

If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11)

The spirit of antichrist, **unbelief that God can save us** through the **healing power of His word** (rather than helping us improve) can cause us to **excuse our sinful condition** as simply **part of our nature** instead of seeing sin as a dysfunctional **aberration of our creation intent**. We can **try to normalize our sinful condition** as **acceptable** to God instead of viewing it from His perspective, as tragic damage **distorting our perceptions** and reflection of His love, of reality and what **life was meant to be** like.

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (1 John 2:22)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; (Romans 8:14-16)

This **spirit of antichrist**, **resisting the Word** of God, **kidnaps** the authority of **our will**, leading us to **withhold the permission God needs** to rescue, heal and restore us to a condition far better than we can ever achieve for ourselves. **God does not offer help** for us to **work up enough righteousness** to be **accepted** by Him. **Begging God to help us** be a better person is a **prayer of unbelief**, and only adds confusion and encourages depression. God wants to **save us** from our sins, not help us save ourselves.

For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they didn't subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Romans 10:3-4)

[Making **being right** higher priority over being a **conduit of love** lies at the heart of this] *Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight. For through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been revealed, being testified by the law and the prophets; even the **righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe**....* (Romans 3:20-22) [law consciousness is about **being right**]

Jesus asks each one of us a **pivotal question**. Are you **willing to believe**? Are you **willing to confess the truth** about God, about your **identity**, about His fresh revelation of reality **that contradicts nearly everything you have known** your whole life?

A certain man was there, who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had been sick for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I'm coming, another steps down before me." (John 5:5-7)

This man **ignored Jesus' direct question**, and Jesus **ignored his proposed solution** for his problem to cut **straight to the real issue**. Are you **willing to believe** the **word of God** and step out into a radical **new and different reality**, a life of freedom, joy and love? Believe His Word, **act on the Word** and you will be healed. **Faith unlocks heaven's resources** giving us access to everything we need in life.

*Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately, **the man was made well**, and took up his mat and walked. Now **it was the Sabbath** on that day. (John 5:8-9)*

This man was **made whole by choosing to believe and act** on what Jesus said to do.

It was **not** this man's **faith that saved** him, but rather his faith unlocked his heart to receive the healing and saving **power of God's love** that defeats all sin, all disease and all fear. But the man was **free to not believe** Jesus and **cling to his own reality** if he gave more credence to his doubts than to the offer of Jesus to **step out of his old patterns** of thinking. Sadly this happened even in Jesus' day, and especially among those who knew Him the longest, in His hometown of Nazareth.

***He could do no mighty work there**, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people, and healed them. He marveled **because of their unbelief**. He went around the villages teaching. (Mark 6:5-6)*

*Therefore I didn't even think myself worthy to come to you; but **say the word**, and my servant will be **healed**. For I also am a man **placed under authority**, having under myself soldiers. I tell this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude who followed him, "I tell you, I have not found **such great faith**, no, not in Israel." (Luke 7:7-9)*

*So, then, my beloved brothers, let every man **be swift to hear**, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man doesn't produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, **putting away** all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, **receive with humility the implanted word**, which is **able to save** your souls. But **be doers of the word**, and **not only hearers**, deluding your own selves. (James 1:19-22)*