

Stones of Remembrance...

Joshua 4



...A legacy of Miracles!

Lived and remembered by Randy and Sharman Slye

Stones of Remembrance

A Legacy of Miracles

Written and Illustrated
by
Sharman Slye

But Peter said: "I do not possess silver and gold
but what I do have I give to you: In the name
of Jesus Christ the Nazarene -walk!" Acts 3:6 & 12

But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people
'Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this,
or why do you gaze at us, as if by
our own power or piety we had made him walk?'"



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How great and mighty and powerful I am
Even if I am new to them.*

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*Minister peace in My name
Remember to give Me the glory,
as a loving Father
the Holy Counselor,
teaching you My ways.*

Dear Family,

Our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to the Slye/Burke clan in a steady stream of power. Not all of these revelations have come to our family easily though. Many of these works of power are part of Him dealing with the sin of one or more of us and growing the faith of the others. As you read remember we Christians are simply lumps of clay on the Master Potter's wheel. As we yield ourselves to Him He will mold us into the image of His Son. Sometimes the wheel is painful but always the Father's goal and the outcome for us is JOY. These are written so that you, family-to-come, may never forget.

See you in Heaven!
I Love You,
Gramma Slye (Mi-Ma)

5 "For he established a testimony in Jacob
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers,
That they should teach them to their children,
6 That the generation to come might know,
even the children yet to be born
That they may arise and tell them to their children,
7 That they should put their confidence in God,
And not forget the works of God,
But keep His commandments,
8 And not be like their fathers,
A stubborn and rebellious generation,
A generation that did not prepare its heart,
And whose spirit was not faithful to God....
9 The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows
Yet they turned back in the day of battle.
10 They did not keep the covenant of God,
And refused to walk in His law;
11 And they forgot his deeds,
And his miracles that He had shown them.

Psalm 78:5-11

Baby teeth or a steel plate?

You have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives...

James 4:2

Most summers our family camped for a week in Yosemite. One summer we were fortunate enough to reserve a campsite in the now flooded-out Happy Isles campground. It was lovely and, as was our custom, we spent part of each afternoon at the side of the Merced River having a contest to see which of us could stay in the frigid water longest.

One afternoon four year old Christian and I decided to ride our bikes back to camp a little ahead of Daddy and the girls. They would catch up. This was easy enough since it was approximately one long block to the campground and another to our trailer and Christian was very coordinated on his two-wheeler. At least, as long as he wasn't turned around talking to me while he rode. On this day that's what caused him to hit the speed bump. With his head turned talking to me he plowed straight into the END of a one. I saw it happen and could only reach out my hand in a scooping motion as I prayed God would put His hand underneath to protect him. And He did protect him from life threatening injury. Yet, I guess this was one of those times the Lord was going to let him reap the consequences of driving without keeping his eyes glued to the road, because Christian landed mouth-first on the length of the speed bump.

He came up dazed , bleeding and screaming all at the same time. I had dumped my bike in the middle of the road to run to my son, praying as I ran. When I saw all the blood and the tooth hanging from its socket I picked him up and started walking towards camp. Christian was screaming and bleeding down the front of both of our shirts as I carried him down the campground loops lined with trailers and tents. Responding to his painful cries campers came from all directions to see what was going on. And when they saw the ragged bloody pair that was us, they offered assistance.

Bless them, but in my panic stricken state I couldn't do anything but keep walking towards my trailer where I knew my nurse/paramedic husband would take over for me. I explained all this to them without stopping because I was panic-driven. When I got close to the place where my trailer should have been I suddenly realized I was in the wrong campground loop and my trailer was in the next group over. Seeing my mistake, I cut thru the trees rather than stay on the road.

About this time I head someone calling me. "Ma'am. Ma'am! Can I help you?" I turned to see the caller and found a Park Ranger approaching me, but I didn't stop walking, *BACKWARDS*. As I tried to explain our situation and make progress toward my campsite at the same time I fell backwards into a fire pit. Bless that Ranger

for not laughing in my face as he approached a woman pinned down in a fire pit by the bloody body of a cringing whimpering four year old. He simply asked me if I could use some help, whereupon he offered his hand and pulled the both of us up out of the pit. That must be somewhat how the Lord sees us when we're in trouble: bloody, cringing, whimpering and unable to get out of the pit on our own. I praise God that His hands are strong enough to lift me up.

The Park Ranger set me on my feet, and pointed me toward my trailer. He said he had found our bikes in the middle of the road and followed the trail, first of blood, then of people gathered in little groups talking and pointing. He asked our campsite number and offered to go back and get our bikes.

In the meantime, Daddy and the girls had also come upon the bikes abandoned in the middle of the road. He sent the girls on to the trailer by the proper road and he turned down the same incorrect camp loop I had taken. As he rode, searching, people came up to him asking "Are you the paramedic husband? Are you the nurse? Your wife needs you! They went that way! You need to hurry." Campers are a wonderful group of people. They pointed and guided him from group to group until he figured out I was headed for the trailer and went riding quickly home.

He showed up just about the time I was trying to get my keys out of my pocket without putting Christian down. He opened the door and took Christian from my arms. It's a good thing too because there's no way I had enough energy left to climb the trailer steps with this very heavy boy.

My wonderful calm Nurse/Paramedic husband took one look past the bloody lip and said."we need a dentist." At that moment the Ranger showed up with the bikes. He gave us directions to the dentist, unloaded our bikes and locked them to a tree for us while we drove to the office.

Half an hour later, lip swollen like an Orangutan but considerably calmed by the nitrous oxide, our boy was returned to us with the statement: "He lost that one tooth and the two next to it are so loose he may lose those two as well. If they die they'll turn grey and then black . Just take him to your family dentist and have them pulled.

We went back to the trailer and tried to find some dinner. The rest of our vacation was great and we returned home fully recovered from the incident.

But some weeks later we noticed Christian's teeth were a funny color. As we watched over the next couple weeks it was obvious those teeth were dead as they turned darker and darker.

We decided we'd better have them removed before they caused him more trouble so I took him to our family dentist, Dr. Lee, a Christian dentist/pilot/missionary.

After examining Christian he said we had two choices after he pulled those two teeth. We could leave the gap of four spaces (since he had knocked one front tooth out at three years old, playing on a kitchen stool) and do nothing. He said this would ensure his top teeth would come in nice and straight. Or we could put in a silver plate all across the front of his mouth so he could bite down on food until his teeth came in, in second or third grade. I thought about that for a moment and remembered what my husband had said he endured at the hands of other kids with just one capped silver front tooth. Then I said "Or, our third choice is laying hands on him and asking The Lord to fix his teeth." "Yes, that's the other option," Dr. Lee smiled and agreed.

So we thanked the Doctor and went home. I told Randy, my husband, what the doctor had said and we agreed neither a silver plate nor four empty spaces were good choices. We would go to our prayer partners, Bill and Jenny Lawrence, and ask them to pray with us as we four laid hands on Christian for healing. We called the Lawrences and they agreed.

About a week or so later we had gone on a joint family outing with the Lawrences and as we dropped them off home we remembered we hadn't yet prayed for Christian's teeth. He was asleep in the backseat of the car so two of us leaned back over the front seat and one came in from each open rear door to sit beside him. At that time the four of us laid hands upon him in Jesus name and asked for his teeth to be restored, that he might be able to eat properly and not have to go thru the trauma of living with a silver plate. We went home and went about our lives, forgetting about the teeth. It was in the Lord's hands.

About three weeks later we noticed! Those little baby teeth in his mouth were sparkling white once again. Our God had moved in answer to our prayer. Since then we try to remember not to put God in a little box labeled "He's not big enough", or "He doesn't do that kind of thing anymore". He is the same God He always was, He loves us and He still has miracles for his people. But we sometimes forget to ask...

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. ***You do not have because you do not ask.***

3 ***You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*** **James 4:1-3**

If not for his sake...

In 1984 we had wonderful neighbors that our kids played with all the time. The little boy, however, had terrible asthma. He couldn't play hard - or outdoors much - because then he had to take more of the medicine that made him vomit. That was a different medication than the one he took that stole his appetite and wouldn't let him sleep. He was an active boy and the medicines made him jittery but didn't help him enough to let him play freely outside and be the active five year old he would have been otherwise. He was also extremely thin.

Our girls played over there constantly and I had a 'daily visiting' friendship with his sweet mama. I knew how frustrated this active little guy was as he suffered with this disease and I felt truly blessed that my almost two year old boy, Christian, was such a pudgy contrast in health, vigor, sleep and appetite.

One day I noticed that Christian's breathing sounded funny. He didn't have a cold so I held my ear close to his mouth and listened. Then I stripped off his shirt and RAN next door to find my friend. "IS THIS IT? I cried. 'Is this asthma?' 'Yes,' she said. ' I'll watch the girls while you take him to the Emergency Room.'

My Pediatrician's office was one block from our house so I took him there where they took him into a room immediately and gave him lots of drugs. His breathing improved radically, still they watched him for a good long while. The doctor gave me multiple prescriptions and told me to come back the next day.

That night my little boy ate about a third of his normal dinner and missed his usual 7 P.M. bedtime by two hours. He couldn't sit still because every time his breathing got bad again I'd be forced to give him more medicine. I was living my neighbor's nightmare.

We visited the Doctor several times that week and after seven days Christian's breathing was well under control. I told Dr. Weintraub that he wasn't eating or sleeping well and his answer was a sad 'It's the medicines.'

'Well, when can we stop it then?' I asked.

His answer stunned me. "He'll have to have this medicine for the rest of his life, but we'll start weaning him down next week.

I left the office devastated. My son, the 'super-eater-super sleeper' would end up like the boy next door. Skinny and hyper and miserable. 'Please, no Lord,' I prayed.

The following week when we visited Dr. Weintraub, a faithful Jew who spent hours a day under his prayer shawl, I told him I decided to ask the Lord for a healing for Christian. "After all, I said, ' if He can part the Red Sea then fixing one little boy's asthma is no big deal for Him." He said nothing but smiled and kind of shook his head and nodded at the same time.

That Sunday I took Christian up to the alter rail where lay people stayed after service each week to pray for whatever needs people brought to them, including healing. Jean Dornon, a longtime friend and mentor, was serving in that ministry that day. I explained the situation, the medicines and the 'not growing right' future and she laid hands on Christian and me and prayed. When she was done I added : 'Lord, if not for his sake, for mine.' Then we went home.

We stopped the medicines that day and Christian was fine. There were a few times during his childhood, when he'd get a bad cold, that he would wheeze, but many people do that. He never had another Asthma attack.

Thank you Jesus, for hearing a mother's prayer.

He's a Pain in the Neck

Christian was about two months old when I stated having trouble with neck pain. It seemed each time I lifted him my neck was a problem. It had progressed to the point where it hurt most of the time and I started asking Randy to do all the lifting when he was home. I couldn't imagine what I had done to make it so sore!

At that time Randy was actively attending the Full Gospel breakfast meetings and when he left on this particular Saturday I asked him to get the group to pray for my neck. My neck pain had been much on his mind and he promised to lift me up in the prayer portion of the meeting..

I always looked forward to Full Gospel Saturdays because they had monthly speakers who gave testimonies of the mighty New-Testament-style works God is still doing today. Randy was usually as eager to share these testimonies as I was to hear.

When he came home that day I met him at the door and I handed the baby to him. With Christian in his arms Randy stood with me in our entry way and told me the group had indeed prayed for me during their prayer time. When they were finished praying a man came up to him and said: "While we were praying the Lord told me your wife is not injured, it's Satan bothering her."

"Wow!" he thought. "Really?" is what he said.

"Yes," the man replied. Randy thanked him and walked away.

Many men had stayed after the meeting to fellowship and as Randy was working his way across the room a man tapped him on the shoulder and said, "While we were praying the Lord spoke to my heart. Your wife is not injured. It is Satan attacking her. You need to lay hands on her and pray for her." That confirmation from the Lord really got Randy's attention.

Randy walked to the exit of the restaurant only to have another Christian brother stop him as he reached for the door. "The Lord gave me a word for your wife," he said. "You need to pray for her because Satan is doing this to her. She's not hurt."

Randy was smiling from ear to ear by this time. It is so exciting to know the God of the Universe has taken the time to guide us in a personal way. Such love!

When Randy finished telling me these things he turned and walked into the dining room. "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" I asked in dismay.

"I'm just..."

"Aren't you going to pray for me?"

“Now?”

“Yes, now!”

My dear husband, baby in arms, laid his hands gently on my shoulders and thanked God for his mercy in caring about my problem. Then he verbally took authority over Satan in the name of Jesus and told Satan to take his hands off of me because he had no authority here. I don't remember his exact words but I remember that I had no more pain in my neck from that time on.

Many people misunderstand who Satan is and think he is the “equal but evil opposite” of our good LORD. No! Satan was just an arch-angel in charge of music in heaven. God created him incredibly talented and beautiful but he rebelled against his LORD. He, along with all his rebellion supporters, was cast out of heaven and changed to ‘demon’ status. Since then he has been on earth making as much trouble for mankind as he can, and limited though his powers are, he can be a ‘real pain in the neck’.

Satan has *some* power but he is not like God - he is only a created being. He cannot be in two places at one time though he can travel at great speed. He can plant thoughts and tempt even Christians to sin but he can't *make* us do anything. The phrase ‘the Devil made me do it’ is only true for those people who have dabbled in the occult and somewhere in the process been ‘possessed’ by a demon. When a person asks Christ Jesus to come live in their heart then they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and CANNOT be demon possessed.

Christians can be ‘oppressed’ by Satan or a demon and one form that oppression can take is what was happening with my neck pain. But we, **born again believers**, were given authority over Satan and his demons in the New Testament. All we need to do is realize WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST and begin using the tool He gave us - by HIS authority - in HIS name. (If you have not yet read “Resist the Devil” in this volume, do so now.)

Hallelujah!

Growing and Learning Together

When Cassie was almost nine years old she began to have a small amount of abnormal vaginal bleeding. We discussed it with our doctor and he said it wasn't a problem unless it recurred and we would wait to examine her. Some time later and over a period of weeks and months it did recur and the Pediatrician examined her. He found nothing and recommended a Pediatric Endocrinologist. Extensive blood and urine work showed nothing and he was also baffled. This was really causing Randy and I a great deal of concern even though she seemed to be healthy in every other way. We told our families about this and asked them to pray.

A family reunion at Papa's house in Los Angeles was on the calendar and all my brothers and sisters and their spouses would be there. I called ahead and asked Shari, Wayne and Ray if we could lay hands on Cassie and pray for her when we were together. We had never done anything like this before as a family. Each agreed to pray when we came together. When Mike got there I asked him too. He said. 'You want *me* to pray with you?' I can't remember each exact word of our exchange but it was something like:
"You're a Christian, aren't you?"
'Yes' he replied.
"Okay then, We want you to pray with us."
'Well', Okay, it you want me to come, I will."

So we all went into what had been Wayne's bedroom and shut the door. Cassie was embarrassed but wanted to be well. We gathered around her, laid our hands on her, and began to pray by first confessing that we were sinners and in need of forgiveness. Then we asked the LORD to heal her totally and completely, in Jesus name. The LORD answered our prayer and she had no more problems.

What I didn't know was that prior to that time Shari had never prayed aloud in a group and Mike had never prayed with a group at all. We're all still growing and learning.

I know the Plans I have for you.

This is a long story and there is just no way to cut it short without shortchanging the testimony about the lengths to which our loving God will go to help us grow. In the Spring of 1983 Randy was working full time, I was running a business at home that wouldn't be profitable for awhile yet, and we had one child in private school. Money was TIGHT.

One Sunday afternoon Randy walked past the desk and saw my Shell Gas card lying on top. What he noticed was that it didn't have my name on it.

"Sharman, whose Shell card is this?"

"Mine, I just gassed up."

"No, it has someone else's name on it. This isn't your card."

"WHAT???" I said in panic. And as I looked, sure enough, it was a Shell card, but it wasn't in my name.

"How long have you had this card?" he wanted to know. And there I stood - CLUELESS! Apparently the attendant at my regular gas station switched my gasoline credit card with another customer and I had no idea when the exchange had been made. My husband is quite a detective. He looked back thru all our Shell bills and found approximately when my little Datsun station wagon suddenly appeared to start guzzling gas. On the next business day he called the Shell Oil company's billing department and told them our problem.

I recall listening to his conversation with the woman from Shell; carefully explaining our problem and convincing her to look back thru their records to find out on what day the man and I had been in the station at the same time. They very graciously and patiently listened and then looked thru their records to see who had been in the station on the same day and time and who continued to use the same station. It had been three months ago. They did reluctantly agree to give us the information we needed to contact the other card holder.

We had the phone numbers we needed so Randy made the call. "Excuse me sir, my name is Randy Slye and you don't know me but I have the oddest story to tell you." As it turns out while I was driving my little Datsun to run errands and take the kids to school, the man who had my card was driving his great big van to commute to work in San Clemente. Shell said they would compute it all carefully and call us back. We hung up and forgot about it.

Billing cycles come and go and this same Sunday was 'do the bills day'. Earlier, during our church service, Randy had been struggling with the idea of tithing and that day had made a commitment to the Lord to try again. So when he sat down to do the bills and found the ends didn't meet if we tithed, he struggled again. In the end he wrote out the tithe check first and prayed over it trusting God to take care of the bills, because the Lord always has a plan.

Time went by and we were trying to plan our vacation for the following August. Cassie was six, Maggie-Rae was three and a half, and Christian was 4 months old. We had hoped to go to Yosemite for our traditional tent camping vacation that summer but Christian would still be crawling and we weren't sure we wanted to do THAT! We toyed with the idea of renting a

trailer but a week's rental was \$175.00. But our funds were tight so we kind of put that idea on the back burner. The bills were paid but that trailer would be a large 'extra'. 2/4

Camping in Yosemite takes planning because people all over the world compete for every available campsite in the Valley. At that time you could still camp inside the Park at Wawona without reservations on a 'first come' basis. That is what we hoped to do. The time to make a decision about the trailer came closer and closer but we hemmed and hawed and decided to put it off a little longer. Soon after that our mail contained a letter from Shell Oil. Randy stood near my desk and ripped open the envelope. The Shell people had run the numbers and sent us a check for \$175.00. We looked at each other and said "There's the money for our trailer!" not quite in unison, but close. Randy hadn't yet told me about the struggle he had had regarding our tithe, or about his step of faith in writing out the tithe check first, but he did when he realized what the Lord had done.

That was the first miracle of our story. But it wasn't the last.

I made the call for the trailer rental in Fresno and we put the dates on the August calendar. Life went along as usual during those months, but with great anticipation about our summer vacation - and finally, it was August.

I don't know how many of you have camped with a baby but there is a lot of stuff to take. We had been quite well organized with our tent camping and always had everything we needed carefully packed up in our Old Gold Travelall. One would think that going in a trailer would be easier.

If you have a trailer of your own you keep it stocked with all the necessities and just drive away after adding fresh food stuffs. And you are familiar with all the heating/cooling, braking, water and dumping systems. ADD TO THAT that I thought it would be a good idea to do all the shopping for the trip in Fresno while Randy was getting familiar with the trailer. Well, let's just say that showing up in Fresno, picking up the trailer, learning all the systems, and shopping for the supplies after traveling a good portion of the night - WAS A BAD IDEA! We were beat by the time we realized the car was overheating and there was no way we were making it to the Park that night. But the Lord was taking care of us and there was a campground at the side of the road just as the car DIED. We were just a few hundred feet higher in elevation than Fresno, which is desertish. It was over 100 degrees in Fresno and in the mid nineties when we pulled into the campground.. The owner took pity on us and allowed us to use his truck to park the trailer.

It was sweltering. Our car was broken, Cassie got stung by a bee and it was my 'time of the month'. My husband is a very patient man. Despite all these setbacks he set up the trailer and then left the campsite to figure out what was wrong with the car. So the kids and I had to unpack, stock all the shelves, cook supper and figure out how the beds worked.. The kids, then 6, 3 and 10 months were a lot of help to me, of course. And I truly hope nobody nearby knew I was a Christian because I have to say I cranked, and complained, and yelled in a most un-Christ-like manner. I remember sitting at the campfire complaining with vigor about the

weather, the trailer, the campsite, the kids....My poor husband had a broken down wife as well as a broken down car. At a time when he needed me to be that biblical helpmeet, I was his own personal witch!

But once again the Lord had a plan. The International Harvester Corp had ceased making cars some years earlier and the vintage car we drove had had a major breakdown. Fortunately they still made tractors and had left-over car parts available. When Randy called the International Parts place they said yes, their inventory showed they had two of the 'fan clutch/fan housing' assemblies left. One was in Texas. The other was in Fresno - 20 miles from us. Isn't the Lord Awesome! He had that part in the town closest to us right when we needed it. (What planning!)

But I wasn't really listening to the Lord at that time. I was in the throes of a full blown 'pity-party' and even tho the car was fixed and on the road by noon the next day I was still in a very -itchy ungrateful frame of mind. Believe me it showed. But you know God *still* loved me. He loved me enough to chasten me. "Whom the Lord loves, He chastens." and I was about to receive a dose of the tough love I needed.

We still had forty miles to go to get to Yosemite's entrance and further yet to the campground. We pulled out of that campground heading north and made it a total of 3 miles! Let me digress a moment and ask if you have ever heard the very distinctive sound of a large V8 engine throwing a rod. It is a very terrible sound, and well, we had heard that sound before and knew exactly what it was. Randy pulled over to the side of the road, turned to me and said "Well, that's the trip." Then he put his head down on the steering wheel. (Poor guy- he'd just spent ten-plus hours working on that car. My own heart dropped to my toes and I realized that I'd never really considered the possibility that after all this hoping, planning and anticipation, we wouldn't make it to Yosemite. I was so disappointed I could hardly talk but I told him I understood and that I was going to back to the trailer to get us all some cold drinks.

I schlumfed out my side of the Travelall and made my way around to the other side of our vehicles thinking dejectedly of all the fun I'd been looking forward to; of the beauty and grandure we weren't going to see this year. And then I prayed. "Lord, you gave me this beautiful trip and all I've done is throw rocks at your gift. I am so sorry."

It was when I reached my hand up to touch the doorknob of the trailer that the Lord spoke to my heart and told me that what had been wrong with the car was MY ATTITUDE and that the car would work now because I had repented of my sin. I stopped dead in my tracks, went back around the car and climbed in with an huge smile on my face. I told Randy what the Lord had shared and that he could start the car now. He stared at me for a few seconds, shook his head and said "No, Sharman, the car is dead, the trip is over." I started to repeat myself but then our six year old piped up "She's right Dad. I prayed and God said he fixed the car." Head down on the steering wheel, he sighed. He lifted his head, looked at both of us, and said "Okay" in a resigned voice. Then he turned the key - and she fired right up. I gotta tell ya we sang every praise song we knew for the next 40 miles.

Yet the Lord 's plan wasn't done.

It was getting to be late afternoon by the time we got close to Wawona campground. I expressed my concern that with the lateness of the hour, the campground would be full. Randy's answer was "No way, the Lord got us this far and He has a campsite for us! We stopped briefly to register and the Campground Host said he had some sites available and we could go look. We drove in the main loop of the campground, Randy spotted a campsite that would just fit our rig and we backed in.

Randy began setting up the trailer and thirty minutes or so later the campground Host dropped by. He helped Randy set up our water system and told him that when we showed up he wasn't sure we were going to get a spot to camp. What he hadn't told us earlier was that there were only three campsites left, only one of those would fit our rig, and two cars had just gone in ahead of us. Randy explained some of what we'd experienced in the last hundred miles and the man just shook his head and walked away.

As it turned out later that evening our kids met up with the kids in the next campsite and guess what, they were 'on fire' Christians. We spent the better part of a week in great fun and great fellowship. The following summer we bought a used trailer and used it to camp for the next seventeen years. The Lord had a plan.

But Someone was Praying

Each of us comes to find Jesus when we finally respond to the Holy Spirit's call. For some that is when we are children, for others near the end of our lives. Mom has passed on now. She's been at home with Jesus since 2003 and it seems unfair somehow to talk about the dark time in her life when she's not here to defend herself. But her story was a journey of faith for her children that brings glory to God and I hope her descendants will be blessed by it's telling.

Myrle Jean Burke Slye (Mom) had been going thru a dark time for quite a few years. The darkness included a divorce, losing a close friend to cancer, losing her Mother and her own hidden prescription drug addiction. It was a darkness made more devastating in that she had no relationship with Jesus Christ. Myrle had been raised going to church and she believed Jesus was the Son of God, but she had no personal commitment to Him. We know this because we asked her. She'd had an 'after death experience' in the 1950's in which she said she was traveling toward the light. "I already know I'm going to heaven when I die," she'd say. "When I died in 1955, before they brought me back, I was going towards the light."

After her mother, Granny (Bertha) Burke died, Mom moved in with her sister-in-law, Aunt Eva Carver. We had been aware that Mom used pills for neck and back pain and to go to sleep at night. We were concerned but we were unaware of the severity of the drug problem until Aunt Eva called Randy some months later. She told us that she had observed Mom's addiction first hand and had found hundreds of pills stashed in different places in the house. She asked us what to do. Randy told Aunt Eva to take all the pills out of the house and he would talk to Mom about her addiction. Randy did talk to Mom and said he loved her and was the one who told Aunt Evie to take the pills away.

The next morning around 5:30 A.M. we got a call from Aunt Eva saying Mom had had more pills stashed somewhere and tried to commit suicide. The paramedics were working on her at that moment but were only able to keep a pulse by doing CPR. When Myrle arrived at the hospital with the paramedics still working on her, she had a core temperature of 84 degrees. They put a tag on her toe marked DOA - Dead on Arrival - yet someone put her on life support.

As soon as Aunt Evie called at 5:30AM we contacted Russ Burke, Randy's brother. He drove up to our house in Oceanside and climbed in with Randy and me and our three small children to head north. Wendy, Russ's wife had a small baby and a three year old and stayed home. But she promised to pray. What a wonderful thing it is to have a faithful prayer warrior in the family.

We arrived at Great Grandma Slye's house (Margaret Slye, widow of Harold Slye) where she welcomed us and allowed us all to stay. When we got there we phoned Aunt Eva for another update. Then I stayed at the house with Great Grandma Slye and the kids and Randy and Russ went to the hospital to speak to the doctor who was caring for Mom.

When the men left for the hospital I called Wendy to update her on what we knew. She said she had been praying and that it didn't matter what the core temperature was or the tag on

Myrle's toe. She said that God was working and that Mom was not going to die. I was skeptical for a moment or two but then I was totally blessed and excited by what she said and so we prayed together for Mom's recovery. I believed God was indeed working.

The doctor who spoke to Randy and Russ about their Mom said that they had put her on life support but they had also done a brain scan of some sort and there was no measurable brain activity. The lady doctor said there was a 1% chance that she would ever wake up and if she did, she would be a vegetable. She said they should go home and think about taking her off life support.

When Randy called from the hospital to give me the bad news I told them what Wendy had said and agreed that God was doing a work. Randy is an intensive care nurse so he was quite familiar with the diagnosis. He had seen his mother in the bed, he had read the charts, and he agreed with the doctor's assessment. But Wendy was praying.

It was two very sad men who came back to Great Grandma's house. When Randy and Russ arrived they were both slump shouldered, walking slow and looking to one another, as brothers, for support to make this decision together. They came inside and repeated the doctor's opinion and the decision they had to make. I told them again that Wendy believed God was intervening but they were both skeptical.

I needed 'back-up' so I got Wendy on the phone once more. When I explained to Wendy what the doctor had said this time all she said was "NO, No, no! I've been praying and God has been speaking to my heart. Randy is to go back to the hospital and lay hands on Mom and God's going to heal her." I still had the receiver to my ear when I explained this all to Randy and Russ. Randy said decidedly "I've dealt with patients like this every day at the hospital. I know what they look like, Sharman. She's brain dead. That's it. It's over."

Wendy heard what Randy was saying and started to argue God's case in my ear. I repeated her arguments to the Randy and added some of my own about the Lord's ability to do this and how, since praying with Wendy about it, I thought he should do what she said. He began to restate his case and I finally just held up the receiver to him and said "You talk to her!" He did. That lasted a full 5-7 minutes before he threw up his hands and said "All right! I'll go pray!" Sometimes God has a hard time trying to bless us. But Wendy and Sharman were praying.

Randy and his brother went back to the hospital in the early evening. What a step of faith for him to even walk thru those doors *intending* to follow Gods' instructions. They went into Mom's room in the ICU; a place Randy was very familiar with. Randy stood at the bedside of a woman who was brain dead just like he'd stood at a hundred others. But he overcame the world's perspective on her and stepped out in faith.

I had stayed at Great Grandma's to put the kids to bed. About an hour and a half after they men left I got a call from Randy. "Tell Wendy she was right!" he shouted into the phone. Then he told me what happened at the hospital. When he got there he'd just started talking to his

Lord. There was no change for awhile but he kept praying. After a time he noticed that she had moved and he got excited. He continued to pray. Soon she was moving restlessly in the bed so he began calling to her. He was yelling in her ear.” (Mom...he doesn’t recall exactly what he said to her) That was when he saw her eyelids flutter and he knew that God had answered his prayer and would restore his Mother. After forty-five minutes of prayer they left her room. She was still unconscious...the machine was still breathing for her... but Wendy and Sharman and Randy were praying.

I called Wendy!

At 6 o’clock the next morning we got a call from the hospital saying that during the night Mom, though still only semi-conscious, had started fighting the machines and pulling at the tubing. This morning she was awake and sitting up talking to them. Did we want to come to the hospital, please?

We did a lot of rejoicing unto the Lord and then I called Wendy. What a phone call!

When we got to the hospital Mom apologized for her actions and said her doctor had found she had a breast lump and when we took her drugs away she had been afraid of the withdrawal from the drugs she’d been on for so many years. (She had good reason to fear because withdrawal from barbiturates and amphetamines is worse than from Heroin - and it includes things like heart attacks. She was shaking from it when we got there and we offered to pray with her right then for Jesus to take the withdrawal away - AND HE DID! She had no withdrawal whatever from a habit of over 30 years.

But that’s not the end of the story because Mom had quite a bit to say about what she experienced before God brought her back. She said it wasn’t like the last time at all where she was going towards the light. She said this time she was swimming in a black oily liquid and her arms were covered with heavy black stuff. When she tried to remove it she couldn’t and that every time she put her arm up above the surface - it was HOT. Randy and I were standing at her bedside when she told us this and I know my eyes were like saucers when I looked up at him. He began to go over the steps to salvation and ended by asking her if she wanted to receive Jesus into her heart as her Savior. Her immediate response was - ‘YES!’ She had been in the pit, but someone was praying. UNDERSTAND: If she had not been raised, she would not have been saved.

How often do we miss what God would do in our lives because we put him in a small box and say “He can’t ‘ OR ‘He doesn’t do that kind of stuff anymore’. These are the things He sent his followers out to do. As part of his instructions to the twelve as he sent them out he said: “ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; **freely you received, freely give.**” Matt.10:8 When he sent the seventy out he said much the same in Luke 10:1-21. How privileged we are to be able to pass on this heritage of Miracles of Christ to the ones who come after us. We’re praying that our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and so on will all find Christ to be the mighty God in their lives.

If you find yourself skeptical of miracles today then “History of Miracles/Healings”, and “The Authority of the Believer, included in this volume, gives the scriptural support for these statements and actions.

Don't be afraid

(Go boldly before the throne of God)

Come and See

(What the Lord will do)

Go and Tell

(What you have seen)

The **“Don't be afraid”** and **‘Come and See’** portions of this story are what had occurred with Randy's Mom, Myrle Burke. The **‘go and tell’** part was for my brother Mike.

My brother and I had chosen different paths early in life and we'd drifted apart to the point where we each got our news of the other thru our sister Shari. For years there was no strong desire for contact on either part. But God had a plan for healing that estrangement and so one morning when I first woke up, the Lord put it on my heart to pray for Michael. "Wow, that was out of the blue," I thought. But I prayed and the Lord kept putting him on my heart and as I began praying for him regularly, the Lord restored my desire for a relationship with him.

It's pretty hard to stay 'distant' from someone you're praying for and the Lord began to show me that 'that distance' was not a good thing. So I got his phone number from my sister and called him. Boy was he surprised "Well, HI?!" he said when he answered. 'Is everything all right??!'

In my own straight forward way I told him that 'the Lord' had put him on my heart and told me to pray for him. I also told him this 'distant' thing was no good anymore and I wanted us to be part of each other again. His response was to say "Well, our lifestyles are so different, if you think you can accept me, I'm okay with it." I don't remember

exactly what I said back to him other than that I loved him, but it must have been alright because we hung the phone up somewhat restored.

That was the beginning. Over the next months my sister and I prayed for Mike to receive Jesus into his heart. I called him periodically and we ‘chatted’. At that time my brother had been an alcoholic for fifteen years. Though I never spoke to him about drinking I was praying for that to go away.

It was during that period of time that Jesus brought Myrle back from a DOA tag on her toe to a relationship with Him. During the Fall immediately after Mom’s experience our family took our trailer to visit my sister in Joshua Tree, California. Then we stopped by my brother Mike’s place in the neighboring town of Yucca Valley. The afternoon slipped quickly by but I knew the Lord wanted me to **‘go and tell’** Mom’s story. So as we were standing by the car about to leave, I told him Mom’s miracle.

Mike knew all about the Lord because he’d spent fourth and fifth grades in Christian schools but he had walked away from any commitment to that many years before. However, he listened intently while I spoke. He was particularly impressed when, at the end of the story, she had no withdrawal from a 30 year prescription drug habit. (I won’t recount that whole wonder here because I assume you read ‘But someone was praying’ earlier in this volume. If not, stop here and read it or the rest of this will make no sense to you.)

When I left I knew I had shared what the Lord wanted me to.

I may only have spoken to Mike a couple of times between then and Christmas but I was praying for him almost daily. It was on Christmas, when my parents (Ray and Joy Woodmansee) were visiting Mike and his wife, that Michael suddenly fell terribly ill and Dad drove him to the veteran’s hospital.

As my father was telling me this story over the phone I was cringing inside. He told me the doctors had said Mike would be dead in a year if he didn’t stop drinking immediately. The veteran’s administration hospitals do not do DE-TOX so they sent a fifteen-year-alcoholic home with a bottle of librium and wished him luck. He was supposed to De-tox alone.

Anyone who’s ever heard of the D-T’s would be frightened and on the ride home in the car Mike turned to Dad and told him he wanted him to call me and ask me to pray. When Dad asked what I was to pray for Mike said quietly, “She’ll know.” “I DO!” I shouted in the phone when Dad called. And I did! I was to pray for Myrle’s miracle all over again for Mike. I was so blessed that the Lord sent me to **‘tell’**, that Mike

remembered the miracle, and that he asked me to pray. God answered once again with a miracle: Mike said he used only one of those pills; he had no call to use the rest. The Lord had answered our prayers for Mike: He was delivered of alcohol and he asked Jesus to be his Savior.

Two months later Mike left Yucca Valley because his old friends and old habits were a great temptation. He came to live in San Diego and at the end of a short period applied for a fabulous job at a fabulous hospital on the East Coast. He's been growing in the Lord ever since.

James 1:3 says "You have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend it on your pleasures." Christians, don't be afraid to go boldly before the Throne of God and ask. How will people know to do that unless they hear, and how will they hear unless someone tells them. GO AND TELL..

"For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13-15: 'how then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"

GO and TELL

Sometimes we falter.

The First Paramedic Run

Sometimes God asks something new, or difficult, or scary - and we falter. There are a **great many more instances like that in the Slye/Burke Clan than moments when we hear God's call clearly and obey immediately.** I personally could fill volumes with just the times I failed the Lord as a Mom, wife, daughter or friend. We're not here to boast on anything except what the LORD has done. In order that you know the goal of these chronicles is not to tout the perfect obedience of this family, we include, with his permission, a recounting of a time when Randy said 'no' to God.

Randy had been a Christian for a while before he was invited to attend a Full Gospel Businessmen's breakfast. In the 1980's this was a charismatic group of businessmen who hosted a weekly or bi-weekly breakfast/prayer meeting. They usually had a speaker as well. It was open to all Christians who believe in Jesus and many denominations were represented in the group he attended regularly for a year or more. As he read God's word and saw the results of obedience and stepping out in faith he grew in his own faith. And one day at work God asked *him* to step out.

We know from reading the New Testament that demon possession was quite common in Jesus time. It is common now among certain groups, but is most often labeled mental illness. That is what it was called on this particular day.

Randy had gone to work at the paramedic unit attached to Station 33. They had had some 'runs' as they call them, and for each one the radio dispatcher gave a short description of the patient they were to take care of. The police had been called to a home where family members said a woman was 'out of her head' and the police had called for the paramedics.

When Randy arrived the police were talking to her, trying to calm her and they were glad to have the paramedics arrive. From the first moment Randy walked in the room the woman cowered before him, hid her face, and told the police "Not him, don't let him come near me!" What Randy was hearing from God was the instruction 'Cast him out.'

He had never sensed this kind of discernment from the Lord, and his response was one of stunned disbelief, "No, not me Lord??"

This went on for some minutes. The police continued talking to the woman and whenever Randy would enter the room she would try to hide herself. At one point she hid behind a door.

And the Lord said again ‘Cast him out’.

He did not respond. The police helped the other paramedic deal with and restrain the woman and get her into the ambulance because she became violent/agitated each time Randy approached her. When she moved about she held up her hands and arms to protect herself as she passed by where he stood. “I watched the police haul the woman off like an animal being carried to slaughter and I was overwhelmed by my failure. She was carried out in front of her husband and her two 7-10 year old daughters.”

Randy said his spirit was grieved immediately and he had vowed never to let an opportunity go by again, yet a couple weeks later as he confided this incident to me he mourned his actions bitterly. He had repented multiple times but the guilt rested heavily on his heart. That was more of Satan’s work. Jesus’s death on the cross covered ALL disobedience for all time for those who are born again. We have to remember to walk in that forgiveness. The Holy Spirit brings enough conviction upon us to lead us to repentance. The enemy is the one who heaps condemnation on us after we’ve asked for forgiveness.

The Second Paramedic Run

We never know how our Heavenly Father will answer our prayers but we should never be surprised at how impressive it is when He does it.

I was a full-time Mother of two trying to run an as yet unprofitable home-business. I think I was also pregnant with our third child, Christian. Randy was hardly ever home because he was working ten-24 hour shifts per month as a paramedic plus two eight hour nursing shifts per week at the hospital just to make our ends meet. On his days off he was trying to put our home-business onto a computer. I had been praying for relief for our finances and work schedules. We were both stretched very thin though we’d researched various job alternatives, nothing had panned out.

It was a very busy Randy who reported for a 24 hour paramedic shift that day. Their first emergency run came mid-morning when they were told a woman was having ‘diabetic seizures’? The address was in a series of 1930's row-cabins each with a porch facing inwards on a common walkway.

When they arrived there were about thirty-five people gathered on the walkway near one cabin and there was what resembled a ‘football pile’ of men on the porch holding somebody down. As the paramedic team approached, two of the men *flew off* the pile. The woman these gentlemen were holding on to couldn’t have weighed more than 120 pounds.

Randy turned to his partner, Larry, and said “I know what this is. This is all about Satan. Larry, this is going to be a very different call.”

Once the pile of men saw the paramedics coming they released the woman. That’s when a huge deep voice began speaking to Randy from the woman’s body. “You can’t come here,” it shouted. “You can’t do anything here!” and hurling profanities. Then they all heard the woman’s small pleading voice saying, ”Help me...help me.”

It was when he strode closer to the woman that Randy heard the LORD say, “CAST HIM OUT”. Randy thought to himself, “you’re comin’ out” but to the woman, in front of that crowd of people and his partner he said, “My name is Randy Slye and I’m a paramedic, but I come to you right now in the name of Jesus. Do you want HIM to help you?”

“Yes,” came her reply.

Randy was still about ten steps away and he heard, alternating, the demon’s voice, then the woman’s voice so he said, “In the name of Jesus, ‘QUIET!!’”

To the woman he said, “Do you want Jesus to take him out?”

“Yes.” she answered.

In a loud voice Randy said, “In the name of Jesus, Come out!” There was shouting, loud growling, contorted facial features, and a stiff body. Then silence, relaxed face and voice, and a smile. “He’s gone, she said, he’s finally gone. He’d been with me a long time.”

Once she was ‘delivered’ of the demon Randy looked up. The courtyard was empty except for his partner. Every single onlooker had vanished and all the doors and windows were closed. The woman sat up, looked at Randy and said, “Thank you.”

Randy, his partner, and the woman went inside and Randy explained that though she was clean now, the only way to ensure that he never came back in was for her to ask Christ to be her Savior. (Matthew 12:43-45) They talked about Jesus for awhile, she confessed that she was a sinner and Randy led her through a sinner’s prayer. Then he got a telephone book and looked up a local church, called the pastor, and filled him in on what had just happened. “Can you send someone out so she can get connected with other believers?” The pastor assured him they would send someone and so Randy and his partner left.

Whew, what a day!

But God wasn't finished. When they went back to their rig Larry, a Jehovah's Witness, sat in the drivers seat and said 'What was that?' He was really shaken.

"The Jesus I worship is alive, and powerful. Even the demons obey him. They always have and always will. That girl knew who had set her free and her natural response was to thank Him, and accept His Free Gift offering of eternal life."

Then they finished their conversation and went back to the station. They had other calls that day but in the early afternoon another off-duty paramedic team showed up to take Larry and Randy's place. "They want you two down at the corporate offices." Randy knew immediately what they wanted to talk about.

Randy's boss, and former paramedic partner Paul, was waiting for them. "We got this phone call from an outraged husband of one of your patients, He said 'What, we call 911 and get Dial-a-Prayer?'"

Larry described the incident and then Paul turned to Randy, who agreed "Yeah, that's pretty much what happened."

"Why didn't you call the base station? Paul asked.

"When we were done she had no 'chief complaint' so I didn't call in - no reason to - she was fixed. And Paul, I want to say this was entirely my doing and Larry never even had the chance to object. I just ran the call my way." Paul asked Randy to step outside for a moment.

While Randy was waiting in the outer office he called home to tell me where he was - and why - and that he thought he was going to get fired. I sat with the phone clenched in my hand. I was amazed and blessed and excited all at once as the story of God's great work unfolded. I knew God had given Randy this opportunity because of what had happened on that other paramedic run. We prayed together and agreed that God's sovereignty is complete and His timing is perfect. If he got fired - he got fired. God was in charge. Then we hung up.

Paul called Randy back into his office and Randy told him was going to save him some trouble by resigning. Paul and Randy had worked together for a long time and Paul regretted seeing him go. "Are you sure?"

Randy called home to advise me and when he arrived I got to hear the whole

wonderful story of the woman's deliverance and her joy afterwards.

Whew! What a great day!

But it still wasn't over.

That afternoon Randy called the hospital where he worked his 'second job' as a part-time nurse in ICU. He asked his supervisor for an extra shift and told her he had quit his paramedic job. She asked him to come see her. By the end of that same day he had a full-time position that paid more than his other two jobs put together and he'd be working 100 less hours per month. When the Lord Jesus answers a prayer He doesn't fool around.

Often we put our Jesus in a small 'box' and He breaks out of our image in the most spectacular ways. My prayers were answered AND a woman enslaved was set free. Not only that but Randy's unsaved partner, the husband, all the men who held her down, and all the neighbors who witnessed her deliverance had to deal with the obvious spiritual battle, the reality of Satan, and the POWER OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST.

What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? Fear not, come and see, and go and tell. So we did. We told everyone who would listen - even our unsaved acquaintances. What a powerful testimony this episode is to God's power and His love. That is why we wanted to record it here for our family.

But Jesus wasn't finished yet.

A year or more later we got a call from Randy's old partner. "They found me," he said "and they want to talk to you."

"Who?"

"The L.A. TIMES! I didn't give them your name I just wanted to know what you want me to tell them."

"I'll think about it" and Randy hung up.

We weren't sure what to do because while it was a great chance to witness to thousands - it could be 'spun', mishandled, and slanted by the media. We sought advice from our pastor and we prayed. The Lord's answer to Randy was "don't cast your pearls before swine lest they turn and tear you apart. So Randy called Larry back and said, "NO, I don't want to talk to them. This story is for you. You know what you saw. It's about you dealing with that."

But God still wasn't finished using this miracle.

When the story, minus Randy's accurate input, did come out in the L.A. Times it caused quite a stir. Randy had immediately told his Full Gospel Men's Prayer group the whole wonderful story right when it had happened. One of those men heard his own pastor speak to his congregation about the newspaper article. He said that this event was just the kind of thing Christian's were not supposed to go around doing because it brought criticism and shame. Because the man knew Randy, and knew the real story, he had the chance to go to his pastor and tell him he, and the newspaper, had it all wrong, that this had been a glorious outpouring of God's power thru the work of the Holy Spirit.

Satan will always try to lie and undermine our belief in the authority of the believer - but if we know what God's Word clearly teaches about these things, we will not be fooled. Do you know what authority you have in Christ, IF you have asked Jesus to come live in your heart?

For a more in depth treatment of this subject go to www.famrapturelegacy.com and on the home page you will find the APPENDIX TO the children's book "The Armor of God". This appendix is FOR ADULTS ONLY, though the book is for children who are born again above the ages of 8-9.

Put on the full Armor of God

Based on Ephesians 6:10-17

Submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:5-8a

Choose a few of these words, or a few of your own, and speak them aloud:

Heavenly Father - I put on the Helmet of Salvation. I thank you that I belong to you, the Awesome Omnipotent God of the Universe - that you have carved me on the palm of your hand - that you have transferred me out of the Kingdom of Darkness and into Your Kingdom of light. That I am Precious to you. Help me to walk as a child of the Light this day. (Isaiah 43:1, Is 49:15-16, 1 Pet.2:9, Is. 43:4, 1 Jn 1:7)

I put on the Belt of truth. Jesus you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through You. Thank you for bringing me to the Father. Thank you, Father, for accepting me for Jesus sake. Gird me in your truth and pass thru the waters with me this day.(Jn 14:6, John 1:4, Jn 11:25, 2 Cor 4:10, Is. 43:2)

I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness - not my righteousness Lord, but yours. Thank you for the robe of white that covers me because of you're your death on the cross for me. Thank you for your cleansing blood. (Is 43:25, Rom 1:17, Rom 3:22, Rom 3:25, Rev 6:11)

I cover my feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace - Thank you Father that there is no longer enmity between us. Thank you that I can **come into the Holy of Holies without fear but with boldness** to seek your face. Let me be a witness for you today in as much as I have hidden Your Word in my heart. (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6, Rom 5:8, James 4:4, Ex. 25:25+)

I pick up the Shield of Faith. Build my faith Lord, for my faith in You is the most important thing I have. Help me never to doubt for doubting is the worst. I will wait on you that you may build my strength. King of Glory I thank you that you look upon my miserable state and turn your powerful eyes towards fixing my problems. Alleluia!(Rom 8:31, Matt 6:30, Isaiah 40:29-31)

I pick up the Sword of the Spirit, which is Your Word, O Lord, that I might stand against the darts of the enemy. Turn the Sword of your Word upon me and cut between the marrow and the bone of my sin. Reveal it to me that I might not sin against you. I don't want it, take it - let's get rid of it. Thank you that I am no longer a slave to sin. (Rom 6:6,7,14, Is 55:11, Rom 8:31, Eph 6:10-15, Heb. 4:12-13,

Alleluia

Submit yourself to God
Resist the Devil and he will flee

Shane

Shane was nine years old when he came to the ICU. He'd been sick for over a week but his father, an alcoholic, didn't realize how very sick Shane was until his appendix had already burst.

Even in the 1980's when this occurred, a patient with a burst appendix was hard to save. It meant that the doctors had to do surgery to find and remove *all* the poison that had spread throughout Shane's abdomen - or it would kill him. It is extremely difficult but you can tell if the doctor was successful because the patient gets well. They have no fever, they eat well, their white blood cell count stays normal. The hallmarks of failure are just the opposite. Shane had been on the unit a month and had had three surgeries to try clean out the infection.

That morning when Randy went to work Shane was vomiting, his white count was up and his fever had spiked. At that time there was another Christian nurse, Margie, on that unit and they had been watching Shane decline. Shane was Randy's assignment for that day and when he heard the report and saw the boy he sought out Margie. He told her "If God doesn't intervene, Shane is going to die" and they agreed that they would stand together in prayer for Shane "for where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them."(Matt.18:19-20) They arranged a time at the end of the shift and then each went about their duties.

During the shift Randy began talking to Shane and telling him all the times Jesus had healed people in the Bible. Then he told him that Jesus is God and that HE still answers prayers like that today. Then Randy recounted other times in our own lives when God had answered prayers for healing and how Christians often came together to pray for an individual who was ill. Shane listened with interest. At the end of the shift the nurses came together and Randy asked Shane if he could pray for Jesus to heal him. Shane said yes.

Talking about this 20 years later it is hard to remember every word of

the prayer that went on in that room but it went on for quite awhile. I recall Randy telling me that both nurses prayed for healing as well as taking authority over any demonic forces that might be trying to influence the situation. When they were finished Shane went to sleep.

Randy left work that night confident that the Lord had heard their prayers. He worked a different unit the next day but peeked his head in to speak to the nurse in charge of Shane for the day. "How's Shane?" he asked.

"His fever is gone, he's eating everything in sight and his white count is dropping like a stone!"

They moved Shane off the ICU before Randy had a chance to talk to him. But the next day Randy found his room. The doctor was examining Shane at the time so he waited outside with the boys' father, who was tearful with relief. Again Randy cannot recall the exact conversation, but he made the point that it was Christ who had healed the boy. When the doctor left and while the father was still outside, Randy walked into the room. When Shane saw him his eyes lit up and he exclaimed "RANDY! HE DID EVERYTHING YOU ASKED HIM TO!"

History of Miracles/Healings

Ex 4:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

Ps 78:11 They forgot what he had done, and the miracles that he had shown them.

Ps 78:43 when he wrought his signs in Egypt, and his miracles in the fields of Zoan.

Ps 105:5 Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

Ps 105:27 They wrought his signs among them, and miracles in the land of Ham.

Ac 8:13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Ac 19:11 And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

Ga 3:5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

Heb 2:4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will.

Why did Jesus do Miracles and Healings here on earth?

1. So that mankind would recognize who he was and where he came from: and therefore believe in Him.

John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

John 20:30-31 Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ; and that believing you may have life in his name."

Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, **he had compassion on her** and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 **And the dead man sat up, and began to speak.** And he gave him to his mother.

16 Fear seized them all; and **they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!"** and "God has visited his people!"

17 **And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.**

2. Because He had COMPASSION on the people he loved, and he loved them ALL.

Mt 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mt 14:14 As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and **he had compassion on them, and healed their sick.**

Mt 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **"I have compassion on the crowd,** because they have been with me now three days, and have nothing to eat; and I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Mr 6:34 As he went ashore he saw a great throng, **and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.**

Mr 8:2 "I have **compassion on the crowd,** because they have been with me now three days, and have nothing to eat;

Who was Jesus speaking to in each of the following verse passages?

Luke 9:1,2

- 1 ¶ And he called ***the twelve*** together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,
- 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal.
- 6 And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Luke 10:1,8-9,16-20

After this ***the Lord appointed seventy others***, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come.

8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you;
9 heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

16 "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

17 ¶ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you.

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will.

1 ¶ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

2 And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

3 Therefore, brethren, ***pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty.***

4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and ***Philip***, and Prochorus, and Nicanor,

and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them.

Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ.

6 And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and **saw the signs which he did.**

7 For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

8 **So there was much joy in that city.**

HOW DO WE PRAY?

1 John 5:11-14

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life.

13 I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 ¶ And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything **according to his will** he hears us.

15 **And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.**

Abiding

TIE THESE PASSAGES TOGETHER WITH THE NEXT ONE AND YOU WILL HAVE THE ANSWER to the question: How do we pray?

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 ¶ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.**

Mt 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

TIE THESE PASSAGES TOGETHER WITH THE NEXT ONE AND YOU WILL HAVE THE ANSWER:

John 14:10 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; **but the Father who dwells in me does his works.**

11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 ¶ "Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.**

13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son;

14 if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

15 ¶ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Joh 15:7 **If ye abide in me**, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: **that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

23 ¶ **And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.**

24 **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when

I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

John 16:19-22

Mt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Does our Leadership say this today in Calvary Chapel?

In his sermon of May 16, 1999 Pastor Rob Salvato, Calvary Chapel Vista, said that Jesus' personal letter to the church at Ephesus in Revelation Chapter 2 is talking about the church in the of the Book of the Acts, during the first years after Jesus went back to heaven. When we look at the miracles done to prove that the source of the teaching about Jesus death and resurrection is God, we see the believers stepping out to do the same things Jesus did: preach the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead.. In Rev. 2 speaking some 60+ years after going back to heaven, Jesus is scolding them and telling them to go back to doing those things they did at first when the fire of their love for him burned brightly. When He was first in their lives in all things. When they devoted themselves to prayer and the word of God.

Acts chapter 3: Healing the Lame Beggar. " And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

See also: Acts 2:14-40 Peter, who denied Jesus in fear, preaches in public to thousands

Acts 8:5-8 Paralyzed man healed

Acts 9:32-42, Paralytic healed, woman raised from the dead

Acts 12:1-11 Peter delivered from prison thru prayer

Acts 16:16-18 Girl delivered from demon

Pastor Chuck Smith tells of praying individually and laying hands on an entire line of people after service at the front of the church. The last man in line was in a wheel chair and was accompanied by his family. Pastor Chuck prayed that the Lord would touch him and completely heal him. When he was finished the man stood and walked - he was completely healed. His family looked dumbfounded and told pastor Chuck that they had brought him forward to be prayed for

because he had a bad cold. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT GOD HAS IN MIND - you have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives to spend it on your selfish pleasures.

The miracles in this book are recorded so that you may not forget Jesus is Sovereign Creator- It is this Jesus who we serve and seek to glorify here.

Miracles - Faith Enough to Ask

In the spring of 1997 my brother Wayne's wife was dying of brain cancer.

During that time he and I talked on the phone a lot, encouraging each other thru this trial. We each carried her need to our prayer groups and asked the LORD for her complete and total healing. We encouraged each other by retelling the modern day miracles God had already done in our own lives, and those close to us.

One day my brother said to me, "If He doesn't heal her before her death, then will you pray with me for God to raise her from the dead?"

"I believe God can do anything," I replied.

We each searched the scriptures for accounts of Jesus's healing on earth. We studied Acts to find out what the early church practiced, and continued to plead for her healing. And I asked "Lord, would you have me pray for her to be raised from the dead? Are you still doing these kinds of things today."

In my search I rediscovered the scripture in James 4:1-3 "...You have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives, to spend it on your pleasures." This scripture, along with others seemed to sear into my consciousness. Was it possible that we miss some of the good things God has for our lives, simply because we don't ask? Do we put God in a small box? Are there miracles out there as a part of God's will for our lives, but we miss them because we accept anything that comes along as **God's Will** without asking for the desire of our hearts? Have we accepted a doctrine that all events are fixed in advance for all time in such a manner that human beings are powerless, even thru prayer to Almighty God, to change them. All these questions I asked myself as I studied.. Still I was afraid, somehow, to ask for the raising of the dead. Was I willing to be a vessel Christ would use?

That same winter the 'yearly' flu was an upper respiratory infection/bronchitis lasting 3-4 weeks in everyone. I'd caught it and in kindness to my husband, who needed his sleep, I camped out on an air mattress in the living room, rather than our bedroom. After three weeks an accumulation of books, papers, and junk had piled up on the floor next to my makeshift bed.

One afternoon I was lying there talking on the phone with a friend. When I hung up I reached over to put the phone next to the pile on the floor. Now I needed a trip to the kitchen. As I rose from my bed and started across the living room I realized I still had my pen in my hand. Knowing that if I set it down anywhere while I was up I'd have to

yank myself out of bed to retrieve it, I simply turned on my heel and tossed the pen back towards the pile. My new \$300.00 Verilux tri-focal glasses were resting on top of my pile of stuff. The tip of the pen hit them squarely in the center of one expensive lens. The clink was LOUD.

“Oh no,” I thought. “OH NO, OH NO, OH NO!” I walked around the room for a full 60 seconds, not having the courage to walk over and confirm my suspicions, my firm belief, that I had scratched the lens. When I finally approached and picked them, my worst fears were confirmed. A scratch almost a quarter of an inch long was right in the middle of my lens.

“No,” I argued with myself, “perhaps its just something smeared on there.” So I rubbed over the surface with the fingernail of my little finger. My nail caught in the deep scratch.

“No, no, NO No No NO” I thought, and then, “our finances are so bad right now. Randy doesn’t have \$300.00 to replace these.” And at that moment I remembered the scripture: “You have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives...” In an instant I raised my glasses in both hands to the Lord and cried out to Him aloud, “Lord, Randy doesn’t have \$300.00 for new glasses right now. Could you please fix these? And then a smile came to my heart and my lips and I knew He had done it. In the next moment I brought those glasses back down to eye level. That deep scratch was gone!!! Bronchitis or not, I sang and praised my Lord for a long time, because of His great power and love turned and focused on me and my problems.

So what was the lesson for me? “Go ahead and ask! I love you and **I AM** the same God I always was. I’m still have miracles for my people.”

In the Spring I went to Phoenix to stay with my brother because he needed some family support for his two little children. His wife was confined to bed and she was taking no food and little to drink. Trying to discern the Lord’s will, I put out a ‘fleece’ of sorts. I told the Lord I’d be faithful to pray for her to be raised, if that was His will, if she died during the week that I was there. “If its your will that I be here to pray for her raising, then let it be.” She went to be with Jesus two days after I had returned to my family. My brother and his fellowship prayed over her lifeless body, and even though Jesus said “no” this time, I know that He smiled because they had faith enough to ask.

I know that my sovereign God loves me enough to say ‘No’ when ‘No’ is the answer I need. This is the ground I stand on, and then I begin to pray, because I also know that He is the same God he always was, and He still has miracles for His people.

James 4:1-3

1. What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures [physical, emotional, material] that wage war in your members?

2. You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have because you do not ask.**

3. You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, yes and forever

“Cursillo” is a retreat movement originated in the Roman Catholic church but adapted to Protestant faith in the early 1960's -70's by the conservative wing of the Episcopal Church. Husbands and wives, single men and women, attend separate and highly secret (from each partner) three day weekends. Secrecy is necessary because of the many wonderful ‘surprises’ the weekends hold that would be ruined if word got out. It was an incredible faith-and-love building experience for both Randy and I and we wanted my father, Ray Woodmansee, to be as blessed as we were. We decided to be his sponsors for a weekend away with the LORD.

Dad was skeptical about the secrecy part but thankfully he trusted us enough to say ‘yes’. So we found a Cursillo retreat being put on in Los Angeles County and made arrangements to pick him up and drive him to it.

We’d been praying for him, as that is one major responsibility of the ‘sponsors’. When we arrived at his home he was ready but said he was feeling very ill. When he told us he had stomach pains and was very cold we could see the whole weekend going up in smoke so we redoubled our prayers. Dad agreed to go in spite of how he felt.

The retreat center was quite a distance from his house and we stopped for dinner. He ate very little and excused himself to the Men’s room. Randy and I prayed and Dad, despite his extreme discomfort, said he wanted to continue the journey.

After dinner we still had a ways to go to the retreat. Dad was feeling so cold and so bad he was lying down in the back seat covered up with our coats. He was really miserable - but he really wanted to go to Cursillo. (I think partly he didn’t want to disappoint us.)

When we arrived at the church Randy hurried in to find the hosts. We did not know them but we knew they were brothers in Christ who believed in the power of prayer or they wouldn’t be part of the Cursillo movement. “Wait here,” Randy told Dad. When he came back he brought some other people and he said to Dad ‘Come out here, Woody. These guys are going to lay hands on you and pray for you.’ And they did.

We all went inside and sat down for some donuts, cider, and fellowship. Half an hour later Dad was telling us how good he felt. Randy and I stayed awhile and then he told us to ‘go on home’. Dad spent the entire three days and had no more problems.

When, twenty-some years later, I told Dad I was writing down all the miracles of God

that family members had been blessed with, the first thing he said was 'that's a good idea'. The next time I talked to him about it I told him that as I was writing I was remembering more and more things the Lord had done and was actually having to make a list so I wouldn't leave anything out. He said "Is my miracle on it?" That is how all of us feel who have experienced these touches from God. They are 'our miracles' - just like the ones in the New Testament, but our very own.

Even in the Middle of the night?

Mom (Myrle Burke Slye) lived with us for several months after the LORD raised her back from 'brain death' and a DOA tag on her toe. In the middle of one night I heard her calling to me and I walked across the hall to find her sitting up in bed with a bloody tissue to her nose. She apologized for waking me but said though she had had nosebleeds before, she had been struggling with this one for sometime now and couldn't get it stopped.

I tried the usual remedies for awhile including the 'never fail' nose pinch, but without success. It wasn't working and I finally realized my only solutions were either to ask Jesus or wake three little kids and take everybody to the Emergency Room.

I picked Jesus and told Mom we needed to pray. My prayer was something along the lines of 'Lord, we need your help and we ask you to touch Mom's nose right now.' And, as was my habit, afterwards reminding Satan that if he had anything to do with this that he had no authority here, that we rebuked him in Jesus name, to get his hands off! The bleeding ceased. Not one more drop of blood came out of her nose.

The New Testament is full of the spiritual and physical miracles of Jesus Christ. If we are indeed the New Testament Church then Jesus intends for our lives to be filled with the same. Most of us do expect the spiritual miracles of salvation, faith, growth and spiritual healing to be part of our everyday lives and that is true if we are 'abiding' in Christ. But what about physical miracles. Have we put Our Lord in a small box that says He can't or He doesn't any more?

This means that when emergencies, large and small, occur in my daily life - I look first to God for the solution. He sometimes expects us to use the brain He gave us and the experience we have gained, but other times to go boldly to Him and ask for His divine intervention. Like the time He fixed my glasses? That prayer was an immediate and desperate response based on the faith He'd built up in me by the reading of His Word. His answer was immediate and decisive, just like the nosebleed. We just have to take Our Lord God out of the small box we've put Him in and remember to ASK!

How old is old enough?

Maggie was a very active eight year old when she started complaining that her back hurt. She said she had hurt it in gymnastics class and it gave her pain when she walked. Though it hurt her we could see no bumps or bruises so we figured it would heal as long as she stayed active. (Whoever heard of an 8 year old with back problems? Right?)

This went on for a number of weeks but she played normally so we forgot about it. She would occasionally remark that her back hurt.

One Sunday our pastor reviewed many of the healings in Jesus' ministry as part of his sermon. At the end he added that there was always someone in the side chapel after church who stayed to pray with anyone needing prayer.

As soon as the service was over Maggie looked up at me and said "I'm going to go get my back prayed for!" I was surprised but her tone was so sure and confident that I was excited for her. She went up front in the chapel area and waited in the line of people for her turn.

When she got up to the front of the line she told them why she was there. The folks gathered there placed their hands on her and prayed for healing of her back.

Maggie quietly left the chapel, went outside, and started doing cartwheels. She ran up to me and said "The Lord fixed my back! See!" And she did several so I could see. We never heard another word about a sore back and as I am writing this eighteen years later it was Maggie who reminded me of this and wanted it in this volume.

**Let no one look down on your youthfulness,
but rather in speech, conduct, love faith and purity,
show yourself an example of those who believe.
1 Timothy 4:12**

Charlene - Linda and Corey

We often hear of great healings, miraculous works, and sometimes even people being raised from the dead. But it is almost always some anonymous person in a far off place. I wanted to document two miraculous movings of our God that, although they did not happen to a Slye family member, they did happen to those we've known long and well and trust to be truthful handlers of God's miracles.

The first miracle was given to all of us through Charlene and Roy, Kasey, Jennifer and Brian who are all friends of the Slye Clan. The following is what Roy wrote down for us when it was all over. At the end of his testimony I have added what Charlene told me over the phone the day she came back from the surgery.

Ok. Here is a miracle for you:

by Roy Parker

Charlene Parker is a highly experienced registered nurse in oncology - cancer nursing. She has worked on the cutting edge of cancer treatment in bone marrow transplants, and is currently running an infusion center in Vista California. Her assessment skills have been described as impeccable by her peers and her doctors. She knows her profession in cancer treatment from first discovery of the disease to its cure or its final progression. This is the story of Charlene's personal encounter with cancer.

8/16-04 - For some while Charlene had noted a feeling of heaviness in her lower abdomen and she was having lower back pain - hardly able to stand at times. She decided it would be a good time to go for her semiannual check up and mention her complaints to our Doctor. Our family health physician, Dr. Teregis, noted that her uterus was enlarged, equivalent to a thirteen week pregnancy (which is not possible), and scheduled her for a sonogram. *We began to pray.*

8/23/04- The sonogram did not look good. Charlene began to suspect something abnormal when the technician went to get her supervisor and together they took an extensive number of pictures - politely declining to discuss them. The sonogram showed Charlene's right ovary was twice normal size and was described as having a collection of 'multi thin septations and vascularity' associated with it, i.e. a tumor with its own blood supply. Also her uterus appeared misshapen - really not good!! When the OBGYN surgeon, Dr. Kelly, reviewed the sonogram and examined Charlene, she recommended that Charlene be referred further to an oncology surgeon, one who deals with cancer surgery. *We began to pray harder and asked others to pray.*

8/30/04 - The oncology surgeon, Dr. Bahador, reviewed the sonogram and sent Charlene for a CT scan. The radiologist report on Charlene's scan described a 'loculated mass' behind the uterus with right and left components with over all measurements difficult to determine. There were two lesions noted on her liver and both her ovaries appeared irregular. Her uterus was described as irregular and heterogeneous - tumorous. The surgeon recommended 2/4 surgery to remove the mas and a complete hysterectomy. Extremely NOT good! *At this point there were people all over the world praying for Charlene.*

8/30 - 9/9 - During this time there was a lot of worrying, a lot of discussion about what it could be, what was hoped, and what we should do if...and praying became intense. Also during this entire time Charlene complained that her lower abdomen felt warm inside, almost hot at times. On 9/3 the Dr. Had no explanation for the feeling of warmth, but he did not believe an infection was indicated. Surgery was moved up from 9-14 to 9/9.

9/49/04 - We checked Charlene into surgery admissions at 5:30 AM. Her surgery was scheduled to begin at 7:30 and Dr. Bahador told us it would take about three hours or so. His plan was to remove the right ovary using a laparoscopically and have it examined by pathology for cancer. If there was no cancer in the ovary he would then perform a total vaginal hysterectomy. If the ovary was cancerous he would make a full length abdominal incision, and this procedure could take more than three hours depending on what he found.

I was shown to the waiting room and told that the Dr. Would come out to let me know what they had found and which approach he would be taking. He estimated this would not be before 9:0AM I decided to go outside in a quiet area to do some praying and just talk to God. I planned to be back in the waiting room by 8:30 A little after 8:00 something told me to go back to the waiting room and s I walked in the volunteer attendant asked if I was Mr. Parker. She told me that the Dr. wanted to talk to me. This was very frightening; it was far too early! What could have gone wrong. After ten of the longest minutes, Dr. Bahador came through the door with a beaming smile on his face and a hand full of photographs he had taken using the laparoscope. He went over the photographs showing me two healthy normal sized ovaries, a healthy normal uterus with no mass behind it. The only thing he found was laying at the very bottom of her abdominal cavity. In the picture it looked like a sandwich baggie filled with small leftover lifeless 'body parts', in other words a little trash bag. The little 3 oz. 'Package' had been attached to nothing and he removed it easily through the small incision . He said "No further procedures are necessary, Charlene is in recovery, and as soon as the anesthesia wears off you can take her home." I asked Dr. Bahador what could have happened to the mass and the enlarged misshapen ovaries and the irregular uterus. He

smiled broadly - he was obviously very happy too - and said, 'I was very very surprised to see how healthy your wife's organs appeared after what we saw on the sonogram and the CT scan. Very pleasantly surprised.'" The Dr. Stood, we shook hand and I thanked him, not wanting to spoil the moment by questioning the good news further as he walked away I was struck with the realization 'Dr. Bahador you may not realize it, but you just witnessed a miracle.'" Then again, perhaps he does.

Praise the LORD!!!!

Now, for those of you who like a summary, here is a shorter way of describing what happened. Three Doctors physically examined Charlene, each with increasing concern. Two imagings were made each quite definitively indicating major deformities in her organs and a mass.

There is no way to connect the dots here unless something drastically - miraculously - changed the physiology of Charlene's organs or somehow both of Charlene's imagings taken at different times and different places and of different types were somehow switched. Remember, also, all three Doctors performed physical examinations and felt the very same abnormalities that the images indicated. And finally, Charlene's back is no longer bothering her.

3/4

Roy Parker

(Sharman's telephone conversation with Charlene when she got home that day.)

When Charlene got home from the hospital the same day described above, she blessed me with a phone call. The following is her own account, as best I can quote her.

"The Doctor came in to the recovery room and said 'Charlene, when I went into that room I fully intended to do a complete Hysterectomy on you. But when I looked at your ovaries they were both perfectly healthy. Then I looked at your uterus and it was perfectly healthy. Then I looked behind your uterus and saw something I had never seen before. It looked like a baggie' full of tumors so I searched all the way around it to find where it was connected to your abdomen (every tumor has a blood supply). Charlene, it wasn't attached to you anywhere. It was just a little package sitting there waiting for me. The only thing it didn't have on it was a ribbon. All I had to do was take hold of it and draw it out thru the opening I had already made."

The tumors in the sac were biopsied and found to be benign. So what was the purpose of this miracle? The Lord often heals people with cancer and the evidence is found when the surgery reveals healthy tissue where the pictures showed obvious cancer. Our Lord could have done it that way once again. But He didn't. He left that package

for the surgeon to find. Proof that the Great Physician had already been there, done an unusual miracle - and left His fingerprints.

Why? I believe it was to build the faith of His people. What a loving and gracious gift. What a tender and powerful God.

Linda and Cory

This second miracle isn't really ours to tell but the power of the story is so great that it must be told. For the sake of privacy the names have been changed. We'll call them Linda and Cory.

Close friends of one of the Slye Clan married at the age of 23 and within three months of the ceremony the husband was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The young man, a dedicated Christian, went thru every test and every treatment the doctors ordered for the next three years. Finally, he was in the hospital in a coma. His wife watched over him carefully and when he had been in the coma for a couple of days, she noticed he was twitching or trembling as tho he were in pain. She asked the nurse for the dose of morphine that could be squeezed into his mouth. She didn't want him to suffer any more.

The nurse administered the morphine and the young man gagged on it, woke up and sat up in the bed. His young wife was amazed but had two whole hours of prayer and fellowship with the one she had never expected to speak to again. He told her some very special things. 'Linda, I'm going to die today.' He smiled. "Alright" she replied and he slipped back into the coma.

A couple of hours later he began shaking again and she asked for another dose of the morphine.

The nurse again brought the dose, he again gagged on it, and awoke and sat up. They talked.

"Linda, he said, 'I'm going to die... now.'"

"Alright," she replied.

She was seated on the edge of the bed holding him and he was looking over her shoulder.

He said, 'Linda, I see Him. I see Jesus!'

"What does he look like?" she asked.

"He's beautiful, He's so beautiful!"

"Corey, am I even worthy to be here?"

"No" he said, "you're not. But you're clothed. And I'm clothed."

"Ask Him when you're going to die."

All Corey said was '9994', '9994'. He repeated it several times and slipped back into a coma.

Corey went home to the LORD on September 9th at 9:04 in the morning.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD

Is the death of His godly ones.'

Psalms 116:15

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

1 Peter 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 ¶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

OUR ACCUSER

1 Peter 5:8 ¶ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

OUR DEFENDER

Romans 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies;

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Isaiah 54:17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, says the

LORD."

Matthew 16:18 And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

GOD'S ATTITUDE

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry.

The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Ps. 34:15-18

OUR SWORD

2 Corinthians 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do (Heb 4:12-13)

OUR SHIELD

For thou dost bless the righteous, O LORD; thou dost cover him with favor as with a shield. Ps 5:12

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Prov. 30:5

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. 1John 5:4-5 The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro over the earth seeking those whose hearts are truly his.

For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith. Romans 1:17

But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 Thes. 5:8

Put on the full Armor of God

Based on Ephesians 6:10-17

**Submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:5-8a**

**Choose a few of these words, or a few of your own, and speak them
aloud:**

Heavenly Father - I put on the Helmet of Salvation. I thank you that I belong to you, the Awesome Omnipotent God of the Universe - that you have carved me on the palm of your hand - that you have transferred me out of the Kingdom of Darkness and into Your Kingdom of light. That I am Precious to you. Help me to walk as a child of the Light this day. (Isaiah 43:1, Is 49:15-16, 1 Pet.2:9, Is. 43:4, 1 Jn 1:7)

I put on the Belt of truth. Jesus you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through You. Thank you for bringing me to the Father. Thank you, Father, for accepting me for Jesus sake. Gird me in your truth and pass thru the waters with me this day.(Jn 14:6, John 1:4, Jn 11:25, 2 Cor 4:10, Is. 43:2)

I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness - not my righteousness Lord, but yours. Thank you for the robe of white that covers me because of you're your death on the cross for me. Thank you for your cleansing blood. (Is 43:25, Rom 1:17, Rom 3:22, Rom 3:25, Rev 6:11)

I cover my feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace - Thank you Father that there is no longer enmity between us. Thank you that I can come into the Holy of Holies without fear but with boldness to seek your face. Let me be a witness for you today in as much as I have hidden Your Word in my heart. (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6, Rom 5:8, James 4:4, Ex. 25:25+)

I pick up the Shield of Faith. Build my faith Lord, for my faith in You is

the most important thing I have. Help me never to doubt for doubting is the worst. I will wait on you that you may build my strength. King of Glory I thank you that you look upon my miserable state and turn your powerful eyes towards fixing my problems. Alleluia!(Rom 8:31, Matt 6:30, Isaiah 40:29-31)

I pick up the Sword of the Spirit, which is Your Word, O Lord, that I might stand against the darts of the enemy. Turn the Sword of your Word upon me and cut between the marrow and the bone of my sin. Reveal it to me that I might not sin against you. I don't want it, take it - let's get rid of it. Thank you that I am no longer a slave to sin. (Rom 6:6,7,14, Is 55:11, Rom 8:31, Eph 6:10-15, Heb. 4:12-13,

Alleluia

Submit yourself to God
Resist the Devil and he will flee

Authority of the Believer

Satan Cast out

29 The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

31 Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out;

32 and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

John 12:29-31

Satan's Ultimate Destiny

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Rev. 20:10

The Holy Spirit's presence - Jesus has not left us as orphans!

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the HELPER shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. JOHN 16:7

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another HELPER, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. JOHN 12:16-17

Eph 1:13 In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

John 17:15 I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one.

Eph 3:9-19 and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

10 that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

11 This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

12 in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him.

13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

14 ¶ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man,

17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.

1 John 4:4

¶ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has

come in the flesh is of God,

3 and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already.
4 ¶ Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

What are we told to do?

Jas 4:5-8

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desire the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says 'GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.' 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

John 14:7-12 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

¶ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. John 14:7-12

¶ And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease... ..These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: ***freely ye have received, freely give***. (Matthew 10:1-8 AV)

¶ Then he called his ***twelve disciples*** together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he said unto them, Take *nothing* for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. And they departed, *and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.* (Luke 9:1-6 AV)

¶ After these things ***the Lord appointed other seventy also***, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the

streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell. He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. ¶ And **the seventy returned again with joy**, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. (Luke 10:1-21 AV)

¶ And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, **I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.** And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew *them* into the marketplace unto the rulers, (Acts 16:16-19 AV)

Note: This authority is not for those who have not been born again. Some Jews, not believers in Jesus, who tried it got in serious trouble. They did not have the indwelling Holy Spirit for power or protection. **They had no authority:**

¶ Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (Acts 19:12-17 AV)

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

“ He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.” Col 2:15

Notice first that Jesus commands Satan (and other demons) to leave. He has that authority. He gives all believers that authority just as He gave it to the Seventy that He sent out two by two.

IT IS WRITTEN

Notice that in this next passage Jesus fought the devil with one of the weapons He gives us to use, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Notice now the devil tries to twist the word of God to use it out of context to trick even the Son of God. If the devil would try to trick even Jesus Christ, will he try to trick us by twisting the word of God in the fiery darts he puts into our minds? Yes! But

if we know what the Word says then we'll recognize the lie when we hear it. Our first line of defense is to be intimately acquainted with the Bible.

(Matthew 4:1-11 AV)

¶ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: **for it is written**, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, **It is written again**, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.** Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

IT IS WRITTEN

Mark 1:22-25

22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

23 ¶ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit;

24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

25 **But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"**

Mark 9: 17-25 17 And one of the crowd answered him, **"Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit;**

18 and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

19 And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

20 And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood."

22 And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **"You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again."**

26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Luke 4:41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" **But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.**

Mark 5:1-9

1 ¶ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.
2 And when he had come out of the boat, there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
3 who lived among the tombs; and no one could bind him any more, even with a chain;
4 for he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him.
5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones.

6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped him;
7 and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."
8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"
9 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
10 And he [the demon] begged him [Jesus] eagerly not to send them out of the country.

So - now what do I do with this knowledge...Resist the Devil!

HOW?

By using the tools Jesus gave us.

LET ME REPEAT!

RESIST THE DEVIL!

Christians cannot be possessed by a demon, yet they can be harassed and oppressed by Satan or one of his helpers. Jesus taught us how to deal with this by His own example and what he told his followers to do WITH THE AUTHORITY HE GIVES US...

Important Caution

*Before we go any further let me explain that only BORN AGAIN believers in Christ who have the indwelling Holy Spirit have this authority and anyone else who tries to deal with a demon may end up dead or worse. THEY HAVE NO PROTECTION. Paul the Apostle tells of one such group, the seven sons of Sceva, who tried it. They were not believers but had seen believers cast out demons. SO THEY TRIED IT saying “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.’ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, ‘I recognize Jesus and I know about Paul, but who are you?’ And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, **leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**” Acts 19:14*

The Enemy of our souls is **NOT** the opposite-but-equal of our God. Satan/Lucifer is **ONLY** a created being: a fallen angel. The Bible says he is like a roaring lion roaming the earth seeking whom he may devour. He does this by tempting us into sin which destroys our lives, or by harassing us so that we lose our peace.

Our minds are the primary target of this oppression or harassment and though demons cannot be in more than one place at one time, they travel quickly. They cannot read minds but have had several thousand years to observe mankind’s behavior and learn how to undermine our peace. They do have some power to plant thoughts, dreams and temptations (fiery darts) but they cannot make us do anything. The saying ‘The devil made me do it’ is only true for those who have been demon-possessed, having invited one inside by participating in occult practices like ‘new age’ channeling, Ouija boards, seances, tarot cards, or consulting mediums and palm readers.

Satan knows he cannot take away our salvation but he will try relentlessly to take away our joy and our peace. If you find yourself locked into depression, frightening thoughts, or fantasies of scary things then perhaps it is just a tired mind focusing on those things. That can happen when we take our focus off of Christ. But perhaps **some** of it is the Enemy. If he observes that you are floundering in your trust in God, he will try to kick you when you are already down because he really is a nasty slimy so-and-so.

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM???

Fiery darts come in all sizes but primarily the powers of darkness try to work on your mind by planting ‘doubt’ in your salvation, ‘doubt’ in the faithfulness, power, or even the existence of God. Planting thoughts of fear is one of his favorites. He cannot read your thoughts but he can plant new ones and demonic dreams too. When you suddenly have an evil or frightening thought and you wonder ‘where did that come from?’ use the scripture in 2 Cor. 10:5 as your prayer and say “Jesus, take every thought captive unto obedience to you. I give that to you. I don’t want it.’ If you are having problems in with evil, frightening, or sinful thoughts then by all means get busy: bathe yourself in prayer and do warfare. Plead the blood of Jesus over your thoughts and sleep time. Take every thought captive unto obedience to Christ by giving each one over to Jesus. Ask a friend to pray for you. Pastor Brian Broderson has a wonderful tape called ‘The wiles of the Devil’ that details these tricks. You can order BT 1151 by contacting Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa at (714) 979-4422.

Satan is a fallen angel with some power, but his power is limited by Christ and Jesus gives believers authority to fight off his fiery darts. During a particularly difficult period in our lives I suddenly recognized that I was failing my family in this area by not using the tool Christ has given believers in giving us this authority over the enemy. As I began to observe certain areas of destructive attitudes in us I began verbally taking authority over that specific area of possible spiritual attack the *first thing each morning*. My family was unaware of what I was doing but the effect on us was amazing - especially when I forgot! It is my belief that I can do this for my husband AND myself because spiritually we are ‘one flesh’.

What is our source?

For myself - my utter dependency on the Lord is the ground I walk on, a ‘given’, ‘understood’, and then I begin to pray. In the morning **AFTER** I spend time with the Lord and put on the Armor of God, I do use the authority Jesus gives me over specific sin/thought/attitude areas that I’ve

known demons to be active in. “In the name of Christ the King I forbid you to throw any darts at me today.” Jesus is my example in this. Read again the passages above in the section ‘Jesus is my example - It is written’.

What about my own sin thoughts- Is it me or my enemy? Or both!

Caution: The church has been ‘stained’ in recent years by some misinformed believers who blamed ‘the spirit of chocolate cake’ etc. for their own inability to resist goodies while dieting. We are not interested in the absurd. We must first and foremost take personal responsibility for our own sinful fleshy attitudes and actions. You’ll notice that most of the items on the list below fall into both categories.

Let me give you an example of personal responsibility vs. fiery darts. In raising my small children I thought I was careful to build and not tear down - but my own fleshy self did not recognize that by the time they were teenagers I had become very ‘perfectionistic’. I crossed the fine line between training my children and being constantly critical. Once the Lord revealed this to me I talked to my kids and said I was sorry and decided ‘I’ll stop being critical.’ But I couldn’t seem to stop! My own ‘habit of the mind of the flesh’, based in pride, would not be so easily broken. I prayed and repented and struggled in my flesh for two years making only small progress. While I’m positive there were times when the enemy threw darts at me in this area, this was primarily a battle with my own flesh that I needed to take responsibility for. As God said to Cain when giving him a second chance to make a proper sacrifice, **“If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”** Genesis 4:7 We must master it, but not alone. When we come to the end of ourselves in our struggle to do so, when we give up and give it totally to the Lord, in humility, and say ‘I can’t do it, Lord, I can’t change myself, I’ve lost hope - I’ve tried. Then the Lord will step in to help and together you and the Lord will triumph over strongholds; ‘habits of the mind of the flesh’.

If there is a sin stronghold in your life you must deal with it. Humble yourself before your God and give your mind totally over to Christ. Tell Him

you can't make the changes on your own, you've tried. Ask your friend Jesus to take every sinful thought captive unto obedience to Him. Tell Him you want to 'stand in the victory' that He won for you on the cross.

Then be watchful! Don't be ignorant of the schemes and devices of the Devil. We can expect darts to hit us where? Where we're weak, of course, but also in areas where we think we're spiritually strong and not at risk. 'Let him who thinks he stands, take heed, lest he fall. (1Cor.10:12) Remember Satan's target is our mind--- and so the sheet below serves as a 'check list' of our vulnerable areas. Are you being specifically bombarded with darts in one or more thought areas? Beware - any 'fleshy bait' that you leave lying about for the enemy to hook you with will attract 'fiery darts' like blood in the water. Don't paint a big red bull's-eye on your mind and volunteer for 'target practice' with the powers of darkness. Instead confess your sins, put on the Armor of God, STAND FIRM in the victory of your salvation, and using Jesus Christ as your example, fight back in the ***power of Christ*** and the strength of ***His*** might.

Examine the list of possible areas of attack below:

Anger/get even	Confusion	unforgiveness
Frustration	selfishness	pride
Doubt and Self-doubt	bitterness	disrespect
Fear & vain imaginings	Anxiety	lording it over others
Suspicion/Paranoia	discouragement	judgement
jealousy/insecurity/	despair	Division
Criticism	depression	rebellion
Pettiness	discontent	drunkenness
Self Pity	deception/lying	impatience
Guilt	complaining	Coveting, envy, greed
Condemnation for King Saul)	Illness or pain(see the story of David playing harp	
Self condemnation	ungratefulness	
perfectionism/urgency/rushing		

As you go over this list each morning day ask the Lord to show you if you are sinning in a particular area.

A word about 'strongholds'

Satan shoots darts at us in our weak areas in order to build or reinforce a 'stronghold' in our minds. Strongholds are like 'safe houses' in which the Enemy's lies can fester unchallenged. These 'strongholds' in our minds must be torn down. Beth Moore has an excellent Bible study called 'Breaking Free' available on her web site: www.lifeway.com or by calling 1(800) 458-2772. It will lead you step by step to identify strongholds and in Chapter Nine she tells you very specifically how to tear them down by replacing the lies with God's truth. It is awesome!

*Freely you have received - Freely give!
Go in my name so others may live.
Show the power of My healing;
How great and mighty and powerful I am
Even if I am new to them.*

-

*Minister peace in My name
Remember to give Me the glory,
as a loving Father
the Holy Counselor,
teaching you My ways.*