

Christian & Missionary Alliance—Four-Fold Gospel

Jesus is the Center and the Focus

• It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1 Cor. 1:30

Some say that miracles are a suspension of the natural order. Sickness is a suspension of the natural order brought about by the fall. Miracles, including healing, is a glimpse into the restoration of the natural order.

Christ Our Healer

Simpson's Testimony:

Summer 1881 – Old Orchard Beach

Dr. Charles Cullis

“Suddenly the power of Christ came upon me. It seemed as if God Himself was beside me, filling all the fragrant sanctuary with the glory of His presence. Every fiber of my soul was tingling with the sense of God's presence.”

Simpson's Three Vows:

- 1. Accept the truth of Divine Healing as part of God's Word and the Gospel of Christ*
- 2. Take the Lord Jesus as his physical health until his life work was done*
- 3. Promise to use this blessing for the Glory of God and the good of others*

Simpson viewed Healing as a “recovered” Biblical Truth and not a “new” doctrine

• “What has become of it (healing)? Why is it not universally taught and realized? Did it disappear with the apostolic age? Was it withdrawn when Peter, Paul and John were removed?

By no means! It remained in the church for centuries and only disappeared gradually in the church's growing worldliness, corruption, formalism and unbelief.” (The Best of ABS, p.60)

Biblical Support:

• Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

Exodus 15:25-26

- Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, Psalm 103:1-3
- Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5

- When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8:16-17
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8
- I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12
- Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15

What Divine Healing is NOT:

1. Medical Healing
2. Metaphysical or Magnetic Healing
3. Spiritualism—Luke 13
4. Prayer or Faith Cure
5. Will Power
6. Defiance of God’s Will
7. Physical Immortality
8. Mercenary Medical Profession

What Divine Healing IS:

1. The Supernatural Power of God
2. Founded on the Word of God alone
3. Submitted to the Will of God
4. Part of the Redemptive Work of Christ
5. The Life of Christ
6. The Work of the Holy Spirit
7. Through the Grace of God, not work of man
8. By faith
9. In accord with Church History
10. One of the Signs of the End of the Age

How is Jesus Our Healer?

1. He has brought us healing through His stripes – Isaiah 53:4,5
2. Healing is in His Risen Life which is in us – Romans 8:11
3. He enables us to receive healing by becoming our power to believe.

Two types of healing miracles

1. Creative miracle – restoration of a damaged body part, destruction of something unhealthy in the body, or recreation of something missing or damaged.
Examples – regrowing of limbs, destruction dissolving of tumors, recreating an apparatus necessary for sight or hearing, etc.
2. Deliverance from a spirit of infirmity, a deaf or mute spirit, etc.

Frequency of Demonization

- 17 occasions in the New Testament
- 9 Specific cases of demonized persons
 1. Mark 1:21-28 (Luke 4:31-37) a man in the synagogue at Capernaum

2. Luke 8:2 some women had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary Magdalene
3. Matt 12:22-29 a demonized man-blind and mute
4. Matt. 8:28-34 the Gadarene demoniac
5. Matt 9:32-34 demons caused muteness
6. Mark 7:25-30 the Syrophenician woman's daughter
7. Matt 17:14-20 the boy who falls into fire and water
8. Luke 11:14 a man unable to speak
9. Luke 13:10-21 a woman who for 18 years had a sickness caused by a spirit

Definition of Demonization

- Daimonizomai—to be possessed by a demon by Arndt and Gingrich, Greek Lexicon
- Daimonizomenos- participle form, is used 12 times in the NT

Three parts to this word

- Daimon, which indicates the involvement of demons
- Iz, this stem shows that there is an active cause
- Omenos, is the passive ending that conveys the passivity of the person

Putting it together

- A person becomes the recipient of the demon's action
- A demon is controlling or exerting influence over a somewhat passive person
- Confusion has been created by the use of the word "possession"
- Possession implies ownership
- In reality God never gives up ownership
- It is much better to use demonization or to say that someone is demonized

Usage of the terms

- A demonically caused passivity
- In the case of the one who could not speak, his voice had been rendered passive by the demon
- Similarly with blindness
- Control by one or more demons

Similar terms

- To have a spirit Luke 4:33
- With an unclean spirit Mark 1:23
- Luke 6:18 troubled with unclean spirits
- Acts 10:38 healing all who oppressed by the devil

Symptoms of Demonization

- Indwelling of an unclean spirit-root cause

- Unusual physical strength
- Fits of rage
- Disintegration or splitting of personality
- Resistance to spiritual things
- Excessive sensitivity, clairvoyant powers
- Alteration of voice
- Occult transference- demons into the swine
- In demonization the personality of the demon eclipses the person afflicted
- The person does not have to be aware
- The control of the thought processes and the emotions is the primary objective
- Resistance to Bible reading
- Falling asleep in spiritual settings
- Obsessive thoughts
- Out of control behavior

When we come to Christ for healing, he will direct us in one of two ways. He will deliver us from the demonic stronghold or he will deal with emotional pain that has been held in memories of our painful past.

What Exactly is the Experience of Hurt or Emotional Pain?

What are the occasions that stand out in your mind where you have experienced the emotion of being hurt: what happened?

childhood wounds

adolescence: rejection, body image

singleness

married life

Two definitions offered by David G. Benner in his book, *Healing Emotional Wounds* (Baker, 1990)

- An emotional wound is a Perceived Violation of Trust. Examples?
- An emotional wound is the combination of the feeling of Loss and the feeling of Anger. Examples?

What are Some Common Indicators That A Person Needs Emotional Healing?

- Deadness in the Emotions
- Secret Addictions
- Self- Condemning Thoughts; Constant Feelings of Inferiority
- Perfectionism; You're Never Good Enough--Work Harder
- Hair Trigger Temper; Anger Outbursts
- Commitment Phobia; Indecisiveness
- Evasion; Masquerading

How Does God Bring Healing to Damaged Emotions?

- A. The reason(s) healing has not taken place:
 - Denial
 - Rationalization
- B. How does God Bring Healing?
 - 1. He Works on the Emotions: He enables the person to Re-Experience the Pain
 - 2. He Works on the Intellect: He enables the person to Re-Interpret the Hurt
 - 3. He Works on the Volition, will: He enables the person to Release the Anger and Move toward Forgiveness

Perspectives on Suffering – a theology of suffering

1. Satan's view from the book of Job

God: Job loves me for me. Satan: Job loves you for the blessings you give him. Take away the blessings, he will curse you. Everyone is superficial. Everyone has a price.

Secular view mirrors Satan's cynicism:

Cynical answer – all suffering is random, if there is a God, he is inadequate, incompetent, or indifferent.

2. Job's Friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar—miserable comforters

Religious answer-what have I done wrong? What can I do more or less of? Suffering always seen as a punishment.

Neither answer is correct. Both are dangerous deadends.

The asymmetrical relationship of God to suffering.

The idea of Job's suffering comes from Satan, not God. When God made the world, it was not a place of death, disease, or disaster. They only entered the world through our disobedience.

God's dealings with Satan in the first two chapters of Job show that God is in absolute control. God is in charge. He permits the evil, but he overrules.

God only gives Satan enough rope to hang himself. Satan wants God to be discredited with Job and Job to be discredited to God.

Satan is only allowed by God to defeat himself.

More than that Satan will only be allowed to do that which will accomplish the deep purposes of God for Job's life.

God does not love to see people suffer. He only allows the suffering to come into Job's life to manifest His ultimate purpose for Job and Job's truest personhood and destiny. As Job later questions God for an explanation and grows impatient with God's silence, he is answered by God in this way: "Who darkens counsel without knowledge?"
God to Job

The two answer categories here are human attempts to stay in control when suffering. To go truly deep with God, control must be given up.

Close but Dangerous Theology – Bildad

Bildad's argument about suffering--Minor differences, but the same message.

1. God is sovereign. This is what he does to people that don't obey him.
2. God is just, fair, etc.
3. God punishes the wicked and rewards the good people in this life.
4. If something bad happens to you, it must mean that you have done something good to deserve it. Same then with good things.

Job 42:7 After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.

Why is this system wrong?

They have no place in their system for Satan.

No place in their system for waiting. Only now theology. Do this you get blessing, do this you get cursing. Even reaping and sowing has delay in it. Real vs. Pseudo-Christianity. Job's comforters have no patience or desire for the prayer meeting. There is no place for the cross of Jesus Christ - innocent suffering is impossible.

Bad theology becomes bad comfort from your friends.

a. Eliphaz's comfort—stop your praying with such emotion

Neither God nor his angels will listen to you; why? Because Job is a fool (a disobedient or rebellious person)

Unsympathetic and cold – who being innocent ever perished, upright people are not destroyed.

If you are reaping trouble in your life, you planted it.

Figure out what you are doing wrong, make amends, and get on with it.

b. Wrong comfort-it doesn't grasp the biblical view of suffering

This denies the complexity of human nature—remember the story of the depression of Elijah, angel comes and makes him a meal, tells him to sleep, wakes him up, and tells him to eat some more. This is the angel's treatment of depression.

Religion reduces everything to spiritual and moral so you get a lecture.

Secular sees everything as chemical physical and gives you a pill.

John 9 Jesus and the blind man – who sinned him or his parents? Neither he is blind so that the glory of God can be seen in this world.

God and Satan are reviewing Job's life – Satan is convinced that job is a phony.

God only allows so much suffering that his purposes in Job are accomplished. Job shines like a light for all time. He has helped millions and millions of people. Though he is dead, he still speaks.

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar do not understand grace; whatsoever. All of the great saints of the Old Testament suffered. Everyone of them so broken and corrupt that only through suffering do they face their brokenness and become people of overcoming faith. True comfort is always a mixture of truth and tears. Tell yourself the truth and breaking down in tears.

3. Job's Response to Suffering

Emotional realism-tore his robes, shaved his head, wailed and mourned. Job sinned not. He held on to grace.

I came naked. I will leave naked. The Lord gave, and the Lord took away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Suffering is always the loss of something important to you.

A life built on things and people – suffering takes you away from the source of your joy.

A life built on God – suffering drives you to the source of your joy.

Job's request to God throughout his suffering: Explain this to me and vindicate me.

The meaning of the word, "blameless."

When God speaks, Job responds: "I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." The idea here is to retract his demands.

4. Revelation of God in the midst of suffering.

Suffering without knowing why manifests all the self-centered reasons that you serve God and others. You may not believe it but he will only put you through the ringer to the extent that the true gold of your life, love, and character is fully manifest. Goal—lover who loves God for himself alone.

Job and Malachi teach the same thing in Malachi 3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." A sister called up a silver smith and made an appointment to watch him at work. As she watched the silver smith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The sister thought about God holding us in such a hot spot--then she thought again about the verse, that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.

She asked the silver smith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The sister was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silver smith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy--when I see my image in it."

1. A God-sized God-- How much do you really know? Especially in comparison to what I know?

a. If you have a God who is big enough and powerful enough, then he is big enough and powerful enough to have reasons and purposes that you could not possibly conceive of. If he is big enough for you to be mad at him, then he is big enough to understand what you could not possibly understand.

Elizabeth Elliot's novel, *No Graven Image*. In the novel, the main character (who is a faithful missionary attempting to translate the Bible into an unwritten tribal language) sees her entire life's work destroyed. In the end, she confesses

Theological Principle—***“NOW IN THE CLEAR LIGHT OF DAY I SEE THAT GOD, IF HE WAS MERELY MY ACCOMPLICE, HE HAD BETRAYED ME. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND HE WAS GOD, HE HAD FREED ME.”***

An accomplice is nothing more than an assistant. To treat God as your personal assistant is idolatry.

If God is our means and something else is our ends, we are engaging in idolatry. An idol is anything that captures our vision or our affections more than Christ. It doesn't matter if that something is pleasure, wealth, health, family or ministry success, it is an idol. If God is our accomplice, He is a means to some other ends. If He is our God, He is the end and everything else is the means.

You need a god-sized God.

b. Silence—how he doesn't say anything that Job wants him to say.

a. We have chapters 1 and 2, but God does not reveal any of this to Job.

-The original conversation-Job's love for you is superficial. God only gives Satan enough rope to hang himself. Job has a name that will never die. Millions have been helped and inspired by Job.

-God can't show Job the reason. If God tells Job that Job will become a great man who will live forever, then Job will never become a great name whose name lives forever.

-40:8 In your suffering you are trying to justify yourself. (Job never lets go, and never says that God is enemy.) The legalist in you, the religious moralist in you cries out, complains, moans it's not fair. I don't deserve this.

Will you condemn me, so you can be right? Job says no, but the gospel is hidden in this interchange. God is condemned so that we can be made righteous.

2. Job in everyway is a forerunner or type of Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7, "Now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold, which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

James 1:2-4, "Count it all joy, my brethren when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Hebrews 12:5-10, 14, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord . . . for the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives . . . If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children . . . he disciplines us for our good that we may share his holiness . . . Pursue holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Job is only a foretaste of what would happen to Jesus.

Job relatively innocent suffered the loss of many things, later feels abandoned by God, but was not.

Jesus truly innocent, suffered not only the loss of all things but was abandoned by God for your sake and mine. He who was perfectly obedient and was destroyed without ever losing his trust and his love for the father. He did that for you.

What is life like in the refiner's fire?

More than anything else it is the unshakable trust that all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Elder Authority

Part 1: Understanding and Exercising Spiritual Authority

I. The Meaning of Spiritual Authority

A. The working definition—5 phrases

The right and the ability to direct one's speech into the spirit realm (the "heavenly realms," see Eph 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12) in such a way that objects and agents in the spirit realm submit and obey, with corresponding desired outcomes in the natural realm.

B. The key Scriptures **Matthew 16:18-19**, as applied to Peter

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"

Matthew 18:18-20, as applied to "the church" ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.** ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

C. The language of taking spiritual authority

Binding: Forbidding a negative outcome from happening

Loosing: Releasing a positive outcome to happen Some pictures:

D. Some Pictures

Gen 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Matthew 8:8-10 ⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

Luke 4:38-39 ³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

Luke 9:1-2 ¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:18-19 ¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Acts 3:6-7 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

II. The Spiritual Authority of the Believer

A. Basic Principle:

The believer has spiritual authority in any sphere in which there has been an assignment from God.

Where there is spiritual authority, one's blessings (invoking good) and one's curses (invoking bad), have a special, extraordinary empowerment to come to pass.

B. Spheres of Authority, in the general case:

- 1) Over demons (God assigned you to participate in the work of his kingdom)
- 2) Over one's physical body (God assigned you your body)
- 3) Over one's spouse's physical body (1 Cor 7:4)
- 4) Over one's household, especially one's children (God assigned you your children)

C. Spheres of Authority, isolated specific cases (less clear, but often confirmed by success over time—God's favor)

Basic Principle:

One may "advance" or be "promoted" in one's spiritual authority. Often these advances come through sacrifice, commitment, and intercession

- 1) Over a ministry-activity or target people-group or geographical region (?)
- 2) Over high-level demons (?)

III. The Spiritual Authority of the Elder

A. Basic Principle

The believer's spiritual authority flows along human and legally recognized lines of authority

1) Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (2009) See

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/publications/manual-cma.pdf>

In Christian and Missionary Alliance local churches, all committees and organizations other than the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders as expressed through the governance authority. (Section H1)

2) RKAC Prayer Intensives:

The elder at RKAC has spiritual authority over:

- the finances and facilities of RKAC
- the physical and spiritual health of the leaders and congregation at RKAC
- the obstacles blocking the fulfillment of RKAC's mission