

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Revelation 22:20

First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #262

DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL AND BE MADE FREE?

John 8:31-32 *Then said Jesus to those Jews who believed on Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the Truth, and the truth shall set you free."*

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL: YOU CAN BE FREE!

John 8:36 *If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Galatians 5:1 *Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty with which Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Isaiah 61:1-3 *The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me, because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to heal up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto those who mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.*

RISE UP OUT OF WHAT YOU ARE LYING IN AND WALK!!!

John 5:2-6 *Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in the Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well? The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him,*

“Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

This is an actual historical event that took place in the early first century. It has great application for the body of Christ today. We are the sheep and Jesus is the gate. The name Bathesda means provision, and the pool of Bathesda symbolizes the Church, which is our spiritual provision. *Jersusalem* means place of peace or double peace or peace beyond our understanding. It symbolizes the place of the inner court Christian. (TO GO TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES, WE MUST ASCEND TO MOUNT ZION.) The five porches on which these Jews were lying, I believe represents the first five books of the Bible or Pentateuch, written by Moses and referred to as the books of law. This for the Jews was the Torah. The people who were waiting type the present day church, especially the Western World Church, which is full of impotent, spiritually blind, spiritually lame people not going anywhere for the Gospel, paralyzed people not moving in the Spirit, but nevertheless wanting and waiting for revival or move of God.

Why did Jesus ask the question, “Wilt thou be made whole?” We think the man’s answer is obvious. After all, he had been waiting for over 30 years for a healing. Perhaps Jesus wanted to see if he had lost hope and no longer believed or perhaps the man had become so comfortable in his lameness that he did not really want to be healed. Many use their personal issues as an excuse for not doing great things for the Lord. When Jesus shows up, we do not have to get to the water or to the latest fad or movement in the Body of Christ to be healed. At the words of Jesus, this man rose up and was healed. We likewise can claim Biblical Words and be made whole. Often, however, just like in this case, the Pharisaical deacon board or people around us will try to discredit the miracle and make us doubt. Instead of rejoicing in what Jesus had done in healing a man who had been sick for 38 years, the Pharisees denounced the man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath and therefore sought to slay Jesus. So, be careful that you don’t get bound up in religion and tradition. Judge something by the fruit and by the Word and not by your religion and tradition.

A FEW OF THE THINGS YOU CAN BE FREE OF TONIGHT!

1. **CURSES:** Curses are like open doors to our souls for demonic spirits to inflict harm or injury or put us in bondage. They are activated 99% of the time by a spoken word. ALWAYS remember, when you speak of yourself or others, Proverbs 18:21-*There is death and life in the power of the tongue.* Our soul (mind, will, emotions) and body are

open to curses through habitual sin and iniquity drives, which are propensities or drives to do a certain sin and are passed down through families from generation to generation until the pattern is broken by warfare praying and the acceptance of Jesus' bruising on the cross for our personal, individual redemption.

Curses also come from the words of others, which we receive in our soul nature instead of rejecting, listening more to men than to what the Lord says about us (James 3:8-10-*We can either bless people or curse them with our mouth.*); from words we speak about ourselves (Proverbs 6:2a-*You are snared by the words of your mouth...*); and from childhood traumas, violations-especially sexual molestation-, rejections, and bondages which we have never been healed of. These can go all the way back to *in utero wounds*. Satan has a legal right to curse us when we are walking in habitual sin, and God sometimes curses people who have done wickedly.

Generational curses and iniquity drives pass down through the family line because of sin that has not been repented of. (Exodus 20:4-5-*For I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.* Deuteronomy 23:2-*One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the congregation of the LORD even to the tenth generation; none of his descendants shall enter the congregation of the LORD.*)

2. **UNGODLY SOUL TIES:** You are made up of a spirit, soul and body. Your soul is made up primarily of your mind, will and emotions. We can have godly soul ties and ungodly soul ties. A soul tie is an affinity between two people where one's soul joins, knits together, follows close or hard after, or sticks to someone. These can be tremendous blessings in a godly relationship or tremendous destruction in an ungodly relationship. In fact, we become more and more alike, whether we want to or not, those whom we join together in soul ties. Biblical examples of godly soul ties are David and Jonathan, the Shepherd and the sheep, the Body of Christ, Christian marriage relationships, Elijah and Elisha, Ruth and Naomi. Ungodly examples are Jezebel and Ahab and Solomon and his foreign wives. Soul ties are formed through covenant relationships, marriages, oaths or verbal agreements, bloodline connections (such as parent and child), association with idols and accursed things, and openness to demonic activity, such as doing drugs together, hypnotism. 1st

Samuel 18:1-*And it came to pass, when he had ceased speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

3. **OCCULTIC INFLUENCES:** No doubt there are people here tonight who suffer torment and cannot receive from the Lord because of unrepented involvement in some form of the occult. Many of these people are led to believe that they cannot be forgiven because they have participated in these things. That is a lie straight from the pit of hell. The Word says there is only one unpardonable sin, i.e. blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. A search going back to the original language and letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher will show you clearly that this unpardonable sin basically comes down to never accepting the forgiveness of the Blood of Jesus. All forms of fortune telling, spiritism, horoscopes, magic practices, wiccan practices, Ouija board use, levitation, séance, root doctors, and any involvement in false religious cults are absolutely forbidden in scripture. Both practice and participation in them are condemned by God in Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:26 & 31, Deuteronomy 18:9-12, 1st Chronicles 120:13-14, Isaiah 8:19, Jeremiah 27:9-10, Zechariah 10:2, Malachi 3:5, Acts 8:9-13, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 19:19, Galatians 5:16-21, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:14-15, and Exodus 20:3-5. Those who have opened these doors or been forced by others into this activity can be set free from oppressing and tormenting spirits who have a legal right to be there because of your involvement in the occult but cannot stay when you take positive action. This action involves repentance; pleading the Blood of Jesus over your spirit, soul and body; and claiming the protection of the Name and the Blood of Jesus. Some symptoms of oppression or bondage are: inability to read and study the Bible, uncontrollable evil thoughts, blasphemous thoughts about Father God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit, excessive self-pity, overwhelming and continuing fear, uncontrollable emotions, resistance to spiritual things, religious spirits, depression, compulsive thoughts of suicide.
4. **FEAR OF DEATH:** I think we all know what this tormenting spirit does. I don't see this often in the prayer room, but occasionally I do pray with people who cannot enjoy life because they are so fearful of dying, and I feel compassion and sympathy for them. I think the best

antidote is memorizing scripture that has to do with death. Here are a few examples:

1st Timothy 1:9-10-Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

Romans 8:2-For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Hebrews 2:14-15-Forasmuch, then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death, He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

5. **SUICIDE** : As a school counselor and minister, I have dealt very much with suicide out in the secular world. Almost always suicide is a spirit that sits on someone's shoulder telling them that things will never get better and they would be better off dead. One thing I have learned is that people who talk about suicide statistically are more likely to do it. Often they appear much better right before the day they kill themselves because they think they are about to be out of their misery. We cannot take chances with people, especially teenagers, and we must report to a counselor or teacher or minister or youth pastor, if we suspect someone is having suicidal thoughts. Biblical examples of suicide show us that suicide is brought on by hopelessness (Judges 16:29), sin (1st Kings 16:18-19), disappointment (2nd Samuel 17:23), weariness (Job 3:20-23), and anger (Jonah 4:3, 8, 9). The Bible strongly prohibits suicide because the body was made by God and is sacred (1st Corinthians 6:19), by a prohibition against murder (Exodus 20:13), and by giving each believer an expectancy (2nd Timothy 4:6-8, 18) of being delivered from every evil work. I know this is very controversial, but I do not believe that believers who commit suicide go to Hell. There is only one unpardonable sin, and the original Greek in 1st John 1:7 tells us that the Blood continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness: *But if we [really]are living and*

walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. AMP

6. **SOULISH RELIGION:** Are you more interested in feelings than in serving God? Is musical performance and hype more important to you than the preaching of the Word.

Romans 8:8 For to be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be so, then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

7. **OFFENSE AND A SPIRIT OF UNFORGIVENESS:** I have noticed through the years that we think we have forgiven others, but those close to us know we haven't. If you could understand the heavy importance of forgiving, you would jump at the chance. Jesus Himself said, **"If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"** (Matthew 6:15). I believe unforgiveness is the biggest hindrance to receiving anything from the Lord, especially His blessings, and unforgiveness causes whole congregations and ministries to walk in disunity which, Paul says, is evidence of carnality: "...For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? (1st Corinthians 3:3b) The power of the Spirit does not flow in carnal Christians because the flesh is enmity with God. The weapons of carnal Christians are not mighty through the pulling down of strongholds so churches who walk in division, walk in carnality, and those who walk in carnality have a form of godliness but deny the power (2nd Timothy 3:5a).

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT YOU CAN BE SET FREE FROM TONIGHT THROUGH REPENTANCE AND DENUNCIATION.