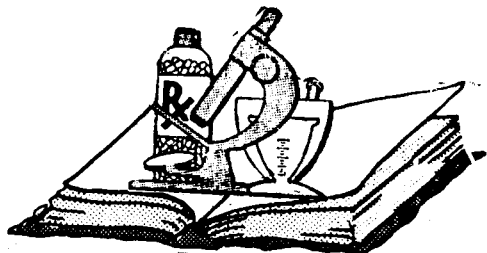


"My son,
attend to my words;
incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes;
keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them,
and health to all their flesh."

-Proverbs 4:20-22

GOD'S MEDICINE

- by Kenneth Hagin



In the margin of my Bible the above verse reads, "...and medicine to all their flesh." God is not only interested in healing us when we are sick, but He is also interested in keeping us well. If you want to stay well, then just keep taking God's medicine.

What actually belongs to us regarding physical healing and health? How can we ascertain exactly what was secured for us? There is only one way to know: by constant, careful, diligent, reverent, prayerful study of God's Word.

Faith and healing is a subject that has greatly interested me, perhaps more than any other subject in the Bible. There is a reason why. I was born sick and never had a normal childhood, never ran and played like other little children; never had a well day in my life until I was seventeen years old. I never had a good night's sleep in my life until I was seventeen after God healed me. For seventeen years I was not normal physically.

As a little child, and then as a teenager, I would sit around watching normal children with my mouth open and my eyes almost bugged. It was the greatest consuming desire of my heart-- to play like other children. I believe if God had come down from Heaven and said, "Son, I am going to give you two choices, either go to Heaven right now and walk the streets of gold, or be well," I think I would have said I want to be well, because I had never known what it was to be well. But, thank God, He offered me both.

That was the reason for my great interest in this subject, because I knew that if there was any help for me it had to be in the Bible. It had to be with God. Medical science had already turned their backs away saying, "There is nothing else we can do." I came to the brink of the grave before I turned to God's Word in a constant, careful, diligent, reverent, prayerful manner and discovered what God's Word had to say on the subject. I almost waited too late. If I had had something acute, I probably would have been carried out into eternity.

But fortunately, I had time to do a little studying. I did not find over night what God had to say on the subject. And, I had to unlearn some things before I could learn the right things. Our minds can be clouded and filled with a lot of things that are not really so.

Everytime I would get a good promise in God's Word, the devil would be right there to tell me, "That just belonged to the Jews," or, "That is not for now," and I didn't know whether it was or not. I would have to look a long time to find some Scripture that would prove that it did belong to me. The verse says, "My son, attend to my words..." God's Word does not belong to the Jews only. Thank God, it belongs to all of His people.

He said, "My son, attend to my words..." If your doctor gave you a prescription that read, "Take three capsules three times a day before meals," and you expected that to work for you you would take it according to directions. In the verse above God gives us direction for taking His prescription. He prescribes His Word for our health: "My words are life unto those that find them, and my words are health to all, or, they are healing to all their flesh."

The latter part of the twenty-second verse says, "...and health (medicine) to all of their flesh." Medicine, in the natural, would not help unless you took it. Just so, God's Medicine is not going to work simply because you have the Bible laying on the chest of drawers in your home. It is not even going to work just because you have memorized a few scriptures. It is not going to work just because you say, "I believe the Bible is so." It is not going to work just because you say, "I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God." But it will work if you will get it down inside of you, into your heart. The way to do that is not by believing it and forgetting it, but by meditating upon it, by thinking upon it, by feeding upon it--until it becomes a part of your inward man.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Here He is using a natural human term to explain a spiritual truth. He is just simply saying that what bread or food is to the outward man, the Word of God is to the inward man. In this scripture, He gives the direction for taking His medicine. I think if we were to give the Bible another name we could call it "God's medicine." It is His Word.

The direction for taking His medicine are, "My son, attend to my words." What does He mean when He says "attend to my words?" Let me illustrate: If I see a friend downtown and I say to him as he walks down the street, "Wait a minute, I want to talk to you," and he answers, "Oh no, Brother Hagin I can't talk," and he looks at his watch and says, "I am already late. I have a business appointment down the street that I must attend to." He does not mean to slight me, he likes me, and he would like to talk and fellowship with me, but there is something else that he has to put first. There is something else that he must give his undivided attention to. That is what God means when He says, "attend to." He means PUT MY WORD FIRST. He expects us to give our undivided attention to His words.

I believe God wants His children to grow spiritually. Peter, through the Holy Spirit, said to "Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby." God wants us to grow. God wants His children to grow spiritually and develop in their prayer life, and faith life so they can stand on their own two feet. I do not believe He wants us to be spiritual babies all of our lives.

Several years ago, my wife and I were attending a Bible Conference. There I met a young woman I had previously pastored who said to me, "You were my pastor for about a year, and as a teenager I grasped something. You taught faith and healing, but now I do not understand it. It looks to me like Christians ought to grow spiritually and should grow in faith and be able to trust God more after being a Christian thirty years than they could when they were younger. It is the other way around in our church. None of the older Christians ever get healed including the pastor. The only people who ever get healed in our church are some of the young people."

The point she was making was this: Christians ought to grow and develop and the older they get the more they should be able to believe God. They should have more faith and it should be easier for them to receive healing.

Then why don't they? Because they have failed to put God's Word first. I would be concerned if I did not know about praying and if I did not have more faith today than I had thirty years ago. I would greatly be concerned about myself. I would become fearful about what might happen to me.

The Word of God says, "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath." Most of us practice the opposite; we are slow to hear; quick to speak, and quick to wrath. That is not what the Word says.

Another passage says, "Incline thine ear." If you are quick to hear, you are inclining your ear. Inclining to what? "To my sayings"--to what God has to say. To open your ears to hear

what God's Word says is to close them to what somebody else says.

You say, "Well, I know, but I just do not understand it." Did you know that God does not ask us to understand it? All He asks us to do is believe it. From the natural standpoint, you cannot give people an explanation of how the new birth works or how believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and receiving Him as Saviour and confessing Him as Lord, can result in your being born again. Neither can you explain how the Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God, but thank God you know it!

I read an article in a prominent magazine some time ago written by a medical doctor on the subject of healing and health. He said, "In these days we are not closing our ears to any kind of healing. In fact, we have gone back in modern time to some 'old wives fables' and old Indian remedies and have studied them in the laboratory just to see how they work and we have discovered that some of them are very beneficial for the physical body."

He said, "Medical doctors and scientists are not opposed to divine healing. It is my obligation to get over to the people whatever works for the healing of the body. I have, and we have, as scientists, reputable proof of people being divinely healed of every known malady. Hands were layed upon them and prayer was made over them and some of them were anointed with oil." He continued, "Our only trouble is this: we can take the Old Indian remedies and put them under the microscope and put them through different tests and we know just what is in them and just what makes them work, but we cannot put divine healing through the test to see what makes it work. We know it works but we do not know what makes it work. If we could find out, we could share it with everyone."

I can tell him what makes it work, it is faith in God's Word. Because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. When the Word gains entrance into the heart and into the spirit, faith will be there automatically. You will not have to seek, you will not have to search, there will be no effort necessary on your part. Faith will unconsciously come into your spirit as you feed upon and accept His Word. That is the clue, that is the secret. That was the secret in the healings that Jesus performed when He was on the earth.

Thank God, we can walk with God and trust His Word and His Word can be more real to us today than it was last year. We can learn to pray more effectively this year than we did last year. Our faith can be greater this year than it was last year; and God can be more real to us today than He was last year. He will if we do what His Word says, "My son, attend to my words."

We no longer have to be spiritual babes depending on someone else to do our praying for us, or exercising faith for us. We can stand on our own two feet, even if we are the last Christian left in the world.

To summarize, the verse in Proverbs says, "Attend to my words." That means put God's words first, give His Word your undivided attention. Secondly, it says, "Incline thine ear unto my sayings"--"Incline thine ears"--open your ears to God's Word.

Jesus said to the centurian, "Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee" and in the same hour the centurian's servant was healed.

The woman with the issue of blood came and touched Jesus' garment and He said, "Daughter thy faith hast made thee whole. Go in peace and be made whole of thy plague." Jarius had come on behalf of his little daughter who was sick and lay at home at the point of death and He said to Jesus, "Come and put thy hands on her that she may be healed." And as Jesus started toward Jarius' house, this woman came and touched His garments.

Then some individuals came from Jarius' home and told Jarius, "Don't trouble the Master

anymore, your little daughter is already dead.” What could be more helpless and hopeless than that? Jesus turned to him and said to him, “Fear not, only believe.” “Fear not, only believe!” And Jesus went His way to that house and that little maiden was raised up and healed.

Matthew 9:27-29 tells about two blind men who came to Him. They had followed Him from Jarius’ house, crying, “Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.” And when He came into the house, the blind men came too and Jesus said to them, “Believe ye that I am able to do this?” They said, “Yea, Lord.” So He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it unto you.” They left, being able to see.

Faith is the thing that makes divine healing work. Medical scientists have said, “We know it works because we have medical case histories of individuals who have been healed.” But, they do not know what makes it work. We know,--faith makes it work.

You cannot put divine healing under the microscope. Medical science tries to perceive it with the physical senses. You cannot perceive God with your physical senses. You cannot perceive the Word of God with your physical senses. You cannot perceive faith with your physical senses. You can see the results of it after it works, but you cannot perceive faith with your physical senses. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” You cannot see faith with the natural eye.

Romans 10:17 tells us exactly how faith comes, “...by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Faith does not come by feeling, it does not come by seeing, it comes by hearing. Hearing what? The Word of God!

When my son Ken was about twelve years old, my wife and I were holding a revival meeting Ken was staying with my wife’s mother. One evening the telephone rang. It was Ken’s grandmother.

She said, “Kenneth, what am I going to do with this boy?”

I said, “What is the matter?”

She said, “Ken has got the mumps. His jaw is all swollen and he has a fever.” She asked, “Do you want me to take him to the doctor?”

“Certainly not,” I said, “There is no need of him having the mumps.”

She said, “Well, he has cried and cried, and nearly worried me to death wanting me to call you.”

I asked her to let me talk to him.

He came to the phone and said, “Dad, that is the only way I could get her to do anything. She did not want to call you and I knew if I cried long enough and aggravated her, she would call you.”

I said, “Now, son, you do not have to have the mumps.”

He said, “I know that, I told her all she would have to do is call you and you would pray and God would heal me.”

I told him, “As soon as we hang up we will pray and God will heal you. Put Grandma back on.” I then told her that we would pray and that God would heal him.

She said, "Well, I hope so." If we had been going on her faith we would not have made it, would we?

We hang up and prayed. She said later that after we had called, Ken layed down across the bed and went to sleep. After about forty-five minutes, she woke him. He got up, stretched, and all the swelling was gone. She checked his temperature and it was all gone. He has not had any signs of mumps since that day.

Some think it is natural to have those childhood diseases. That is not so. God say, "Incline thine ear to my sayings." He also said way back in the Old Testament, "I will take sickness away from the midst of you." That means mumps too! He said, "...and there will be no sickness among you." Some think that promise is just for the Jews. It is not just for the Jews! --it belongs to the people of God. It belongs to those who believe today.

This is the very thing that defeats us. Instead of listening and opening our ears to what God has to say, we listen to what everyone else has to say. I learned a long time ago, unless a person give you the Word of God on it, you cannot even listen to what preachers say. If I had listened to several Full Gospel preachers during my illness, I would be in my grave. It is pretty easy to fall back into the natural. For that reason you will very seldom hear me tell people what I think. If I do not know, I will just say I do not know. I will tell them what I know and then tell them to do their own thinking. I tell them what God's Word has to say on the subject and that is the thing that counts. Good men can give you natural advice and cause you to miss out spiritually. But God says, "Incline thine ear unto my sayings." If you are going to listen to God, you have to shut other things out. We are not doing some things because we want to do them but because God said to. We must listen to what God says in His Word if we are going to enjoy the blessings that God has for us.

"Incline thine ear." Listen to what God has to say. Does He have anything to say about sickness? Thank God He does. His Word says, "Himself (Jesus) took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses whose ownself bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that He being dead to sin shall live unto righteousness by whose stripes you were healed." The Word also says in Acts 10:38, (Peter speaking) "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil..." He called sickness Satanic oppression.

Someone said to me, "You forgot about Job; God made him sick." He did not--the devil made him sick. The forty-second chapter of Job tells how God turned his captivity. Job did not go through life sick and suffering. The whole book of Job, and all Bible scholars agree, covers about nine months. It could not have been over a year and it says, "God turned Job's captivity." He was in captivity to Satan, but thank God, God turned his captivity and set him free. If you say you are like Job, you are going to be healed because Job was healed.

Proverbs 4:21 says, "Let my words not depart from thine eyes...." Here He says you are supposed to look as well as listen. What does He say to look at? "My words." You are supposed to look as well as listen.

If you are looking at God's Word and that Word does not depart from your eyes, they are life and health and medicine to all your flesh. Find the words on healing, find the words on health, find what God says and look at it. Do not ever let it depart from before your eyes. Do not look at anything else.

If the Word does not depart from before your eyes, and the Word says, "By whose stripes you were healed," (past tense), you were healed! (I Peter 2:24). Then, if that Word does not depart from before your eyes, you are bound to see yourself well! You are bound to see yourself with what God says belongs to you if His Word does not depart from before your eyes. If you see yourself sick, if you see yourself getting worse, if you see yourself

being operated on, that Word has departed from your eyes. He said, "Let them (My Words) not depart from thine eyes...."

When I was on the bed of affliction this truth was the turning point in my own case for receiving healing for my body. It is amazing how the Holy Spirit, if He is your Teacher, can lead you in line with the Word because He is the Author of the Word. I had no earthly teacher and I did not realize until afterward that the Holy Spirit was leading and teaching me.

I lay eleven months and I saw myself dead. I went through it at least ten times. When you are bedfast twenty-four hours a day with nothing else to do except live with your physical symptoms, you think a lot. I saw myself getting worse. I saw myself dead. In the nighttime, when all the lights were out I was left alone with my thoughts, many times, night after night, I say myself dead.

I saw my body dead. I saw the undertakers come and take it down to the funeral home. I saw it prepared for burial, I saw them put it in the casket, I saw them bring it back out to the house. I saw them put in in the living room I saw the family gather around and cry. I heard their tears. I heard the things they said. I saw them go to the services. I saw them roll the casket down the aisle. I saw the preacher stand before the pulpit, I heard his sermon. I heard the songs they sung. I saw them go around the last time and look at me in the casket. I saw my face, cold and white. I saw them roll that casket down the aisle. I saw the pallbearers carry it and put it in the hearse.

I saw them drive down the highway and turn off and go on out to the old Forrest Grove Cemetery. I could see it before we ever got there. I could see the newly dug grave. I saw them come down and have the graveside service. I saw the family leave and go home. I saw the casket lowered into the grave and I heard the clods as they fell on the lid. I saw them fill it full of dirt, mound it up and lay the flowers up on it. I saw those flowers die until they were all gone. I saw myself dead!

I saw the leaves on the trees finally wither and die until the trees stood bare. I saw the rain and the cold and even the snowy winter come. I saw the spring come and heard the birds sing. I saw the summertime with the sun beating down upon the grave. I saw myself dead!

After reading this verse of scripture, "Let them not depart from before thine eyes...", somehow I knew this worked. I did not understand it. I had never heard it preached. I was just a boy, sixteen years old at the time, but I knew it was God's Word. I knew that He said, "My words are medicine." I knew He said it is health to all flesh. I knew it from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Even though five doctors had said that I would die, I began to see myself well.

Afterwards, when heart attacks, would come and I would seem to get worse, I would laugh-- just laugh right in the face of it. I would see myself right in the face of it WELL.

I would ask myself what would I do if I were up. I said, "Bless God, I would be preaching." So I asked for a tablet and pencil and started working up sermons. Finally, I had a whole box of these sermons. And I saw myself well!

Do not let His Word depart from before your eyes. They are life. "Keep them", He said, "in the midst of thine heart." That means at the very core of your being, in your spirit, in your inner man. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, oh God, that I might not sin against thee."

What are the results? God's Word produces results. The verse in Proverbs says, "...they (Thy Words) are life unto those that find them and they (Thy Words) are health (or medicine) to all their flesh."