

GOD'S HEALING WAY

Part 3

Chapter 17

God's Healing Way

- ▣ Demonstrates His Power
- ▣ Develops Character
- ▣ Uses Natural Remedies
- ▣ **Requires Prayer**
- ▣ Utilizes Fasting
- ▣ Exposes Satan's Deceptive Healing
- ▣ Amplifies End-Time Truth

Chapter 17:

GOD'S HEALING WAY REQUIRES PRAYER

PRAYER-CONDITIONS FOR HEALING

God's Healing Available Today

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick" (James 5:14, 15).

"Christ is the same compassionate physician now that He was during his earthly ministry. **In Him there is healing balm for every disease, restoring power for every infirmity.** His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as the disciples of old prayed. And recoveries will follow; for **'the prayer of faith shall save the sick'** (James 5:15)." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 226.

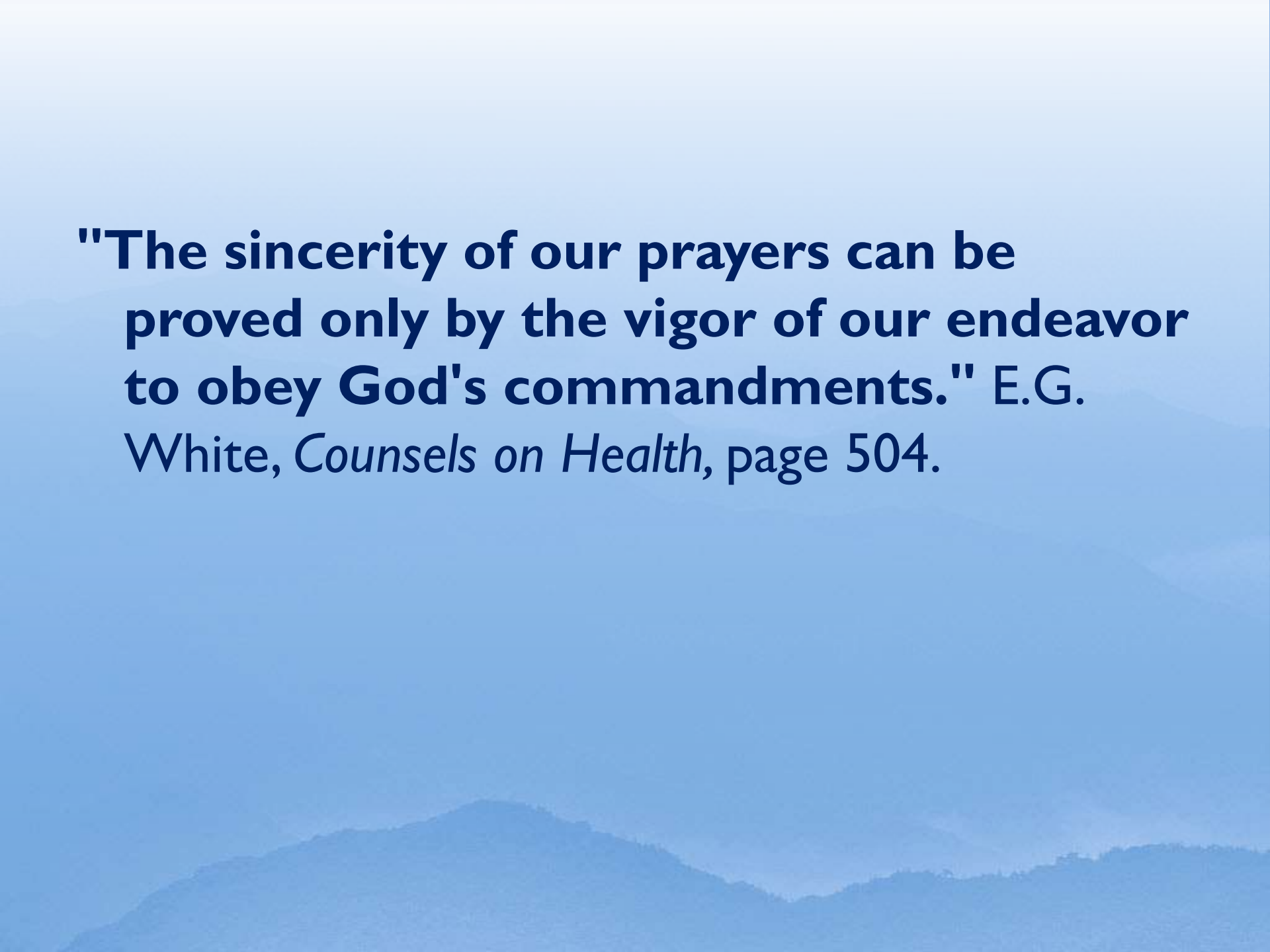
Faith Essential

While here on earth, Jesus taught that faith was an essential part of His healing. When the woman touched the hem of Christ's garment and was healed from her disease, He said:
"Thy faith hath made thee whole"
(Matthew 9:22).

All have access to the faith of Jesus and to the power of the Holy Spirit. "We have the Holy Spirit's power, the calm assurance of faith, that can claim God's promises ...**It is our work to present the sick and suffering to God in the arms of our faith.**" E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 226. "**Let me tell you that the sick will be healed when you have faith to come to God in the right way.**" E. G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 16.

Obedience Necessary

God hears prayer. **"If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14).** "What God promises He is able at any time to perform If they (His people) will live according to every word He has spoken, every good word and promise will be fulfilled unto them. But if they come short of perfect obedience, the great and precious promises are afar off, and they cannot reach the fulfillment." E.G. White, *Testimonies*, Volume 2, page 148.



"The sincerity of our prayers can be proved only by the vigor of our endeavor to obey **God's commandments." E.G. White, *Counsels on Health*, page 504.**

PRAYER-DUTIES OF THE SERIOUSLY ILL

- Teach the sick to lay aside all unhealthful practices-to live in harmony with God's laws.
- Do not neglect the use of nature's simple remedies for the restoration of health.
- Confess and forsake all known sin.
- Submit all requests to God's will-for His glory and for the benefit of the afflicted one.

PRAYER-DUTIES OF THE SERIOUSLY ILL

- Always request God's presence and grace to comfort and sustain.
- Do not neglect to put affairs in order (should the seriously ill one be removed by death).
- Remember that healing brings the recipient under renewed obligation to the Restorer.

Obey God's Health Laws

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22). "We cannot be too often reminded that health does not depend on chance. It is the result of obedience to law." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 128.

"It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their infirmities, unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful practices." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 227.

"God will not work a miracle to keep those from sickness who have no care for themselves, but are continually violating the laws of health and make no efforts to prevent disease. When we do all we can on our part to have health, then may we expect that the blessed results will follow, and we can ask God in faith to bless our efforts for the preservation of health." E.G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 13.

"Those who will gratify their appetite, and then suffer because of their intemperance, and take drugs to relieve them, **may be assured that God will not interpose to save health and life which are so recklessly periled...** God does not see fit to answer prayers offered in behalf of such." E.G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 14.

Use God's Simple Remedies

"Those who seek healing by prayer should not neglect to make use of the remedial agencies within their reach. It is not a denial of faith to use such remedies as God has provided to alleviate pain and to aid nature in her work of restoration. It is no denial of faith to cooperate with God, and to place themselves in the condition most favorable to recovery."

E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, pages 231, 232.

Use with Confidence

The sick should be educated to have confidence in nature's great blessings which God has provided; and the most effective remedies for disease are pure soft water, the blessed God-given sunshine coming into the rooms of the invalids, living outdoors as much as possible, having healthful exercise, eating and drinking foods that are prepared in the most healthful manner. E.G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 225

Confess and Forsake Sin

"Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and Thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and Thou takest no knowledge? (Isaiah 58:3). A people are here addressed who make a high profession, who are in the habit of praying, and who delight in religious exercises; yet there is a lack. **They realize that their prayers are not answered**

Confess and Forsake Sin

It is not because there is any neglect on the part of God. The difficulty is with the people. While professing godliness, they do not bear fruit to the glory of God; their works are not what they should be. **They are living in neglect of positive duties. Unless these are performed, God cannot answer their prayers according to His glory."** E.G. White, *Testimonies*, Volume 2, page 147.

"The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease." E.G. White, *Testimonies*, Volume 9, page 164.

A Prescription from Heaven's Pharmacy

for physical, mental, and spiritual healing

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.”

James 5:16

Submit to God's Will

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Jesus was ever submissive to His Father's will,
"nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done"
(Luke 22:42).

"We all desire immediate and direct answers to our prayers, and are tempted to become discouraged when the answer is delayed or comes in an unlooked-for form. **But God is too wise and good to answer our prayers always at just the time and in just the manner we desire. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all our wishes.** And because we can trust His wisdom and love, we should not ask Him to concede to our will, but should seek to enter into and accomplish His purpose." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, pages 230, 231.

"It is better for us that God does not always answer our prayers just when we desire, and in just the manner we wish We have seen some of these, especially youth, raised to health, and they have forgotten God, become dissolute in life, causing sorrow and anguish to parents and friends, and have become a shame to those who feared to pray." E.G. White, *Testimonies*, Volume 2, pages 148, 149.

"Oh, how grateful we should be that Jesus is willing and able to bear all our infirmities and strengthen and heal all our diseases *if it will be for our good and for His glory*. Some died in the days of Christ and in the days of the apostles because the Lord knew just what was best for them." E. G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 17. "**Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord ... that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them**" (Revelation 14:13).

Request God's Sustaining Presence and Grace

"The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman. Heaven is all health; and the more deeply the heavenly influences are realized, the more sure will be the recovery of the believing invalid." E.G. White, *Medical Ministry*, page 12.

Always request God's presence and grace to comfort and sustain in suffering. Paul prayed for a "thorn in the flesh" to be removed from him. Instead of removing this affliction, Christ promised; **"My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9).**

As with Paul, **"these experiences that test faith are for our benefit. By them it is made manifest whether our faith is true and sincere, resting on the word of God alone, or whether depending on circumstances, it is uncertain and changeable.** Faith is strengthened by exercise. We must let patience have its perfect work, remembering that there are precious promises in the Scriptures for those who wait upon the Lord." E. G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 231.

Put Affairs in Order

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah...came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live" (Isaiah 38:1).

Those who are weakened by disease "should not neglect to set their affairs in order as they would desire to do if they expected to be removed by death. Nor should they fear to utter words of encouragement or counsel which at the parting hour they wish to speak to their loved ones." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 231.

"When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, whatever the outcome of the case, let us not lose faith in God. If we are called upon to meet bereavement, let us accept the bitter cup, remembering that a Father's hand holds it to our lips." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 233.

Recognize Obligation to God

Christ desires that those who are recipients of His healing mercy recognize an obligation to honor God with their loyalty and service. After Jesus healed the man by the pool of Bethesda, He admonished: "**Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee**" (John 5:14).

"Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger" (Luke 17:17, 18).

"When the ten lepers were cleansed, only one returned to find Jesus and give Him glory. Let none of us be like the unthinking nine, whose hearts were untouched by the mercy of God... Should health be restored, it should not be forgotten that the recipient of healing mercy is placed under renewed obligation to the Creator." E.G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 233.

God's Healing Way: Part 3

Continued in Chapter 18