



Sermon preached from April 25 to May 30, 2021

# **Grace Fellowship of Morehead, Kentucky**

#### Hebrews 6:16-19

- 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to *them an end of all strife*.
- Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:
- That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
- Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

**QUESTION:** Is healing for today?

**ANSWER:** God's covenant of healing is an end to all strife!

It is absolutely IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie because of two things:

The Word...oath!

The Blood covenant!

Everything about WHY God cannot lie...lays inside of covenant relationship and the blood sworn oath! **UNDERSTAND:** The Bible is called the "Word of God" ...or the OATH of God!

**ESSENTIAL:** That is why God ALWAYS works inside of covenant...NOT FOR HIS SAKE...it is FOR US to comprehend HIM and HIS MIND...and WHO HE IS!

That is why the Word tells us that we are to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

#### Ephesians 2:11-13

- Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
- That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

**QUESTION:** I don't believe in healing...because there is so much sickness and death in the world. **ANSWER:** That is what you should expect IN THE WORLD. "But now" we have come into covenant which ENDS ALL STRIFE regarding healing.

Colossians 2:14 – "Blotting out *the handwriting of ordinances that was against us*, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, *nailing it to his cross*;"

# **Covenant of Healing: Intricacies of Covenant**

**DEFINITION OF COVENANT:** An intimate, intricate and binding relationship between two or more people that unites their strengths in order to eliminate their weaknesses.

Those first three words are the most important part of covenant understanding!

**BINDING:** Unchangeable! There is nothing that will change God's heart about healing for you or any of His children.

This goes back to God NOT BEING ABLE to lie!

Psalm 89:34 - "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

**INTIMATE:** This covenant is personal with Him.

God spoke to Kenneth Copeland: "I want MY PEOPLE well!"

That is ownership and that is covenant talk!

INTRICATE: When we talk about intricacies of covenant we are talking about the small things that make covenant work.

<u>Song of Solomon 2:15</u> – "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."

It is the little things that spoil relationships.

THINK ABOUT communication, fidelity, small gestures...

BELOVED: For covenant privileges...you have covenant responsibilities.

To stay connected to the privileges, you must accept and walk in the responsibilities.

(perhaps discuss how some people want to get into covenant relationships for the privileges and not to ACTUALLY operate in covenant)

**UNDERSTAND:** I am not saying that covenant is flimsy and can be broken without knowing it or without you even really trying.

Romans 8:35 says that NOTHING can keep us from the love of God.

**BELOVED:** Nothing (exterior) and no one (exterior) can keep the covenants of God from working in your life.

You can't blame it on your parents...you siblings...your boss...your president!

Whether you enjoy the blessings of the covenant or not...depends on you operating in covenant. Doing the small things!

**ILLUSTRATION:** You have a covenant with your spouse. You have all the covenant blessings that come with your spouse. However, you still want to go over to your buddies house when you get home from work and play video games or shoot pool for several hours. Then you come home at 11 or midnight and expect her to be ready for what you have left with what she has left.

You may be surprised that your communications and enjoyment of your spouse may not be ready for you. You will miss out on the best your covenant partner has...you still have that covenant, but you are not enjoying that covenant.

# Intricacies of the Covenant of Healing

We have definitely taken a look at the covenant of healing that we have with an unchangeable God. <a href="Exodus 15:26"><u>Exodus 15:26</u></a> – "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."

<u>Exodus 23:25</u> – "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."

**YOU MAY SAY:** That is a part of the Old Covenant...yes it is...but remember, it is absolutely impossible for us to not have the same blessings of the Old Covenant partners had! Literally impossible!

We know we have HEALING promised to us through the blood of Jesus.

**PROBLEM:** Often we try to create an answer to where there is no answer is needed. Pastors can feel pressure to try and give answers, to grieving people, where God is not giving an answer.

BILL JOHNSON: The best we can do is create a close replica...not the genuine.

We try to make them feel better or give inaccurate reasons or answers.

There is pressure to connect the dots.

**UNDERSTAND:** Asking "why" doesn't mean we will get an answer or that we need an answer. It can lead to unbiblical answers.

Mystery is where your trust is proven.

Sometimes the life of trust is walking through something you can't explain or don't have a answer for and keep believing.

**THEREFORE:** The temptation is to ask, why didn't the covenant of healing work for this person or that person. They loved God…they had that covenant…what went wrong.

**My answer**...I don't know! God didn't show me! Even if I guessed, I would be, most likely, moving the wrong direction and missing out on just trusting the big picture and RELYING on the Word of God.

**BELOVED:** Someone's experience does not change the Word.

Your starting and ending of a situation is the Word.

**THEREFORE:** Today, I want to discuss...using the Word...why people miss their healings. Why they can have a covenant of healing and yet, miss the manifestation of it.

This is not a thorough study...but we are going to look at a few things that people do miss.

## 1.) Access Covenant by Faith!

**EXTRA NOTE for WEEK 2:** Jesus said that ALL AUTHORITY was given to Him. What does that leave out? Nothing! He has it all, therefore, the enemy has NONE!

**THEREFORE:** The only authority that is operated in on planet earth is that which God distributes and He makes it clear that He has given that authority to the church!

So, we must start taking authority over sickness...by faith!

Romans 5:2 – "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Galatians 3:14 – "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

**BELOVED:** You cannot have access to the blessings of the covenant except by faith! Impossible!

Faith is understanding what YOU HAVE NOW! Hebrews 11:1 – NOW faith is...

MARK HANKINS: "Faith is ACTING like you have a covenant with God."

If you don't live like you have a COVENANT...you will not enjoy the covenant.

### Hebrews 13:20-21

- Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, *through the blood of the everlasting covenant*,
- 21 **Make you perfect in every good work to do his will**, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Isaiah 53:4,5

- Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Everything Jesus did on the cross was for our healing in this life.

**BELOVED:** Because of the Covenant of Healing...you are NOT the sick trying to get healed... you are the healed that the enemy is trying to steal, kill and destroy.

Hebrews 6:18 – "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, **we might have a strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"

#### Romans 4:17-22

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**BELOVED:** If you believe it...you will talk about it. You will talk about how healed you are and not how sick you are.

## Romans 4:18-22 (cont.)

Who **against hope believed in hope**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

**BELOVED:** If you believe it..you will expect it...and live like you expect it.

- And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:
- 20 **He staggered not** at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God;
- 21 And being *fully persuaded that*, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

**NOTICE:** Abraham had that strong consolation because of the covenant. It was impossible or it to not come to pass.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

**ESSENTIAL:** You must live by and totally expect to live in the OATH OF THE COVENANT. What does the OATH say! The oath trumps your circumstances all day, every day!

## 2.) Familiarity!

Now this may sound like a weird thing...but I want you to see four levels of how familiarity can hurt you when it comes to healing.

John 7:3-5 (Jesus' brothers are being sarcastic)

- His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.
- For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.
  - **NOTE:** They were accusing Him of wanting to be famous.
- 5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

His brothers didn't believe in Who He was. They were too close.

They didn't believe that Jesus was who mom said He was.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** They were SO CLOSE to the answer...yet totally missed it...because it was their brother.

## Luke 4:16-22 (read from Bible)

**REMEMBER:** There had been NO open revelation for 400 years. They had not heard or felt the Rhema of God in their lifetime. None of them.

Therefore, they just glorified the prophets as doing something that wasn't done anymore.

- And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.
- 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, *No prophet is accepted in his own country*.

**NOTICE:** They are being exposed to the eternal/powerful God...yet they reduced him to the familiar...and missed out on the miraculous!

Then Jesus gives two Old Covenant examples of missing out on provision because of the familiar.

- But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
- But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

**NOTICE:** In Israel there were a lot of starving widows, but Elijah was sent to Sidon, to a foreign woman.

And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

**NOTICE:** There were a lot of lepers in Israel, but Naaman the foreign general was healed.

**UNDERSTAND:** God wanted to do things among HIS COVENANT PEOPLE, but they wouldn't receive it. Didn't receive it!

They lived so close to it and because their lack of honor they missed it.

**REMEMBER:** Luke 4 takes place in Nazareth.

Mark 6:2-5 (in Nazareth)

- And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?
- Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.
- 4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.
- And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

"Honor" - respecting the call and givings in a person!

Honor gives us access to the realms of breakthrough that gifted people have to contribute into our lives.

**OKAY**...so how does this apply to why I didn't get my manifestation...or am missing out on the covenant of healing?

## Four familiarities that stop us short:

1.) Familiar with our shortcomings.

You can be so familiar with your own personal mess ups that you know you have failed God.

**ILLUSTRATION:** When I was a teenager and the youth pastor was talking about being the person that helps others live for God. I sat there condemned because I knew that I wasn't as vocal as I should be for God. The youth pastor said there was someone in the room that was a perfect example and asked for permission. We were all, "Sure, who is Mr. Perfect"!? He said, "Thad! You are the reason Larry is here to night."

You may think..." how can I get full access to this covenant when I have made so many mistakes and this other person was so perfect and it didn't work for them.?"

You are not familiar with their shortcomings...and your shortcomings scream in your face every day!

2.) Too familiar with Jesus.

**UNDERSTAND:** This does not mean that you are too close to Him. That would be absurd!

I am talking about a wrong understanding of Him.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Me swinging a baseball bat in the sanctuary of our church...the youth pastor said, "Don't EVER do that this is the house of God!" But I had been raised the church...I was like home, I was familiar with the nooks and crannies of it.

A lot of the new "doctrines" are based on a buddy, buddy kind of God. He's not upset that you sin! He is good with it!

This could mean too familiar with your doctrines and traditions.

3.) Too familiar with sickness.

We have said this many times since we have started this series...we need to be more mindful of healing, then we are of sickness and death!

God assumes healing is a part of the blessings.

**OBVIOUSLY** we have become too familiar with sickness and death!

Our thought patterns have become, "I really hope that what happened to that person doesn't happen to me." Instead of setting our hearts on the covenant of healing and health...our covenant rights.

**REMEMBER:** Faith doesn't say I hope I don't get sick, or I don't want to be sick...faith says, because of God's covenant OATH...I am healed!

4.) Too familiar with the people with the gifts.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Bill Johnson and having the people pray for him for finances.

**BELOVED:** When we see someone as "little Jim Jackson", I grew up with Him. He ain't got no power!" You can miss what God is doing for you.

People say, "If I could get to the service where this EVANGELIST was speaking and I could get healed." But they won't get in the flow of their own church service...or they miss it...or won't ask their pastor.

Maybe, it isn't the pastor you need to have pray for you at all...maybe it is someone else!

# 3.) The Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

**QUICK NOTE:** If you read verses 17 to 22...you will learn that the context of this passage is written to a church that has divisions in it.

They are not taking care of members of the body, therefore, hurting them.

- For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:
- And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
- For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

**NOTE:** It is a constant covenant reminder.

- Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily**, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- "Unworthily" you don't deserve the covenant privileges...you are not fulfilling covenant responsibilities.
- 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
- For he that eateth and drinketh **unworthily**, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, **not** discerning the Lord's body.
- For this cause many *are weak and sickly* among you, and *many sleep*.

"Discerning" – to separate from or withdraw; to oppose, contend or judge.

**BELOVED:** Our number ONE job in regards to covenant is to take care of our BELOVED. To take them to ourselves and make them ours and take responsibility for them.

**CRITICAL:** That is where the church has missed it most!

The church has been critical, judgmental and harsh with it's own and we should be the most accepting of each other and our faults.

**UNDERSTAND: CRITICAL:** You CANNOT have a relationship with God the Father; without having relationship with His people! Impossible!

Colossians 1:18 – (talking about Jesus) "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." JESUS is the HEAD!

**QUICK QUESTION:** Was Jesus sick on the earth? Is Jesus sick in heaven? Then, you are saying, His body is whole and complete! That is the way it should be on earth.

- 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 (there is a lot said about the body...but we will read this:)
- That there should be **no schism in the body**; but that the members should **have the same care one for another**.
- And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 **Now ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.

**NOTICE:** We are all individuals and created unique...but we all fit together as ONE body! We are to fight for the survival of each other, not be so quick to cut each other off or pick at each other!

When you attack the person next to you...you are attacking the Lord, whether you like it or not!

**BELOVED:** If you ever feel like you are 100 miles away from God and maybe you are in the middle of prayer...you need to check some relationships (spouse, child, family member, church member, etc.).

#### Mark 11:25,26

- And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.
- But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your tres passes.

**BELOVED:** It is our job to take care of and to think about one another as a priority in our lives! Romans 12:10 – "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

### Philippians 2:2-4

- 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
- Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

## 4.) Praise!

**UNDERSTAND:** I am not talking about just singing a song. I am not just trying to MOVE the hand of God by singing a song!

This is NOT about manipulating God into doing something!

### Praise is a declaration!

It is a FULL AWARENESS of the goodness and power of a MIGHTY God! It is an excitement and an outward acknowledgment that God is able and God has done GREAT THINGS! It means to SHINE with the awareness of WHO HE IS!

**IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING:** Worship is never identified as a sacrifice...PRAISE is... <u>Jeremiah 33:11</u> – "towdah" (adoration)

<u>Hebrews 13:15</u> – "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Sacrifice means that it costs you something!

**REMEMBER:** David saying that he will not offer to God something that doesn't cost him any thing!?

Sacrifice is a decision! Praise is making up your mind to focus on the beauty of Jesus and the Father!

<u>Psalm 100:4</u> – "**Enter into his gates** with thanksgiving, and **into his courts** with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

- <u>Isaiah 60:18</u> "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, **and thy gates Praise**."
- <u>Isaiah 60:11</u> "*Therefore thy gates shall be open continually*; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought."

Vs. 1 – Arise and shine!

UNDERSTAND: When you are in PRAISE, you are on the attack and the enemy is on the run!

Praise is a gateway to the PRESENCE OF GOD! Praise is NOT the destination...it is the gate! Praise brings you into His presence...into that place of intimacy! It brings you into that place of covenant positioning. It brings you into healing!

- <u>Psalm 16:11</u> "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."
- **ILLUSTRATION:** The tabernacle and the Golden Altar! Golden Censor sat on the altar (all the sweet smelling scents in it). *It represented praise to God!* It was the last thing done before you ENTERED into the Holy of Holies.

It was the gateway!

- **THINK ABOUT THIS:** On the way into the Holy of Holies the High Priest would pass several things:
- The Bronze Altar the sacrifice/the blood
- ~ The Bronze Laver a picture of the Word (oath)
- Golden Lampstand the light (direction and guidance)
- Table of Shewbread provision and strength
- FINALLY: Golden altar with the Golden Censor!
- **NOTE:** You were in the middle of the desert...hot and tired...you have passed all the things above...what do you do now?

Thank Him for the blood, oath, guidance, provision...etc.

- **UNDERSTAND:** Nothing may be changing physically...regarding the heat, the sand, the fatigue...but all the sudden you are transported into God's Presence AND at that point EVERYTHING CHANGES!
- **REMEMBER:** Jehoshaphat and his army being surrounded by that massive opposing army. They felt trapped...they felt defeated...they called on their covenant partner...and HE GAVE THEM A COVENANT ACTION...a covenant responsibility, in order to receive a covenant response!
- 2 Chronicles 20:21 "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that **should praise the beauty of holiness**, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; **for his mercy endureth for ever."**
- **UNDERSTAND:** They PRAISED the Lord for His covenant/mercy while they were still facing the opposition. While they were in the middle of everything! While it looked like things were still impossible.

That is our job! When all you have is HIS OATH...you praise Him!

Not because you are earning anything. You are simply moving into the answer, the provision!