

FOREWORDS *by* RICHARD ROBERTS *and* ANDREW WOMMACK

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEALING

WHY CHRISTIANS GET SICK... THE PRICE JESUS PAID FOR HEALING...

REDEMPTION'S ROLE IN DELIVERANCE AND HEALING...

HOW TO GET WELL AND STAY WELL...

THE ROLE OF DOCTORS, MEDICINE, AND COMMON SENSE...

HOW TO STAY STRONG AS YOU GROW OLDER...

SCIENCE AND HEALING...

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RICK RENNER

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SCRIPTURAL PROMISES OF HEALING...



RICK RENNER

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ENDORSEMENTS

*The following endorsements were written by those
closely connected to healing ministry.*

I am deeply honored that Rick Renner would ask me to endorse his new book. As always, he has dug deeply into the truth of God's Word.

In this book, Rick shows that one of many doors we can open for sickness is worry, which is rooted in fear and comes from meditating on the lies of the devil. On the other hand, faith comes from meditating on the truth of God's WORD. The Savior's purpose, according to God's WORD, was, and still is, to destroy the works of the devil. A careful study of Scripture makes it clear that Jesus came not to only bear our sin but also our sicknesses — and to carry our diseases — so that we might walk in divine health. The moment Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father, His blood declared that *we are healed!*

I wholeheartedly encourage you to not only read this book but to study it with your Bible in hand. I truly believe that by the time you finish, your body will be strengthened, your mind will be renewed, and your confidence in Jesus will be greater than ever before. This book is a faith-builder, and we know it is impossible to please God without faith. *Well done, Brother Rick!*

Always remember that all is well in the household of faith.

We love you, God loves you, and Jesus is Lord!

Kenneth Copeland
Kenneth Copeland Ministries
Fort Worth, Texas

The Scripture says, "God is love," so it makes perfect sense that healing is a central theme throughout the Bible. The Scripture is clear that healing is not only offered by God, it is actually His nature to heal. Still, somehow, millions of people are confused

and even skeptical about whether healing is God's will. Sadly, this includes many believers.

Thank God for Rick Renner! Once again, Rick dives into the Bible, this time on the subject of healing, and lets God's Word speak for itself. In true Rick Renner style, his explanations of the original Greek words clear up any confusion about God's will for His people to be well. But then there is the haunting question everyone has asked at one time or another: "If it is God's will for me to be healed, why am I still sick?"

In *Everything You Need To Know About Healing*, Rick continues unfolding hidden treasures from the original language about the major reasons people do not receive healing. While the explanations of the Scripture are thorough, they are not complicated or difficult to understand. All are likely to find the answers to the questions they have about their own lives and others. This book is also a tremendous resource for every minister or layman who desires to help others take advantage of God's great gift of healing.

Are you in need of healing? Or do you know someone who is? Read this book. Are you a minister, a professor, or Bible teacher? You should have this book. Are you a believer who wants a solid grasp on supernatural healing and overcoming obstacles? Then get this book. With this book in one hand and Bible in the other, the answers to past failures are only a few page turns away. Again, thank God for Rick Renner!

George and Terri Pearsons, Senior Pastors
Eagle Mountain International Church
Newark, Texas

As a board-certified neurosurgeon who has practiced medicine and surgery in 10,000 patients over more than 20 years, I have treated physically and mentally disease-ridden people in all forms and presentations. This has often been a result of unhealthy habits. There were few that I've encountered who had good habits but suffered acute injury and required immediate life-saving intervention. As a result of my experiences, the Holy Spirit was clear that I was to teach on the steps leading to the tripart human's health from a faith-filled brain surgeon's perspective.

Through our ministry, The God Prescription, the Lord has facilitated collaboration with many nationally and internationally known Christian leaders to educate on the steps to living a long life. The Body Healthcare, our current work, combines member-to-member services in a national healthcare system with a goal of furthering our collective wellness. Information that reveals how to apply important wholeness principles to our global population is imperative to mitigate disease and promote health.

Dr. Rick Renner's book *Everything You Need To Know About Healing* highlights timely scriptural and medical truths to support the need for us, individually and collectively, to take ownership of our health. We must be active participants in building a healthy body and mind from good lifestyle habits of movement and diet.

Dr. Renner offers this book with a lovingly sober perspective on how our choices can lead to the need to invest "catch up" time into our spiritual, mental, and physical health later in life. We have the power to create the condition in which we would like to spend our lives now and in our latter years.

This book is chock full of "gems" that can lead us to better strategic positions for our current and future selves. He exhorts us to strive to reach that perfect peace with nothing missing or broken, literally! *Everything You Need To Know About Healing* is an accurate must-read. It will benefit you and your entire family and community for years to come!

Congratulations, Dr. Rick Renner, on a work well done!

Avery M. Jackson III, MD

Neurosurgeon, Trustee, Michigan Neurosurgical Institute

Great Lakes Learning

The God Prescription

The Body Healthcare

Grand Blanc, Michigan

I am honored to endorse my dear friend, Rick Renner, and this powerful, truth-filled book *Everything You Need to Know About Healing*. This is not just another book about healing — it's a life manual that shines light on God's will for wholeness in every area of our lives.

From the opening chapter, where Rick transparently shares his own story of how he came to believe in healing, to the deep biblical insights that follow, this book is both theologically rich and practically transforming. Each chapter builds with purpose — exposing seven root causes of sickness that believers often overlook, then guiding readers through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and the many ways to walk in divine health.

I especially appreciate how Rick doesn't shy away from addressing the hard truths. He deals directly with the areas where believers sometime "self-inflict" sickness and shows how applying God's Word can bring real, lasting change. His teaching on Isaiah 53 and the meaning of redemption is outstanding, and his balance in addressing the natural aspects — diet, rest, and lifestyle — makes this book both spiritually grounded and practically wise.

Whether you're believing for your own healing, ministering to others, or simply wanting to understand God's redemptive plan in full, this book will stir your faith and renew your confidence in the healing power of Jesus Christ.

I highly recommend *Everything You Need To Know About Healing*. Read it, apply it, and watch what God will do in your life.

Kenneth W. Hagin

Pastor, Rhema Bible Church

President, Kenneth Hagin Ministries

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

One of the greatest needs in the Body of Christ today is a clear understanding and personal experience of God's abundant provision for healing. For decades, beginning with my parents, Drs. T .L. and Daisy Osborn, our family has witnessed remarkable

miracles of healing in more than 100 nations — evidence of the power of Christ’s redemptive work. The remarkable results we have witnessed are the direct outcome of what we have come to know about God’s plan and Christ’s redemptive work.

Countless books have been written on biblical healing, but few provide the depth of practical insight found in this remarkable work by Rick Renner. *Everything You Need To Know About Healing* is more than a study — it is a life-giving guide that will open your heart and mind to the transforming truths of God’s Word. You were not created to live with sickness; in these pages you will discover the keys to walking in divine health through wisdom and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

LaDonna Osborn, D.Min.

Osborn.org

Tulsa, Oklahoma

God wanted someone to write a new book on healing, and the Holy Spirit chose Rick Renner to write it. In this must-read tome, God is saying, “I want to heal you, but here is what is blocking it. Here is how healing came through the Cross.” Finally, here are the truths about healing and living in health, and you can learn how healing miracles are to be a normal part of our life. Read it!

Mario Murillo

Mario Murillo Ministries

Lafayette, Tennessee

This timely book *Everything You Need To Know About Healing* by Rick Renner is one of the most, if not *the* most, comprehensive study on the subject of healing that I have personally encountered. From the beginning chapter, this collection of Rick’s research, personal revelation, and practical approach will be sure to unlock the reader’s faith to know and expect to receive the healing flow of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of one’s personal circumstances, this read will release rivers of living water to flow in you and flow through you, touching you in the deep places of your soul. This book

is sure to stir both a hunger and a passion to read it over and over again. Thank you, Rick, for addressing this much-needed subject in a manner that all can both read and understand.

Billy Burke

Billy Burke Ministries

Tampa, Florida

Once again Rick Renner has produced a book that is greatly needed by the Body of Christ (and the world at large). Rick's book *Everything You Need To Know About Healing* is just that! As usual, Rick has done deep research concerning healing and covers a wide spectrum. Too often, healing (like most other Bible topics) is looked at from only one perspective. Rick covers many areas, from the spiritual to the natural. He brings out truths concerning how people get sick and how they can get well and stay well. He proves healing is definitely God's will for every person and that Jesus provided healing through His redemptive sacrifice.

This is a book that every serious Christian should have in his possession! I can assure you, all of my staff and our leaders around the world will own this book, even if I have to buy it for them myself.

Curry R. Blake

General Overseer

John G. Lake Ministries

JGLM.org

Plano, Texas

Rick Renner's books were among those I read in my formative years as a new evangelist. I was elated to learn that he now has a work available specifically devoted to the subject of divine health and healing, a ministry expression in which I am highly invested. As I read through this masterfully written work, I learned new truths and had my faith stirred to believe for and minister God's healing power.

Page after page, this book is packed with treasures, and, with precision, Renner delivers treasures that both answer the big questions and fill in the nuanced details regarding divine healing. To say I'm excited to recommend this book is an understatement. Every believer needs this book in his library. I thank God for the brilliant mind and the teaching ability of Rick Renner.

David Diga Hernandez, Evangelist

David Hernandez Ministries

Round Rock, Texas

Rick Renner writes, "My eyes had now been opened that healing and miraculous power was not just a relic of the past but still at work in the here and now!"

Every generation has the right to see healing and miraculous power at work in the here and now! God's healing and miracle power should not be just a relic of the past that we simply admire, for it is a harvesting tool, advertising God's undeniable love for mankind. But we won't just float into manifestations of His power — we must gain knowledge of the will of God and the ways of God. We must learn how to receive healing power, as well as minister it to others.

James asked, "*Is there any sick among you?*" (James 5:14). He implies that it was possible that there was no one sick among them. As the Body of Christ, we should set our faith and declare, "No more sickness in the Body of Christ!" We should not be okay with less than God's best! But to experience God's best, we have to preach it, develop our faith for it, and expect it!

That's why I so appreciate this in-depth teaching on healing that Rick Renner brings in this much-needed book that calls the Body of Christ back to living in God's best — divine healing and divine health!

Nancy Dufresne

Dufresne Ministries

Murrieta, California

As a physician, I've seen firsthand how connected our spiritual, emotional, and physical health truly are. Rick Renner captures this beautifully, and his insights offer a clear and hope-filled path toward real wholeness and healing.

James Ross, MD
Tulsa, Oklahoma

DEDICATION

With great joy, I dedicate this book to Kenneth E. Hagin, Kathryn Kuhlman, and Oral Roberts, three ministers whom God used early in my life to open my eyes to divine healing and the miraculous power of God. God used each of them in unique ways to establish me in the biblical truth that Jesus Christ is indeed the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In the earliest part of my spiritual journey, God graciously introduced me to the ministry of Kenneth E. Hagin, and it was in one of his meetings in 1974 that I received a dramatic healing that brought resolution to a serious health issue in my life. Later I came across the radio ministry of Kathryn Kuhlman, and almost every afternoon, I waited for the moment when she would come on the air to talk about the ministry of the Holy Spirit and share testimonies of miracles that occurred in her miracle services. When it was announced that she was coming to hold one of those services in Tulsa, I attended that meeting (and others as well), and it was there that I was first visually confronted by the miracle-working power of God.

Then I attended a class at Oral Roberts University called The Holy Spirit in the Now that was taught weekly by Oral Roberts himself. As I sat on the front row each week, I hung onto every word that he spoke in that class and even recorded each lesson with the tape recorder that I always brought with me to class. Then at the conclusion of each session as others exited the auditorium, I lingered to watch as Oral faithfully laid his large hands on people who requested prayer for healing.

I am thankful that God used these three individuals to establish me in Bible truths about faith, healing, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Remarkably, as I got older and God began to use me in my own ministry, I came to either personally know or to correspond with each of these ministers before they went

to Heaven. But because of their impact on my life regarding the subject of this book, I choose to dedicate my first book on healing to Kenneth E. Hagin, Kathryn Kuhlman, and Oral Roberts.

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FOREWORD

BY RICHARD ROBERTS

Having grown up in the healing ministry, and having my own healing ministry with signs and wonders following for many years, I am deeply moved by Rick Renner's new book *Everything You Need To Know About Healing*.

As I read his personal testimony of how his search for his godly destiny led him to three individuals, Kathryn Kuhlman, Kenneth Hagin, and my father Oral Roberts, I rejoiced in the eternal truth that if you seek the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength, you will find Him. And when you do, you'll know your true purpose and reason for being on this earth.

I've known Rick for many years. He and his wife, Denise, and my wife, Lindsay, and I are great friends. I well remember that after the Soviet Union fell, Rick was led of the Lord to build a great church in Riga, Latvia. That church was thriving and growing tremendously when all of a sudden, out of the blue, God spoke to him and told him to move to Moscow.

Wow! But he obeyed, and the Lord has blessed him and his ministry tremendously in Russia's capital city, and has given him favor unknown to just about anyone else.

Rick's extensive knowledge of the Greek language has given him an unusual ability to interpret Scripture and especially to shed light on the teachings of Jesus, Paul, and others concerning healing. I treasured reading the manuscript when it was first sent to me and feel quite honored that I was asked to write this brief foreword for the book.

I heartily write this foreword and believe this book will be a tremendous blessing to all who read it. Dive into it. Read every word. Submerge your spirit in it. Keep your Bible handy and refer to the many scriptures that Rick gives in confirmation.

With all my heart, I believe that as you read, you'll never be the same.

Richard Roberts
Chairman and CEO
Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association
Tulsa, Oklahoma

FOREWORD

BY ANDREW WOMMACK

I believe health and healing to be some of the most important aspects of our Christian life while we are here on Earth.

I've seen my wife and son both raised from the dead, as well as a few other people. It is such a blessing to have them still with me. My son was dead for more than four hours and was in a morgue, stripped naked with a toe tag on. When we prayed, he sat up and started talking! One year later, he gave us our granddaughter. My life would be quite different without the resurrection power of the Lord available to us today.

Kenneth Hagin used to say that healing was like a dinner bell that drew people to the Lord, and I can certainly validate that. There are countless numbers of people whom I've seen come to the Lord because of the healing videos we've produced of people who were healed of multiple sclerosis, cancer, Crohn's disease, heart problems, and many other maladies.

The good news is that healing is not just for a select few, but for everyone. It's a part of Jesus' atonement, just as much as the forgiveness of our sins. That's a radical statement, but it's backed up by Scripture. And who is better at uncovering the awesome truths of God's Word than my good friend Rick Renner!

Rick is an expositor of the Greek like no other minister I know. He can paint a word picture of biblical words that unlocks truths and makes you wonder, *How come I never saw that before?* God's truths aren't hidden *from* us, but *for* us. It takes some effort to mine the depths of God's Word, and Rick is one of the best "miners" I know. In this book, you will find treasures that are far greater than gold or silver.

God's Word is health to all our flesh and life to those who find it (Proverbs 4:22). God's Word will heal you and deliver you from all the destruction Satan

is trying to bring into your life (Psalm 107:20). The faith required for healing comes from understanding the truth of God's Word (Romans 10:17), but it's only the truth you know that sets you free (John 8:32). That's where Rick is a special gift to the Body of Christ.

Rick makes God's Word come alive. I've experienced that myself and have witnessed many others have the same experience as Rick broke open the Bread of Life and shared it with us. Rick is always one of our students' favorite guest ministers at Charis Bible College, and we are not alone. Rick's ministry reaches around the world through television, teaching materials, and his phenomenal ministry in Moscow, Russia. He has more than four decades of ministry experience that has borne fruit in the lives of millions of people.

You are about to experience this for yourself as you take an in-depth study through the Scriptures with Rick on what Jesus has already provided for you. It's not a matter of getting the Lord to heal you. It's all about you just receiving what Jesus has already provided (Philemon 1:6). But as the old saying goes, "You don't know what you don't know." We are destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). But Rick is anointed by the Lord to take complex truths from God's Word and make them so simple, you would have to have somebody help you to misunderstand them!

I know the Lord wants you healed more than you want it, and I know that the Lord has gifted Rick with a supernatural ability to make God's Word come alive to those who will receive it.

Get ready to kiss your days of sickness good-bye. Actually, just kick sickness out without any good-byes. It doesn't deserve any kindness. It has never been kind to you. Treat sickness like what it really is — an attack from the devil that has come only to steal, kill, and destroy your life (John 10:10).

The Lord wishes above everything else that you prosper and be in health, just as much as He wants your soul to prosper (3 John 2). This book is a key that

will unlock the truths of God's Word and open up a whole new life of health and healing to you.

I'm so glad the Lord put it on Rick's heart to write this book, and I know you'll be glad, too, as you see the truths of God's Word come alive and set you free.

Andrew Wommack
Founder and President
Andrew Wommack Ministries
Charis Bible College
Colorado Springs, Colorado

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have been in the ministry many decades and have written a large number of books, but this is my first book dedicated to the subjects of healing and divine health. For many years, I felt that because others had covered this topic so well, my insights would not add much to the subject. However, as I have grown older, I've begun to sense the Holy Spirit tugging on my heart that it was time for me to step into this arena to add my contributions to this important Bible topic that literally affects all of us.

As I begin to acknowledge those who helped on this project, I want to start by acknowledging the various ministers who directly or indirectly influenced my thinking about healing and divine health over the years. As a young man, I was reared in a denomination that adhered to cessationism, so not only did I not believe, I even argued against the notion that healing and miracles still occurred in our time. But upon hearing the remarkable teachings of certain ministers in my earlier years, my eyes were opened to see that healing and divine health really were purchased in Christ's redemptive work on the Cross and that they belong to anyone who will lay claim to them by faith. Among others that God notably used, I was deeply impacted by the ministries of Kenneth E. Hagin, Kathryn Kuhlman, and Oral Roberts.

But before my books are published, I always ask key individuals, whom I consider to be scripturally trustworthy and spiritually mature, to read what I have written and to alert me to anything that may need to be more accurately articulated. For this particular book on healing and divine health, I am grateful to Denise, who contemplated every word as she carefully read chapter by chapter; to Joel Renner, who has a remarkable ability to analyze spiritual truths and an interesting way of articulating them; to John Carter, Tony Cooke, and Bishop Keith Butler, dear friends who took time out of their busy schedules to read major portions of this book that I felt needed examination by a keen doctrinal eye; and

to Andrell Corbin Stevens, who read portions of the manuscript and helped me communicate more accurately to my reading audience. I'm also grateful to Dr. Chip Beaulieu for the use of his meticulously researched manuscript *Our Healing Covenant* and for allowing me to use many of the translations of Bible verses on healing from his book that you'll find here in Chapter Fifteen.

I also want to acknowledge two medical doctors who reviewed every portion of this book that contained medical information or commentary. I am referring to Dr. James Ross in Tulsa, Oklahoma, who pored over every one of these sections and helped me to be correct in the way these various passages were written. I also wish to express my thanks to Dr. Avery Jackson in Grand Blanc, Michigan, a renowned neurosurgeon, who likewise read these passages to help ensure that what I had written was correct and in line with the most recent medical understanding. The contribution of these two outstanding doctors was very important, and I acknowledge them gratefully for the time they invested to help me bring you a resource you can trust.

I want to acknowledge Becky Gilbert, the chief editor at Rick Renner Ministries, who is a gifted editor with a deep commitment to Christ and who reads every word I write with spiritual eyes. I also wish to acknowledge Becky's team of proofreaders that included Roni Bagby, Pamela Page, and Beth Parker. I am likewise thankful to Pamela Page and Elizabeth Hodgson, who assisted with footnoting and compiling all the verses on healing that I've included in Chapter Fifteen of the book. I want to acknowledge Lisa Moore for her work on the front and back covers of this book — and Lisa Simpson for typesetting this manuscript in a way to make it enjoyable for readers. I also want to express my gratitude to Don Nori and the entire team at Harrison House Publishers for being the best publishing partners we have ever had in our history of writing and publishing books.

In addition, I gratefully acknowledge Maxim Myasnikov, my assistant in Moscow, who assisted me in my research of every Greek word that is used in this book — and Keith Trump, an American Bible Society scholar, awarded the

highest honors for his studies in Hebrew and Greek, who examined my insights on Isaiah 53:3-5 to ensure they indeed reflect the meanings contained in the original text of the Old Testament.

Most importantly, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Jesus Christ my Lord, who called me and who has graciously chosen to use us and our ministry in this last-days season of the Church Age. In 1978, it was He who called me to write, promising me that if I would “*write, write, write,*” He would bless what I wrote. From that moment on, I understood my assignment was to write and that He would bless me as I did it. As I look back over the many years I’ve been writing, I thankfully acknowledge that He has indeed blessed what He has graciously enabled me to write.

To Him be all the glory.

INTRODUCTION



HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY

Each year, our ministry is blessed with the opportunity to receive countless prayer requests, many of which come from individuals seeking healing for themselves or for loved ones and friends. It is a deep honor to unite our faith with theirs and steadfastly trust in the manifestation of God's healing promises in their lives. In response to our faith-filled prayers, we regularly hear from people who reach out again to let us know they (or those they know and love) received healing or grew progressively better after we prayed with them. *Oh, how we love to hear those praise reports!*

But there are also others with whom we agreed in prayer for healing who are still waiting for the answer to come, and in some cases those individuals have waited so long that it seems to them as if the answer has been endlessly delayed. Some have waited so long that hope appears to wear thin, and questions loom large: *Why does my healing remain unseen? Why does healing elude me despite my*

steadfast faith? Or, *Am I doing something wrong that prevents my healing from taking place?* These instances leave people grappling with profound, and often unanswered, questions.

It is because of these people that I felt the need to write this book. However, the decisive moment that compelled me to write it *now* was a heartbreaking one. In our Moscow congregation, several faithful members fell ill, seemingly all at one time. Many found healing and recovery, but, tragically, some lost their lives. This wave of loss sent a shockwave through our church, where over the years, we have been blessed to witness numerous healings and rare instances of death due to illness. It was this painful period of illness and loss that led sincere, earnest souls within our church to ask the question: “If Jesus has indeed paid the price for our well-being, why have some of our dear friends been claimed by disease and sickness?”

It is because of their questions — and because of the questions of others who have written to me over the years with similar questions — that I decided to write this book *Everything You Need To Know About Healing*. Healing, as a subject, is vast and complex — too intricate to be entirely captured in just one volume. Yet within these pages, I’ve endeavored to comprehensively explore an array of topics that I believe resonate with the questions many carry in their hearts. I’m talking about topics such as:

- What are the seven main reasons why people get sick?
- What is the role of redemption in deliverance and healing?
- What exactly did Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross purchase?
- What needs to happen for a person to receive healing for the body or mind?
- When is the moment to call for the elders of the church to come anoint with oil and pray the prayer of faith?
- What is the role of diet, exercise, supplements, doctors, medicine, and a balanced life in receiving healing and maintaining health?

- What is needed for a person to stay strong and healthy as he or she grows older?
- What steps should be taken for a person to consistently live in divine health?
- What are God’s scriptural promises for healing?
- *And so much more...*

PRAYING FOR HEALING WITH ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE

I want to emphasize once more that attempting to encapsulate every facet of the origins of disease and the mysteries of delayed healing within a single book is simply not possible. But in this book, I have chosen to concentrate on what I believe are the most crucial topics related to healing. However, as we begin this exploration, let me draw your attention to First John 5:14-15, which says, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

This passage assures us that we can possess unwavering conviction that when we petition for anything aligned with God’s will, He both listens and responds affirmatively. The word “confidence” in this verse is interpreted from the Greek word *parresia*, signifying a manner of expressing oneself *boldly, candidly*, and with *straightforwardness*. This bold kind of speech is often translated in the New Testament as the word “confidence.” Indeed, it depicts *a confident kind of speaking — a daring to speak exactly what one believes or thinks with no hesitation or intimidation*. Within this context, it means if we know our prayers are in harmony with God’s will, we have the liberty to approach God with *boldness, honesty*, and *directness* as we present our petitions to Him.

In fact, verse 14 goes on to say that “...if we *ask* anything according to His will, he heareth us....” The word “ask” is from a form of the Greek word *aiteo*,

which conveys a sense of *demanding* or *insisting*. This term paints a picture of someone who approaches prayer with authority, unafraid to present his needs and fully expects to receive what he seeks. The confidence of such a person stems from the fact that he or she is asking “according to His will.” This means that individual is not just randomly asking for anything he or she wishes, but is praying “according to His will.”

When you pray with the assurance that what you’re praying aligns with God’s scriptures, there is no need to be timid. Instead, stand firm, assert your faith, and expect God to respond!

PRAYING ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD IS THE KEY

First John 5:14 continues to say that if we are praying according to His will — or according to what God has revealed in His Word — “He heareth us.” God’s ear is attuned to His own promises spoken back to Him, and that is what prompts Him to take action. While our emotions and needs matter deeply to Him, it is ultimately the confident, heartfelt recitation of His promises that stirs Him to respond. Therefore, understanding what God has revealed as His will, particularly concerning healing, is of utmost importance. Indeed, First John 5:14 states that God is moved to action when He hears a believer boldly praying the promises of His Word.

But as mentioned before, God responds to prayers when they are aligned with the teachings and truths found in His Word. This is why it is crucial to align your prayers with His will. Knowing the will of God — and praying according to the will of God — is *absolutely essential* if you want to see your prayers answered. In this book, I will endeavor to show you that it is absolutely God’s will for you to be healed and to live in health. You will see in the pages to come that these blessings are included in Christ’s work of redemption on the Cross.

GOD'S EXPLICIT WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

In Third John, verse 2, the apostle John expressed the will of God when he wrote, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth.”

This verse is *an unequivocal declaration of God's explicit will* for your life, and, hence, it is key for you to understand this verse. Having this verse cemented into your heart and mind will put you on a foundation so strong that you can confidently release your faith for divine healing.

The word “wish” in this verse is a translation of the Greek word *euchomai*, which expresses one's *strongest desire or will*. John was writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, which means this was not only John's strongest desire and will, but because the Holy Spirit was writing through him, John was expressing *God's strongest desire* for His people. This means in this verse, we discover *the explicit will of God* for every authentic believer.

Since the explicit will of God for every believer is stated in this verse, we need to really examine it to discover God's will for each of us. John wrote, “...I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth.” The words “above all things” are an interpretation of the Greek words *peri panton*. The word *peri* pictures *a circumference and what surrounds you*, and the word *panton* is *all-inclusive* and pictures *everything*. As a phrase, it means *absolutely everything that encompasses you, surrounds you, and concerns you — and that means absolutely everything*.

Then John added that it was his desire (and because he was writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he was actually expressing *God's will*) that God's people “prosper.” The word “prosper” is interpreted from a form of the Greek word *euodoo*, which is a compound of the words *eu* and *hodos*. The word *eu* means *good* and pictures what is *enjoyable, delightful, and pleasurable*, and the word *hodos* is the Greek word for *a road*. As the compounded word *euodoo* that

John used, it means to have *a joyful, enjoyable, delightful, and pleasurable experience on every road of life that you take.*

In the ancient world, prosperity was frequently measured by the size of one's home or the quantity of other possessions in addition to one's having enough finances so that he could freely travel abroad and take vacations.¹ For example, when Paul was ministering with such great results in Ephesus, and the idol-makers feared their "wealth" would be affected. The word "wealth" used in Acts 20:25 is translated from the Greek word *euporia*, a word similar to *euodoo* in Third John 3, because it also means *to have the ability to travel and have an enjoyable traveling experience.*

The idol-workers in Ephesus measured their *prosperity* and *wealth* by whether they had enough financial resources to travel and vacation abroad. Whether they were traveling to faraway places on expeditions to enhance their trade or their studies as explorers and hobbyists, or they were traveling and enjoying leisure time away in a foreign land — travel was an indicator of a person's wealth and status. These idol-workers feared that Paul's preaching — and the infiltration of the Gospel into the culture, causing people to stop buying the idols they made — would affect their income to the point they would no longer be able to travel abroad and take vacations.

The way this word was used in history tells us that the word *euodoo* John used when he said it was his [and God's] will that believers "prosper" meant that God wants His people to have not only enough money to pay their basic bills, but *enough extra* to enjoy life to the point *they can travel and enjoy themselves.*

In the First Century, traveling was an outward sign of prosperity and wealth. The same might be true today in the way some measure prosperity, but, largely, people measure wealth differently in modern society — for example, by the size of people's homes or the quantity of their possessions or other resources. But the ability to travel was a pronounced mark of prosperity in the ancient world.

Maybe traveling is not your dream, but according to the verses we've seen previously, the word "prosperity" (Greek — *euodoo*) pictures *having more than*

enough to pay your basic bills and sufficient resources to enjoy any road of life that you will ever take. In other words, it is not God's will for you to struggle and barely make it in life, but to have enough financially to enjoy yourself along the way.

But notice John then added that it was his strongest desire [and God's] that the people of God "be in health." The word "health" is interpreted from a form of *hugiaino*, a word that depicts one's physical health as being *healthy, in good working order, and in sound condition*, and it includes *mental soundness*. The reason it is translated as the word "whole" is, it carries the idea of *wholeness* or of *one who is complete and sound in every part of his being*.

In John 5, we discover that the word *hugiaino* is used *four times* concerning the lame man at the pool of Bethesda.

- In John 5:6, Jesus asked the lame man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The word "whole" is from a form of *hugiaino*, which means Jesus was actually asking if he wanted *to be healthy, in good working order, and sound physically and mentally*.
- In John 5:9, we read that after Jesus told the man to pick up his bed and walk, he was "made *whole*." The word "whole" is again translated from a form of *hugiaino*, which means he was immediately *made healthy, restored to good working order, and made sound physically and mentally*.
- In John 5:11, after the religious leaders asked who healed him, the healed man answered that it was Jesus who had made him "whole." The word "whole" is again translated from a form of *hugiaino*, which means he testified that it was Jesus who had made him *healthy, in good working order, and sound physically and mentally*.
- In John 5:14, after Jesus found the man, He told him, "Behold, thou art made whole." The word "whole" is again translated from a form of *hugiaino*, which means Jesus jubilantly acknowledged that the man was now *healthy, in good working order, and sound physically and mentally*.

So when John wrote that it was his [and God's] strongest desire and will that God's people be in "health," it meant that God wants His people to be *healthy, physically in good working order, and sound physically and mentally.*

In Third John 2, John wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health..." and we covered the words "wish," "above all things," "prosper," and "health." But then John added "as thy soul prospereth." The word "soul" refers to their *emotions, mind, and will* and, herein, we find that God not only wants us to be in good physical health, but He wants His Word to transform our souls to the point that every thought — or every road the mind finds itself traveling — will be filled with the abundance of God's grace. But overall, we find that it is God's explicit will for His people *to be healthy, in good physical working order, sound physically, and abundantly blessed with good mental health.*

The RIV (*Renner Interpretive Version*) of Third John 2 says:

My dearly loved brothers, it is my strongest desire that you prosper in every way that concerns you — that you not only have enough money to pay your basic bills but enough extra so you can really enjoy yourselves on every road of life that you take — and that you be healthy, in good, physical working order, sound physically in every way, and that you are blessed with good mental health.

You see, the Bible clearly states that it is God's unequivocal will for you to prosper on every road you take in life and for you to continuously enjoy the benefits of good physical and mental health. It is my heartfelt prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this book to enlighten your understanding and provide long sought-after answers that will put you on both a supernatural and commonsense path that will lead you into the healing and health that Jesus purchased at the Cross for you.

I understand the temptation of skimming through the pages of a book to find the most captivating parts. However, this book is crafted as a journey from

its opening words to its closing sentence. So I encourage you to resist the urge to leap between sections. Begin with Chapter One and immerse yourself in each word until you reach the book's end. Healing and health are needed by every person — including you and those you know and love — and for this reason, I believe this book may be one of the most important books you've ever read.

As you will see, there are some sections in this book that contain health-related recommendations and medical facts. Because I am not a medical professional, I asked notable medical professionals to carefully review each of these sections to ensure they are correct.

Now that I've introduced you to where we are headed in this book and encouraged you to embark on this adventure to the very last word, the moment has finally arrived to dive into Chapter One, where I share my personal healing journey. I'm thrilled to embark on this journey with you, and I believe the pages ahead will provide answers to questions you've long sought after. May the Holy Spirit guide you through this book and use it to walk you into the healing and the healthy life God wants you to have and to enjoy!

Rick Renner
July 2025
Moscow, Russia



I attended Kenneth E. Hagin's Campmeeting at Sheridan Road Assembly in Tulsa on July 24, 1974. At the end that service, I went forward for prayer to commit my life to the call of God. As Brother Hagin touched my forehead, God's power flooded my whole being. Minutes later, I realized I'd been supernaturally healed of a serious kidney condition.

ONE



MY PERSONAL STORY ABOUT HEALING

Our family's many decades of ministry in the former Soviet Union have been reminiscent of the vibrant days chronicled in the book of Acts. We witnessed the Gospel spreading like wildfire, saw the Church taking root, and marveled as miraculous signs and wonders manifested in the lives of countless individuals.

My wife and I and our family have seen the lame walk, deaf ears opened, blind eyes see, demons expelled, and even the dead raised. We have witnessed healings and the miracle-working power of God unleashed in the lives of those who have been saved, delivered from demon spirits, and provided for miraculously — we have seen the evil forces of hell pushed back and out of the way! In

fact, we have seen so many healings and miracles, it would be impossible to list all the healings and miracles we have witnessed over the years.

But I assure you that it wasn't always this way. The following pages will reveal that Denise and I embarked on our early Christian journeys in a spiritual setting where the miraculous seemed absent. And before we delve into the wonderful subject of healing, I first would like to give you a little background about my own journey in respect to healing.

Today I am a firm believer that healing belongs to every child of God, but this was not always the case. When I was younger and growing up in my denominational church, we emphatically did not believe that God wanted to heal everyone, and in fact, anyone getting healed sounded like a far-fetched idea.

My family attended a wonderful church that God mightily used to help form the foundation for my present-day ministry — that includes the bedrock of most of my doctrinal beliefs and the basis for much of what I believe about the importance of the local church. But the big minus about our denomination and church, which I didn't even know was a minus at the time, was we did not believe in present-day healing.

The official position of our denomination was that healing (along with nearly every gift of the Holy Spirit) had been active in the Early Church in its formative years, but it and the other gifts of the Spirit had passed away with the death of the apostles. I could give you the whole doctrinal argument for why we believed this, but it would be a waste of time and beyond the scope of my purpose in this book.

Doctrinally, we were called *cessationists*, which is a theological term to describe those who believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit *ceased* at the end of the Apostolic Age. Because we sincerely did *not* believe in present-day healing (or in spiritual gifts for our age), we deemed those who practiced such things as being doctrinally off base and that whatever they were claiming to experience

was merely foolish, made-up works of the flesh based on bad doctrine and a mishandling of Scripture.

Making this more interesting is the fact that I was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a city that was home to notable healing ministries. Ministers like Oral Roberts, T. L. Osborn, and Kenneth E. Hagin were based in Tulsa, along with a host of other ministries noted for healing. But because we disbelieved the claims of healing ministers, we generally looked at all of them as being charlatans. It's interesting how life changes one's perspective, for after many years, Oral Robert's son, Richard Roberts, and Kenneth Hagin's son, Pastor Kenneth W. Hagin, became personal acquaintances and friends.

When I was growing up, we didn't take any of these healing giants seriously because our pastor sometimes told *healing jokes* before he proceeded to preach on Sunday mornings. I remember our congregation laughing hysterically at some of those jokes. I am telling you this to let you know that in those years, *we believed anyone who preached about, believed in, or promoted healing was a joke!*

In our church, if someone was sick — even *if* we prayed for them to be healed — we always added “*if it is God's will.*” This addendum felt more like a disclaimer, a subtle contingency that hinted at uncertainty and shielded us against any failure on our part to receive the desired result.

But as a young person, it was my personal perception that no one really expected anyone to be healed. Not only that, we believed that sickness itself *could be* the will of God, so we couldn't pray with confidence for anyone to be healed. And to be honest, as I was growing up, I cannot recall *anyone* in my church community who had been healed.

While others might recall those times with a different lens, this was my impression of those days. I vividly remember our Wednesday evening prayer gatherings during which members of the congregation were invited to share the burdens on their hearts. Occasionally, someone would voice a somber prayer request, “Please pray for my relative who has stage four cancer and is dying in

the hospital.” But rather than praying for that relative to be healed, we usually heard a prayer that was expressed something like, “God, You know this relative is dying of cancer. We know that You are sovereign, and You could heal if You chose to heal. But since this person has not been healed yet and is so close to death, we ask You to give this relative the grace needed to embrace this cancer as Your plan for his life and give him the grace to glorify You as he dies in the hospital.”

After hearing such prayers time and again, year after year as a young man, it often felt to me like these prayers for healing were more like a wish for a graceful departure than a petition for recovery. Because we didn't know of anyone who had been healed in our church, the absence of healing undergirded our incorrect belief that God was not in the healing business in our present day as He had been in the formative years of the Early Church.

BIBLE STORIES ABOUT HEALING WERE LIKE FAIRY TALES TO ME

After our family moved to the former Soviet Union, we visited the State Hermitage Museum for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia. On that visit, I had an experience that reminded me of my thinking when I was growing up in my church.

Inside the Hermitage's sprawling halls lies an exquisite array of religious artworks, amassed primarily during the reign of Catherine the Great. This museum, located in the former Winter Palace of the Russian czars, is fabulous beyond description and attracts millions of visitors who come to view this world-renowned art collection and to see the opulence in which the czars lived.

But on that first visit to the Hermitage, it was near the end of the Soviet Union, and communism and atheism still lingered in the lands that comprised the former USSR. It was during that first visit, as I walked past the section of paintings by a world-class master painter, that I saw a painting of Lazarus being

raised from the dead by Jesus. The painting resonated with such profound emotion that I couldn't help but draw nearer, eager to drink in its every detail. As my eyes traversed the elegant frame encasing this work of art, they fell upon a small plaque nestled at the base. To my astonishment, it read, "The Fairy Tale of Jesus Christ Raising Lazarus From the Dead."

I was taken aback to find Lazarus' resurrection described as *a fairy tale!* Yet as I wandered from that painting to others that illustrated miraculous episodes from Jesus' life, it dawned on me that nearly all those paintings from the Soviet era labeled these wondrous scenes as "fairy tales of Jesus Christ."

By calling the works of Jesus "fairy tales," it put the stories of Jesus' healings and miraculous power on the same level as Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, Jack and the Beanstock, Little Red Riding Hood, Peter Pan, and Snow White, etc. Upon encountering the description of Jesus' miraculous works as "fairy tales," my initial reaction was one of offense.

But as I began to reflect on my own experience, I realized that because we never saw anything miraculous when I was growing up, there were many aspects about Jesus' miraculous ministry that had, in reality, been a fairy tale to *me*. For me, the miracles of Jesus existed in a distant past, confined to the pages of Scripture. Our church community didn't believe in modern-day healings or the gifts of the Spirit, and we never anticipated such wonders would occur in our time. The extent of my understanding of Jesus' power was confined to what I had gleaned from our reading of Scripture, rather than from real-life experience.

Having never personally witnessed Jesus' miracle-working power, Christians try to fantasize and imagine what Jesus' healings and miracle-working power may have been like. Having never seen it, much of what they know about Jesus' healings and miracle-working power is purely imaginary or speculative — similar to the way one might view *a fairy tale* or *a legend*. To those who have never encountered such healing phenomena, something so extraordinary dwells only in the realm of the implausible.

Again, in the church and denomination I grew up in, many of us actually believed that *if* someone got sick, that sickness might have been God's will for that person. Instead of resisting ailments, we often hastened to embrace them as part of a higher purpose. It seemed we believed that our role was to navigate those trials and seek strength and solace through prayer *to cope* with them.

Countless times, I heard this sentiment, "I've visited doctor after doctor, and their treatments haven't provided relief, so I've come to the conclusion that this illness is God's plan for my life. I must seek the grace to honor Him through my suffering and to embrace this path He has chosen for me."

There were moments of desperation when individuals sought divine intervention and hoped for a healing touch. However, in most instances, when illness struck, our first instinct wasn't to rely on faith for a miraculous cure, but rather to seek the familiar remedies tucked away in our household medicine cabinet.

I personally thank God for medication and believe doctors are a blessing — God uses *numerous* avenues to counter the impacts of sickness and disease. But because we didn't know divine healing was really an option, when illness befell our household or the household of family and friends, we mostly reached for the medicine cabinet and trusted what we found there to provide relief.

Growing up, I do not recall ever having a thought about using faith to resist sickness because we hadn't really been taught about resisting the devil. If someone had told us to resist the devil or to resist sickness, we wouldn't have had a clue what that meant because the idea of "resisting" had never been introduced into our thinking.

From the pulpit of our church, the sermons echoed with themes of salvation, dedication, and surrender — marvelous cornerstones that shaped who I am today. Yet the notion of wielding faith as a shield against the devil or as a remedy for illness was unfamiliar. Plus, why would we challenge sickness when it might be seen as part of God's plan intended to teach us something? Our beliefs leaned more toward seeking grace to embrace such trials so that we might endure them with dignity and bring God glory through our suffering.

THE BASICS OF SALVATION ARE FOUNDATIONAL AND IMPORTANT

When it came to the fundamental tenets of salvation and the dedication required for a committed life, our church was an example of excellence and unwavering faith.

Our pastor was not only a fervent lover of the Bible, but he also possessed an exceptional gift for teaching its profound truths. Looking back, I recognize how God used the teachings of that beloved pastor to instill in me a steadfast commitment to Christ and an unwavering responsibility to spread the Gospel across the globe. I am profoundly thankful to God for providing such an invaluable guide on my spiritual journey.

My family served in Sunday School and in Training Union (a Sunday night class for youth), and we sang from our hearts in various church choirs. But my family didn't just attend church services once or twice a week — *our entire lives* revolved around the activities of our church. I relate much about my spiritual journey in my autobiography called *UNLIKELY*.

Both of my parents were members of the church choir — a commitment that entailed countless hours in rehearsals at the church, always with kids in tow. We stayed late on Wednesday nights after the prayer meeting finished so my parents could attend choir practice. And because my mother taught Sunday School, I helped her set up her classroom each Saturday. With rapt enthusiasm, I'd help her decorate bulletin boards, organize chairs, and stack mimeographed lessons with pencils and pens in preparation for her teaching of God's Word the following morning.

Each Sunday, I eagerly participated in classroom activities, such as coloring, painting, and waging glitter wars with my friends in the nursery. Like all the other kids, I eventually graduated to another part of the building where the kindergarten and grade-school kids attended Sunday School. Soon I joined the children's choir and became a "Sunbeam" (for preschool through kindergarten

ages) — an endearing term that anyone who grew up as a Southern Baptist will remember. These precious memories are so vivid that they will be cemented in my mind for the rest of my life.

Our family gave offerings, attended services, volunteered, and reached out to those in need. We faithfully attended revival meetings, diligently volunteered wherever there was a need, and dutifully showed up for weekly visitation, where we'd reach out both to visitors and the lost. We worked alongside our friends on special projects, befriended the surrounding community, and stood behind our pastor in support.

We gave our best, dressed our best, and did our best where the house of God and the people in it were concerned. We carried a deeply felt awe concerning our dedication and service to God — a sentiment that unfortunately seems to have dissipated in much of the Church today.

MY OWN SALVATION EXPERIENCE

When I was just five years old, our pastor announced that our church was about to host a week-long revival meeting. Today the term “revival” conjures images of a profound spiritual awakening or a powerful divine encounter that affects masses of people.

But in those earlier days, the term “revival” was understood to mean a dedicated week of meetings that featured special sermons aimed at reaching those who were lost, rekindling the faith of those needing to rededicate their lives to Christ, and inspiring the local congregation toward greater devotion. That was the essence of what we envisioned when we spoke of a “revival.”

It was a much-anticipated week of “revival” gatherings. As was the custom back then, a visiting evangelist ignited the pulpit with passionate sermons each evening. One night, the guest evangelist painted a vivid picture of Christ's Second Coming. The next evening, he delved into the dire consequences of a life

steeped in sin. On the final night that week, he preached powerfully about hell — a sermon so compelling that I can still mentally see it and hear it today.

As the evangelist delivered his sermon about hell, he painted a picture of hell's infernal blaze, where flames twisted and danced with an intense, white-hot fervor. His words conjured a vision in my mind's eye, where relentless flames stretched skyward, hungrily consuming lost souls ensnared forever in their searing embrace. The minister's message was so graphic that I could visually see that fire in my mind, and I could nearly feel the heat of the flames swirling nearer and nearer. As he preached, his message reached all the way from the pulpit into my heart and grabbed hold of my soul.

I was deeply disturbed by that message in a way that would later lead me straight into the arms of a loving Savior who was and is the only way of escape from such a devastating, irrevocable eternal fate. I trembled at the evangelist's words and gripped the pew in front of me with my five-year-old fingers, lest I slip into eternity at that very moment unprepared! Oh, how I wanted to rise from my seat, step out into the aisle, and run to the altar to make my commitment to Christ, but my mother was concerned that I might not have really comprehended what I was doing due to my young age, so I held myself back and refrained.

After that week of meetings, I trembled night after night in my bed at the thought of what would happen if I died in my sleep. Every night, my precious mother looked into my eyes and spoke to my heart about what it meant to commit my life to Christ. She was attempting to comprehend the depth of my understanding at five years of age concerning Heaven and hell and choices concerning eternity. She wanted to be really sure that I understood what it meant to be unsaved, about my own need to be saved, and what it meant to repent. But even though I was five years old, I really understood, and soon everyone in my circle of family and friends would know it.

Shortly after that week of revival meetings, I found myself sitting next to my older sister Ronda in our church auditorium — strategically placed about

midway between the pulpit and the back doors. As the pastor delivered the closing words of his sermon, the congregation lifted their voices to sing a heartfelt rendition of “Just as I Am.”¹ My heart suddenly began to beat with urgency, stirred by an unmistakable pull, and I quietly stepped from the pew into the aisle, each movement deliberate and drawing me closer to the church’s altar.

Our pastor stood ready at the altar to greet those who felt led to make a commitment to Christ. My daddy and mother in the choir loft behind him focused intently on their five-year-old son standing in front of them at the altar. My pastor reached out to take my hand and leaned down to gently ask, “Ricky, why have you come today?”

I told him that I had come to give my heart to Jesus — and on that day in 1963, I gave my heart and life to Jesus Christ, and I have served Him ever since that time. That event was the pivotal moment when I came to Christ, and as a result, the question of eternity was forever settled for me. God had used that guest evangelist and his fiery message to give me a glorious start, and from that moment forward, I had a ravenous desire for God’s Word that consumed me even at a young age.

But because the church community I grew up in knew nothing about divine healing or the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we were ignorant about certain things that God wanted us to know. We focused on the sovereignty of God and generally believed most of what happened in our lives was *allowed* because it was the plan of God — and that included *sickness*.

I now understand that in many ways back then, we were uninformed. We did not believe that the devil could have been the source of sickness. Because we truly believed that God was in control, again, we thought it was our duty to accept and surrender to whatever happened as being a part of His will for our lives. We were so uninformed about the activity of the devil that if anyone said something about the devil, we surmised they needed *psychological help*. I remember a wonderful woman in our church who testified that, as believers, we had authority over the devil. She compassionately tried to open the eyes of

many to the truth, but for her efforts, she was ridiculed, stigmatized, and looked upon as if she was mentally unstable.

We were so ignorant about the devil that each year on October 31, we went “all out” for Halloween by dressing up like devils and walking the neighborhood with all the other kids to collect candy. My precious mother, who led me to Christ, encouraged me each year to use my artistic flair to craft eerie depictions of demons, devils, witches, and goblins. We cut them out and proudly taped them to the front window of our house for all to see.

We were so untaught about the activities of the devil that my parents innocently bought us Renner kids a Ouija board, completely unaware of its occult connections. Back then, such things were dismissed as harmless fun and mere games not to be taken with any seriousness.

In contrast, as I mentioned, Tulsa in those years was a hub for prominent healing ministries, which meant the topic of healing occasionally surfaced in our church discussions. To combat what we viewed as egregious error, there was even a time when our pastor dedicated seven weeks to a comprehensive series aimed at challenging what he described as the misguided views of Charismatics and Pentecostals who believed that healing and spiritual gifts were still active today. We steadfastly argued and defended our doctrinal position that “those people” who believed in or who endorsed such things were off base and should be avoided like the plague.

MY SURPRISE ENCOUNTER WITH HEALING AT A KATHRYN KUHLMAN MIRACLE SERVICE

A profound spiritual yearning took root within me in 1973 that ignited a quest for something beyond the familiar confines of my Baptist upbringing. My soul, brimming with curiosity, led me to fervently seek answers. In February 1974 at the age of 15, a transformative awakening unfolded inside me when I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Subsequently, I was introduced to

people who *really* believed in the healing power of God and in the present-day gifts of the Holy Spirit.

With immense gratitude for my Baptist roots, which anchored me in Scripture and a life dedicated to God's service, my eyes had now been opened that healing and miraculous power was not just a relic of the past but was still at work in the here and now!

Soon I stumbled upon an extraordinary radio program that utterly captivated me. It was a daily broadcast hosted by a remarkable woman named Kathryn Kuhlman, who spoke about miracles and her relationship with the Holy Spirit. Each afternoon, I found myself eagerly tuning in to her radio program. My ears hung on her every word as she painted a vivid picture of an intimate bond with the Holy Spirit.

I had never heard anyone speak about the Holy Spirit the way I heard Kathryn Kuhlman speak. It was a whole realm of God that I had never heard about in such terms. My heart was completely captured by what I was hearing about actually experiencing a relationship with the Holy Spirit, and I wanted to experience that intimacy with Him for myself that Kathryn Kuhlman spoke about.

Every Friday on her radio broadcast, Kathryn Kuhlman played excerpts from miracle services she was holding all over the United States. When she revealed that Tulsa was next on the map for one of these extraordinary services, attending became a must for me.

The event was set to unfold at the Mabee Center auditorium, which stood on the sprawling campus of Oral Roberts University. On the Sunday the meeting was to be held, I excused myself from my church's Sunday School a little early and drove across Tulsa to ORU to attend that afternoon's miracle service at the Mabee Center auditorium.

When I arrived, a sea of people surrounded the massive auditorium. The streets and parking areas were congested with buses and carloads of determined souls who had traveled hundreds, some even more than 1,000, miles to attend

this gathering. As I made my way into the building, I wondered, *Why have all these people come from so far to hear this woman preach?* It wouldn't be long before I understood.

I had volunteered to be a part of the choir, so I was allowed to enter the auditorium earlier than the crowds. I could see that the rear section of the auditorium's ground level had been transformed into an area for those battling severe and terminal illnesses. A huge crowd was standing outside, but the ushers were only allowing those who were debilitated to enter that special area so they wouldn't have to compete with the throngs of people.

From my seat, I observed a sea of individuals in wheelchairs, accompanied by oxygen tanks, IV drips, crutches, and doctors and nurses. Some were even lying on stretchers. It looked as if an entire hospital ward had been emptied and brought to the service. Some of the critically ill had been transported by family members. Others were so near to death that they had been brought to the meeting by ambulance.

One hour before the service began, the main doors to the auditorium opened and the crowd rushed in as fast as their feet could carry them. That sea of people poured into the seating area like swelling torrents through an open dam. A multitude cascaded into the seating area and swiftly filled aisles and jostled for the coveted spots nearest to the stage.

I watched as every seat was claimed and those left outside were redirected to another space where they could participate in the service via closed-circuit television. An overwhelming air of excitement and faith filled the auditorium and could be felt in the atmosphere around us.

My eyes were irresistibly drawn to the area designated for wheelchairs and stretchers. The people in that section were so sick, and I realized many had journeyed to this gathering out of deep desperation and were clinging to a glimmer of hope for a miracle. Quietly, I prayed, "Oh, Lord, please don't let them be disappointed today."

Just moments before the service began, a spokesperson approached the microphone to deliver astonishing news that miracles had already started happening among those waiting for the service to commence. I could sense my faith and the collective faith of that massive congregation rise in expectation. It was so buoyant that it seemed it could have lifted the building right off its foundation!

Then the choir director emerged, summoned everyone in the auditorium to rise, and soon the entire assembly lifted their voices in unison to sing “How Great Thou Art.”² As we did, Kathryn Kuhlman came out on the platform to sing with us. It was my first time to see her in person. Draped in an elegant white gown, she glided across the platform with a grace that seemed almost ethereal.

Her rich, contralto voice resonated through the air as she sang, “Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art...” As the music and instruments fell into a reverent silence, she greeted the multitude with warmth and encouraged us to sing “Alleluia.” As thousands of people sang in that sacred moment, I kept thinking, “This must be a glimpse of Heaven.”

After worship concluded, Kathryn Kuhlman approached the microphone to speak. One hour passed like seconds. Interrupting her own message at one point, she suddenly paused and locked her eyes onto a distant section high above in the auditorium. With an outstretched finger, she declared, “Someone right up there has just received a miracle. Stand up and claim it!” It felt as if a whirlwind of power rushed through the auditorium and suddenly miracles started taking place throughout the massive congregation.

During that gathering, I witnessed wonders unfolding in every corner as healing miracles took shape before my very eyes. In all directions around me were people experiencing miracles. Soon people were lining up near the platform to testify about what God had done in their bodies. Wheelchairs were

emptied, paralyzed people got up from their stretchers and walked, blind eyes were opened, deaf ears were unstopped, and the mute began to speak.

I watched in amazement as the supernatural power of God continued on full display for hours. Everything I'd ever dreamed — everything I'd ever wanted to believe in — was happening right before my eyes. If any lingering question about God's healing and miracle-working power had tried to hide in my soul, it utterly dissolved as I watched those wheelchairs and stretchers being emptied, and people who had been unable to walk or move now walked and even ran from one end of the platform to the other. Soon the entire front of the auditorium and aisles were jammed with people who came forward to give their lives to Jesus.

That experience with the miracle-working power of God changed me and my theology forever. In truth, there is nothing like a firsthand encounter with the power of God to alter one's way of thinking and believing. After my time at that Kathryn Kuhlman service, no one could have convinced me to doubt what I had seen and experienced, for I had experienced first-hand the miracle-working power of God.

As that meeting concluded, I remember thinking, "I love my church where I grew up, but I have been told that God no longer did these things — yet I've just seen God do the impossible before my eyes!"

MY OWN HEALING IN A KENNETH E. HAGIN MEETING IN 1974

In the spring of 1974, I was hospitalized due to a severe kidney infection. It was caused by a condition I was born with called horseshoe kidney, or renal fusion.

As a baby develops in the womb, the kidneys move into position — one on each side of the body — but sometimes the kidneys fuse together at their base

and form a “U” or a horseshoe shape. In essence, they are conjoined much like Siamese twins. This condition can produce chronic kidney obstructions, kidney infections, kidney stones, kidney cancer, and even problems with the heart, blood vessels, nervous system, reproductive system, urinary system, digestive system, and bones. In those days, if the situation was serious, doctors sometimes recommended the kidneys be surgically separated.

Because I had persistent kidney obstructions, my urologist recommended a surgical procedure to separate my kidneys. But in the mid-1970s, this was considered to be a high-risk surgery, so my parents opted to explore whether medication could resolve the obstruction, hoping to sidestep the surgical risks. All of this was taking place the same summer I had become on fire for God and was in fervent pursuit of knowing more about the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through a relative, I heard that Kenneth E. Hagin was going to hold a meeting at the Sheridan Road Assembly in Tulsa. I had listened to him on his daily radio program and found comfort in listening to him because everything he taught was so solid and rooted in the Bible. He was also from a Baptist background, and knowing that he and I had a similar doctrinal foundation gave me a sense of trust when I listened to him on the radio. So I decided to attend those meetings in July 1974.

That was a historic week of services filled with the power of God — with signs and wonders and other supernatural happenings. The packed auditorium was “electric” as the anointing of God moved across the crowd. The power of God erupted, and every night more and more people packed into that space to experience a divine encounter with the supernatural anointing of God. Every evening, I sat close enough to the front of the auditorium to watch as Kenneth E. Hagin laid hands on people, and I saw so many people receiving healings and miracles.

One night during those meetings, Brother Hagin preached a message that was called, “A Man Full of Faith and Power” from the example of Stephen in Acts chapter 8. I still vividly remember that message as he described Stephen as

a common man who had surrendered himself to the Lord — and as a result, he became a man of faith and power whose life was marked with mighty signs and wonders. At the end of that message, Brother Hagin asked people to come forward for the laying on of hands if they felt called to surrender to God's service.

I had always sensed a calling to the ministry, but that evening kindled a deeper yearning in my soul and spirit, and I felt urged to leave my seat to approach the altar for a divine impartation of the anointing for full-time ministry. But this whole atmosphere was unfamiliar to me, so I lingered until Brother Hagin had nearly reached the end of the line as he prayed for those who had come forward. I desperately wanted to go to the altar, but trepidation held me back. But finally, I mustered the courage to break free from my grip on the pew in front of me, and I moved to the altar to receive prayer.

By the time I got into place to receive prayer, Brother Hagin was sitting on the platform to rest before continuing. So along with a few others, I waited... and waited...and waited. Finally, Brother Hagin descended from the platform to finish laying hands on the last of us “stragglers” who had come forward.

When he passed in front of me, he murmured softly in tongues, his voice a whisper, and gently extended a lone finger toward my forehead. The moment of contact was electric as a profound surge of divine energy coursed through my being. Overwhelmed, my legs buckled, and I crumpled, finding myself on the floor — I could literally feel the power of God radiating from one end of my body to the other end.

As I lay there, it seemed like time stood still as minutes passed, or perhaps only seconds, before I rose again to my feet. When I stood, I found that I not only received a special empowerment for service, but I also received an incredible healing. I inwardly knew that God had touched my kidneys, and when I returned to see the doctor to be checked, my physician verified that I had been healed.

Now, decades later, I remain free from the ailment that once plagued me. I was healed permanently by God's mighty power on that unforgettable summer

evening of 1974 in a Kenneth E. Hagin meeting. Indeed, I was supernaturally and permanently healed by the power of God on that eventful evening.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH ORAL ROBERTS' MINISTRY

In the following months, I heard that Oral Roberts would be personally teaching a class every Tuesday night at Oral Roberts University that was called “The Holy Spirit in the Now.” Oral was famous for his healing and miracle ministry, so when I heard that he would be teaching this class personally from his own experience of more than 30 years of prayer and his study of the Word, I decided to attend those classes.

In one of the classes, Oral reflected, “During my ministry, I have personally laid hands on over a million people in prayer, thousands of whom had been given up on because there was no known medical cure for their condition. I am convinced that no disease is hopeless — none is incurable — for God can heal all sickness. His power has no limits or barriers when we center our faith in Him.”

Every Tuesday night, I found myself eagerly driving to Oral Roberts University, excited to participate in those remarkable classes taught by Oral Roberts. I made it a point to arrive early to ensure my coveted spot in the front row, which was directly in front of him. Each class was a spellbinding experience, and I absorbed every word he uttered. Sometimes, his proximity was such that I could almost reach out and touch him as he walked by — a living legend just within my arm's reach.

Determined to capture every nugget of wisdom that flowed from Oral's lips, I equipped myself with a trusty little tape recorder and a fresh cassette each week so I could record every word that he spoke. As Oral would begin the lesson, I'd press “play” to record what he taught in those classes, and somewhere deep in my archives, I still have a few of those old cassette tapes, and they will always be precious to me.

But while others exited the auditorium each week after class ended, I lingered at the front to watch as Oral Roberts laid his hands on people who were sick and needed healing. He carefully laid his huge hands on them and released the power of God for them to be healed, and every week, without fail, I witnessed someone who was healed at the end of those classes.

Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit had opened doors for me into a whole spiritual realm that earlier I had been wrongly taught no longer existed. And those multiple early experiences with the power of God changed my heart and mind and forever impacted me concerning healing and the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID ABOUT THE POWER OF GOD

We often try to appeal to people using eloquent language, yet we often miss the one definitive act that can silence skepticism, and that is *a demonstration of God's power*.

Witnessing a genuine healing or miracle can create a more profound impact than years of persuading and pleading. Indeed, there is *nothing* more compelling than a direct, personal encounter with God's power. When we allow God to "show off," that supernatural manifestation makes a far greater impact than we could ever achieve with just words.

When Paul embarked on his mission to share the Gospel with the Corinthians — people who were steeped in paganism and enveloped by profound spiritual darkness — he realized that mere words would not suffice. To truly touch their hearts, he needed to showcase God's power.

In First Corinthians 2:4, Paul wrote about the manner in which he first preached to them, when he said, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." Then in the next verse, Paul told them the reason that he wanted them

to see a demonstration of God's power. He said, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Just as I was deeply impacted by the healings and miracles that I saw in meetings with Kathryn Kuhlman, Kenneth E. Hagin, and Oral Roberts, the apostle Paul knew that miracles, healings, and other displays of God's power would have a great impact on his Corinthian listeners. Were he to rely solely on the eloquence of human rhetoric, his listeners might find room for skepticism, dissent, or intellectual debate about the message he preached.

However, a miracle unfolding before their very eyes — an irrefutable display of divine power — would strike them with such force that they could not deny the hand of God demonstrating and confirming the very words Paul spoke.

A wise man once told me, "You can't win an argument with a man who has had a supernatural experience." And it's true that when someone has had an encounter with the power of God, it puts an end to all arguments and speculation in that person about whether God is active in the affairs of men today.

Paul understood that a magnificent demonstration of God's divine power could profoundly impact his listeners. Beyond meticulously crafting a heartfelt and anointed message that would touch their hearts, he went a step further and invited God's power to work its wonders unrestrained. Confident that God's divine force would dissolve every doubt and silence every argument, Paul wisely chose to step aside and allowed God to show off, thusly confirming that the message that Paul preached was indeed the truth!

In First Corinthians 2:4, Paul said, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." The word "demonstration" comes from the Greek word *apodeixis* — a word that indisputably refers to *something that is outwardly seen or something visible that authenticates, proves, and guarantees* the message to be true.

In the heart of ancient Corinth, where superstition held sway and demonic influences were woven throughout life, Paul knew the people needed *supernatural proof* to *authenticate* that God was behind the message being preached to them. This demonstration of power would get their attention more than anything else. Paul preached with the authority of signs and wonders to verify that he was God’s man and that the message he preached was God’s message. All those who saw the mighty “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” that operated through Paul knew that God was speaking to them!

Paul continued to tell the Corinthians the reason he took this approach: “that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:5). The word “stand” in this verse is the little Greek word *en*, which simply means *in*. As used here, this word describes the medium *in which* faith is *rooted*. It could be translated, “I took this approach so your faith would not be rooted in the wisdom of men...”

Then Paul continued to say he wanted their faith to be in the “power” of God. The word “power” in this verse is derived from the Greek word *dunamis*, a well-known word that denotes the mighty power of God. In First Corinthians 2:5, Paul was not merely talking about *power*, but about *tremendous power*. This word *dunamis* denotes *power that is explosive, mighty, and awe-inspiring* to those who see or experience it. Paul’s words in First Corinthians 2:5 could thus be paraphrased: “I took this approach so your faith would not be rooted in the logic and wisdom of men, but so that your faith would be completely rooted in the awe-inspiring power of God.”

Similarly, we also must learn to step aside to allow God to do what only He can do and to give His supernatural power an opportunity to drive truth into people’s hearts. The power of God can do what you could never do by yourself — and when the Spirit of God is finished confirming the Word with supernatural demonstrations of power, all arguments will cease, the case will be closed, and the person you are trying to reach will be convinced.

THE POWER OF GOD IS SUPPOSED TO WORK IN THE CHURCH

Just before ascending back into Heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (*see Acts 1:4-5*). He said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (*Acts 1:8*).

The word “power” is again derived from the Greek word *dunamis*. As we have seen, it describes *explosive power*, but it is also notably the very word used by the Greeks to denote *a force of nature*, like *an earthquake, a hurricane, or a tornado*.

Thus, when we receive the power (*dunamis*) of the Holy Spirit, it turns into something akin to a groundbreaking earthquake that unsettles the status quo; a formidable hurricane that sweeps away all that is unholy; or a spiritual tornado that reshapes everything it encounters. Unquestionably, when God’s power courses through you, you’re poised to revolutionize your surroundings, and this divine power will work through you to upheave and dispel darkness.

But wait...the word *dunamis* — translated in Acts 1:8 as “power” — is also the Greek term used to denote *the full might of the advancing Roman army*. When Jesus selected this word to describe the power of the Holy Spirit, He was imparting the profound message that through the Holy Spirit’s power, each of us transforms into a singular, unstoppable force that is capable of pushing back against spiritual adversaries.

In the time of the Early Church when there were no cutting-edge gadgets or complex devices that we flaunt in the modern age, believers transformed their environment like a force of nature, and like an advancing army they conquered their surroundings. Oh, let us not be so focused on what we can do that we forget what only the power of the Holy Spirit can do through us!

When the Holy Spirit is allowed to move, He shows up and shows off with all kinds of signs, wonders, and spiritual gifts — and that includes *healing* and *miracles*.

WHY DON'T WE SEE MORE OF THESE SIGNS FOLLOWING CHRISTIANS?

As I told you, we were seriously committed Christians in the church where I grew up, but we never saw signs and wonders or healings and miracles. In Mark 16:17, Jesus said, “And these signs shall follow them that believe...” We believed in the Gospel, so why didn't we see these signs manifesting back then in our church?

A better translation of Mark 16:17 would be as follows: “These signs shall follow those who have engaged their faith and are believing...” Or to put it another way, these supernatural signs don't just automatically happen because one is a Christian. *They follow those who are believing for them.* If a believer isn't expecting these miraculous manifestations, chances are that he or she won't see them. Like anything else, signs and wonders are ignited by faith, and traditional churches seldom witness miracles or healings because they're simply not believing for them to happen.

History shows that those who frequently encounter the miraculous are those who consistently believe for it to take place. Rather than being passive, people who are aggressive about seeing the supernatural take place in their lives or ministries are the ones who see it. This means the amount of signs and wonders that “follow” you will be determined by how intensely you are *constantly believing* for them to be in manifestation.

WHAT ARE YOU BELIEVING FOR?

So I ask, *Are you actively believing for supernatural signs to follow you everywhere you go?* Jesus didn't say, “These signs will automatically follow every Christian.”

The Greek text lets us know that these signs and wonders follow those who have *engaged* their faith and are *believing*. The amount of signs and wonders you experience will be determined by how aggressively you're *continuing to believe for them to be in manifestation*.

So pray for God to increase your faith and expectancy to see sick people healed. When you confront a person who is demonized, believe that by the time you leave that person, he or she is going to be completely set free. When you find yourself in a situation that requires a miracle, rather than just passively hope something might happen, instead, engage your faith and expect to see the miraculous.

Much like anything else, signs and wonders thrive on the fuel of faith. Again, my wife and I and our family have personally observed that people who regularly experience the miraculous are those who *regularly expect* to see it.

So instead of taking a backseat approach, proactively unleash your faith and you will experience the supernatural power of God more frequently. Indeed, if you *engage* your faith, *release* your faith, and *actively believe* for these supernatural signs to accompany you, you'll see them showing up more regularly in your life.

LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT HEALING AND FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!

Regarding my own journey of healing and divine health, the transformative moment came when I witnessed firsthand the miraculous power of God in action. Yet I felt compelled to verify this for myself, so I embarked on a thorough exploration of the Bible to uncover its teachings concerning contemporary healing and the active workings of the Holy Spirit's gifts today.

Having previously been misguided by the doctrines of my denominational church, I sought help from those who not only believed in these miracles but who experienced them. I aimed to unravel biblical truths about healing and

spiritual gifts — the very subjects about which I had been entirely uneducated. My yearning was to glean wisdom from those who held the Scriptures in the highest regard and who could unlock the teachings from the Hebrew and Greek.


**Much like anything else,
signs and wonders thrive on the fuel of faith.**


As someone raised in a Baptist tradition, I was convinced that if something held truth, its foundation would be firmly planted in Scripture. As a part of my studies, I delved deeply into redemption with the aim of comprehending the full extent of what Jesus accomplished on the Cross.

My exploration took me to the original text of Isaiah 53:3-5 to grasp the true essence of Isaiah's prophecy regarding Jesus' suffering. I endeavored to biblically understand that His sacrificial act on the Cross encompassed not just the forgiveness of sins, freedom from guilt and shame, and peace of mind, but also liberation from physical and mental ailments.

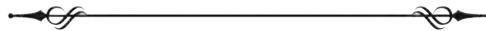
I spent significant time investigating what it meant that we are emancipated from the curse, which encompasses Christ delivering us from the devil's dominion and ensuring freedom from sickness and pain.

I emerged from this period of exploration with the fortified belief that healing is intrinsically woven into the tapestry of our salvation. Yet despite my understanding of the Bible's teachings on this subject, I continued to see devout believers who grappled with illness, and on occasion, I myself wrestled with bouts of sickness. Most often, if sickness tried to assail me, I realized it was usually self-inflicted, like getting sick because of not taking care of my body — not resting enough, eating wrongly, or being overweight (in the past).

But even when I was doing well on all those fronts, there were still times when illness sometimes reared its head to challenge my health. In those moments, I held fast to Paul’s exhortation in First Timothy 6:12 to “fight the good fight of faith.”

The word “fight” in this verse is the Greek word *agonidzo*, which refers to *a struggle, a fight, great exertion, or effort*. It is where we get the word “agony,” a word often used in the New Testament to convey the ideas of *anguish* or *conflict*. The word *agonidzo* comes from the word *agon*, which is the word that depicted the *athletic conflicts* and *athletic competitions* that were so famous in the ancient world. It pictures *wrestlers in a wrestling match*, with each wrestler struggling to overcome his opponent in an effort to hurl him to the ground in a fight to the finish.

The fact that Paul would use this word alerts us that when we step out to do anything by faith — including walking in every aspect of our redemption (which includes healing and health) — it often pushes us into a fight unlike anything we experienced before receiving this revelation. The adversary is resolute in his opposition of our journey toward healing. The conflict arises from the devil’s relentless resistance to each stride we make in faith, and this might require us to battle against long-held misconceptions and doctrinal teachings that once led us to believe sickness was part of God’s plan. These falsehoods must be recognized as formidable foes to be confronted and conquered. \



**I emerged from this period of exploration
with the fortified belief that healing is intrinsically woven
into the tapestry of our salvation.**



Paul recognized when we step out in faith, regardless of what it is for, we don't just effortlessly glide into what we are believing. We must fight the good fight of faith to reach a victorious position. Rather than retreat from the battle, Paul encouraged us, "Fight the good fight of faith..."

The word "good" in First Timothy 6:12 is derived from the Greek word *kalos*, which denotes *something exceptional, of the highest quality, outstanding, or superb*. In the context of a fight, it pictures a fighter who has given his *best effort* to the fight in which he is engaged, and, hence, he is doing a first-rate or first-class job at resisting his opponent.

But then Paul repeated the word "fight" a second time in this verse when he wrote, "*Fight* the good *fight* of faith..." This second use of the word "fight" is from the same Greek word he used at the first of the verse. It conveys the idea of *one who is giving his complete concentration to the conflict and who is totally focused on engaging the conflict at hand and achieving victory* — regardless of how long it takes or how much agonizing effort is required. This is far from simply gliding into victory with no hiccups or obstacles along the way.

This word "fight" reminds us that any endeavor in faith — be it walking in healing, enjoying health, or partaking in everything Christ secured through His sacrifice on the Cross — usually demands a fight. The Holy Spirit cautioned us to brace ourselves for the challenge and to pour our heart and soul into claiming the victory that Christ has won for us. Thus, if you are experiencing a fight on the path to any victory, don't feel disheartened. God is rallying you to rise, engage your faith, and give your utmost to possess what you believe is rightfully yours.

Never forget that the grandest prizes often demand the most formidable battles. Determine to overcome every hurdle and resistance in your pursuit of healing and health. Stay in the fight until you can triumphantly declare, "The fight is finished and the victory is mine!"

In my own fight to enjoy the divine health that Christ secured at the Cross, I've wielded every tool in my arsenal to combat illness. I've discovered that when sickness dares to invade my life, it is like a bandit whose aim is to steal, kill, and destroy (*see* John 10:10). Indeed, illness drains vigor, siphons finances, and consumes precious time. Anyone who has endured a bout of sickness understands its nature of *taking and taking* — like a thief intent on pilfering your life.

For me, using every means available in my arsenal to undo sickness includes standing on the Word of God, asking others to pray with me, taking vitamins or supplements, exercising, getting proper rest, going to the doctor for medical advice, and, if needed, taking medication. If sickness is an enemy that has come to steal, I will be committed to stand against it and use any method available to keep it under my feet!

IF JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE HEALED, WHY DO CHRISTIANS GET SICK?

In Isaiah 53:3-5, we read, “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 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.”

In Chapters Nine and Ten, you'll discover these verses reveal the profound truth that when Christ was sacrificed on the Cross, He secured our complete redemption — and this extends beyond spiritual salvation and the forgiveness of sin. It also encompasses the payment for our grief, lack of peace, pain, shame, sorrow, transgressions, and even our physical and mental wellness.

Yet a curious question arises: “If Christ truly secured these for us through His redemptive work — if they are ours to claim as our rightful inheritance —

must we strive to possess the healing, health, or any blessings that Christ's sacrifice procured?"

Simply because an inheritance legally belongs to you does not mean you have it in your possession. In the natural realm, you might find yourself named in a will with a treasure trove of assets bequeathed by an ancestor. Yet those riches rest securely in a bank until they're rightfully claimed.

For you to lay claim to an inheritance, often you need a lawyer to explain what is written in the will to really understand what has been given to you. The journey from bequeathment to possession usually demands a meticulous process, wherein adversaries sometimes surface to dispute your rightful claim, and a battle ensues to secure what is lawfully yours.

And just as this is true in the natural realm, it is also true in the spiritual realm. Christ, at great cost, has bequeathed abundant blessings in Heaven's vaults that await your claim. But just as a person must learn of a natural inheritance and go through the process to move it into his possession, you need enlightenment and guidance to understand that certain spiritual assets are yours, and that is what I endeavor to do in this book.

Simply knowing you have a spiritual inheritance doesn't mean you'll step into it easily. The road to possession may be fraught with opposition, whether it be from the devil or skeptics who are resistant and try to coax you out of embracing the inheritance Christ secured for you.

In Chapters Nine and Ten, you will see what Christ's triumphant sacrifice on the Cross obtained for you beyond salvation, especially in regard to healing and health. My main focus with this book is to guide you to claim the healing of body and mind that is rightfully yours. But it's crucial to understand that the devil will relentlessly try to challenge Christ's highest intentions for your life and to block your access to what rightfully belongs to you by virtue of your being a child of God.

GIVE NO PLACE TO THE DEVIL

On my personal journey of healing, I learned that in addition to knowing healing and health are in our heavenly account and belong to us, we also need to be sure that we have locked all doors, shut every window, and sealed every vulnerable crack that the devil would use to penetrate us with disease, illness, and sickness.

There are multiple “entry points” that the devil uses to enter our lives to negatively affect our health. When the devil finds one of these “entry points,” or “cracks,” he is able to attack us through it to take our blessing of health from us.

In Ephesians 4:27, Paul wrote, “Give no place to the devil.” The word “place” is interpreted from the Greek word *topos*, which refers to *a specific, marked-off, geographical location*. It is from this word that we derive the term *topographical*, as in a *topographical* map. Because the word *topos* depicts *a geographical location*, it lets us know that the devil is looking for some “marked-off place” through which he can enter to steal our healing and health. For him to launch his offensive and assert dominion over these facets of our lives, he first requires an initial breach through which he can initiate his sinister scheme of devastation.



For the enemy to launch his offensive and assert dominion over these facets of our lives, he first requires an initial breach through which he can initiate his sinister scheme of devastation.



In Chapters Two through Eight of this book, we will see seven significant “entry points” which the devil exploits to undermine our health. There are multiple entry points, but these are the main culprits I have discovered that provide

access for the ailments that plague many people. By proactively sealing these seven entry points, we can barricade ourselves against disease, illness, and sickness that seek to infiltrate our lives and effectively bar the devil from affecting our health.

Through my journey of faith, especially concerning health and healing, I've realized that when my well-being is threatened, it's crucial to introspectively assess whether I've inadvertently left any door "ajar" for the devil to access my health.

The following is a list of seven reasons why the devil continues to afflict Christians with illness despite the fact that Christ has provided healing and health for them in His redemptive work on the Cross. We'll explore each of these in the upcoming chapters, but I want you to see this summary so you'll know where we're headed. Certainly, there are additional reasons why people get sick, but these are seven primary reasons I have chosen to cover for why people fail to experience the healing and health that Jesus purchased for them on the Cross:

- 1. The Biggest Culprit Is the Curse.**
- 2. A Lack of Knowledge Can Open the Door to Sickness.**
- 3. Disobedience Opens the Door to Sickness.**
- 4. Foolishness Can Open the Door to Sickness.**
- 5. Unresolved, Hidden Issues Open the Door to Sickness.**
- 6. Anxiety, Fret, and Worry Open the Door to Sickness.**
- 7. Devilish Attacks Can Open the Door to Sickness.**

As we continue in the next chapters, we will meticulously dissect each of these seven elements to see how they serve as "open doors" that invite disease, illness, and sickness into our bodies. For each scenario, we'll also explore strategies

to securely close these open doors and ensure that sickness finds no sanctuary in our lives.

At the first of this chapter, I stated that Denise and I were reared in spiritual environments that knew little about divine healing. But once our eyes were unveiled to the biblical revelation that Christ bore the cost for our health and wholeness, we have since waged the good fight of faith to claim healing and walk in divine health. Alongside me, my wife, my family, and our ministry team have prayed in faith for multiplied thousands of people to be healed — and multiplied thousands of them have been healed!

We continue to stand with those who remain in faith for the manifestation of their healing and health. As noted at the introduction to this book, the delay feels interminable — *endless* — for some people, as if the answer will never come. It is for these precious souls that I have penned this book.

But now, it's time to turn the page to dive into the next chapter, where we will begin to explore the fundamental reasons behind disease, illness, and sickness. Together, we'll learn how to seal every entrance so that the enemy is barred from tampering with your well-being. Step by step as you read, I pray you will embrace the divine healing and health that is rightfully yours by inheritance because of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross!



Scan the QR code to watch Rick teach more on this subject.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER AND DISCUSS

1. How does the phrase “if it be Thy will” when petitioning God nullify the effects of faith based on the passage in First John 5:14-15, which you read about in the book’s Introduction?
2. What is cessationism? Can you contrast that to define continuationism and provide answers based on Scripture, not just on human experience, to defend your belief in either cessationism or continuationism?
3. Are the miracles of Jesus and the apostles, others’ answers to prayers, and the moving of God’s Spirit to perform miracles and do the impossible like “fairy tales” to you? If so, what did reading the scriptures in this chapter and reading about the author’s experiences do to bring more understanding to your heart, strengthen your faith, and take the limits off God to move in your own life?
4. How did the Greek words in First Timothy 6:12, translated “fight the good fight,” and their definitions encourage you in your own “agonizing” fight of faith for the things that are dearest to your heart? Does Rick’s statement, “Never forget that the grandest prizes often demand the most formidable battles” resonate with you? If so, how? After reading this section, how will you gird yourself up afresh and anew to overcome every resistance to your faith and stand strong in your fight until you can say, “*At last — the victory is mine!*”?
5. Which of the seven main reasons for hindered or delayed healing are you the most excited to study as you continue reading this book? Least excited? Considering that it’s knowing the truth that makes us free (*see* John 8:32), with what attitude or mindset will you approach these seven sections — with anticipation or dread? What healing are you expecting to receive as you read the pages of this book?



Rick Renner (**renner.org**) holds an earned ThD (Doctor of Theology) from a prominent Russian university and is a respected Bible teacher and leader in the international Christian community. He is the author of an extensive list of books, including best-sellers *Sparkling Gems From the Greek 1* and *2*, and his accumulated titles have sold millions of copies worldwide. Rick's understanding of the Greek language and biblical history opens up the Scriptures in a unique way that enables his audience to gain wisdom and insight while learning something brand new from the Word of God.

Today Rick is the overseer of the Good News Association of Churches, founder of the Moscow Good News Church, pastor of the Internet Good News Church, founder of Media Mir, and president of the Good News Channel — the largest Russian-speaking Christian satellite network in the world, which broadcasts the Gospel 24/7 to countless viewers in more than 83 nations. He is also founder of TBV, a national channel that broadcasts to all of Russia.

Rick is the founder of RENNER Ministries in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and host to his TV program, also seen around the world in multiple languages via television, Internet, and satellite. He leads this amazing work with Denise — his wife and life-long ministry partner — along with their sons and committed leadership team.

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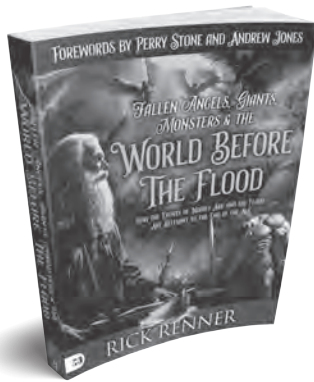
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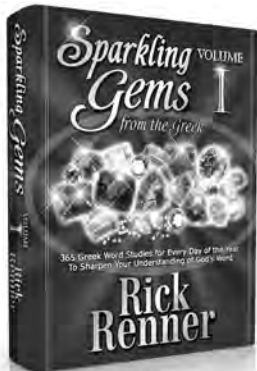
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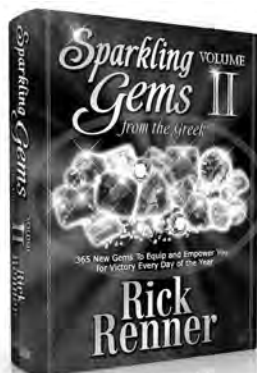


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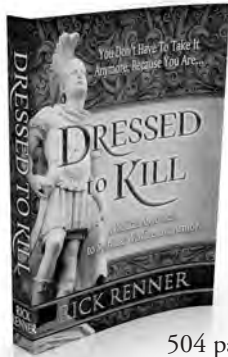
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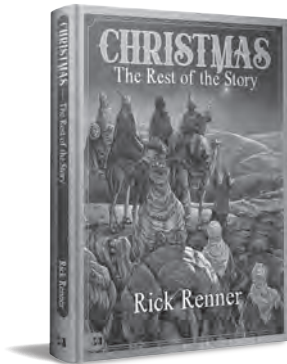
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If you want to be taken back in your imagination to this earth-shaking course of events that changed the history of the whole world, this book is a *must-have* not just for the Christmas season, but for all time. *Topics include:*

- Why God chose Mary and Joseph.
- The significance of the *manger* and *swaddling clothes*.
- Why angels viewed *God in the flesh* with such wonderment.
- Why King Herod was so troubled by this historical birth.
- How we can prepare for Christ’s *next* coming.

Christmas — The Rest of the Story is sure to be a favorite in your family for generations to come! Jesus’ birth is truly *the greatest story on earth* — perhaps never more uniquely told than in the pages of this book.

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EASTER

THE REST OF THE STORY



304 pages
(Hardback)

At the moment of Christ's death on the Cross, the day darkened and the earth shook — but what about the days and hours leading up to His crucifixion? What happened in those critical moments, and why did it happen?

In this *must-have* Easter classic, Rick Renner walks you through the pages of history, diving deep into the world's most famous story to reveal the riveting truths and harrowing details of Jesus' last moments on Earth. In this vivid storybook equipped with full-color, original illustrations, you'll learn:

- Why hundreds of soldiers — not just a few — met Jesus to arrest Him.
- The physical and mental abuse Jesus endured before the Crucifixion.
- What Jesus meant when He said, "It is finished!"
- What Jesus has been doing for the last 2,000 years.

Whether you've heard this story before or this is your first time reading it, Jesus' death and resurrection will come alive as you draw face to face with the brutality Jesus endured and the unflinching love He displayed on the Cross.

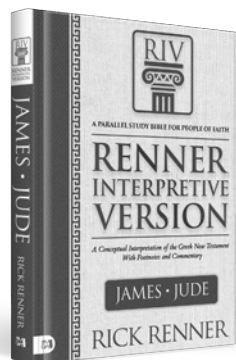
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THE RENNER INTERPRETIVE VERSION (RIV) OF JAMES AND JUDE

A PARALLEL STUDY BIBLE FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH



288 pages
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Equipped with footnotes and commentary, the *RIV* will open up the world of the New Testament in a whole new way. While it is not a word-for-word translation — the *RIV* is a conceptual interpretation that draws upon concepts in the Greek language and expresses them in a way that supplies a broader comprehension of Scripture. By bringing out imagery presented in the Greek language and conveying it to readers using contemporary speech, Rick helps draw lovers of the Bible into a deeper study of God's message to people for all time.

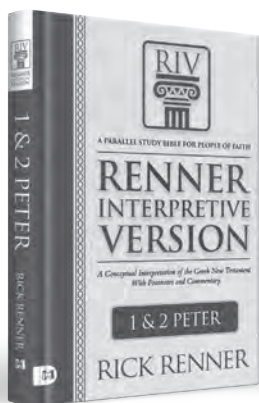
This first installment of the *RIV* is taken from the books written by James and Jude. James and Jude were Jesus' half-brothers, younger sons of Joseph and Mary, and in this representation, their Spirit-inspired words will thrill your heart, challenge your thinking, and open the eyes of your spirit in greater ways to see the unchanging nature of God — His wisdom, goodness, power, and love.

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THE RENNER INTERPRETIVE VERSION (RIV) OF FIRST AND SECOND PETER

A PARALLEL STUDY BIBLE FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH



384 pages
(Hardback)

Dive deep into the Greek New Testament with Rick Renner in this brand-new volume of the *RIV*!

In these two power-packed epistles, Peter, an apostle and disciple of Jesus, wrote to the Church imploring believers to live holy lives and endure the persecution and suffering they were facing as a result of their faith, even warning them to remain steadfast as the time for Jesus' return draws near. As Rick expounds upon the original language of the Greek in contemporary speech that is easy to understand, you will learn that Peter's encouragement and warning was not only timely for the Early Church, but offers wisdom for believers facing hardship and deception in today's world as well.

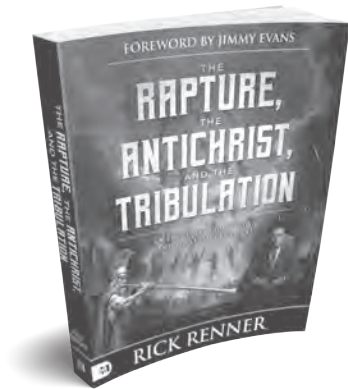
Using the comprehensive footnotes and commentary found on each page, you can study the meaning behind the powerful words Peter wrote. The *RIV* will open the Scriptures like you've never seen them before, encouraging your faith, prompting your obedience, and preparing you for the soon return of our Lord Jesus. This is a volume you do not want to miss!

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THE RAPTURE, THE ANTICHRIST, AND THE TRIBULATION —

AN END-TIMES COUNTDOWN AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



464 pages
(Paperback)

You've likely heard of the Rapture, but have you thought about what happens next? In this book, Rick Renner takes you deep into Scripture to show you that *Christ's rapture of His Church* is the domino-event that will set in motion the next phase of God's prophetic timeline.

The Rapture is the event God's people should desirously anticipate as they prepare to meet Him face to face. But the Rapture, Heaven, and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb are not the end for true believers in Christ, as Rick vividly explains.

In this book, you'll learn:

- The origin of the word "rapture" and every Greek instance of this word in the New Testament.
- How to be prepared for the Rapture in the dark, last hours of time.
- Attributes of the Antichrist and how to avoid contamination by the spirit of the Antichrist that is already in the world.
- Five important differences between *the Rapture* and *the Second Coming*.
- *And much more!*

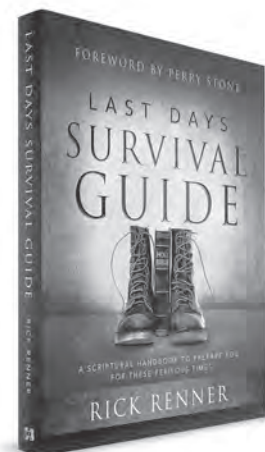
This *may* be the most comprehensive look at all three topics — the Rapture, the Antichrist, and the Tribulation — you've ever read in just one book!

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LAST-DAYS SURVIVAL GUIDE

A SCRIPTURAL HANDBOOK
TO PREPARE YOU FOR THESE PERILOUS TIMES



496 pages
(Paperback)

In his book *Last-Days Survival Guide*, Rick Renner masterfully expands on Second Timothy 3 to clearly reveal the last-days signs to expect in society as one age draws to a close before another age begins.

Rick also thoroughly explains how not to just *survive* the times, but to *thrive* in the midst of them. God wants you as a believer to be equipped — *outfitted* — to withstand end-time storms, to navigate wind-tossed seas, and to sail with His grace and power to fulfill your divine destiny on earth!

If you're concerned about what you're witnessing in society today — and even in certain sectors of the Church — the answers you need in order to keep your gaze focused on Christ and maintain your victory are in this book!

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PAID IN FULL

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE DEFINING MOMENTS OF CHRIST'S PASSION



320 pages
(Paperback)

In *Paid in Full: An In-Depth Look at the Defining Moments of Christ's Passion*, Rick Renner offers unforgettable insights into the heart, emotions, and humanity of Jesus in His final days on the earth. Providing a brilliant historical backdrop from his studies of New Testament Greek, Rick guides you on an uncommon journey through each of Christ's encounters along His way from Gethsemane to Golgotha.

Jesus' responses to betrayal and suffering reveal rich, practical applications for our own lives when we're faced with disappointment and pain. As you gain a more intimate glimpse into Jesus' final hours and the great love He displayed, you will be moved in a way you will never forget and will gain more confidence than ever that God's plan for your life will stand!

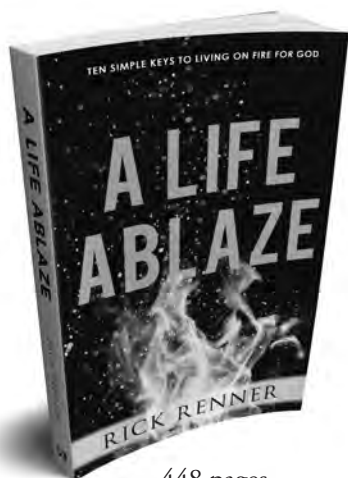
Your redemption had a price. Discover just how completely that price was *paid in full!*

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A LIFE ABLAZE

TEN SIMPLE KEYS TO LIVING ON FIRE FOR GOD



448 pages
(Paperback)

Do you struggle to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in your heart as it may have burned earlier in your life? Do you sometimes feel like all that's left are a few small glowing embers — and that perhaps even those embers are starting to die out and become cold?

How do you stoke the embers of the fire within you so that those flames begin to burn red-hot in your heart again? Once you have that fire burning hot and bright, how do you sustain and grow the intensity of that inner fire for the rest of your time on this earth?

In *A Life Ablaze*, Rick teaches you about the ten different kinds of fuel you need to stay spiritually ablaze for years to come. As you learn about these fuels, you will discover how to throw them into the fire in your heart so you can keep burning spiritually.

Topics include:

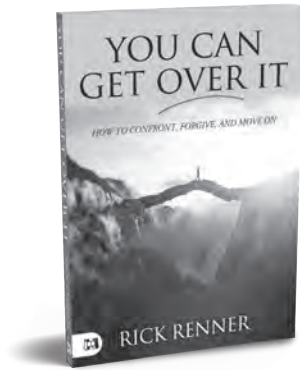
- What is the real condition of your spiritual fire right now?
- What to do if your spiritual embers are about to go out.
- What to do to help others whose flames are burning low.

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YOU CAN GET OVER IT

HOW TO CONFRONT, FORGIVE, AND MOVE ON



256 pages
(Paperback)

There's no doubt that at some point in your life, someone has wronged you. You may even be in a painful situation right now. But you don't have to let anyone's actions against you pollute your attitude toward God and prevent His good plan for your future. If someone has committed an offense against you, God will deal with that person. What matters now is that you stop unforgiveness and bitterness before they begin producing their deadly fruit in your life.

In this book *You Can Get Over It: How To Confront, Forgive, and Move On*, Rick Renner helps you find your way out of the emotional prison that has tried to hold you captive. Jesus understands every frustration, emotion, and temptation you have, and with His help, you can learn to let go of the offense and strife the enemy is trying to use to ensnare you.

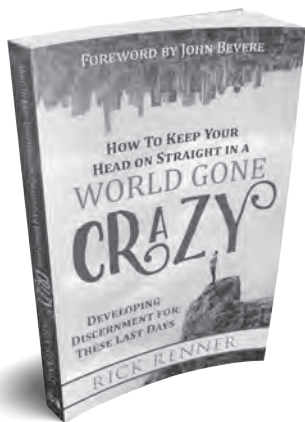
God wants to help *you* so that the pain and trouble of bitterness don't immobilize you any longer. Let God speak to you through these pages so that you can walk free into the future He has planned for your life. No matter what the offense, *He has truly made a way for you to get over it!*

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HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEAD ON STRAIGHT IN A WORLD GONE CRAZY

DEVELOPING DISCERNMENT FOR THESE LAST DAYS



400 pages
(Paperback)

The world is changing. In fact, it's more than changing — it has *gone crazy*.

We are living in a world where faith is questioned and sin is welcomed — where people seem to have lost their minds about what is right and wrong. It seems truth has been turned *upside down*.

In Rick Renner's book *How To Keep Your Head on Straight in a World Gone Crazy*, he reveals the disastrous consequences of a society in spiritual and moral collapse. In this book, you'll discover what Christians need to do to stay out of the chaos and remain anchored to truth. You'll learn how to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit, how to discern right and wrong teaching, how

to be grounded in prayer, and how to be spiritually prepared for living in victory in these last days.

Leading ministers from around the world are calling this book essential for every believer. Topics include:

- Contending for the faith in the last days
- How to pray for leaders who are in error
- How to judge if a teaching is good or bad
- Seducing spirits and doctrines of demons
- How to be a good minister of Jesus Christ

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SIGNS YOU'LL SEE JUST BEFORE JESUS COMES



208 pages
(Paperback)

As we advance toward the golden moment of Christ's return for His Church, there are signs on the road we're traveling to let us know where we are in time. Jesus Himself foretold the types of events that will surely take place as we watch for His return.

In his book *Signs You'll See Just Before Jesus Comes*, Rick Renner explores the signs in Matthew 24:3-12, expounding on each one from the Greek text with his unique style of teaching. Each chapter is written to *prepare* and *embolden* a last-days generation of believers — not send them running for the hills!

The signs on the road are appearing closer together. We are on the precipice of something new. Soon we'll see the final sign at the edge of our destination as we enter the territory of the last days, hours, and minutes *just before Jesus comes*.

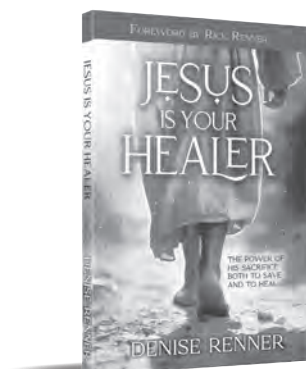
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JESUS IS YOUR HEALER

THE POWER OF HIS SACRIFICE
BOTH TO SAVE AND TO HEAL

By Denise Renner



224 pages
(Paperback)

There is *nothing* in the heart of the will of God that wants you to stay sick or in pain. *He doesn't use sickness or infirmity as a means to teach you a single thing!* In fact, God sent his Son to bear the punishment for every sickness and disease known and unknown to man so that you could live strong and disease-free all the days of your life.

This is what author Denise Renner wants you to *know* with the same certainty that you know you are a child of God. She states, "I wrote this book so that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can use the words contained in these pages to paint this eternal truth on the canvas of your mind and heart: *Jesus is your Healer!* When all that happens and you claim that spiritual reality as your very own, you will receive all the magnificent power that is extended to you through the horrible beating and crucifixion Jesus endured for you."

The Father's compassions of healing and wholeness have already been poured out. They are yours for the taking! The simple but profound truths found in *Jesus Is Your Healer* will equip you to believe for and walk in the divine health that is already yours in Christ!

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WHO STOLE CINDERELLA?



192 pages
(Paperback)

In *Who Stole Cinderella?*, Denise Renner shows why “happily ever after” is not a gift for a selected few, but rather an art that anyone can master who is willing to learn. With genuine warmth and candor, Denise recounts the journey of her own struggles in marriage and the unique insights she learned along the way to attaining emotional health and happiness. Your life will be enriched by the biblical wisdom Denise imparts and the originality with which she sheds light on your path to *happily ever after* and shows you right where to begin again if you’ve lost your way.

Even if the clock shows “past midnight” in your marriage, don’t give up on your dream of experiencing a happy ending. Cinderella and Prince Charming are not lost — they just need to be rediscovered *God’s way!*

“This teaching, like precious pearls, has been obtained by diving into the deep to learn of God and His ways over the course of many years. It is yours for the reading — but believe me when I tell you that it has cost Denise extravagantly.”

— Rick Renner

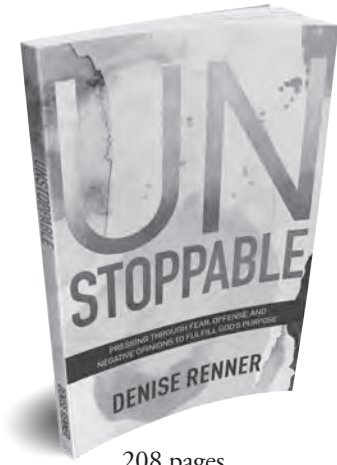
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UNSTOPPABLE

PRESSING THROUGH FEAR, OFFENSE, AND NEGATIVE OPINIONS TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE

By Denise Renner



208 pages
(Paperback)

God has given every one of us a unique supply of His Spirit — with individual gifts and callings — that we are to contribute to the Body of Christ and to the plans and purposes of God on earth.

But what stops so many from entering this place of blessing and falling short of fulfilling their God-given destiny? The obstacles are plenteous because the enemy is most threatened when a believer takes his or her place in the perfect will of God. Some of these hindrances include fear, offense, and the negative opinions of others. But the good news is, God has given us power through His Word and His

Spirit to overcome every obstacle and to *gloriously* manifest our supply for the blessing and benefit of others.

In her book *Unstoppable*, Denise Renner brings fresh insight from God's Word on how we can overcome key hindrances — whether it's fear of man, rejection, unforgiveness, other people's negative opinions, or even our own poor opinion of ourselves — that the enemy exploits to try to prevent our God-given gifts and talents from being used to bless others.

No one else can take your place; your part is absolutely crucial to God's plan. So don't let anyone or anything stop you from doing what Jesus wants you to do or from receiving what He wants you to receive. This book will help you be *unstoppable* as you push past every obstacle you are facing and keep pressing toward the glorious prize that awaits you in Christ Jesus!

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John 10:10b

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FOREWORDS *by* RICHARD ROBERTS *and* ANDREW WOMMACK

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEALING

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REDEMPTION'S ROLE IN DELIVERANCE AND HEALING...
HOW TO GET WELL AND STAY WELL...
THE ROLE OF DOCTORS, MEDICINE, AND COMMON SENSE...
HOW TO STAY STRONG AND HEALTHY AS YOU GROW OLDER...
SCRIPTURAL PROMISES OF HEALING...



RICK RENNER

**We hope you enjoy this feature
message excerpted from the book.**

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