when you visit now!)

Isn't it amazing how God can use one little boy to touch so many.

Here is a message that was sent via email, I hope you enjoy.....

* * * * *

I would love to tell you how Cole changed my life. For me, it was not to just "Be There." I AM there with four kids. I spend my days sitting on the floor playing My Little Pony, finger painting, and playing chase around the kitchen. After school it's every sports game, every class party, event, and school event. There is so much running around trying to "be there" that sometimes I forget to just "BE." I couldn't agree more with the girl that posted... "don't count the days... make the days count." That is what we are now doing. My kids don't need "Supermom," they just need Mom. We don't need to have schedules so hectic that I need two pots of coffee to get through the day. I am no longer available to just "be there," I am available to "be with" – to "be together." We are cutting back our extra curricular activities and spending more time doing absolutely nothing... TOGETHER.

My biggest fear has been death – mine, my children's, my husband's, parents'... anyone in my family. I am an avid "please bless my family and me with long, HEALTHY lives" prayer. I always have been. If I am being totally honest, I am so afraid of things like sickness and death that I could never be one of the people that visit tons of Caring Bridge pages.

Then in July I got an email from a MOPS group about Cole. Everything changed. **I don't know what made me go to CaringBridge. Maybe it was just that I couldn't understand how another mother's child simply had a bad stomachache and was diagnosed with incurable cancer. How does that happen? I have no idea how I even got the guts to follow the link, but I did. And Cole changed me. He had me that first day with that first photo. I followed both Cole and your journey daily. There were many nights that I couldn't sleep because all that I could do was lie in the dark and pray and beg God to help Cole. During my daughter's nap times, I would read the guestbook entries of love, faith, and commitment to life... to miracles... to God. There were so many believers who knew that God had a plan.**

I believe in God. I believe in the power of prayer. I believe that God forgives sins, but even though I knew these things, it just didn't really ease my fear of death... until Cole... until your family showed me. I

realized how everyone truly understood that heaven is the goal, not an end result. Heaven is really a place. Heaven is a place where there is a little blond-haired boy named Cole, playing in sunshine flooded fields of flowers. There is no sickness there. It's always summertime. There is no heartache, there is only love, and the love that Cole took there is from you and from me... from all of us. We are with him just as he is with us. Love is eternal.

I am not afraid of death anymore. I understand I will always continue to pray for my family to live long, healthy, and happy lives... because that is love. When it is our "time" to go, we will carry the love with us to a higher place.

May God bless you and your family. Thank you for all that you have given to us. Cole may have been the hand of God that brought us all together...

– From South Dakota

From: Dorothy Leach

To: frank brown

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 4:34 PM

Subject: biopsy results

Hi,

After carefully following Hulda Clark's diet, cutting out ALL sugars, adding more C and D and switching to BoneUp calcium, drinking a "cancer preventative" tea, cutting out most red meat, adding Super Greens and Neutralizer, eating lots of fresh vegetables--especially broccoli & asparagus --and a few other things, -- the cancer is still there. Had the 2nd biopsy Thurs. and got the results yesterday. I'll be going to surgery as soon as it can be scheduled -- unsure when. But I do want to get it out. I think most of the above things are probably better for prevention than they are for cure.

I'll keep trusting God. I know He is still in control, and prayer is probably more important than all the other "cure-alls".

Thanks for all your efforts to help. The curcumin really did help with the arthritis pain and "left over" leg pain from the accident; and either/or both the neutralizer and enzymes/probiotics have apparently cured the acid reflux. Once I started on them, I took one more Zantac 2 days later, and have not had another since. That's been about 4 weeks or so, and I was taking one every day, sometimes 2!

Would appreciate your prayers. Thanks

Dorothy

From: Robert A Leach, D.C., M.S.

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 11:47 AM

Subject: RE: biopsy results

Dorothy...was and am continuing to pray for you...lifted you up for prayer at our homeschool family fellowship and bible study Saturday night...

Love,

Rob and Vicki

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Cinda

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 3:10 PM

Subject: hi-& latest news

Hi Cinda,

Surprise! Trust all is well with you. It's really been a loooong time since we've communicated in any way! I can't remember for sure if you're still in Waterloo or moved to Dubuque or somewhere-- I'm so out of touch that I don't even know for sure about that. I'm still in Des Moines and we're still operating the music store that Dave's grandfather started 87 years ago, giving lessons, etc. **I've FINALLY recovered from the head-on collision we had on the west edge of Grundy on 3/5/06. I'm sure you heard about that -- saw your folks at**

the orthopedic surgeon's office in Waterloo on one of my visits there --when we topped the tiny hill by the new motelwe a car on the wrong side of the road! Took 3 surgeries, a fourth hospital stay for blood clots in both lungs, months and months and months of therapy to learn to walk again, and now after nearly 3 years I can finally do almost everything I could do before. I feel better now than I have in 3 years, but now I find I have a new problem.

Carol C asked if I'd like to have your email so I could share the news I just shared with her. I now have breast cancer and will be looking at surgery sometime in the very near future. No date set yet. We're just really praying and trusting God's healing power to take care of everything.

I'd really appreciate your prayers, too; and would be really good to hear from you and catch up on what's happening in your life. Email makes it so much easier to keep in touch!

Dorothy Leach

From: Cinda & Elwood J
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 6:44 PM
Subject: Re: hi-& latest news

Hey there! First of all you will have to send me your email address.

Gosh, so much has happened since high school I was divorced in 76 and remarried in 78 to my husband, Elwood. We live on a farm N of Decorah (God's country in Iowa) I have always wanted to live on a farm.

I have two sons, from my first marriage, they are both in the Air Force. Larry is 39 and is in his 21st year in the Air Force stationedl in NM. Rob is 36 and in his 16th year in the Air Force, His wife is also in the AF. They are stationed in Germany. Elwood and I have a daughter together Kristti, who is married to Ken who is in the Army also stationed in Germany. I had the chance to go see them last year. They only live a couple hours apart if you go by the autobon.

Larry has two girls, and a little boy due in April which will have me bording a plane for NM as his wifes parents are both deceased.

Rob has one son, who is living with his x in Florida
Kristti has a boy to be 5 shortly and a little girl 1 1/2

I retired in 07 (25yrs in the post office between Waterloo and Decorah with 14 yrs of driving school bus here at North Winn in the middle) Enjoy being home, doing calf and horse chores in the morning. Crochetting, reading, baking, gardening , riding my motorcycle in the summer. And I still play clarinet in church. Sometimes we are a trio, quartet and even had 8 playing on one Sunday. I head a Love Shawl Ministry in our church.Fills in the evenings alone when Elwood is driving the Mail semi to DM and back

So enough about me, how about your kids doing?

Sorry to hear about the Cancer and will put you on our church prayer chain. This month makes me a 29yr cervical cancer survivor, pray that you will be able to say that too.

Will definitely keep in touch.
Take care
Cinda

Dorothy to Cinda:

Great to get a little "catch up"! After always knowing you as a "city girl", it's hard to imagine you on a farm, gardening and all. But I love the farm and would be happy to move back to one. Though here in D.M. I guess we have the best of both worlds -- we have 2 1/2 acres in the city, so we have a huge garden, some chickens for eggs, and for awhile we had a couple goats for milk, but they have died now, and I miss them. Your hobbies sound pretty much the same as mine -- except for the motorcycle. That's not me. But Keith, my youngest, is in Grundy and has started an ebay business selling motorcylce parts. You can see it at www.kandmcyclesandmore.com

It's sad to say but divorce is really rampant these days. After 15 yrs. of marriage, my ex ran off with someone else in 83. That's when I move to Des Moines. I remarried in 86, and have now been happily married for 22 years this time. I worked as the asst. manager at the capitol bldg. cafeteria for 6 yrs -- then as the manager for one of the Barbara's Bake Shop branches for a couple years. Then I spent 6 yrs working as a home health

aide.

My adopted twins, Mike and Sue, will be 42 next week (wow that makes me feel old!) and my son Keith is 35. Twins have both been married and divorced more than once, Keith has been divorced but hasn't remarried. 7 grandchildren. Dave has a son in Chicago, 35, and married only about a year and 1/2 ago -- no kids. His daughter is in Colorado - 33 -- never married. When Dave's Dad died in 97 I came into the music store to help out.

How do you like retirement? I remember Bonnie Kinsinger standing up at the last reunion I went to at the Country Club and saying, "Retirement stinks!" For us retirement doesn't seem like an option. When you own your own small business (in this case quite small) there's not enough to put back to retire on. And, of course, no pensions, etc. But that's ok -- I'm not sure I'd enjoy being retired anyway, unless I had lots of money to travel with. I do really like to travel and wish we could afford to do more of it.

Oh, by the way-- I have 2 emails, you can reach me at either one: {}

Hmmmmmmmm-- since your hubby drives to DM, what are the chances you might ride along some day and stop in at our music store for awhile, or all day --- and bring your clarinet to do some "jamming"? --or some evening if he only drives at night. Would be good to spend some time with you again, and Dave loves to play music every chance he gets. We do have lots of time in the store that's not at all busy -- except for Aug. & Sept. Those are our "harvest months", when school starts and everyone comes to get their instruments and supplies.

I had no idea you'd been through cervical cancer! We have a gal at church going through that right now & she's having a tough time. Did you have to go through chemo and all the horribleness that goes with it?

Just a few minutes ago I got the call from the surgeon who will be doing my surgery. I have an apt. with him this Thurs. at 12:40 for an exam and consultation and "we'll go from there". So --- I'm guessing that probably the surgery will be early next week --- but it's just that, a guess. I'll let you know what I find out.

Guess I should sign off and get some work done for now.

Dorothy

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Judy McN

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:35 PM

Subject: [S]Re: Morning

Been putting off getting back to you til I know something about what's happening. Just a few minutes ago I got a call from the Dr. who will be doing the surgery. I have an apt. with him on Thurs. at 12:40 for an exam and consultation and "we'll go from there". So --- I'm guessing that maybe the surgery will be early next week -- but it's just that, a guess. I'll let you know when I find out more.

Since our little business doesn't bring in enough to afford health insurance, I'll have to do it at Broadlawns. But I understand they have pretty good care there these days. The surgeon I saw first, who performed the 2nd biopsy, "hand-picked" this surgeon for me. He said he has trained the surgeons at Broadlawns, and they are also heavily supervised. We have a nurse friend in Kansas City who said she used to work in a "teaching hospital", and they actually gave better care - or "more conscientious" care than other hospitals she'd been in because they were doing this just before they were turned out on their own, and they were doing it for a grade and recommendation as well as giving care to the patients, so they really worked hard to do the very best.

My mom and my youngest son live in Grundy Center, and mom (she's 85) said she'd like to come up for the surgery if it's a day Keith (my son) can bring her. And if you'd like to come in for any part of the day, I'd be honored by your presence. If it all goes as the first surgeon said it would, I should only have to be in for 24 hours, and probably a week of recovery before slowly getting back to normal activities. Chemo will be determined by what they find.

Will let you know when I find out more.

Dorothy

From: Judy McN

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:01 PM

Subject: Re: Morning

Dear Dorothy, I'm so sorry you have to go thru this. I will be glad to be with you, if you will have me.

Love ya,

Judy

From: Dorothy Leach

To: Judy McN

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 4:09 PM

Subject: Re: Morning

Well, I just got my results, and I'll be going for surgery. Cancer still there. Don't know when yet; now just have to wait for their call for an appointment.

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers. God still hears and answers -- please keep praying.

Love, Dorothy

From: Roxanne G

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:40 PM

Subject: Re: Biopsy: positive.

Dear Dave, My prayers will remain for full deliverance from the cancer and strength for you to remain stalwart in your prayers.

Love Always, The "other Grimmius" Roxanne

Mike Bray:

Did I reply to you regarding prayer for Dorothy? We are praying for her healing and calling upon our God to send His Spirit upon her in power.

From: Ken Richards

To: Ken work

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:08 AM

Subject: Asking for your prayers for my surgery today

All,

I am being operated on for Kidney cancer today at Methodist hospital in Des Moines. I truly believe in the power of prayer to our merciful God. Please take a few seconds and say a quick prayer on my behalf.

Best Regards, Ken Richards

[Update from Dave: Ken had cancer in a kidney, where if it is cut out before cancer escapes to the body the chance of cancer recurring is "less than zero" but once it leaves the kidney, the cancer is always fatal. Not only was it removed, but not even all the kidney had to be removed.]

From: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 6:38:00 PM

Subject: surgery scheduled

Hi,

Just got back from the surgeon a bit ago. Surgery is scheduled for Fri., March 6. They are very busy and that was the first opening they have. I go in at 9AM and surgery will happen about 10 or 10:30. There is also found a lump under the arm which could be suspicious, so rather than just taking the 1 or 2 node from under the arm for a lymph-node sample which they always take for any surgery of this nature, they will take a bit bigger sample that includes the bump.

I should be in the hosp. for 24-48 hours & go home with a drain under my arm which will remain there for about a week.

Dave and others are praying that God might give us some clear sign to know for certain that God has been cured it with answered prayer and no need for surgery. Aside from that, we will be happy to have God use the surgery to be the cure.

That's about all I know for now.

I am extremely grateful for all of you who've been praying, and I know you will continue to pray. God is in control and He hears and answers. My prayer is for a special blessing for each one who has shown concern and is praying for me. Thank you all so much.

Dorothy

From: Stephanie P
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 8:18 PM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Mike and I will try to get that day off from work. What hospital will you be having the surgery at? Cody and Allysa are visiting this weekend they are currently here at the house and will be leaving on Saturday. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and Dave during the waiting time and we will continue to pray for a miracle that god will take the cancer out of your body! We love you and if you need anything please let me know!

Love
Stephanie

From Dorothy:

It would be wonderful if you can be there, but at the same time I don't want you to put yourselves out or jeopardize a job or anything like that in order to come. So, like I told Mike, I leave it up to you. It will be at Broadlawns. I was told visitors should check in at the desk where the sign says, med surg peds (or something like that, I was just told, didn't see the sign to see the spelling). They said go in the main entrance (big blue main entrance sign over the door) and go to the left down the hall. Hallway "meanders" quite aways and you'll come to that sign and desk.

It was good to talk to Cody last night, too.

Thanks for your prayers and concern. See you then if you can make it (but probably communicate before then)

Love, mom

From: Lorraine T
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:04 PM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

I am so glad that they have gotten that scheduled for you. Will continue to pray for you and the doctors taking care of you. Please keep us posted.

Lorraine

From: Pat H
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:11 PM
Subject: Re: Flower Delivery

I had my appt. on Wed. and as far as we know at this point, I got a good report. Dr. says no new cancer in the bladder but there is a small red spot in there yet which he feels is still from the original cancer and is still in the healing stage. He said it takes quite a while for the cancer chemical he put in the bladder after both surgeries to heal and with this type of chemical it works on the cancer area and heals from the outside to the inside and he really feels it has not worked that far to the center yet. HOWEVER.....he did what he calls a "bladder wash" where he inserted water in the bladder and then drains it out and sends it to the Lab to see if there are any cancer cells in it. If there is, he will take me in to do surgery again to take care of it but he really feels it isn't anything new there. If it comes back ok and without cancer cells I go back and have another cycstoscopy done the middle of May like I had done Wed. He told Jerry that I will have one of those done every 3 months for the next 2 years. If no cancer cells are found in that 2 yrs. we will go to every 6 months. If new cells are found in these first 2 years we will stay with the every 3 month cystoscopies. Not at all uncomfortable

but he (and I) want to stay on top of it at all times. I will have the report of the "bladder wash" in 7-10 days. So....wait and see what that shows. Now to you.....I'm sure Dr.s know what is best for surgical procedure for your case and do so with great skill. The waiting is the hardest I think and Mar. 6th seems a long ways away. I would think they will test the lymph nodes as they remove them to see how many they need to take out but each place does things differently and they will take very good care of you. They wouldn't be booked that far ahead with surgeries if they weren't good Drs. We will be in touch before your surgery and you write any time you want or need to. Prayers are with you! Pat

From: Dorothy Leach
To: undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 6:38 PM
Subject: surgery scheduled

Hi,

Just got back from the surgeon a bit ago. Surgery is scheduled for Fri., March 6. They are very busy and that was the first opening they have. I go in at 9AM and surgery will happen about 10 or 10:30. There isalso found a lump under the arm which could be suspicious, so rather than just taking the 1 or 2 node from under the arm for a lymph-node sample which they always take for any surgery of this nature, they will take a bit bigger sample that includes the bump.

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Dorothy

From: Cinda & Elwood J
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 8:08 AM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Which hospital will you be in? Will update the prayer warriors at the chapel on Sunday womens SS class

Keeping you in our prayers God is in Control

Cinda

Dorothy to Cinda:

I will be in Broadlawns -- no health ins. with our little self-employment business -- simply can't afford it. But Broadlawns seems to be giving great care these days, and this is the choice we have. And you're right -- God is in control and He has promised to meet all our needs. (Plil. 4:19) And right now, Broadlawns meets one of those needs.

Thank everyone for the prayers. I appreciate each one.

Dorothy

From: Linda W
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 9:56 AM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Dear Dorothy, thank you for the up-date, I'm praying everyday for you.
Love in our blessed Lord Jesus,
Linda

P.S. going picketing for a couple of hours today at P & P .

From: Dorothy Leach
Subject: surgery scheduled

From: Regina D
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 11:18 AM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Dorothy, We are certainly praying. Look up coral calcium on line. It is very cheap. It may help you out. You can buy it at Wal-Mart. Buy the capsules not the tablets. I can get you some and mail them to you if you need me too. Love Regina.

From: Dan Holman
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 7:44 AM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

We are saddened by your situation. With the long recovery from your accident and now this; it is a lot to endure.

I suspect the "white coats" should have you follow the usual AMA protocol of chemo and possible radiation to get rid of micro-cancer in your bloodstream, etc.

Each person must pursue their own course of treatment. We personally would not go the chemo route as:

1. It weakens or destroys the immune system
2. It seems to have a high failure rate. Many people we know, or had known, got cancer again after a few years.

Our plan is to strengthen our immune system and prevent cancer from developing. We have many "cancer cures" as Donna calls them, including "Floressence." Donna mixes up a batch fairly regularly and we have been taking it in the morning on an empty stomach.

We have not been so disciplined as to eliminate sugar from our diet, but if I had tumors I would certainly make the effort, as cancer cannot live without sugar.

We will remember you in our poor prayers.

dan & donna

Dorothy to Donna:

at this point I'm not planning on radiation, and I'm hoping to avoid chemo, too. I'm curious-- what is floressence?

From: Don Burgmaier
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:54 PM
Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Thanks for the information.

I suggest you call Donna Karney (515) 278-4749.

Donna has been taking Miracle II about the same amount of time as you. *[Dave's Definition: A product that you can drink or wash in, and that promises to cure everything from AIDS to ugliness.]*

She followed my advice and soaked in the tub even though she was so weak that she had to have help getting out of the tub the first time. She is very very happy about what God has done for her using Miracle II. She had already started taking Chemo before soaking in the Miracle II and drinking the Neutralizer.

I believe it takes the same faith for God to heal though the products he has given us as well as a direct healing from God.

I have not forgotten the phone call many years ago when you still lived in Altoona.

You had aelbow that was hurting you for a period of time. God instantly healed you as a result of a

phone call and prayer.

I also remember twice God answered prayer for Joe and Thelma when they were having financial problems at the store on Keo. God answers prayer.

Don

On Thu, Feb 19, 2009 at 7:16 PM,

Dorothy Leach to Arlo & Sally

Hi, We're looking forward to your visit.

Surgery is now scheduled for Fri. March 6. That was the first opening they had. I go in at 9AM and surgery will be about 10 or 10:30. I should go home in 24-48 hours & have a drain under my arm that will remain there for about a week. The outcome of the lymph node test that is taken during the surgery will determine the need for chemo or not.

It's hard to tell you when to come. We're going to let you make the final decision. We're thinking that maybe if you come sometime that weekend (since I'll be going home Sat. or Sun.) I might feel more like company than on the actual day of the surgery -- and maybe have a bigger need to have people around, too. If the weather is good and everything works out for them, my mom and Keith plan to come up the day of the surgery -- just for the day. You're welcome to come then, too, if that works better for you. We want you to pick a time that fits your schedule, and stay as long as you want. We do have plenty of bedrooms, so you're most welcome to stay.

Love to both of you,

Dorothy

Looking forward to seeing you again.

From: sally

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:31 PM

Subject: Re: surgery scheduled

Hi Dorothy!

I'm so sorry to hear of the need for your upcoming surgery!!

Arlo and I haven't talked about when would be best to come visit yet, but I wanted to write to tell you I'm thinking of you and hoping for the best possible outcome.

I'm sorry for the circumstances, but it will be nice to see you again soon.

All my best to you,

Sally

Hi,

Dena, from Prayers4you gave me your email saying you were a breast cancer survivor and would like to talk to me about it if I'm interested.

I would like to hear about your experience. I'm scheduled for surgery on Fri, March 6 -- planning to do a mastectomy plus a small lump under the arm along with some nodes to test.

I've already tried a cancer "diet" that was supposed to "cure all cancer" ---- didn't work. My husband is still praying that God answer prayer and give us a clear sign that it has been healed so I won't have to do the surgery. That would be wonderful, but I'd also be happy if He used the surgery to heal it and there was no need for chemo. I know God is in control, and I know He is the Great Physician.

Anxious to hear your story.

In Christ,

Dorothy Leach

Dave to Mayflower Board meeting

I just found Dorothy's surgery for breast cancer will be scheduled for the afternoon of March 6, in which case I would be unable to make your March 7 board meeting. Of course, I am expecting God to heal her cancer

before then, in which case I will be able to make the meeting with no problem.

Dave Leach

Dave,

Hope all goes well. We will be thinking of you and Dorothy.

Bernie McGuire

From: Ken Richards [mailto:kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com]

To: ken.richards@kbr.com

Sent: Sat, 21 Feb 2009 10:47:47 -0800 (PST)

Subject: THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

All, I want to thank all of your for your prayers as it appears I am cancer free and able to recover. I should leave the hospital in 2 days missing only a portion of my left kidney and with a nasty scar...but cancer free (best possible outcome).

The node in my lung was not cancerous or related to my kidney cancer. God has given me another chance to be His servant and I intend to make better use of my future time.

Your friend,

Ken

From: Maureen W

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:17 AM

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Dear Dorothy and Dave,

Our love and our prayers are with you both Thank you for including us in your "prayer circle"

Lovingly, Maureen and Dave

From: Tom G

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 7:50 AM

Subject: Re: Report from the Surgeons about my wife's cancer

Dave,

Wishing to assure you that our prayers remain with Dorothy and yourself.

Tom & Dodi

From: Dorothy Leach

To: truthvan@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 10:48 AM

Subject: Re: [S]Giver mint spending

Clever!!

And --- a QUESTION FOR DONNA:

I'm assuming it's ok to take vitamins/supplements while on a water fast, right? Like especially the SuperGreens that I drink in water every morning? I know they are absorbed better with food, but feel like I will get more benefit out of continuing them even with water, rather than the "abuse" I might get by stopping them "cold turkey".

I'm going to give it a try. In the past I've had problems with getting the shakes if I go too long without eating something -- even just a little protein would solve the problem. Dr. said it's because I'm border-line hypoglycemic. (My sister got seizures from hypoglycemia.) But I'm trying it and we'll see what happens.

Also -- I looked up the flourescence on line and found the ingredients are the same as in the "cancer" tea (can't remember it's funny name right now) that I got at the health food store and have already been drinking for a month now.

From: Sharon B
To: (about a dozen folks)
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:08 AM
Subject: [S]prayer request -- employment
I submitted my resume via email as requested for a receptionist position at Prime Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

I would really appreciate everyone's prayers regarding this matter. Thanks.
Have a wonderfully blessed day!

From: Dorothy Leach [mailto:dleach@iowalink.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Sharon B
Subject: Re: [S]prayer request -- employment

ok -- will be praying. You're still at your present job til March 1, or March something-right? Where is Prime Nursing & Rehab?

We're still praying that the Lord might remove the lump yet this week. If that happens, that gives time for 1 more biopsy to check & see if it's really gone --- otherwise it's surgery next Fri, 3/6. Appreciate your prayers, too; and thanks

Dorothy

From: Sharon B
To: 'Dorothy Leach'
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:45 AM
Subject: RE: [S]prayer request -- employment

The address is given as being on East 5th, so I am assuming it is downtown somewhere as it has a 50309 zip code.

The original outsourcing company Pitney Bowe backed out saying it was too expensive, so they are starting the process of finding another vendor to outsource to.

It could be that they will all be too expensive, and they will realize that it is cheaper to keep it in house, but I am not sure my nerves can handle this wondering from day to day what is going to happen. So, our positions here are currently extended. For how long, I don't know. I can't leave till mid March as that is when the bonus checks will be arriving.

I have worked too hard this year to lose out on getting it.

You should be on the prayer list for our first class at Shalom tonight. Also, Alison Ambs and Dorris Blackmore are aware of your situation, and have added you to the prayer list for Wednesday nights at Emmanuel. I know that the prayer groups at Cornerstone are aware of your upcoming surgery, as well as the prayer groups at Central Reformed in Oskaloosa. There is strength in numbers.

Have a wonderfully blessed day!

FROM: Ed & Sharon H

To Dorothy and Dave, Hi!!

I wasn't sure of your e-mail address so I am just sending this as a reply. If I were to give this a title, I would call it a response to: Dorothy's Cook Book. Our Family Favorites" and also a response to your Trust in a Faithful Father who you know can heal every Cell in the body.

First the Cook Book: Ed gave me a copy of Dorothy's Cook book many years ago. I put it with my other books and then on the evening of Feb. 8th I needed a good quick dish for the church dinner the next day. I went to look for 'other cook books'... for some reason I couldn't find the one I was looking for, so I looked again. Still I could not find it, but there was a cookbook I took down. It was Dorothy's. We hadn't received any word about the cancer challenge you all were facing. But for some reason when I needed a recipe, God let me take hold of the Leach cook book. It was late, I needed something quick... what did I find? This is something I love..... it was 'Escalloped Corn and Oysters.' I got the things out and was ready to fix it Sunday morning. It turned out

great...was so quick to fix. I know some folks don't like Oysters, but we love them. I even put a name on my dish for those who may have different taste buds. It is a great shame to waste oysters so anyone who took some of the dishwould know what they were getting. It was good. We did bring some home, but it didn't last longer than Sunday. Thanks for such a great dish. I noted I had also marked some others like 'Souperburgers.' I want get back and try some more of these. I am thankful for all your work and sharing scripture and your family favorites. I like the wisdom of.... "Give your kids a lot of rope, but hang on to the end." God is so Awesome.

Subject #2. Today, Feb. 24th, we got an e-mail from dear friends who asked prayer for their son in law, Rob.... Rob, a 34 young man with 2 little kids, a two year old and a baby 4 months. Rob is an RN and was just diagnosed with tongue cancer...he never smoked, drank, chewed...etc. They are seeking prayer and healing for Rob. .Robs wife, Janelle, went to school with one of our daughters. They love Jesus. He just had the biopsy last Thurs. on Feb. 19th. Would you consider lifting up his name to our Savior, that God would be greatly glorified.

Then in response to Dorothy's biopsy and your seeking Gods healing, we are praying. Keep believing and desiring that God will get the most glory in all He is allowing. Don't let any "stories" of others shake your confidence in Christ. **I too had breast cancer... so I know about biopsies, hard lumps under the arm, lymph nodes and the cancer results of other lumps. I too prayed for healing, I know God can do anything. I knew 'Yes' and even "No" was a valid answer. Did God heal me? Let me say, 'Yes', I think He did heal me, but NOT when I wanted. I was 49 yrs old. It has been 22 years. Yes... 22 years have passed.. The lump didn't go away. The Ultra sound and biopsy and 4 lymph nodes showed it had spread. I was an RN and worked mainly with cancer patients so I knew what could be ahead. I was told that I would only live about 2 years with out having the bad cells removed. We have 4 children, our youngest daughter was 11 yrs. so I figured by the time she was 16 yrs old I would be history. Five yrs is the length of time that was allotted for cancer patients at that time. Anyway I prayed for healing and knew God could take the lump away. It didn't go away. I did have the surgery.... and chemo and radiation. I had sandwich treatment. Two bouts of chemo and 25 days of radiation and 2 more chemo treatments. I never lost my hair and wasn't sick except for feelinga little lousy in that afternoon and a good nap made me able to get up and care for my family. Did I learn anything about TRUSTing JESUS? Yes, every day and every month and year, I released my life to Him for His glory. May I say, I was greatly surprised to see 5 years come and go and also 10 years. But I can now also say, I did not want to live one day longer than the Savior wants me to. You are in our prayers... May Gods Wisdom and Peace be Abundant. Your friends in Christ, Ed and Sharon Hyatt**

FROM: Dave
TO: Ed & Sharon H
Hi!

Please check out my Bible study on healing at www.saltshaker.us, click on "Bible Study", and tell me how you react to my analysis of Bible miracles. Although the healing you claim is a blessing, and 22 more years is nothing to sneeze at, I want to do more for the "least of these my brethren" than I can achieve if the mountain I push into the sea must be no larger than I can push if my own strength is the only strength I can count on because God's answers to prayer are unpredictable and unreliable.

The Bible study I have done tells me God's answers to prayer ARE predictable and reliable, subject to the many conditions of which He has plainly spoken. And that, therefore, I need to aim at the mountains which will only tumble by the power of God, but which I may confidently push, knowing and trusting God WILL push with me.

This is critically important. IfI cannot count on God to push with me, then I am like Don Quixote, tilting at windmills, squandering precious time I would be better off spending accomplishing little things so that at least I will not go to the grave accomplishing nothing.

The St. Francis popular prayer, give me the strength to change what I can, the patience to accept what I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference, creates an excuse for accepting defeat which is not in the Bible. Nothing is impossible with God. Mat 19:26, Mar 10:27, Luke 1:37, Luk 18:27.

If I can trust God enough to devote my life to really huge mountains which, alone, I have no hope of moving even an atom, then what little love I must have to not share such blessing with others truly in need, such

as my wife who is suffering from cancer! Without healing, she will face not only removal of part of her body, but removal of her infected lymph nodes which will cause her arm to suffer occasional numbness and weakness for the rest of her life, as well as months of chemo and radiation which will greatly reduce her ability to function, and all of that not for a 100% chance of survival by medical reckoning but only about 80%.

Sure, I know she can "endure" the medical treatments. We can both, indeed, "endure" dying a slow, agonizing death from cancer, just as many saints have endured terrible tortures at the hands of wicked men. As the song goes, "Shall I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease whilst others fought to win the prize, and sailed on bloody seas?" If God has some reason for not answering my prayer, then for as long as He doesn't tell me, I will waste a lot of time praying for it. It seems to me there is too much need around me to waste very much time praying for things God doesn't want.

But if my study is right, that God does want to answer our prayers predictably and consistently, then my hesitancy to believe, and pray accordingly, is keeping me from "entering His rest", as Hebrews describes it. It is then my own unbelief which is my enemy, keeping me from what I need.

My study has encouraged me to burn bridges, because that is what Bible examples did. I have publicly declared, through a hundred emails and through my TV show in two consecutive shows, that I expect God to cure my wife's cancer. That "puts God on the spot", a place where He indicates he likes to be, especially when I am putting myself in the same spot. I risk basically ending any ministry I have, if God declines to answer. My own God-despising children will be powerfully confirmed in their contempt for Christianity. I can't imagine what I will say on TV, if I continue my show. I can't imagine going to church and witnessing to others, and feeding on their fellowship, if I must acknowledge that God does not answer prayers in the way the Bible clearly says He does, by the interpretation which I find inescapable. In other words, if I am wrong about this so basic a thing, I cannot imagine any other credible way to interpret the Bible; and for as long as I feel unable to understand the Bible on so basic a matter as prayer, how will I feel confident in using the Bible as my guide?

Because it is incomprehensible to me that I cannot live by the Word of God safely, it is incomprehensible to me that God will not heal my wife's cancer ere the surgeon's knife departs from its sterilizer! So we will check again tonight for the lump, as we pray.

I don't know how to separate my concern for how to pray, and for my continued ministry, from my prayer for my wife's cancer. If a salesman mistreats one customer, he may lose his job even though he has satisfied thousands of other customers. A pastor who is kind towards every parishioner except the one at whom he curses will lose his position. A priest who administers the sacrament to everyone in the cathedral except one, whom he will not serve, will need to rethink his career. In the same way, I place my whole ministry on the back of my ministry to my wife, just as answered prayer for my wife will probably benefit my whole ministry. How can they be separated?

In no way does any of this suggest any criticism in me for your acceptance of healing which was less dramatically divine than I now ask. I am 63. For half a century I too have accepted less, so I am in no position to criticize anybody for what I did for 50 years. I feel greater pressure now because not only is time running out for the world, but it is running out for me even if the world survives. And instead of my mountain getting smaller, my understanding has only grown of its enormity. I am desperate for God's help. If I am right, then the potential benefit of this experience will be the same for you as for me: better late than never. We still have time to do great things, with God's help.

But please look at the Scriptures in my study and tell me if I have missed anything.

Dave Leach

From: Dorothy Leach

To: hyattce@att.net

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 2:14 PM

Subject: [S]Re: cancer report

Sharon,

Thank you so much for your very encouraging note. It was good to hear from you.

And, yes, those are 2 of my very favorite recipies -- the corn & oysters and souperburgers. In fact, I usually just make the corn/oysters at Thanksgiving and sometimes Christmas, but now that you've reminded me of it, I think I'll take it to my mom's this weekend. We're going there (2 hours away) for her 86th birthday and

I'm bringing dinner. My son who dearly loves it will be there.

I'm feeling great at this point; I'd never know there was anything wrong with me had it not been for that lump. **I've been telling people I feel better than I have in 3 years, because it's taken nearly that long to recover from the car accident and be able to walk normally again! It took 3 surgeries to repair my leg, and a 4th hospital stay because about 3 wks after the first surgery I got blood clots in both lungs. Then there were months and months and months of therapy to learn to walk again. If God can get me through all that, He can do this, too.**

Thanks so much for your thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,

Dorothy

From: Mel Leslie JESUS4MEXICO@aol.com (Mel Leslie is a missionary living in Reynoso, Mexico, with a house also in Texas.)

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 6:19 AM

Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

OK Dave I'm going to tell you what I hear here and what is wrong,

1. You are saying (heal) the cancer. You tell the cancer to die dry up and cast it into the sea. To say heal the cancer is tell the cancer it can live and no it can't [In other words, Mel says I should be praying for my wife to be healed; I shouldn't be praying for the cancer to be healed! I should be praying for the cancer to die!]

2. It is not up to God, Your putting it on to God. God has already gave you the power to say to the tree die dry up and be cast into the sea, If you drought not.

3. For you see God has put it into our hands and he has said you will have the power when you are baptized with the holy Ghost.

4. You must say onto the cancer die dry up and be cast into the sea and it has to obey you. (NOT GOD)

5. God loves you and this is only a test to get you to walk in the victory he has given you, So now pray one time and believe what you say will come to past and let it go, don't worry anymore, just believe

6. Now I'm going to stand with you in prayer and say to the cancer die, dry up and be cast into the sea.

By cancer Love Mel

From: Jeff Erickson

To: 'Dave'

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 7:59 AM

Subject: RE: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

Dear Dave, thank you for the email, it has reminded me to pray again. I appreciate your statement about the "escape clause". This should never be. I think this problem largely arises when we feel obliged to pray for something that the Holy Spirit isn't leading us to pray for.

I believe that the caveat to all of the promises in the Bible is this: Christians can have anything they pray for after they learn to pray only God's will. In effect, as I have faith in God, he doesn't move to my path, I move to his.

There is no intrinsic value in God's economy to healing. God does it as it suits his purposes.

When you read these things in the Bible, you are reading about events that supported God's purposes. What about all those other folks who were not Elijah or Moses? What about those who got smoked without a chance to repent? What about Saul? What about Balaam?

In Job's case, he was always going to get healed, this was just Satan, & all of us who thing we know the reason for why things happen, getting played. Job's audience with God came not after prayer, but after an outburst whereby he declared he would justify himself before God if he were to meet him face to face. Some of this looks like prayer, but it is intermingled with polemic directed towards his friends.

You might read the biography of Joni Eareckson Tada, a paraplegic (quad?) who made similar declarations to yours several decades ago.

You & I view the Bible differently on so many levels. I believe that theBible is so much less-& more than what your analyses of it reveal. The Bible does indeed hold the answer to all of life's issues, & that answer

is always the same. . . try to position yourself to be a tool for the defense of God's righteousness & remember that by existing you already have been given more than you have a right to.

In Christ, Jeff E

From: Dave [mailto:uncle-ed@iowalink.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 10.00 PM
Subject: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

Certainly I have no desire to pray contrary to God's Will, although even if I did, I can think of three righteous men who deliberately prayed contrary to God's Revealed Will, not at all thinking it presumptuous to ask. One was David's prayer for his condemned baby son by Bathsheba. God didn't budge, but David saw no sin in asking. 2 Samuel 11. Another was Hezekiah's prayer for a longer life, 2 Kings 20. God not only budged, but budged the Earth backwards in its orbit 10 degrees just to build Hezekiah's faith that he would indeed recover! The third was Jesus in Gethsemane.

My prayer is far more conservative than the prayer of those bold prayer warriors! I merely pray for what God's Word already says is His Will to provide me.

How could King Saul's experience suggest to you that God does not always answer prayers that meet His simple, common sense conditions? What prayer did Saul even pray, that went unanswered? When did he sincerely repent? He was plainly told the kingdom would be taken from him, 1 Samuel 15:28, and how did Saul respond? By making it the obsession of the last seven years of his life to try to kill God's anointed, David! Or do you mean Saul who became Paul, with his pesky "thorn in the flesh"? But I have already given my reasons why that is not grounds for doubt.

How could Balaam make you doubt God's willingness to answer prayers meeting His simple conditions? After requiring donkeys to talk before he would obey God, he was still so rebellious that he advised the King of Moab to send prostitutes to Israel in order to make Israel sin, in order to cause Israel to lose God's blessing! Rev 2:14. He died fighting Israel in war - a pretty stupid move for someone as thoroughly warned as he was! Numbers 31:8.

For several chapters Job expressed his longing to talk to God, to understand the reason for his suffering. He expressed on the one hand, how he would like to present his case that he didn't deserve it, but on the other hand, how incomprehensible it would be for a man to justify himself before God! I count those fervently expressed longings as "prayer". "Polemic" seems an unfair accusation of Job, when his statements were in self defense against his friends' grievous assumption that obviously he was a great sinner, since, for what other reason would God punish him? I should confess that it's been a generation since I've analyzed Job; sorry if I remember wrong.

Thanks for your mention of Joni Eareckson Tada. Indeed, I would like to know what she has to say about the various Healing Scriptures. Indeed, she is a modern example of how God's glory can shine through a human's weakness, even though she is far more crippled than Paul was, and far less in need of the humbling to mitigate spectacular trips to Heaven to study theology.

Don't think for a moment that I feel some "right" to have my prayers answered, or to live one more second! On the other hand, do I have any "right" to doubt God's spectacular promises, along with His pleas for me to pray for good and believe He will help? When a Father tells His Son "stretch out your hand, because I want to give you an egg", dare I answer "I am afraid to stretch forth my hand because it might actually be your will to give me a scorpion"? Luke 11:12.

Dave Leach

FROM: Jeff
TO: Dave

Dave, I think you & I are taking different things away from these stories and are interpreting the entire Bible message a little differently. I might say that it is God's will to save all. It is God's will to perform miracles as it suits his purpose of salvation and the redemption of creation. I believe that every passage in the Bible has one message given by one author inspired by the creator, and directed at one target audience. From there,

there is the potential for multiple application. I do not believe the Bible is a “junction box”. What you are suffering is a better analogy for electricity than what you are asking for. You are asking the Creator for a suspension of the rules, not searching for way to manipulate them. I would suggest are asking to hold the 460 three phase & not feel it. I do not mean to allude that this is difficult for God. It is nothing for Him to do this. Doing this is just as hard as asking Him to say a word to you or move the earth to the other side of the universe. All are equally hard. I further do not believe that God of necessity won’t do this for you, but I also won’t believe that a miracle would suggest that you had found some method to cause God to conform to your will. I would have to just go back to my previous email.

I believe that the caveat to all of the promises in the Bible is this: Christians can have anything they pray for after they learn to pray only God’s will (for them & their specific situations). In effect, as I have faith in God, he doesn’t move to my path, I move to his.

There is no intrinsic value in God’s economy to healing. God does it as it suits his purposes.

I have made confident declarations of healing without the clause, but these I have made knowing the outcome to be thus. I do not always know this to be the outcome.

God bless,

Jeff

Tuesday, March 3, 9am:

Dear Jeff,

If all you had said was that we cannot have confidence that God will answer our prayers when we know we are praying contrary to God’s Will, I would hurriedly agree. David prayed for the life of his son born of murder and adultery, contrary to the revealed Will of God, and God didn’t budge! It is astonishing enough that righteous David did not consider it a sin even to ask! Jesus prayed for His own life to be delivered from the Cross, contrary to the revealed Will of God, and God didn’t budge! It is remarkable enough that Jesus did not consider it a sin even to ask! Hezekiah prayed for longer life, contrary to the revealed Will of God, and God not only budged, but budged the earth out of its orbit by 10 degrees, just to build Hezekiah’s faith! Therefore I certainly would have agreed with you: when we knowingly pray contrary to the Will of God, we cannot have confidence God will grant our request. The likelihood of that happening is probably low.

But you said more than that.

Or did you only imply more than that? You say my prayer calls upon God to “suspend the rules”. As if God has never enacted any rules that permit Christians to pray creatively.

By penning me such strong warnings against praying outside the will of God, you at least imply that my prayer is outside the Will of God. Or do you only imply that it *might* be? And that since it *might* be, I dare not pray with faith that God will grant my specific request?

My guess is that you mean since Christians cannot know the Will of God with precision in a given situation, we dare not pray with faith that God will grant what we ask, since we cannot know whether what we ask is God’s Will.

I would like to better understand your view of prayer. I understand you to believe that every thought, every action is absolutely predestined by God, and nothing we can do, think, or pray can change anything.

But you say the result of prayer is that we move to God’s Will. How can there be any result at all? Why do you go to such effort to write me, if that will not change anything? Do you think you just can’t help it? Do you think my reaction to what you write bears no relation to any “will” I have, since I have none, but I just can’t help myself? God is just playing with my strings? It seems like you said something about believing in free will and absolute predestination at the same time, but talk like that makes my mind shut down, requiring a reboot. Of course, I can’t help it. But if I could, I would really like to better understand your thinking.

Meanwhile, the only way I know how to respond is to pretend I actually have some power to consider what you say, which means to make decisions about its merits, and to respond as if you have the like capacity, without which my precious time and less valuable words would be wasted.

One detail: my “junction box” was not a metaphor of the Bible, but of my life. My hands are fussing with the wires that power my life, and I invite others who are well versed in the Bible to peer into the junction box with me and warn me if it looks like I am messing with the wrong wires.

Certainly belief in predestination, and belief that it is God’s Will to answer creative prayers, are logically

incompatible beliefs. The belief that God's Will has predetermined the movement of every atom of every thought requires the belief that anyone who asks God for anything at all is "asking the Creator for a suspension of the rules", as you put it. Certainly belief in predestination will force Bible stories to say different things than belief that God created us with free will and delights in our creativity, making it no surprise if, as you say, "you & I are taking different things away from these stories and are interpreting the entire Bible message a little differently". Indeed, how could we not?

I feel some kind of need to offer something like an apology for even thinking I can create, ponder, and decide anything. At least with an atheist there is the possibility of figuring out some level upon which he might be open to evidence, and try to offer it. But with a predestinationist, I lack his blessing to even weigh a matter. Weighing a matter is not possible, since God has chained down our thoughts to His Will.

And yet you are a very intelligent guy, well versed in Scripture and able to reason and respond to complex challenges with all the alertness of a literally creative mind. In other words, by the vigor of your reasoning you behave as if you believe in free will. But the discussion of what God allows through our prayers is impacted by the predestination v. Free Will debate perhaps more than any other theological issue.

So, behaving as you do, as if we have Free Will to weigh God's Words about prayer, I will offer a few verses which compel me to conclude that God delights in creative prayers. That is, prayers made by us, in which we exercise creativity.

Luke 11:5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine in *his* journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him:⁷and he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee? ⁸I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because *he* is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. ⁹And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹²Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?¹³If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

What human parent does not wish his children to make their requests creatively, rather than expecting their children to conform their requests to whatever toys, or careers, they guess their parents would prefer? Why did God make the willingness of parents to take delight in the creative requests of their children an analogy of His willingness to take delight in our own creative requests, if the analogy is not accurate? Why did God invite us to actually pray persistently, expecting God to answer "yes", even when there is the possibility it isn't what God would have wanted?

When our Father leans over and says "Son, stretch out your hand! I would like to give you an egg!" Dare I answer, "I don't want to stretch out my hand, because it might not be your will to give me an egg, just because You have given me Your Word. It might be your will to give me a scorpion!" ???

Matthew 21:18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. ¹⁹And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.²⁰And when the disciples saw *it*, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! ²¹Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. ²²And **all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

Whatsoever ye shall ask? All things? Does Jesus assume it is not possible for us to ask anything outside God's Will?

Matthew 14:²⁸And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save

me.³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Where is the evidence that God told Peter to ask to walk on the water? Where is the Scriptural precedent that emboldened Peter to consider such an enterprise within the Will of God? Did not that request spring from childlike spontaneity? Yet how simple Jesus' answer! "Come!" And when he sank in fear, Jesus saved him and chided him, not for his presumption in asking something so ridiculously creative and outside any imaginable theology of the Will of God, but for doubting that God would delight in preserving him even through so brash an adventure!

John 16:²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you. ²⁴Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

How could Jesus have said any more clearly that He delights in filling us with delight, by offering us our heart's desire? Dare we not, then, ask our heart's desire? Do we give glory to God by answering God, "I shudder to ask you what I really want, because You are only going to do whatever You were going to do whether or not I asked for anything. I will just suffer along as nobly as I can, waiting for the wonderful things you have 'prepared for those that love' You, and hope it doesn't take you too long." ???

Luke 12:³¹ But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these *things* shall be added unto you. ³²Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

What could that mean? Will we indeed have authority over the Kingdom of God? Will we own the Kingdom of God? Will we rule anything at all? Will we make decisions? Will we exercise creativity?

From: Jeff Erickson

To: 'Dave'

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:44 PM

Subject: RE: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

Dear Dave, our discussion, like much of the doctrinal conflict I observe today, is not like two boxers in a ring, but rather like two military units trying to conduct an unplanned link up in the middle of the night. None of the straw men you presented is a suitable depiction of my position, but rather appear to demonstrate that you do not understand it. I am free to concede all of your examples plus any and every other example you want to present from the Bible where a man (person) has "done something", though you continue to draw many conclusions from the Bible narrative that I avoid. In short my position is this:

1. man does have a will.
2. God is sovereign.
3. History is about God's big infinite will, not man's tiny finite one.

As far as strong warnings go, I intend none & I'm sorry if I have caused a personal offense. I did not intend to state that by praying the way you are, you necessarily commit a cardinal or mortal—perhaps not even a venial ;) sin. God wants us to cast our cares upon him & I am only able to judge the actions I see & the words I read. I do not profess to be able to read with any great clarity what goes on in other men's hearts. Email, being a "flat" medium, makes discussions of this nature, especially since this is a deep and personal subject for both of us, prone to misunderstandings & I know that my writing has a tendency to be point blank.

In Christ,

Jeff

From: Dave [mailto:uncle-ed@iowalink.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 4:03 PM

To: Jeff Erickson

Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

I had expressed my desire to understand your theology better, but if you are willing to state "man does have a will" that freely, my misunderstanding is even greater than I thought. I never sensed anything excessively "pointed" or other than gentle in your correspondence, and if I did I would know better than to see it as

aggressive because I know your nature from talking to you face to face. Unfortunately we aren't planning to make it over to class tonight; I feel overwhelmed by the time I feel the need of, to immerse myself in Scriptures regarding healing, and in prayer.

Dave

FROM Jeff E

Dear Dave, I am praying that all is well with you as you go through this. I am praying also that you won't go through what we have gone through.

If I could elaborate a little more about predestination, it is this. You will find none among the great predeterministic theologians who says that man is an automaton. You really won't find any among the free will type theologians who says that man, by his own presence of mind and moral fortitude can draw himself to holiness. In general all orthodox Christians have believed that man has some combination of soul, mind, spirit & that this is essentially the *imago dei*. It is the image God gave us. The first predeterministic question generally has been this "Am I able to recognize Christ all on my own, or do I need the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to me." This is the depravity question. Then there is double-predestination, which is what I lean strongly towards. This is, "Is everything in my life already scripted out?" In this case, I am much more strongly inclined to recognize God's sovereignty than my ability to make decisions as a free & independent agent in the cosmos. I would suggest that God is able to manipulate sentient beings (which I consider myself to be) in roughly the same way I am able to manipulate checkers on a board. It matters not how He does it, whether by coercion, force, or sleight of hand. I wish to emphasize that I am not a fatalist. I am able to make decisions, but the array of decisions available to me is truncated, perhaps not unlike the fish in my living room. They can do all sorts of things. They can fight. They can breed. They eat a lot. They can go to one side of the tank & then the other, or stay in one place. They can jump out. What they can't do is have any influence whatsoever on the TV across the room, or anything in any of the other rooms of my house. It is more likely that a meteor will fall on my car, than that one of them would cause a series of events which would put a scratch in it. Further, I have great influence over their decisions. I come near one end of the tank & they all migrate. I turn the temperature up & they think it must be time to breed. I get the net out & some of them hide for as long as it is present. I can take them out & put them somewhere else. I can rearrange their surroundings. I can starve them or let the water evaporate from the tank completely. This is a very crude analogy for how I understand God to act in my life. I understand three things

1. I make decisions based upon the data that I am surrounded by sometimes & others because I have a "feeling"
2. Neither my feelings nor my data gives me 100% certainty of the outcome of my decisions—sometimes these feelings & data look different than they did before. People come & go, interfering all the time with my decision making process.
3. God's plan will be completely worked out & there is nothing I can do to thwart it.

Now we have the problems associated with (1)the logical conclusions of holding either position & (2) the false dichotomy created by this argument of either having to see one's self as an automaton or a completely free agent who "chooses" God in his own. I have to halt my statements on how it works from here because it is beyond my comprehension. I remain the finite attempting to understand the infinite.

God bless,

FROM Dave TO Jeff E

Interesting. In all previous conversations I have had with self-identified Calvinists, I was told we are definitely automatons with far less freedom of thought and movement than fish in a tank, and certainly no participation in the decision about our eternal destiny. Your position now is how I would describe Free Will. I can't imagine any Free Willer insisting humans can reach up to God without God reaching down to man, but until now I had expected Calvinists to say that even after God reaches down to us, we cannot respond but a response must be dragged out of us, and God's choice, without an atom of our own choice, governs who He will drag it out of.

Dave

From: Kathi Bean
To: Uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Cc: Tom K Bean

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 6:30 PM
Subject: Dorothy

What a lovely music store you have and great students. You are both so talented and use your gifts to God's glory.

Please let me know if there is anything you need during this difficult time.

Also, keep Tom and I posted on Dorothy's progress. We are praying daily for her healing.
Kathi

From: George Smith
To: Dave
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 7:58 AM
Subject: RE: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

When Jesus healed the people with leprosy, healed the blind, healed the crippled, healed the withered hand, none of those were permanent. All of those people still died.

The part that Jesus is concerned most about is our eternal life. He is our reason for living and He is our reason for dying.

I don't know if this is much help to you Dave but if I was in your position I would go through with the operation and whatever treatments the doctors recommend. I wouldn't try to put God to a test with this. I also wouldn't worry about what other people would think about your situation. It is not their place to judge you. I feel that having surgery is not a sign that you do not trust God, and nobody else should think that about you either.

Be thankful for each day you and Dorothy have together and enjoy each others company as much as you can. Some day you will be together with the new bodies promised in the bible and you know then there will be no sickness, disease, or circumstance that will separate you from each other or from God.

I will be praying that she will be cured from this disease in any way possible.

George.

TO George
FROM Dave

The point of prayer for healing, or of any other prayer, is not to escape death, but to "do...with thy might" "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do" while we are here, because "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10. 1 Corinthians 13 agrees that in Heaven there will be no "knowledge". John 9:4, Jesus says He must work while He can, before "night" in which "no man can work". Rev 14:13 says in Heaven we "rest" from our "labors", although Hebrews speaks of "today" as the day in which we are invited to "rest" through faith, where the meaning seems to be labors for the necessities of life, as opposed to our work for God which gives us fulfillment. "Wisdom", in the Old Testament, typically means skills ranging from music to masonry to theology. I understand there will be music in Heaven, but not the kind that requires muscle training like here. What we have now will be superseded there, by what is more "complete", which is the definition of the KJV "perfect".

But the love we have now is of the same kind as what we will know there. Love inspires me to pray for this miracle for my wife, and not just for my wife but for hundreds who are watching to see if God will act, will move, indeed if God really means it when He promises our heart's desire, "that your joy may be full", inviting us to pray not only creatively, but as Peter in the boat did, even perhaps occasionally whimsically! But always with faith!

I have already said surgery is scheduled for Friday. That's only 3 days away. For you to say I should go through with the surgery, as if we need more resolve to do that than we have, implies you think our prayer to escape surgery by healing prior to that is in the way, and is "putting God to a test through this", as you say. If

people at First Assembly think that prayers expressing faith for healing are “putting God to a test”, then what kind of prayers for healing are considered acceptable there? Next Monday night First Assembly has prayers especially for healing. We had planned to go, but will I be able to pray there without upsetting folks? Are we likely to encounter objections to prayers offered that actually expect God to grant what is requested? What kind of prayer is it, to ask God to do a thing, while not expecting Him to do it? Or expecting Him to do something else? Isn’t that the kind of “wavering” we read about in James 1?

Thank you for your desire to shield me from others’ judgment, but I have probably invited a little of it, depending on where the line is between feedback and condemnation. No one has cursed me or even insulted me, which is remarkable now that I think of it. This has been one of the most respectful conversations I have experienced - I hope my own contributions to it are perceived that way!

But more important to me is learning how to experience the kind of prayer life which Jesus offers.

I’m enclosing some verses I assembled in response to Jeff, another First Assembly member.

TO: Rob Leach

Evidence that Job’s children were Not slain:

1. The number of children, as well as the mix between sons and daughters, was the same after as before. Coincidence? Satan sent Job a message that they were slain, but can we trust Satan?

Job 1:2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

Job 1:13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house:

Job 1:18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house:

Job 42:13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

2. Job did not lose his wife. If there was a second set of children, they had the same mother. How likely is it that after raising 10 children, the same woman would have the strength for 10 more? (Some commentaries speculate that Job remarried, but they acknowledge the theory has no positive support. The fact that the Bible never suggests such a thing discourages the theory. The context of Job 31:10 shows his faithfulness to his wife through that point, and what a tragedy it would have been to lose her faithfulness to him.)

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Job 19:17 My breath is strange to my wife, Though I intreated for the children’s sake of mine own body.

Job 31:10 Then let my wife grind unto another, And let others bow down upon her.

3. Commentaries: They are against me 8-1-1-1! 8 against, 1 abstention, 1 for me, but he isn't sure, and one more is ... interesting, but more later. But I'm not discouraged! None of those against me offer evidence that they are not the same children, an idea which appears to have occurred to only one of them. That one to whom it occurred was at least half way persuaded by it.

Several note that Job’s cattle were doubled, which supports the theory that Job’s children were also doubled, just that the first 7 were now waiting for him in Heaven.

Patrick Gill: Job 42:13 He had also seven sons, and three daughters. The same number of children, and of the same sort he had before, Job_1:2; and according to Nachman the very same he had before, **which the additional letter in the word "seven" is with him the notification of;** so that the doubling of what he had before, Job_42:10; respects only his substance, and particularly his cattle; though the Targum says he had fourteen sons, and so Jarchi (t); others think these may be said to be double to Job in their good qualities, external and internal, in their dispositions, virtues, and graces; and others, inasmuch as his former children were not lost, but lived with God, and would live for ever, they might now be said to be double; and so they consider this as a proof of the immortality of the soul, and of the resurrection of the body; but these senses [interpretations] are not to be trusted to [they are speculative]; whether these children were by a former wife or another is uncertain. (t) Vid. Balmes. Gram. Strat. 26.

New Bible Commentary: doesn't address it.

K&D: Job 42:13 And he had seven sons and three daughters. Therefore, instead of the seven sons and three daughters which he had, he receives just the same again, which is also so far a doubling, as deceased children also, according to the Old Testament view, are not absolutely lost, 2Sa_12:23.

Jeremiah Clarke: Seven sons and three daughters - This was the same number as before; and so the Vulgate, Septuagint, Syriac, and Arabic read: but the Chaldee doubles the sons, "And he had fourteen sons, and three daughters."

Albert Barnes: Job 42:13 He had also seven sons and three daughters - The same number which he had before his trials. Nothing is said of his wife, or whether these children were, or were not, by a second marriage.

42:10–17 THE RESTORED FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

After Job and his friends were evaluated by the Lord, Job's normal fruits of righteousness were restored (42:10–17). The view of Job's friends—that suffering is always a result of sin—had been proven wrong by God's spoken words. Job was not condemned because he had spoken rightly. He acquired twice as many animals as he had originally owned but the same number of children. Job fully recovered from his affliction and lived out his life in good health.

Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). Tyndale concise Bible commentary. Rev. ed. of: New Bible companion. 1990.; Includes index. The Tyndale reference library (197). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

42:13-15. Job's grief over the loss of his 10 children was relieved somewhat, though probably not fully, by the birth of 10 others. The names of the three youngest daughters are given, whereas the names of Job's other 17 children are unknown. Jemimah means "dove," Keziah means "cinnamon perfume" (cassia, from *qeṣî'āh*, is a cinnamon bark from which perfume is made), and Keren-Happuch means "horn of eyepaint" (i.e., an animal-horn bottle for holding a dye used to make eyelashes, eyelids, and eyebrows more attractive). These names speak of the girls' striking beauty, for which they were well known.

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures (1:775). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

IV. His family was built up again, and he had great comfort in his children, v. 13–15. The last of his afflictions that are recorded (ch. 1), and the most grievous, was the death of all his children at once. His friends upbraided him with it (ch. 8:4), but God repaired even that breach in process of time, either by the same wife, or, she being dead, by another. 1. The number of his children was the same as before, seven sons and three daughters. Some give this reason why they were not doubled as his cattle were, because his children that were dead were not lost, but gone before to a better world; and therefore, if he have but the same number of them, they may be reckoned doubled, for he has two fleeces of children (as I may say) *mahanaim*—two hosts, one in heaven, the other on earth, and in both he is rich. 2. The names of his daughters are here registered (v. 14), because, in the significations of them, they seemed designed to perpetuate the remembrance of God's great goodness to him in the surprising change of his condition. Henry, M. (1996, c1991). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume (Job 42:10). Peabody: Hendrickson.

13. The same number as before, Job 1:2; perhaps by a second wife; in Job 19:17 his wife is last mentioned.

14. Names significant of his restored prosperity (Ge 4:25; 5:29).

Jemima—"daylight," after his "night" of calamity; but Maurer, "a dove."

Kezia—"cassia," an aromatic herb (Ps 45:8), instead of his offensive breath and ulcers.

Keren-happuch—"horn of stibium," a paint with which females dyed their eyelids; in contrast to his

“horn defiled in the dust” (Job 16:15). The names also imply the beauty of his daughters.

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments. On spine: Critical and explanatory commentary. (Job 42:13). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Then (42:13). Job’s wealth in livestock was doubled (cf. 42:12 with 1:3). But the ten children he fathers merely match the first ten. Why? Because in fact his family is doubled, for the first ten are not gone, but await him now in heaven! It really is not now, but then, that we all will experience the full blessing of our God.

Richards, L. O. (1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996). The Bible readers companion (electronic ed.) (345). Wheaton: Victor Books.

42:10–17 Restored health, double the wealth, and more! Because he repented, God restored Job to health and gave him double his original wealth. He gave him as many sons and daughters as he had had before and allowed him to live another 140 years.

Willmington, H. L. (1997). Willmington's Bible handbook (302). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

4. Interesting! This passage prophesies when Israel, having thought its numbers decimated, now finds waves of Jews flooding in from all over the world of whom Israel had previously had no knowledge! They were not destroyed after all - just scattered! could this be just one more example of how God is consistent?

Isa 49:20 The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.²¹ Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?²² Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.²³ And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

5. What kind of perverse “restoration of everything double” is it to get 14,000 cows and still miss your kids? Can more children replace lost children? I would trade 14,000 cows just to have one of my slain children back!

My point is not that Christians deserve a pass from loss on Earth, but the Bible paints the final chapter of Job as the restoration of everything Job cared about, and more! This is conclusive evidence that his first 10 children never died! Job cared about his children!

Job 1:4And his sons went and feasted *in their houses*, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5And it was so, when the days of *their feasting* were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according to the number of them all*: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

It is not possible to portray Job as having had everything he valued restored and more, unless his children were restored, and not just replaced.

Miscellaneous:

Does Job despise himself (6)? Myself is not in the Hebrew, and it is more probable that Job despises the words of abuse he has hurled at God. And what does he repent of (6)? It cannot be some sin, because we have known from the beginning that Job is no sinner, he can repent only of the extreme language he has used or of

his ignorance. But perhaps it is better still to take the word translated despise as ‘melt’, i.e. ‘I melt into nothingness’, the feeling of a creature before his Creator, and to take the word for repent as ‘comfort’, i.e. ‘I am comforted, though still sitting upon dust and ashes’ (cf. 2:8). Job is still suffering, still upon the ash-heap, but his bitterness is relieved and his tension is resolved by his encounter with God.

Carson, D. A. (1994). New Bible commentary : 21st century edition. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (Job 42:1). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

God healed Job when Job had not even prayed for healing. Not only that, Job had actually prayed to die! Obviously THAT was not in the will of God! Nor in the will of Job either, actually.

Job 3:20-26, 10:18-22, Job prayed for death at his age of 70, but instead was given 140 more years!

From: Dave S
To: Dave
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:51 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Please help me analyze Bible miracles

Dear Mr. Leach:

I cannot think of anything else other than what you have listed. I am very sorry. I am praying for a miracle for your wife. God bless you and your wife always.

Sincerely, Dave S

From: Maureen N (IHC-WDM)
To: (17 folks)
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:21 AM

OK everyone. Jack is trying to quit smoking again and today is his 3rd day. He's been fighting a lot of cravings so your prayers would be much appreciated and if anyone feels led to call him with encouragement his number is 515-250-0504. He's tried before to quit many many times, so we've been through this before. But I refuse to give up on encouraging him and praying for him to be successful. Maybe this will be the last time he'll have to try to quit. Maybe this time it will happen. thanks for your prayers and encouragment. Mo

From: JESUS4MEXICO@aol.com
To: ashleycleslie@yahoo.com ; pospesh1@lipan.net
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 7:47 AM
Subject: News Letter

Praise The Lord. Well God has been hard at work here. The house for the family is done and they have moved in and the work shop for the women in prison is done. We will start on the inside now, getting the women working. there is great peace at this jail because everyone is working. and most of them see that the Lord loves them and cares for them also. and many have given there lifes to God. Pray for us as we go into the places other don't want to go. We have make the devil mad many times because we go take people away from him. It has been a good year already and many souls for JESUS. Please Pray for my friend Dave and Dorothy. Dorothy need a healing in her body , The devil is tring to put cancer on her, But he is a liar and I have told the cancer to die dry up and be cast into the sea. Will you agree with me and Dave for Dorothy? Love Mel

From: Ken Richards
To: Dave
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 10:44 PM

Subject: Re: Please help me analyze Bible miracles
Just keep praying and let God bring the miracle in His time.
Ken

From: Ed and Sharon Hyatt
To: Dave
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 1:15 PM
Subject: Comments....Prayer

To Dorothy and Dave, Thank you Dorothy for your kind e-mail and thoughts. It is hard to realize the years and months of treatment and care you went through getting you leg well. What a very difficult time that must have been. We are thankful you can walk again. Your family must have been a wonderful help during those difficult months and years.

We also hope you had a very good and special Birthday time with your mother this past weekend. I bet the birthday dinner you brought was delicious. May you both continue to have Hope and confidence in our Awesome Savior as you wait on Him. Dave, thank you for including us in your e-mails as you express your great desire of healing for Dorothy. We are asking for healing prayer for Dorothy in our e-mail, on the phone with friends and at church. We also long for Gods healing touch for 34 year old, Rob, who was diagnosed 2 weeks ago with mouth cancer. (I mentioned him before in the first a-mail.)

Other wise friends may be sending you an analysis of your Bible Study that will help you.. We do not have an analysis as such, our input is references to the will of God with some comments. . We did look at the 4 Miracles you wrote about and we have been trying to think with you. We don't think of prayer as having an 'escape clause.' Isa. 55:8,9 says that God's ways and thoughts are infinitely higher than ours. Yet he tells us to pray and expect great things. (Jer. 33:3).

God is worried about what an unbelieving world thinks of Him. Those unbelieving scoffers called to Jesus on the cross, "Come on down if you are the Son of God." He did come down, but not on their terms. We know there are those listed in the Bible who were healed or raised from the dead...Lazarus, Dorcus, blind beggars, lepers etc. They eventually did die. No doubt many of these great events were "for the Glory of God" and what does that include? We are awe stricken to see what God can do and has done in our lives as well as others. It has caused us to 'Focus" on Gods equally significant and valid answers of 'Yes', and also 'No, as well as "wait'. These answers all concern The Will of God. You no doubt know these well, but I'll quote these verses on the Will of God.

Mat. 6:10, in the prayer the Lord Jesus gave the disciples as a sample prayer, he tells them to pray "your will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

Mt. 26:39 Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, right before he went to the cross, "If it's possible may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will but as you will." Then the second time (v.42) he prayed, "My Father, if it's not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will, be done."

Acts 21:14 some of the Church tried to persuade Paul not to go to Jerusalem because of the dangers he faced there. "When he (Paul) would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, 'The Lord's will be done.'" I think these are clear examples of holy people using "God's will" as a legitimate" way to pray.

One thing for sure is that we ALL must humbly submit ourselves to a Holy God in Trusting Faith. His ultimate goal will be done. He uses years of experiences in others lives as well as our own to mold us into being more like Christ. He longs to change each of us so we will be like Christ. He wants us to let Him come into our lives and control every thought so we reflect Him. So when we are bruised, insulted, battered, stepped on, bleeding, we ooze out Christ and His fruit of joy, self control, peace, love, gentleness etc. Then the unbelieving world that includes our friends, children and family will hear us say, 'I love you, here is my forgiving God, I can Trust Him and Praise Him in the fire, through the valley and shadows where He has already walked in Victory. We trust..in a Holy personal Savior who is completely Trustworthy...especially when we can't figure out the plan or the whys? Prov. 3:5,6.

In Heb. 11, these people died in faith, but they certainly died differently, some by normal deaths and some by awful torture. God can't be put in a box. As we seek Him and submit to His will we can be sure He will bring the most glory to Himself. He is always a God of love, grace, mercy and always our refuge and

strength. We are praying with you for Dorothy's healing. God knows right now how all this will bring Him the most glory.

You no doubt have thought in great depth through many many miracles and teachings of God's Word.. Our relationship with Christ has grown by the experiences He has allowed. His children must Walk, Believe, Praise, Trust, and cling to our unseen God. He and His Words are eternal and Life giving. We wait to see His power changing the hearts of children, grandchildren, sisters, other precious family members and friends. We still need His changing power molding our lives. We are constantly reminded that in all of God's workings, His purpose is to constantly change His children to be more like Christ. That's His will for you, dear folks, for your children and family and for us. We long for salvation to enter the lost.. Whatever way God chooses, we pray He will be gentle, and merciful in opening hearts. He then can use them for His praise and glory. Life on earth is short.... God has planned Eternity and wants us to be with Him. Eternity is forever and that is what the loving heavenly Father has planned for His children. Friends in Christ, Ed and Sharon

From: Ken Richards [mailto:kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com]

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Sat, 7 Mar 2009 13:01:45 -0800 (PST)

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Dave,

She will surely recover and I believe that with all of my heart. I have been praying for Dorothy and I need to know the room and hospital so I can send some flowers. I am stuck at home for the next two days with a new recovery issue. I will explain all of that later but I hope to be up and around for Church tomorrow because I really want to go and because my son wants to go (that is a HUGE blessing).

I suspect I will be driving again by Tuesday though. God will provide a miracle beyond measure for Dorothy. Amen

Ken

From: Michael Bray

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 12:24 PM

Subject: [S]Prayer

We know that you two are suffering and we continue to pray. Justice, then Peace, Michael Bray

From: Pat Heckenlaible

To: Dave

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:54 PM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

I know today was the day for surgery for Dorothy and I have been thinking alot about you and her today. For a few days you will have alot going on. However, I would really appreciate a note from you to let me know how she is doing and how things are going for her. My prayers are certainly with both of you. We know how strong Dorothy is and she will handle this as best as any of us could because she has a strong faith. I know it won't always be easy for either one of you but remain as positive as you can. All prayers are answered....not always the way we would like them to be answered but we pray Dorothy's recovery is quick and she has a complete recovery. Please keep me posted as you have time. Pat

From: Maureen Nixon (IHC-WDM)

To: Christine Hinds (E-mail) ; Dana Mayse (E-mail) ; Dave Leach (E-mail) ; Delmar Spence (E-mail) ; Kristen Gillespie (E-mail) ; Melissa Felumlee (E-mail) ; Rich Wasiniak (E-mail) ; Kenny (E-mail)

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 4:25 PM

Subject: Prayer of my heart

Father in Heaven, may Your name be glorified. Above all others, Above all this world, Above everything

else in our lives. For nothing else in all of this world matters, but to live our lives for You and You alone. May Your wonders never cease, may your Spirit never leave, may we ever long to see Your face. Beautiful Savior, truly you proved Your love for us. While we were sinners in all our weakness, still you gave your life upon the cross. You saved us, Lord, from all of our transgressions, and deliverd us into Your loving arms. May Your wonders never cease.

From: Georgia Hasan

To: Dave

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 11:44 AM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Dave wrote: "But it is not just denominations which make today's elders a theological shadow of the elders of those early days when all Christians communicated with one another. Not only did elders then communicate across what later turned into denominational lines, but then they benefited from vigorous verbal interaction within each assembly. For details about this, see www.Saltshaker.US, click on "Presentation: Do you really want revival?"

It is not vigorous verbal interaction that is referred to in Corinthians. It is by the leading of the Holy Spirit to recognize and submit the floor to he who has within himself/herself the Word of God that is to be expressed through his tongue as the working of the gift of the Holy Spirit, BY YAHWEH to speak at that very moment and to be heard by all.

When this is accomplished by the leading of the Holy Spirit, we know when to speak and when to abstain, when to listen and when to speak, time for praise, time for worship, time for exposition of the Word by the specific wording of the Holy Spirit. I have been in such an environment and taken part in such a meeting. It is an awesome thing and happens only at the meetings of Holy Spirit filled and controlled persons, others not in attendance to disregard, disrespect, and interrupt the flow at the leading of the Spirit.

This is NOT the same thing as a group discussion where everyone is allowed to give their own opinion as long as they do not interrupt someone else, not at all.

Dave to Georgia H:

Hi! Thank you for reading that deeply into my study, to even find the study to which you now respond!

Are you sure we disagree? You say the verbal interaction in 1 Corinthians 14 is Spirit-led, but you deny that it is "vigorous". Do you really mean to say spirit-led verbal interaction is not vigorous?

You say when the Spirit leads, "we know" when each should speak, and about what. You aren't saying anything different, are you, than that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets", v. 32? Or that the congregation as a whole has a responsibility to scrutinize what is spoken, and to "judge", or react verbally as appropriate, v. 29?

("and let the other judge", KJV: in Greek, "let others besides these two or three judge." Synonym study #5806 in Strong's says allos, the Greek word translated "other", means others in addition to the number mentioned; not others among the number mentioned.)

From: Regina D

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 10:55 AM

Subject: You are in our Prayers.

Dear Dave,

Just a note to tell you you and Dorothy are in our fervent prayers. Please write and let us know what room she is in and the name and address of the hospital. Don't get too tired and remember to get enough to eat. We love you. Mike, Regina, Kitty

From: Dick B

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 9:53 AM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

our prayers are with you Dick and Jan B

Dan H Phone call summary, Sunday morning, March 8:

Dan asked how my wife was doing. I explained a little, and not knowing how much to repeat of what I had already emailed him, I asked him if he had read yesterday's email. The first paragraph contained the report on my wife's operation. He answered that my emails are too long. He is able to boil down his messages to a few sentences. I said I do not require anyone to read even a few sentences. Those who have no more curiosity than what they can satisfy in a few sentences have my blessing to stop after that. But some are more curious, and read much more. I write at length because I want to understand better than I have in decades. Myself, I find Bible study more addictive than TV. I spend hours a day in Bible study, not watching TV, and only a few sentences wouldn't hold my attention for even an hour. Bible study fills my heart with things in the world to change, and then it fills my mind with strategies for working effectively with God to change them. When the world gives you 100 pages of reasons not to believe, it takes me more than a few sentences to throw them off.

He emphatically said not all prayers are answered. Everyone gets sick and everyone dies. Therefore not every prayer can be answered. He was in a Word of Faith church for 3 years, but his current pastor has a taped sermon which is far more sensible.

I agreed that God does not promise that we won't die, but I disagreed about God's promises to heal our diseases prior to our dying. I said God's promises are emphatic and categorical. It is my mission to understand what we are missing today in America, that we do not routinely see what God offers.

He said you need to have "good hermeneutics". He didn't give an example of good hermeneutics, but just suggested that if I had them, I would agree with him. Daniel Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word as simply "The art of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and of explaining it to others." Since Dan did not even quote a phrase from the Bible, much less explain its meaning, I was left to wonder if Dan believes that if you can pronounce "hermeneutics" good, that your hermeneutics are good.

As examples of categorical promises, I gave "whatsoever ye shall ask", a phrase found in Mat 21:22, John 14:13, 15:16, and 16:23; and the promise in James 5:15 that the elders' "prayer of faith SHALL heal the sick".

Dan's answer was to substitute "will" for "shall", and then to use "will" in a sentence where it means one's choice, or intent, and then to say James 5:15 means it is not always God's choice to heal the sick.

Dan concluded that when something doesn't work you should abandon it. (Meaning my theology of prayer. He had apparently read my report of my prayer regarding cancer failing, but hadn't bothered to read my report of the spectacular answer to my prayer about finances.) I answered that prayer is working for me, so I'm not going to abandon it.

He offered to send me the recorded sermon. I will be glad to review it.

From: Georgia H

To: Dave

Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2009 6:42 AM

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Dave,

To Seek the Will of the LORD,
To Seek to glorify Him in all things,
To Persist in the study of His Word,
And To Trust Him, is never failure.

A false prophet is one who seeks to deceive with invented deceptions presented as being the Word of God, and is NOT one proclaiming trust in that which he is believing the LORD to do according to his understanding of the Word.

The LORD, He is GOOD.

In Christ,

Georgia H

From: Dick B
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 7:45 PM
Subject: Re: Failure and Success

our prayers continue.

From: rlee0419@aol.com
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 7:40 PM
Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Dear Dave,

I will continue to pray for Dorothy's recovery and positive results that all the cancer was removed. My Aunt Arlene (Derk Grimmius' daughter)and her friends at the United Methodist Church will also continue to pray also. I am hopeful that I might be able to visit and meet you sometime this summer.

I want you to know that for the past two months I have been praying for my youngest daughter and her family for opportunities to open up for better employment for them. Last Sunday the word came that my daughter has been selected as the assistant to the American Ambassador to France. They will be moving to Paris this June. The Lord does answer prayer Dave and we have witnessed His blessing for this young family. A year ago my daughter lost one baby but it's twin was born perfect . They were surviving on income just above poverty level and now they will have sufficient income to live comfortably.

Yesterday I found out that I will be having surgery because MS has left me with a partially paralyzed stomach. It is hopeful that by rerouting my digestive tract, I might be able to eat more normally. There is a possibility that I may just be left with a feeding tube. Either way, my eating problems will come to a resolve and I will be thankful for the difficulties in eating will be at an end.

I went to South Bend last weekend and found out that my two Aunts will be going to the Netherlands for a short visit. They will visit the two small towns in Northern Holland that our families originated from. They will stay with a cousin I have been writing to for nearly 50 years, so I know they will enjoy their trip.

Give Dorothy our love.

Roxanne Grimmius

From: JESUS4MEXICO@aol.com
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 6:49 PM
Subject: Re: Failure and Success
Just keep faith, God is still God Love Mel

From: Howard L Taylor
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 5:10 PM
Subject: Re: Praise

We are so thankful for a faithful Lord who does hear prayer. He knows the path He has for each of us! He has been faithful in watching over Dorothy and He will walk with you both in the recovery. You might want to consider changing your name from Uncle Ed to Nurse Ed.(Ha Ha) I'm sure she needs a lot of tender care, prayer, and down right spoiling as she recovers her strength. Take care and keeping you in prayer.
Taylor's

From: Kathi Bean

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Praise God! Tom and I are thankful to hear the good news and that Dorothy is home. It is amazing how quickly they release you from surgery now. We pray for a rest and healing with speedy recovery and that God grant wisdom to the doctors. We pray that the doctors determine she does not need chemo. We also pray that your finances will not suffer during this difficult time and that you both feel Christ's peace and joy.

Kathi

From: Dan Holman

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 4:45 PM

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

I hope she gets plenty of rest and recovers fully. We will be praying that the biopsy report is negative regarding cancer.

dan & donna

From: Michael Dinwiddie

To: Dave

Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 4:39 PM

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Dave, Praise God for His great mercy towards you and Dorothy! . I'm so glad you wrote and let us know what is going on. We have been praying so hard and long and will continue to. Thanks, Much Love to you both, Regina.

From: Dallas K

To: Dave

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 7:25 PM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

If you want to get a hold of God, talk to Him about his son, Jesus, who departed from the trinity and came here to be our Savior. God loves to hear about his Son! We serve a great God, and he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ!

From: davidlee

To: Dave

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 1:36 PM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

We are praying for a miracle, we just don't know how God plans to work it.

David and Linda

From: Janeen M

To: Dave

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 12:01 PM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Dave and Dorothy...I believe that our God is of Understanding and Love...Infinite Love and Infinite Wisdom....Please let God's wisdom and love uphold you....He is a father and perhaps mother to us all...God love's you in every way.....

As humans we do not know what each day will bring, but as we awake each of us can know that God's Love

and Wisdom hold us up, encircle us , take us through to the next thing.....

God loves us. That may be all we need to know.

Janeen, Des Moines

From: Donna H

To: Dave

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 10:18 AM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Dave,

The doctors can cut you open, take things out and sew you up again, but when it comes to the healing,
His Word reads,...I the Lord am your healer.

I was in Montana with The Missionaries the Missionaries To The Preborn. I was wearing a black tee-shirt. The Montana sun is very hot. We stand along side of the road holding graphic signs for two hours. Everything was getting black in front of me. I layed my graphic sign down on the ground. I knelt down and I said, Jesus, You are my healer. Jesus, You are my healer. Instantly, all the black cleared away and I have been fine ever since.

Love Donna H

From: Walterbboe@aol.com

To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 10:15 AM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Be praying for the surgery

From: Dave S

To: music@saltshaker.us

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 9:55 AM

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Fw: Please help me analyze Bible miracles]]

Dear Mr. Leach: Please see the attached from Neal Horsley. He went to a theological seminary. I am praying for a miracle for your wife.

God bless you and your wife,

Dave

To: "Neal Horsley" <nhorsley@wechooselife.net>; <tobra7@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 1:17 PM

Subject: [Fwd: Fw: Please help me analyze Bible miracles]

> Neal and tobra,

> Could you please be able to tell me if there is anything in the
> Bible which can account for why God might not heal Dave Leach's wife
> Dorothy before her scheduled surgery Friday, so I can be able to reply
> to him (please see the attached e-mail I just received from him)? Thank
> you very much. I appreciate it very much.

>

> Dave

Every miracle in the Bible speaks loudly that God "might" heal her. But we have no right to demand God provide a life-sustaining miracle for the flesh in any particular event because, if we so demanded, we would be trying to refute the fact that it is given to us all once to die. Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

So whether we live or whether we die, we should do it for the Lord, trusting His Will to provide the right outcome in all events in this world and the next. In this way, we avoid the trap of will worship where we

confuse our definition of right and wrong with God's eternal Right to be the One who defines those terms. I'm sure this is what Paul had in mind when he said, "Rom 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Did I leave anything out?

Neal

FROM Dave Leach

TO Dave S

There is no "might" about any Bible miracle's lesson for us about God's willingness to answer prayer. Many of God's promises are categorical. Ie. "whatsoever ye ask". My Bible study gives many examples, but if you don't find them just ask and I will pull them out for you. Against God's great promises, Neal would pit, not a Scripture denying that God answers prayer predictably and consistently, but his logic that since the Scripture says we must die, God can't always answer our prayers because then we would never die! That is so silly on the face of it, that I don't know how to respond without insulting someone's intelligence by stating the obvious. Who prays that they will never die? Neal says we should "trust His will to provide the right outcome in all events in this world and the next." True enough, but what Neal "left out" was that God states it is His Will for us to pray creatively for things God wouldn't necessarily have done without us asking.

Dave

From: Dave Struck

To: Dave

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 2:07 PM

Subject: Re: Fw: Please help me analyze Bible miracles]]

Dear Mr. Leach: Thank you very much for your informative reply. I appreciate it very much. I am praying for a miracle for your wife, and I am praying for you and your relatives and friends. Thank you again, and God bless you and your wife always.

Sincerely, Dave

From: Ken Richards

To: Dave

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 9:26 AM

Subject: Re: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Dave,

As always I am praying for Dorothy's complete healing from Cancer and I want to see this miracle. I want this miracle to demonstrate God's faithfulness and to change so many lives beyond those immediately around her. Even the doctors would be amazed and could come to Christ if they see this miracle.

Please keep me informed....I will try to stop in the shop today ok.

Ken

From: RICHARD WHITE

To: Dave Leach

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 8:57 AM

Subject: RE: Cancer deadline: 30 Hours Away.

Dave: Still praying and I believe, Matt: 8:16

I'll be in Colorado in 2 - 3 days.

Please keep me advised and let me know when God has touched her.

God bless, Dick

Good news Mr. Leach, God is good! Please let me know if you need me to go to the grocery store or anything!! I will keep you both in my prayers. God bless!!!

Kali G

From: fmclac@aol.com
To: uncle-ed@iowalink.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:43 PM
Subject: Prayers Continue

Dave & Dorothy,

May His Peace that surpasses all understanding, dwell in your hearts that you may know He is our Sovereign Lord and His Will Be Done in Perfect Love. Peace, Peace, Peace...

Your Brother in Christ,
-Frankie

From: Michael D
To: dleach@iowalink.com
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 1:30 PM
Subject: Your Recovery

Dear Dorothy,
Shalom!

Just a note to let you know you are in our prayers, thoughts, well wishes, and hopes.
We don't want to bother you. When you feel better write or call us. We sure do miss your e-mails. You're always so cheerful and informative.
We Love You, Mike, Regina, and Kitty

From: Dorothy Leach
To: Mike, Regina, Kitty
Cc: Thea
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 2:50 PM
Subject: [S]Re: Your Recovery

Hey, I'm back at work today! Feeling great, a little sore and a bit restricted on use of arm, but doing well. Praise God! Thank You Jesus! I have 2 bottles hanging under my arm for drains, so have them pinned to a blouse under a loose fitting jumper so they're hidden. I have to empty them a couple times a day, and each time there's less in them, so that's good, too. Thurs. I go back. I think that's when they will remove the drains and tell me the results of the tests of the nodes. Dr. said the surgery was a success, they found what they expected to find -- cancer had not spread to the skin or into the chest. I didn't hear the Dr. myself, but several who were there during surgery said this is what he said when he came out to the waiting room. The part about the nodes -- one told me the dr. said he took 12 nodes, the other said he took the sac of nodes from under the arm -- maybe he said both and maybe they mean the same thing, I don't know, but both said that he said 2 of the nodes were enlarged but that could be just from the biopsies that were done. Test results will tell.

Friday I had to wait around a lot -- was supposed to have surgery at 10 or 10:30, but didn't get in til 12:30 because of another one that had to be "squeezed in". When I came to around 3:30 or so I had the usual "leftover symptoms" from the anesthesia -- nausea, dry heaves, chills, etc. Felt pretty miserable til about 11 PM. After that I felt as good as ever except for the aches-- which simply felt/feel like a badly pulled or sprained muscle. I haven't taken any pain meds at all and have done well without them. (I always have icky reactions to them, too, so was glad I didn't really need them.) I told Dave the pain from this is like a piece of cake compared to all those broken ribs from the car accident! This was easy!

Sat. morn after Fri's surgery, I was hungry and wide awake waiting for breakfast. I was really surprised at what they brought me: chicken broth, grape juice, yellow jello, and an Italian Ice which was little more than frozen sugar & flavoring! I drank the broth and the juice--don't like yellow jello, and didn't care for the frozen sugar, so had 2 bites and that was more than enough. About 11:00 they told me I could get dressed and go or wait for lunch and then go. Since I was still hungry, I decided to wait for lunch. Guess what lunch was: an exact repeat of breakfast!! Why on earth they had me on a full liquid diet I don't know. I drank the broth

again, and went home and had a bowl of granola! Aside from the food, my brief hospital stay was very good -- as hospital stays go. Everyone was very nice and the care was excellent --- just as Regina said it would be!

I want to thank you all for your thoughts and concerns and notes of encouragement, and most of all your prayers. Please share my thanks with all others in your area who've been praying for me. I know there have been prayers from people I don't even know, and I'm extremely grateful for each one. God hears each one, and I pray He will grant a special blessing to each one who has prayed. I'm trusting Him for the future and continued healing. By His stripes I am healed!!

Thanks so much to all of you.

In His Love,
Dorothy

From: Judy McN

To: Dave

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 12:33 PM

Subject: Re: Failure and Success

Morning Dave, I'm glad Dorothy is home. Is she in a great deal of pain? I'm also praying that the cancer is gone.

Judy

From: George S

To: Dave

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 9:13 AM

Subject: RE: Failure and Success

Thanks for the testimony Dave. God comes through in some remarkable ways sometimes.

From: K56ret97@aol.com

To: dleach@iowalink.com

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 8:59 PM

Subject: Re: Surgery over

Dorothy,

Praise the Lord! Judy Mc updated us about your surgery last Saturday. We will continue to pray for a positive result with the pathology report.

Kay M

From: JESUS4MEXICO@aol.com

To: dleach@iowalink.com

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 9:00 PM

Subject: Re: Surgery over

Glad your doing better, Take care

Love Mel

From: Ruth MF Tucker

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 9:25 PM

Subject: Re: Surgery over

Dorothy and David,

Thank the Lord all seems to be well. God is Good!!

My thoughts and prayers are with you as you continue the recovery. Only positive thoughts, now.

I will make a copy of your message and mail to Janet Webster. She is the only one of the Mayflower Board without email, and I know she is wondering about you as she mentioned you several times on Saturday.

Take care and we hope to see you at the May meeting in Dows.

Ruth T

From: Regina D
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 7:33 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Your Recovery

Wow! Dorothy, back at work. My Gosh! You are a Champion. I'm sure I would be in bed for two weeks at least. I'm so glad all of our prayers were answered. Of course you will remain in our prayers. I can't wait to give the news to My bible class on Wednesday, they have been praying for you as well as the prayer team at church as well as every friend I have. God Bless You Dear Sister. You made my heart smile tonight. Regina

From: Michael D
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 7:29 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Your Recovery
I'm glad you're feeling better, home , and doing so good. Mike

From: Kitty D
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 7:28 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Your Recovery

What a letter! You're quite a writer. I'm so glad you are feeling better, get completely well, hon, and God Bless you, Love Kitty

From: lori hoffman
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 1:29 PM
Subject: Re: Surgery over
HI Dorothy!!

I, we are so glad to here you are back at work and doing, what sounds like, WONDERFUL!!!

Just a quick note regarding your letter. I also know what the pain of broken ribs feels like and can relate with you just how awful that pain is. They gave me morphine while I was hospitalized. After the first couple days I begged them to take me off of it, due to the horrible side effects it had on me,(creepy-crawly, vivid nightmares, dizziness, nausea, attitude changes). I was able to switch to a much more mild oral pain reliever during my hospital stay and go home to recover.

You definately have a higher power working in your favor and watching out for you. God knows you are one of his special children that has many great things left to do. Yes, we need doctors, medicine and a loving support to help us through our time here on earth but with all that considered, every and all things are in his hands.

Abba will be getting out early (130p) on Wednesday to start spring break, please let me know what time would work for you regarding her piano lesson.

Love,
lori

p.s. The food is always awful after surgery, (yellow jello) but it sounds like the care was GREAT!!!!

From: Lorraine Tonn
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 1:18 PM
Subject: Re: Surgery over
Am so pleased to get the good news! Prayers were answered!
Please keep us up to date on your progress!
Lorraine

From: Thea
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 12:34 PM
Subject: Re: Your Recovery
Hi Dorothy,

I am glad the surgery is over for you and that you are on the mend. Also I am expecting good news from the tests taken - and that the entire ordeal will be over for you. I am amazed that you are back to work so soon. Praise the Lord that He renews our strength. Please keep me posted. Both my neice and her family, as well as our Wednesday Bible study group has been praying for you.

Love, Thea

From: Ruth MF Tucker
To: Ruth MF Tucker
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 11:48 AM
Subject: Fw: Surgery over

I know some of you are interested in Dorothy's surgery and her prognosis. I received this yesterday and am sening it on for your information.

She is quite a lady!!

Ruth

From: Margaret Leach
To: Dorothy Leach
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 9:27 AM
Subject: Re: Surgery over
Dorothy -

It is so good to hear from you!!! :-) I'm glad all went well. My son, Greg, has been praying for you also so will forward this on to him as well.

Did you have a lumpectomy? or mastectomy??

You continue to be in our prayers.

Blessings,
Margaret

From: "Diana K"
To: <dleach
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 2:30 PM
Subject: RE: Surgery over

Im very glad to hear your ok Ive been wondering about you when I had the same kind of surgery I didnt take the pain pills either even though they told me Id be in lots of pain I wasn't however they didnt put drain bags and the fact that they didnt caused a lot of issues for a while to the fact I had to be restitched. now that was painful. Ill stop in and see you when I get a chance my life is still insane with the court mess. talk to ya soon.

Diana K&family

From: Carol C
To: 'Dorothy Leach'
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 8:43 AM
Subject: RE: Surgery over
Mass e-mail is quite acceptable! Just so good to hear from you!!
Carol

From: Cinda & Elwood J
To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:29 AM

Subject: praying with you this morning

Our Heavenly Father, we come before you this morning, praising you for all you do for us without asking and thank you for what you are going to do in our lives today.

Today we come with a special request for a special friend. You know Dorothy and she knows you. Be with her and the surgeons today. Give them guidance as they attack this cancer. Give Dorothy renewed peace knowing you are in control and are going into that operating room with her. May she come out of recovery without any unpleasant effects and will be up and around soon.

We pray for Dave and the rest of the family and friends . Give them peace knowing it is your will we seek.

May Dorothy wake up to a beautiful day feeling your presence.

In Christ's Name Cinda

From: Janet D

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 4:23 PM

Subject: how are you doing

DOROTHY, HOW ARE YOU DOING AFTER YOUR SURGERY???? I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT AND PRAYING ALL DAY FOR YOU!!!!!!!!!!!! BUY NOW YOU SHOULD BE OUT OF SURGERY AND STARTING YOUR RECOVERY. IT MAY SEEM LIKE A LONG TIME B4 YOUR RECOVERED, BUT IT WILL GO FASTER THAN YOU THINK!!!! DID THEY PUT DRAINS IN??I WAS WEARING MY PROTHESES A MONTH AFTER MY SURGERY, JUST TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC. BUT I DIDN'T GO OUT THAT OFTEN AT FIRST. SOCIAL SECURITY PAYS FOR YOUR PROTHESIS, AND TWO BRAS, EVERY TWO YEARS. YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM UPFRONT, THEN THEY WILL PUT IT IN YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK. ENOUGH FOR NOW, YOU TAKE IT EASY,AND REMEMBER I'M THINKING OF YOU AND PRAYING FOR YOU TOO. LOVE AND GOD BLESS, JANET

From: jdmcnamara

To: Dorothy Leach

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 3:20 PM

Subject: Re: Surgery over

Hi Dorothy, I'm so glad you made it through the surgery fine and that you have little or no pain now. If you need me, I'm a phone call again.

Love ya,

Judy

March 9, 2009 Miracles:

Store income: \$229

Prayer for Dorothy's pain in her chest, after operation: it went right away and didn't recur until she went to bed. It had been off and on for a few hours prior. Very sharp pain.

March 10 morning: still no big pain for Dorothy! I had thrown in a prayer last night for healing of my visible cavity in my front tooth, but this morning just before I looked, I doubted, and it was still there.