

Created Whole, with a Warrantee: Part 4:

Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole! Acts 9:34

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We are continuing to take a look at each of God's special Laws of Health; Trust in Divine Power:

Love and the First Commandment

Very few Advent believers have not heard of the Eight Laws of Health, the principles that govern the physical and mental health of the human body as the Ten Commandments constitute the Moral standard of man's character.

We have seen them laid out in various acronyms "Newstart"; "God's Plan"; "Start-New" etc. But in reading them it seems like "Trust in God" plays a lesser role as compared with items like "Nutrition" or "Exercise"; it is almost tacked on as an afterthought; sure people readily admit that studies have shown that persons with religious faith tend to be healthier than those without it and they discuss the subject of stress relief, but it usually seems very humanistic. I would like to suggest here that it is very possible we may be overlooking the very foundation of the whole healing plan; perhaps the very root cause of illness and disease is found in this item. Even as it is listed in the oft quoted reference from Ministry of Healing, it does not say "Trust in God" but rather "Trust in Divine Power"!

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies." MH 127.

Why is this emphasis on Divine Power so important? What really is the difference whether I say, "Trust in God" or "Trust in Divine Power"? Well, 'Trust in God' can mean many things; it can be just some underlying idea that God is in control of things to the point that people have no say in their destiny and whatever happens is because God is doing it and there is nothing I can do about it but it is supposed to come out good somehow and I really have no options anyway. It is very similar to the Islamic teaching that everything is all laid out unchangeable and it will happen no matter what and really there is no changing it—again free will is not considered to exist in these equations. These theories also tend to remove accountability from man and so are gratifying to the carnal heart.

There are many who would claim to trust in God, or 'a higher power', whose actions greatly contradict their claims. There is amongst those who have access to God's guidance on health and hygienic living, many who figure they can ignore all that, and do as they please, but real faith in God includes, and is built on, respect for His authority also. In health matters, these folk live as they please, then when something serious shows up as a direct consequence of their lifestyle choices, they run to the mercy of mainstream medicine, carrying their choice to ignore the Divine counsel to the bitter end; of course they may ask to be anointed also—but how likely is it that God can perform miraculous healing on one who does not hearken to a word He says?

So Trust in Divine Power means something deeper. First off, it declares you see God as real and as having power, real power to do real things; you also see that there is a choice in the matter, everything is not just chiseled in stone leaving man no options in his life. Real trust in Divine power would lead one to believe what such an all-powerful Being says, realizing that He has promised to enable all who choose to obey Him to be able to do so. You would see these folk seeking to know His will and bringing their life-style and choices into line with that will. Then if something happens in their well-being they will first seek to ascertain what the cause is by looking carefully at the PLAN of health given by Divine Power, and secondly, find out what is said about dealing with the problem in a way that still remains in line with Divine counsel. While they may consult mainstream medicine for diagnosis, they would not follow it in treatment choices; because knowing Divine Power is behind His counsel they will know they already have the best treatment plan and anything harmful or poisonous would be far from their best interest.

The Dangers:

There is a deep reason why we need to know the true God and have confidence in the fact that Divine Power is there for us; this world is not a friendly place, six millennia of sin and degradation on this earth has created a very hostile environment which is rapidly approaching its climax. Man has formed sin into a science—indeed many sciences, and he worships these sciences as ultimate and unquestionable, doing it even in the face of piles of evidence that they are incorrect and really not science at all! The only other god he has that occupies his self-worship-room is money, and he mostly manages to combine them and worship it all at the same time.

The only 'foe' in modern man's scheme of things is anything or anyone that would indicate there is an ultimate Authority and that he – almighty man – is accountable and responsible for his actions and choices to that Authority, and disregard of that Authority brings consequences. Is man alone in his efforts to ignore Divine Power and his own accountability? No, he might prefer to think so, but there is another force operating in this sin-sick world, a mastermind that guides and directs in the affairs of all who are not totally anchored in God; it is the fallen angel Lucifer, now Satan, the adversary, insanely anxious to corrupt and destroy all that has connection to the Creator God. Here we see the whole picture:

“Man is contending with foes who are stronger than he. ‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places.’ [Ephesians 6:12, margin]. It is impossible for us in our own strength to maintain the conflict; and whatever diverts the mind from God, whatever leads to self-exaltation or to self-dependence, is surely preparing the way for our overthrow. The tenor of the Bible is to inculcate distrust of human power and to encourage trust in divine power.” PP 717.

Take a moment to place this information alongside the 1st commandment and/or the 'Great Commandment':

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22:36-38

Why does God emphasize making Him first, foremost and everything really? Humanly speaking it sounds rather dictatorial, doesn't it? Could it perhaps have something to do with 'Trust in Divine Power'? Look back at the quote above; see how and why we are warned against trusting in human power? It is because there is a foe out there that is stronger than anything human, and his aim is destruction.

Our Protection:

It is like the situation of a mother walking with her toddler; she has to cross a busy street and she tells the child, “Hang on tight to Mommy's hand and don't let go!” Is this mother just being bossy and trying to take freedom from her child? Of course not; she knows that the frail body of a human, let alone a child is no match for the power of a speeding automobile and she is determined to keep her little one safe.

Human beings, even the smartest, the strongest, the best equipped human beings, are still no match for the destructive force of the power of wicked spirits loose in this world, working high and low to ruin, devour and desecrate all that is of God. God knows that our only safety and chance of being saved out of this world of the enemy is, if we like the toddler, 'Hang on tight to His hand' and never let go. He knows that whether we depend on other humans, or our own selves, our feeble power would be like trying to stop a speeding locomotive by standing in front of it and holding up our hand. The whole meaning of that first commandment is God's LOVE for us, and the fact that only His Divine Power is adequate for the situation we are in; to trust in anything else is suicidal.

There is no power in the universe greater than Divine Power; and that Power has its whole basis in LOVE. Man was created with a need for LOVE and God is the *only* source of that true LOVE. Only from God can we receive

the life-giving LOVE that we need and when we anchor ourselves and depend on other humans for our love source and security instead of God, we are breaking the 1st commandment and really putting ourselves in terrible danger. From this fact we can see that truly "Trust in Divine Power" is the most important and foremost of the '8 Laws of Health'.

Satan knows this also and so it is his main aim to keep us disconnected and grasping about in the dark for a hand to lead us. He is only too glad to provide many other hands for us to hold—human hands and those of fallen spirits, directly through transcendental meditational practices, and indirectly through 'spiritual leaders', 'gurus', psychics, coaches and mentors', and multitudes of religious rituals and practices. Many 'alternative healing' practices are putting people in touch with lying spirits all too willing to entertain us while they lead onward to perdition.

Sickness and Desperation:

On every hand today you hear talk about 'wellness' and 'empowerment'; thousands of voices assure us that their method, information, treatment, or product will provide perfect health and I guess millions are being spent on these things with little or no benefit. Why is the 'wellness' market booming today? Mainly because people are sick, desperate and grasping for hands to lead them out of it. Many hands are only too willing to lead, but dependence and manipulation are the end result. It seems very hard for people to get rid of the notion that some human can fill their inner needs; some human can love them and care about them fully; some human can heal them and make them happy. There are thousands of voices, all contradicting one another, all trying to cash in in some way on human misery, and when you boil them down to the closest common denominator you find the original lies of the fallen foe; "You shall not surely die"; "You can be like God"; "You have the Power within to do as you will and there is none to forbid".

People rush into marriage and out of it as fast; they go from relationship to relationship. Many people try to fill their own inner needs by coaching and caring for others, but they end up manipulating and enslaving them. Satan spurs this process of grasping for human help on by playing with our feelings and emotions, pulling our strings and pushing our buttons; enslaving us more and more.

There is one Voice that really matters; one Voice that is telling the truth and has the answers, that Voice is saying, "Thou shalt have no other gods but Me." There is a wonderful sense of relief and security when we take all our attachments and place them on God; finally we find the answers to peace and real empowerment; answers that ground and anchor us. When God's LOVE is allowed to be our center and it flows into and through us, then we find peace and also the answers to helping others; then we do not enslave other people but love them freely, not with our feeble human love but with real LOVE from God. To try and find love in other humans to feed our need is breaking the 1st commandment--look to God and ask Him to give you that love and then use that to minister to others. We are not to try to have people look to us as their love sources; we can point them only to God!

Clinging to Earthly Ties Prevents our Fruit Bearing

"And every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth [pruneth] it, that it may bring forth more fruit." From the chosen twelve who had followed Jesus, one as a withered branch was about to be taken away; the rest were to pass under the pruning knife of bitter trial. Jesus with solemn tenderness explained the purpose of the husbandman. The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife. He works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. There are branches trailing upon the ground; these must be cut loose from the earthly supports to which their tendrils are fastening. They are to reach heavenward, and find their support in God. The excessive foliage that draws away the life current from the fruit must be pruned off. The overgrowth must be cut out, to give room for the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness. The husbandman prunes away the harmful growth, that the fruit may be richer and more abundant." Desire of Ages 676.

What Produces the Fruit?

"Herein is My Father glorified," said Jesus, "that ye bear much fruit." God desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the compassion, of His own character. Yet the Saviour does not bid the disciples labor to bear fruit. He tells them to abide in Him. "If ye abide in Me," He says, "and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ." Desire of Ages 677.

When one's life is filled with God's Love, you show that love to others and are not vainly seeking for Love to be shown to you. Speaking from my past experience when I was chasing around after someone to love ME, I was frustrated, let down, unsatisfied and disappointed time after time; but when we look to GOD as our Love source, there is contentment and satisfaction and the focus of our attention turns outward—no longer are our thoughts geared to trying to get love, instead we give love in the form of caring, listening, feeling for others and seeking to point them heavenward to connect with the Fountain also.

"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any." Isaiah 44:8

To be continued:

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