BUYthe LIE

GLORIA COPELAND

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DON'T BUYthe LIE



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BUY the LIE

God is not schizophrenic. But the way some people talk about Him makes it sound like He is—especially when it comes to the area of divine healing. "God puts sickness on us to teach us something," they say. "Then sometimes He heals us, if it's His will. You just never know what He's going to do."

Such statements, as well-intended as they might be, are wrong. God does not have a split personality or a divided will. He is not the source of disease *and* its cure! He doesn't will to make people sick one day, and then will to heal them the next.

God's perfect will is, and always has been, for His people to be well.

I don't know how anyone could read the Bible and argue about it. In the first few pages of Genesis, it lists everything God created—and sickness isn't included on that list. On the contrary, it says that everything He made was good.

That's why there wasn't any sickness in the Garden of Eden. It was the one place on earth where God's perfect will was done!

Sickness came from the devil.

It got into the earth when he convinced Adam and Eve to sin and they became vulnerable to him. You've read how it happened. Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent and convinced her to doubt (and then disobey) God's Word by asking her this question:

"Yea, hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1).

Today, he's still robbing Christians of their healing by getting them confused about God's Word. "Is it really God's will to heal you?" he'll whisper. "Maybe it's not. Maybe you don't qualify for healing. Maybe God's plan for you is to be sick and die young. Blah... blah..."

They're all lies, of course, because lying is what the devil does best. He is famous for it! If he can't get us to believe his lies, he can't get anywhere with us.

Here's what we need to do. We need to become so Wordminded where healing is concerned that the devil can't deceive us. We need to look in the Bible, find out what God says and believe it. And not just once, either, because the devil will always be working against us. To stay strong in faith, we must continually keep the healing scriptures fresh in our minds.

That's what I do. I not only read them regularly in my Bible, I keep a list of them handy. If you want to live healed, I encourage you to do the same.

Make it a habit to read healing scriptures often, even when you're healthy. Otherwise, when symptoms of sickness strike and Satan starts whispering in your ear, you may not remember what God said.

IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET

Psalm 103 warns us about this. It says: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (verses 1-2).

It's important to remember God's benefits, because the ones we remember are the only ones we'll receive and enjoy. It's only those we pay attention to, believe in, thank God for and don't forget about, that become real to us and manifest in our lives.

Although we might think we could never forget about the benefit of divine healing, in this sickness-oriented society it's the easiest thing in the world to do.

Think about how many TV commercials talk about "flu season" or "cold season," and convey that getting sick is inevitable. Think about how people stand around at the office or in the grocery-store line saying things like, "My whole family gets sick at this time every year! We always have and I guess we always will."

Even though as a believer you know better, it's easy to slip into that mindset if you don't do something to counteract it. So remind yourself often that God is the Healer—the One, as Psalm 103:3 says, "Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who

heals [each one of] all your diseases" (AMPC).

Personally, I'm glad God lists forgiveness and healing together in that verse. It clears up a lot of confusion because most Christians know God has made forgiveness available to everyone. He sent Jesus to pay the price for every sin that's ever been committed, or ever will be. Therefore, anyone who receives Him as Lord can have their old sinful past washed away. After we're saved, if we stumble and sin, we can run to God, confess our sin and "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

God never says, "Forgiveness is

not My will for you." He never says no to those who sincerely ask—He always says yes!

The same is true when it comes to healing!

Forgiveness and healing are from the same source. They are both readily available to all who want to receive them. They are benefits God unfailingly gives "to such as keep his covenant" (Psalm 103:18).

MILLIONS HEALED AT ONCE

You can search the entire Bible and you'll find that God always provided healing for His covenant people. And, He did it under the most difficult circumstances, too. Consider, for example, the time He brought the Israelites out of Egypt. He did such a mighty work of healing among them "there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Psalm 105:37).

That's the way it ought to be for us today. In our families there shouldn't be one feeble person. We should all be healed. It's the will of God!

"Yeah...but, the doctors tell me

there's no cure for what I have," someone might say.

Don't you believe it! There's no sickness anywhere God can't cure. The Holy Ghost never met a disease He couldn't conquer.

He proved that when He healed all those Israelites. There's no telling what kinds of dreadful diseases they'd been suffering with before God healed them. They had been slaves. They hadn't been vacationing at some resort. They had been worked hard, whipped and mistreated. They'd been exposed to deadly, debilitating conditions. Given the kind of lives they'd had, numbers of them were probably weak, crippled and incurable.

Remember the movie. The Ten Commandments? In one scene it showed multitudes of sickly Israelites hobbling out of Egypt on crutches, being carried on stretchers, or being led along by the hand—too blind to see where they were going. The scene may have been accurate, but the timing was wrong! The Israelites might have looked that way before the Exodus, but the day they left Egypt, there wasn't one feeble person among them. Even the old folks were strong.

Imagine it! God healed millions of Israelites all at once. He is able to do that, so you can rest assured He can handle any sickness that might come against you. You're

just one person. Healing you of anything is easy for God!

For Him to do it, however, you need to give Him something to work with.

What do you have to give Him?

Faith! Not just a vague kind of hope that everything will turn out all right. But real, Bible faith based on God's Word. The kind of faith that makes you bold enough to believe and say, "As surely as it was God's will to heal the Israelites, it's His will to heal me. So I believe I receive my healing now. In Jesus' Name, I AM HEALED!"

A BIBLE FULL OF PROMISES

I'm not suggesting you build your faith on just one scriptural account. As wonderful as the mass-healing of the Israelites in the book of Exodus may have been, the Bible contains many other passages about healing that are just as thrilling. And as Word-minded people, we should study all of them. In Deuteronomy 7, for instance, God made us this wonderful promise: "Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases

of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee..." (verses 14-15).

Notice in those verses, as in Psalm 103, God connects being BLESSED with being healed. Why? Because healing is an inseparable part of THE BLESSING.

By the same token, sickness is an inseparable part of the curse. Deuteronomy 28 describes the curse in detail, and says it includes: "great plagues of long continuance, and grievous sicknesses of long duration...all the diseases of Egypt...also every sickness and every affliction..." (verses 59-61, AMPC).

You can forge what you've heard about God sending

sickness as a "blessing in disguise." According to the Bible, no sickness is a blessing. From colds to cancer, it's all a manifestation of the curse.

"But Gloria," you might ask, "isn't the curse still operating in the earth today?"

Yes, but as New Testament believers we've been delivered from it. Galatians 3:13-14 says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

First Peter 2:24 explains it this

way: "[Jesus] his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Look again at those last few words. They don't say you might be healed someday if it happens to be God's will. They say you "were" healed!

To a lot of Christians that doesn't make sense. "I feel sick," they argue. "My body hurts. I have a fever. I'm coughing and sneezing. How can God say I was healed?"

Because as far as He's concerned, the work has been done. Healing has been provided for every believer. It's been bought

and paid for by the blood of Jesus. All we have to do is reach out with the hand of faith and take it.

That's what the woman in Mark 5 did. Have you ever read about her? The Bible says she had been suffering with a flow of blood for 12 years before she received her healing. She spent all her money on one physician after another, but she just kept aetting worse. Then she heard about Jesus. She heard that multitudes sought to touch Him: "for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all" (Luke 6:19).

If it is Jesus' will to heal all those people, she thought, then it's His will to heal me. So she went to one of His meetings, pressed through the crowd and touched His garment.

She didn't wait for an invitation, she just declared her faith and said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (Mark 5:28-29, 34).

You and I can do the very same thing today! Even though Jesus has been resurrected and has ascended to heaven, He's still here with us in His Word. He's here by the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us and among us. And because He is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8), He is still healing *all*.

So stop wondering, wishing and waiting. Grab hold of God's healing Word with the same faith and determination that the woman with the issue of blood grabbed hold of Jesus' garment. Make a list of verses like the ones in this book. Then as you read through the Bible and find others, add to it.

Build your faith by reading and receiving such scriptures daily, so the next time the devil tries to talk you out of your healing, you'll be armed with the truth. You won't buy the lie that God has a split

personality, that sometimes it's His will to heal you and sometimes it's not.

You'll be full of the Word and have the confidence to say, "Get out of here, devil. There's no question about it: God wants me well! I am healed!"

Prayer for Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. I repent of sin. I renounce it. I renounce the devil and everything he stands for. Jesus is my Lord.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, "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?" (Luke 11:13). I'm

also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). In Jesus' Name. Amen!

Begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those words and syllables you receive—not in your own language, but the language given to you by the Holy Spirit. You have to use your own voice. God will not force you to speak. Don't be concerned with how it sounds. It is a heavenly language!

Continue with the blessing God has given you and pray in the spirit every day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You'll never be the same!

Find a good church that boldly preaches God's Word and obeys it. Become part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them.

We need to be connected to each other. It increases our strength in God. It's God's plan for us.

Make it a habit to watch the Believer's Voice of Victory Network and become a doer of the Word, who is blessed in his doing (James 1:22-25).

About the Author

Gloria Copeland is a noted author and minister of the gospel whose teaching ministry is known throughout the world. Believers worldwide know her through Believers' Conventions, Victory Campaigns, magazine articles, teaching audios and videos, and the daily and Sunday *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast, which she hosts with her husband, Kenneth Copeland. She is known for Healing School, which she began teaching and hosting in 1979 at KCM meetings. Gloria delivers the Word of God and the keys to victorious Christian living to millions of people every year.

Gloria is author of the New York Times bestseller, God's Master Plan for Your Life and Live Long, Finish Strong, as well as numerous other favorites, including God's Will for You, Walk With God, God's Will Is Prosperity, Hidden Treasures and To Know Him. She has also co-authored several books with her husband, including Family Promises, Healing Promises and the best-selling daily devotionals, From Faith to Faith and

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She holds an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts University. In 1994, Gloria was voted Christian Woman of the Year, an honor conferred on women whose example demonstrates outstanding Christian leadership. Gloria is also the co-founder and vice president of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas.

Learn more about Kenneth Copeland Ministries by visiting our website at **kem.org**

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