

# OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS TO HEALING

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FOREWORD BY RANDY CLARK

Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing is an outstanding practical  
guide for those who are

struggling to understand why healing does not come or last. At times, you may think the prayer of faith has failed or that you have done something to cause your sickness or pain to return. You may not know what to do next. I have been praying for the sick for many years. I have seen God do mighty things when praying for someone one time and then not see any results when praying for someone else another time. I have experienced victories and defeats in my own healing ministry and struggled at times with the mystery of why some do not get healed.

I believe Mark provides key insights from Scripture to help those who come against roadblocks in their healing. He not only offers strategy to get your healing, but gives personal experience where he has struggled to be healed or at times lost his healing. He tells you the truth about his struggle and the victory of overcoming his roadblocks to healing.

Mark exposes the lies that have caused believers to deny that healing exists or that it is not for today. He reveals the influence of Greek thought on our Western Christianity, which has caused a false belief that suffering and illness are the will of God for our lives. This misunderstanding has caused many to doubt that God can heal and their

unwillingness to seek healing for their illness. Mark emphasizes that the truth of God's Word is the standard for which we should put our faith in. He stresses the need for believers to renew their minds by aligning thoughts and beliefs with the Word of God.

I believe this book should be read by every believer, especially those who need healing. It is a tremendous resource for those who have not walked in the healing ministry, to be aware of roadblocks in people's lives to healing. Thank you, Mark, for providing such a wonderful book that will help the church understand how to overcome the roadblocks to healing.

Randy Clark -Apostolic Network of Global Awakening January 1, 2012

## CHAPTER 2

### THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY ON WESTERN CHRISTIANITY

The western Christian mindset has much of its origin in Greek philosophy. People often ask Sharmila and I why all the miracles we witness are overseas when their churches do not see the same in North America. First, I tell them I do not agree. What these people are actually saying is that God cares more for the sick overseas than for the sick in North America. Look at Acts 10:34,

*“...in truth I’ve perceived that God shows no partiality.”* Romans 2:11 says, *“For there is no partiality with God.”* God is no respecter of persons. If He heals people in India and Africa then He is willing and able to heal people in North America as well.

When praying for sickness or infirmities in Montana and Wyoming, we have seen many wonderful miracles, such as the crippled getting out of wheelchairs. On occasion we have had such powerful meetings in the USA that a larger percentage of people have been healed than in some of our most powerful campaigns overseas. It has a lot to do with their mindset and heart attitude towards healings and miracles.

Part of the reason so many Christians in the west struggle with divine healings and miracles is because of the influence of Greek philosophy and gnosticism. One example was Augustine, a great man of God, who had a major influence in the Roman Catholic Church and European government during the Middle Ages. He was greatly influenced by Greek philosophy before coming to Christ and mingled Greek philosophy with his understanding of the Scriptures. He was trained in Neoplatonism, which was a reworking of Platos ideas. His teachings greatly influenced other leaders, such as Martin Luther (Lutheran Church) and John Calvin (Calvinism). These three great men alone have greatly influenced western Christianity as we know it. They brought much good to Christianity, but at the same time took Christianity off the course of the ancient Hebrew and early Christian worldview in some areas.

## THE NATURAL/ SPIRITUAL DIVISION

Now let me explain how much of Christianity was influenced by Greek philosophy, asceticism, and gnosticism. Some of it has been passed right down to present day Christianity and our western way of thinking. Much of this mindset has become men’s traditions *“making the Word of God of no effect”* (Mark 7:13). It influences our Christian belief system and is contrary to the way the ancient Jews and early Christians perceived things. This way of thinking has much deeper roots than many could ever imagine and it has affected the Body of Christ and nations in a very detrimental way. Many do not even realize that this disposition hinders the move of God.

The Greek philosopher Plato taught that there was a distinct separation between the spirit world and the physical world. Most Jews during biblical times did not believe this. In fact, there is no separation between the spiritual and physical realm. Cultures not influenced by Plato’s philosophy have a much easier time receiving miracles and healings from Jesus because to them there is no separation between the spiritual and physical world. They do not reason away that God could do a miracle. After all, He is God the Creator. Nothing is impossible for Him. Some of the most powerful, undeniable miracles we see in our ministry are among Asians and Africans. Many of whom are from a Hindu or Muslim background. They do not know a whole lot about Jesus or Plato and Greek philosophy. It is easy for them to receive healings and miracles from God because they are more in tune to the spiritual and natural realm as one. They do not separate the physical and spiritual realm or the invisible and visible realms.

## THE PROPER BALANCE

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* Sound mind in the Greek refers to a well balanced mind. Christianity through seeing many extremes was meant to be well balanced spiritually, mentally, physically and without compromise. To bring balance to this, the Bereans were people who believed the scriptures. One good thing we have learned from Greek philosophy is to study, ask questions and reason.

Acts 17:10-12 says, *“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”* The Greeks believed in testing things and proving something if they were so. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says, *“Test all things; hold fast what is good.”* That is what I have done with God’s Word. His Word is proven, tested and it works. Once these Greeks saw something in the Word, they believed and acted on it.

This is where we need to draw the line; do not let your natural mind reason out what God can do. He is supernatural and moves beyond natural laws, longing for us to depend on Him and believe that He will move supernaturally on our behalf. Smith Wigglesworth had one of the most powerful healing ministries of the 20th century. He had a saying; *“If God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”* If it is in God’s Word believe it and act on it. Quit trying to reason it out. That was one reason the religious leaders of Jesus’ days had a hard time receiving from Him; they reasoned things out too much (Luke 5:21).

Much of western Christianity is into reasoning things out with their mind and drawing a line - like Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Calvin between the spiritual and natural or invisible and visible realms. It breeds unbelieving Christians who say they trust God and seem to be very spiritual, but only believe for things that can be worked up in the natural realm. Many times scriptures are taken out of context to support their beliefs. There is little or no dependence upon the supernatural healing or delivering power of Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Many even believe in salvation by grace or forgiveness, because it is something invisible like the wind, but when it comes to seeing a miraculous healing or deliverance from a demon in this physical realm, there is little or no faith for it. It is easier for them to have the cop out that it must not be God’s will than to stand in faith for a miracle.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify (Greek- set apart) you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* God made us a three part being; spirit, soul and body. We are to be balanced in all three areas. One way to do that is not to separate the spiritual and physical realms,

but know both are completely integrated and work together.

## WHEN AND WHERE DID THINGS CHANGE IN CHRISTIANITY?

During the Middle Ages, some church leaders took oaths of poverty and chastity because they believed and still believe today that they had to separate the spiritual from the physical world. Some believed in asceticism (physical suffering) or a form of gnosticism that said if it felt good it could not be of God. That is the reason behind oaths of poverty, chastity (permanent abstinence from sex) and asceticism (a belief in physical suffering).

During the enlightenment era other gnostics or agnostics began primarily focusing on the physical world because they were turned off by ‘the Church or spiritual gnostics’ who had focused only on the spiritual realm and basically said they were the ultimate truth and not to be questioned. They believed that God was far away and that man could never get close to Him, or that He did not exist, hence they should just go ahead eat, drink and be merry. If it feels good, do it!

Neither thought was balanced. God is a God of balance, both spiritually and naturally. In creation, God made it all good - spiritually and naturally or invisible and visible. For the early church and ancient Jews there was no separation of the spirit and physical realms. Work, worship and even sexual relations between a husband and wife were both spiritual and physical, and were good. The early Jews were not like the Greeks, who believed that only the spiritual was good. Notice that influence in our Western Christianity! Many times, as Christians who want to please God, we draw a line and think only the spiritual is good. If we are not focused on the spiritual we get easily condemned. That is not true with God!

Thomas Jefferson was a Christian who was mostly in tune with mental reason and the physical realm. He was greatly influenced by Christ, as well as enlightenment thought. Even believing in God, he greatly divided the natural and spiritual realm. He rewrote the New Testament, taking out all the miraculous things out like the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus; he entitled the book *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. I believe he loved Christ, but reduced the Bible to a book of morals because of the influence of enlightenment thought and Greek philosophy.

## EXAMINATION OF MIDDLE AGES CHURCH VOWS

Let’s briefly examine the vows these Middle Ages church leaders took because of separating the spiritual and natural realms. The first was vows of poverty, which they took because they might actually be able to enjoy life if they prospered. They believed the poorer you were, the more humble you could be. To them, prosperity was something of the physical realm. They believed that you could only draw nearer to God by being poor.

Proverbs 22:4 says, “*By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.*” Humility either attracts poverty (religious church tradition) or it attracts wealth (Biblical view/ 1 Timothy 6:17). “*...Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant*” (Psalms 35:27). Will you choose religious tradition or the Bible as your source of truth? True Biblical humility attracts wealth and honor.

The next was vows of chastity. Augustine classified sex as something physical which could actually bring physical enjoyment. To be more spiritual, he felt a person needed to abstain from sex altogether. He believed the way sin was passed on to a baby or child was through sexual passions. Before coming to Christ, Augustine was promiscuous and after turning to Christ he still had battles with his sexual desires. He saw sexual desires as the strongest, most corrupt desires.

Some thoughts he had on sex were right and some he had were way off. Where is the balance, when you do not separate the spiritual and physical? Sex outside of marriage is sin and can bring many problems, such as the transferring of evil spirits, corrupt desires, ungodly soul ties, emotional problems, divorce, broken families, sexual disease, guilt, curses and much more. Augustine was right on his views of sex outside of marriage.

Sex within marriage can bring blessing, enjoyment, erotic pleasure, spiritual power can be released and so much more. It can supernaturally cause a man and woman to become one spirit, soul and body. Sex inside of marriage is both good naturally and spiritually; that is the way God ordained it. Contrary to Augustine, sex in marriage is not the way to pass sin on to our children. God blessed Adam and Eve and told them to be fruitful and multiply the earth (Genesis 1:28). Why would God tell them to commit something sinful if sex was evil, like Augustine believed? Augustine was way off on his views of sex and marriage.

Some church leaders in the Middle Ages felt they needed to suffer physically in order to subdue physical desires and thereby help them be more spiritual. This practice was called asceticism. This is where we get the belief that Christians were to suffer with sickness and disease to glorify Jesus and where the distortion came about regarding Paul's Thorn in the Flesh being sickness. I deal with the unscriptural misconceptions of Paul's Thorn in the Flesh in Chapter 5 of this book.

Job was the earliest book written in the Bible; 155 years before Moses! Job said, “*...The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD*” (Job 1:21). From many statements Job makes, God is into doing both good and evil at the same time. Steve C. Shank in his excellent book *Schizophrenic God? Finding Reality in Conflict, Confusion, and Contradiction* has a whole chapter on Job's theology and how God had to correct Him. Job never once refers to Satan, the devil or demons, and accused God of their things, not knowing any better. Many Calvinists glean many beliefs from Job's erroneous theology. God had to correct his incorrect theology. God said to Job, “*To justify yourself, will you condemn Me?*” (Job 40:8, Moffatt). Though Job's theology was off and he did not understand many things, his heart



remained right before God and He was blessed with twice as much in the end (Job 42:10).

It is pretty sad when we have Jesus as our standard, yet many build their doctrines and beliefs on what Job said or what religious tradition teaches, rather than the Word of God. I ministered on the streets of Ullan Bator, Mongolia in 1992, right after communism fell in Mongolia. There were only 1,000 Christians in the country at that time. We saw many undeniable healings and miracles and close to 300 salvations on the streets of Ullan Bator. We ran into resistance from the only pastor in the country. He was greatly entrenched in Calvinism and knew a lot scripture and did not believe the book of Acts was for today. He was a Wycliffe Bible Translator who was translating the Bible into the native tongue. The first book he translated for the Mongols was the book of Job. The book of Job was the foundation he laid for the early believers in Mongolia in those days. We wonder why so many churches struggle in these countries; importing a western form of Christianity instead of Jesus is not the answer.

## WAS JESUS OR THE BIBLE INTO A NATURAL/ SPIRITUAL DIVISION?

Let's take a look at what Jesus and the Bible have to say about the natural/spiritual division. We will see clearly through the scriptures that the ancient Jews and Jesus did not divide these two realms, but operated with both the spiritual and natural or invisible and visible realms being fully integrated or as one. This is important to understand if you want to see heaven invade this earth with Christ's miracles, healings, signs and wonders.

First off, I want to say I believe Jesus is perfect theology. You can't have better theology than what He taught. In John 14:9, "*Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?'*" He also said in John 6:38, "*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" Hebrews 1:3 says, "*who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power...*" John 1:14 says, "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*" I do not think you can get better theology than Jesus, the Living Word made manifest. As followers of Christ, we need to filter all our theology through Jesus and what He accomplished at Calvary. It is important as believers to live our lives on the right side of the cross. Many Christians live their life as if Jesus never went to the cross. We are living under a New Covenant, which is much better than any previous covenant because Jesus laid down His life and was raised from the dead.

Let's look at Jesus' worldview. He said in Matthew 16:19, "*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind (Greek- forbid) on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose (Greek- allow) on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" Notice Jesus said that He will give us the keys to the greatest Kingdom in the Universe. The Kingdom of Heaven! To understand this better, let me quote from my book *You Can Tap Into Christ's Healing Power*:

*Matthew 16:19, is based on the Greek concept of mirror imaging. This implies affecting the spiritual realm for success in the physical realm. Everything that happens in the physical realm, such as miracles or a move of the Holy Spirit came as a result of affecting the spiritual realm first. We need to affect the spiritual realm to see results in the physical realm. The Israelites understood this concept and were in tune to the spiritual realm. They knew that if they could affect the spiritual realm they would see great success in the physical realm. They thus called upon the living God with fasting and prayer to affect the spiritual and the natural realm as King Jehoshaphat did when the combined armies of Moab, Ammon and others besieged Judah and there appeared no way out for Judah (2 Chronicles 20:1-30). They were greatly outnumbered!*

*After praying, fasting and affecting the spiritual realm God spoke through a prophet. 2 Chronicles 20:15, "And he (the prophet Jahaziel) said, Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's." King Jehoshaphat understood that God was going to deliver Judah from the vast enemy army and instead of sending soldiers out to face the enemy, he sent the praise and worship teams to worship God before the enemy. As they were praising God, the Lord sent ambushments against the enemy, and the enemy was defeated.*

*In Isaiah 37:36, the Lord sent one angel who killed 185,000 Assyrians, once again protecting Judah from the enemy. King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, affecting the spiritual realm, and saw the results in the physical realm. Many nominal Christians think angels are just fat little naked babies as portrayed on their glass stained windows. I guarantee you a fat little naked baby could not kill 185,000 people. Angels are powerful. Hebrews 1:14 says, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" Angels move on our behalf when we affect the spiritual realm.*

*Jesus said in Luke 12:8-9 "Also I say unto you, whoever confesses Me before men, Him the Son of Man will confess before the angels of God. But He who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." When we are confessing Christ before men we are setting a spiritual force into motion. God's angels are going out to minister to the heirs of Salvation.*

*The Babylonians understood and acted upon this principle of mirror imaging as well. The difference lay in the fact that they called upon evil powers for victory. They built a city and buried it underground. Then they built the replica of that city above the ground in order to call upon the powers of the underworld. They affected the spiritual realm and as a result won great battles and conquered many in*

*their time.*

What we are basically doing according to this principal of mirror imagining in Matthew 16:19 is reflecting heaven onto the earth by not separating the spiritual and natural or invisible and visible realms. With the keys Jesus gave us, we can use our authority in the physical realm to affect the spiritual realm and thus see the manifestation of that in this physical realm. So for Jesus there was no separating these two realms; they are both one and fully integrated. That is why Jesus prayed, “*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth (physical realm) as it is in heaven (spiritual realm).*” (Matthew 6:10) We are to reflect God’s Kingdom here on planet Earth. Why would Jesus pray your will be done if, like Augustine and Calvin believed, everything good and bad that happens in life is God’s will? It is clear there are many things happening on this earth that are not God’s will. That is why Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 6:38) and destroy the works (will) of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Paul said, “*For we walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Many in Christian circles are doing everything they can in the natural or physical realm to bring about the answers to their prayers. Their faith is totally dependent on what can be worked up in the natural realm, what they feel, see, hear, etc. Faith in God moves beyond the physical realm or what can be worked up in the physical realm into affecting the spiritual realm and bringing the manifestation into the physical realm.

The Body of Christ as a whole has become very good at just coping, being overcome and barely making it by because of the influence of Greek philosophy in our western form of Christianity. Much of western Christianity is where the supernatural has been removed and reduced to what can be worked up in the natural realm because of the natural/spiritual division. Many western-influenced Christians do not even realize they are more influenced by Greek philosophy than by the Bible. Some Christians do not receive divine healing because they are only focused on what comes naturally. Their mindset is such that they make it hard for God to do anything supernatural in their lives. They limit God to what can be done naturally, such as through medicine or holistic practices only, not relying on the supernatural ability of the Holy Spirit that is within us. Many Christians operate from this perspective.

2 Timothy 3:5 talks about these churches or Christians in the last days; it says, “*having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*” Those Christians who focus on what can be done naturally also separate the natural and spiritual realm by their attitude. We need to be in tune with both realms and not separate the natural and spiritual realm. Unfortunately because of the influence of Greek thought on the west, there is often a priority for either the spiritual or physical. With God there is no prioritizing of either. Healing and miracles flow much easier in an environment where there is no separation of the spiritual and natural. Individuals have received healing breakthroughs when they learned not to divide the natural and spiritual realm.

In the USA, there are a number of churches that we minister in where we know God will move powerfully because the pastor and congregation prepare for a move of the Spirit. They know that God is not a respecter of persons. They simply believe and put a draw on the Holy Spirit that resides in us. They do not separate the physical and spiritual realm and believe God can invade the physical realm. The atmosphere is conducive for miracles. As a result, miracles and healings break out all over those churches. It really has little to do with us, but a lot to do with the mindset that believes nothing is impossible for Jesus and He can invade this physical realm.

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”* Faith is what can actually bring about something (physical) out of nothing (invisible). For more on faith, see Chapter 4. Faith activates the miracle working power of God the same way fear activates Satan’s destructive power.

John 8:31-32 says, *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide (Greek-continue) in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* It is one thing to know scriptures like many Christians do and quite another thing to continue in the Word, to know and experience the Word working in your life. Many Christians know the truth of God’s Word but are still bound. Mental assent to the Word of God will not cut it. The Bible is spiritual truth. If someone is sick or diseased the fact is they are sick or diseased. This is not mind over matter or ignore it and it will go away. Jesus did not tell us to ignore the mountain but to face the mountain and speak to it in faith believing that it would be removed (Mark 11:22-23). Bill Johnson says, *“Faith doesn’t deny a problem’s existence. It denies it a place of influence.”* The mountain before you is the truth (fact) in the physical realm. Here is the difference with those who do not separate the two realms as Augustine and Calvin did. You can take spiritual truth (the Word of God) which supersedes physical facts and apply with faith and watch the spiritual truth do away with the physical facts (physical realm truth) by creating something (physical) out of nothing (invisible). That is how faith in God’s Word works. A whole lot of fun!

## BEING WELL BALANCED IN ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE

Quoted from *Humility The Hidden Key to Walking in Signs and Wonders* published by Destiny Image Chapter 4 Page 95-96.

*While we are on this subject, another misconception because of Greek philosophy getting into western Christianity is the idea of just focusing on the spirit and neglecting the physical body. 1 Timothy 4:8 says, “For bodily exercise profits (Greek- benefits or blessings) a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” Exercise does*

*profit us a little (meaning temporarily for this lifetime). Does that mean we avoid it? A spiritual gnostic or someone who is “super-spiritual” might take that verse and say that we do not need to exercise or focus on the body. We only need the spiritual! Studies have shown that among Christians, obesity is more of a problem than among the non-religious. Obesity, of course, leads to many health problems. I believe this is because many Christians ignore the mental and physical realm and only concentrate on the spiritual. I have been there and done that, focusing only on the spiritual to the point I became so spiritually spaced out that I was not much earthly good. It made me very imbalanced and ineffective in areas of my life.*

*Not only does our family believe God for divine health, but we do our part to walk in health by eating right, fasting, taking vitamins, exercising, etc. We believe that is what God desires for us to do and it has paid off in keeping us healthy, energetic and active. Rarely has there been any sickness in our family. We believe in being well balanced in spirit, mind and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).*

*We need to humble ourselves and repent if we are not taking care of the temple of the Holy Ghost that we are entrusted with (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). You will live much longer and accomplish much more for the Kingdom of God if you take care of yourself physically: Proverbs 23:20-21 says, “Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.”*

*Sometimes Christians focus on the spiritual to the point they become physically lazy and are no earthly good. This often leads to health problems. We need to be balanced in spirit, soul and body. We are not called to run around only being spiritual, without time or energy to serve the least of these. If you are healthy you will live longer and be able to accomplish much more for the Kingdom of God.*

## IS GOD SCHIZOPHRENIC?

Steve C. Shank, author of *Schizophrenic God? Finding Reality in Conflict, Confusion, and Contradiction*, gives us some insight how to overcome the western mindset that has been greatly influenced by Greek philosophy. I am greatly indebted to him for his insight into both the good and the negative influences of Augustine, John Calvin and other early church leaders and what they brought into the western church. His book is by far the best book I have ever read on the subject of the Sovereignty of God, Calvinism and what the Bible and early church leaders had to say about it. In Steve Shank’s words:

*First, we start with the fact that Jesus is the Healer. We must go to the Gospels and carefully look at how He viewed sickness. Did He see it as a blessing in disguise that God the Father placed on people to help them grow spiritually? Did He ever*

*tell a person, "You'll be better off incapacitated with this disease. You will learn in the long run that your terminal condition is really for your own good?" When we search the Scriptures, we can not find anything close to that in Jesus' practices or in His preaching. He viewed sickness and disease as an enemy to the human race and treated those who were sick as victims who needed to be healed and restored.*

*When Jesus came on the scene He aggressively went about healing and destroying the works of the devil in people's lives ... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He trained and commissioned the twelve-giving them power and authority to heal ALL diseases (see Luke 9:1). He trained and commissioned seventy-two others to heal the sick in all the towns and villages where He sent them (see Luke 10:1,9).*

*Jesus and His SWAT team of eighty-four aggressively came against sickness wherever they went! Jesus clearly established, once and for all, that sickness is not a blessing but a curse that needs to be removed from the human race.*

*Some people mistakenly think that healing ended in Bible days and God does not intend for people to be healed today. Let's pay close attention to Jesus and let Him settle the issue. In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus commissions the eleven and tells them to make disciples in all the nations, teaching them to observe everything that He had already taught them. In other words, continually perpetuate the same Gospel that He taught, practiced, and demonstrated to them. Jesus' Gospel most certainly included healing. We have no other picture or pattern of the Gospel than the one that Jesus taught, practiced in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A large part of Jesus' Gospel was healing.*

*Jesus came to show us God's heart and will for people. Jesus is the visible representation of the unseen God. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (see Colossians 1:15). Every act of healing clearly portrayed that Father God wants people healed and set free! Jesus is the will of God made flesh-made visible for all of us to see. He takes all the mystery and uncertainty out of the question, "Does God really want to heal me?" Of course He does!*

*Faith begins where the will of God is known and Jesus makes it clear and eliminates all uncertainty - healing is God's will for all people, for all time.*

*One roadblock I want to examine is a very subtle one. It dates back to around 400AD, so it is very inbred and established in the western church mindset. It was taught by early church father Augustine, and became the established worldview of the church at that time. What Augustine taught was that everything that happens in a person's life is the direct will of God. We should not even attribute what appears to be evil to the will of demons or wicked people, but consider all things to be the*

*direct will of God. This viewpoint was taught to Christians for hundreds and hundreds of years and is still believed by a surprising number of people today. You may have never heard of Augustine and yet still have bits and pieces of his mindset in your belief system. When calamity, sickness, or disease hit, many people will say things like this, "Why God? What have I done to deserve this from You?" or "God has some kind of reason behind this or it never would have happened!" or "You know that the ways of God are mysterious and past finding out."*

*All of this type of reasoning leaves out a major factor - we have an enemy, an adversary, who is continually looking for an opportunity to devour and destroy us! Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith ... (1 Peter 5:8-9). ...Nor give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27). Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore... (Ephesians 6:13-14). Augustine disagreed with that Bible viewpoint and instead taught that all things, even evil things, come directly from God and therefore are the will of God.*

I want to add something to what Steve Shank has said in that last sentence. Augustine's (as well as John Calvin's) worldview was contrary to the Bible and many early church leaders. They have reduced Christianity to some of the same beliefs as Islam and Hinduism. The Muslims believe that whatever happens in this life, good or bad, is Allah's (God the Creator to Muslim people) will for the person. The Muslim concept of who and what God the Creator is like is not similar to what I hold to be true. Hindus believe that whatever good or bad happens in this life is the will of the Hindu gods (demons) and this is your karma in life. Karma is the Hindu's version of sowing and reaping, there is no grace involved. That is one belief proposed by Augustine and John Calvin, Steve and I strongly disagree with.

Those who believe that God is behind both good and bad occurrences say everything good or bad (evil) works together for the good of all people in this world. One place they get this is from taking Romans 8:28 out of context; which says, "*and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*" Do all things good and bad automatically work together for good, like Augustine and Calvin believed? It is very important not to pull things out of context to make it fit our beliefs. I do not believe all things necessarily work for the good of every person on this planet. Notice how that verse starts, with an 'and'. That means there is something tied to that verse before that. Look at Romans 8:26-27 just before verse 28: "*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered* (Greek says groanings, which can't be uttered in articulate speech or known speech). *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*"

Notice the prior verses are talking about the Holy Spirit interceding through us “according to the will of God.” He does this when we are praying in the Spirit or tongues, just like Jesus prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead (1 Corinthians 14: 13-15, 18, John 11: 33 & 38). Praying like this is what helps us flow in the power of the Holy Spirit especially in an environment where the miracles of Jesus are needed. My testimony of how I was called into ministry revolves around these verses. The purpose of praying in the Spirit is to allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us for God’s will to be done. He, Jesus, makes intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). The Holy Spirit helps pray through us according to His will by praying through us in the Spirit or tongues.

Notice what 1 John 5:14-15 says if we pray for something according to His will: *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* If the Holy Spirit is praying through us for God’s will to be done, don’t you think all things will work together for your good? I have seen both good and bad things work together for my good when I have allowed the Holy Spirit to pray through me. There is no such thing as everything just automatically working together for the good of every person on this planet, contrary to Augustine and Calvin’s belief and teachings. I could give you hundreds of stories of things not working together for the good of people in this world.

Notice in Romans 8:28: *“...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* Let’s say, for example, as a Christian I am not fitting into the purpose and plan that God has for my life. Could things end up not working together for my good? I have seen Christians all over the world, not fitting into God’s plan and purpose for their life — they end up living a miserable and defeated life. All things do not work together for good if we understand these verses and live in reality. All things can work together for the good if we are doing what Romans 8:26 - 28 says to do. Steve Shank continued:

*Most people in North America and Western Europe believe that whatever is currently happening in their own physical/circumstantial realm is somehow God’s will for their lives. “Well, it must be God’s will for me or it wouldn’t be happening!” they reason. So, they have actually placed their faith [when it comes to determining the will of God] in the material/physical realm; and when it comes to our subject of healing, they take a “seeing-is-believing” approach. “Go ahead and pray,” they say, “and if all the symptoms leave my body, then I’ll know it was God’s will to heal me; and if there’s no change in my body, then I’ll know that it’s not His will to heal me.” Their faith is in what they can see and feel. They are entrenched in the Thomas syndrome and Jesus called that “faithless” (see John 20:24-29).*

*The physical realm is what we consider last and it is never where we place our faith. What is happening physically does not determine the will of God for healing*



*or anything else. Faith's realm and function is always that of the unseen and unfelt; faith is the evidence of things NOT seen (see Hebrews 11:1). Faith is what you exercise in Jesus and His Word BEFORE you can see or feel your healing. Once your healing can be seen and felt, faith has served its purpose and performed its function.*