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Do You Know God's Way of Healing?

AND

He Is Just the Same Today

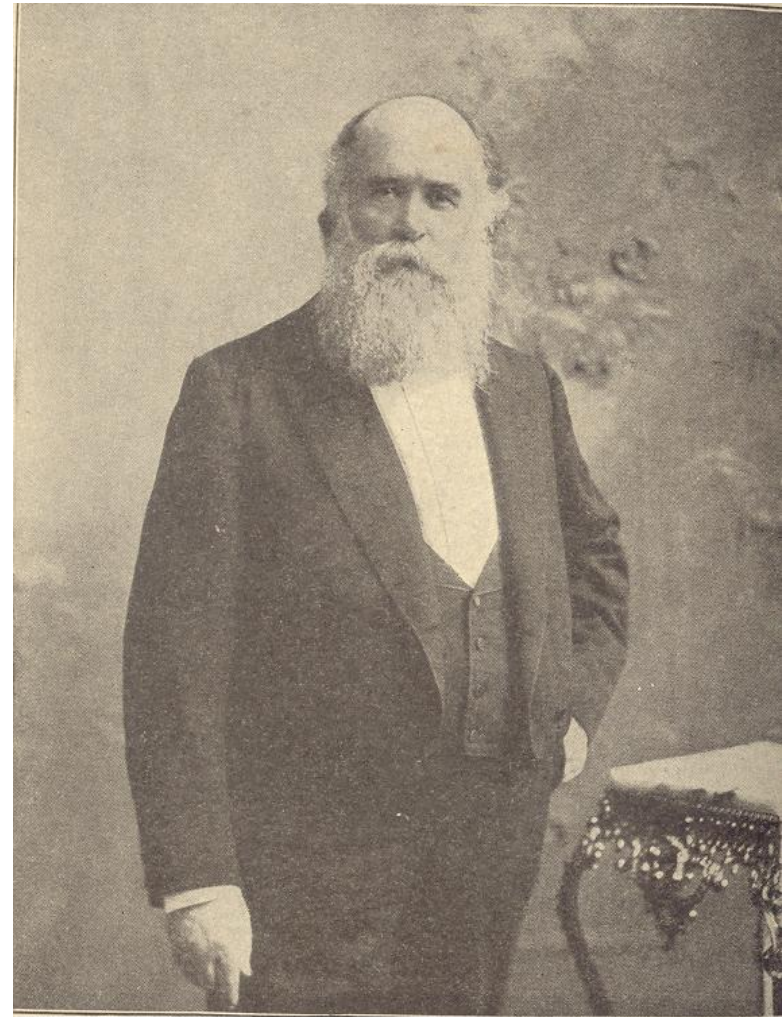
BY THE

REV. JOHN ALEX. DOWIE,

GENERAL OVERSEER
OF THE CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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John Alex Dowie

DO YOU KNOW GOD'S WAY OF HEALING?

BY REV. JOHN ALEX. DOWIE., GEN OVERSEER OF
THE CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Let it be supposed that the following words are a conversation between the reader [A] and the writer [B].

A. What does this question mean? Do you really suppose that God has some one especial way of healing in these days of which men may know and avail themselves?

B. That is exactly my meaning, and I wish very much that you should know God's Way of Healing, as I have done for many years.

A. What is the way in your opinion?

B. You should rather ask, WHO is God's Way? For the Way is a Person, not a thing. I will answer your question in His own words, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." These words were spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, who is both our Saviour and our Healer. John 14:6

A. But I always thought that these words only referred to Him as the way of Salvation. How can you be sure that they refer to Him as the Way of Healing also?

B. Because He cannot change. He is "the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) He said that He came to this earth not only to save us but to heal us, (Luke 4:18) and He did this when in the flesh on earth. Being unchanged He must be able and willing and desirous to heal now.

A. But is there not this difference, namely, that He is not with us now?

B. No; for He said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world;" and so He is with us now, in Spirit, just as

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much as when He was here in the flesh.

A. But did He not work these miracles of healing when on earth merely to prove that He was the Son of God?

B. No, there was a still greater purpose than that. He healed the sick who trusted in Him in order to show us that He came to die not only for our sins, but for sicknesses, and to deliver us from both.

A. Then, if that is so, the atonement which he made on the Cross must have been for our sicknesses as well as our sins. Can you prove that is the fact from the Scriptures?

B. Yes, I can. And the passages are very numerous. I need quote two only. In Isaiah 53:4, 5 it is written of Him. "Surely He hath borne our griefs (Hebrew *sicknesses*), and carried our sorrows; . . . and with His stripes we are healed." Then in the Gospel according to Matthew, this passage is quoted and directly applied to the work of bodily healing, in chapter 8, 17th verse. "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of by Isaiah, the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

A. But do you not think that sickness is often God's will, and sent for our good, and therefore God may not wish us to be healed?

B. No, that cannot possibly be, for diseases of every kind are the devil's work, and his work can never be God's will, since Christ came for the very purpose of "destroying the works of the Devil," 1 John 3:8

A. Do you mean to say that all disease is the work of Satan?

B. Yes, for if there had been no sin (which came through Satan) there never would have been any disease, and Jesus never in one single instance told any person that sickness was God's work or will, but the very contrary.

A. Can you prove from scripture that all forms of sickness and infirmity are the Devil's work?

B. Yes, that can be done very easily. You will see in Matthew 4:23 and 9:35 that when Jesus was here in the flesh, "He healed every sickness and every disease among the people." Then if you will refer to Acts 10:38 you will see that the Apostle Peter declares that He [Jesus] "went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the Devil." Notice that all whom he healed, not some were suffering from Satan's evil power.

A. But does disease never come from God?

B. No, it cannot come from God for He is pure, and disease is unclean; and it cannot come out of Heaven, for there is no disease there.

A. That is very different from the teachings which I have received all my life from ministers and in the churches. Do you really think that you are right, and that they are all wrong in this matter?

B. It is not a question as between myself and them. The only question is, What does God's Word say? God has said in all the ages to His Church, "I am the Lord that healeth thee," (Exodus 15:26) and therefore it would be wicked to say that he is the defiler of His people. All true Christians must believe the Bible, and it is impossible to believe that good and evil, sickness and health, sin and holiness could have a common origin in God. If the Bible really taught that, it would be impossible to believe our Lord Jesus Christ when He says, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Matthew 7:18.

A. But even if I agree with all you say, is it not true that the gifts of healing were removed from the church, and are not in it now?

B. No, the "gifts of healing," were never withdrawn, and can never be withdrawn, from the true Church of God; for it is written "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

(Romans 11:29). There are nine gifts of God to the Church (enumerated in I Corinthians 12:8 to 11) and all these are in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, so long as the Holy Spirit is in the Church. All the gifts must be there also. If they are not exercised, that does not prove that they do not exist, but that the faith to exercise them is lacking in God's servants. The gifts are all perfectly preserved; for the Holy Spirit, not the Church keeps them safely.

A. What should a Christian then do when overtaken with sickness?

B. A Christian should obey God's command, and at once turn to Him for forgiveness of the sin which may have caused the sickness, and for immediate healing. Healing is obtained from God in one of four ways, namely; first by the direct prayer of faith, without any aid from the officers of the Church, praying as the Centurion did in Matthew 8:5 to 12; second, by two faithful disciples praying in perfect agreement, in accordance with the Lord's promise in Matthew 18:19; third, by the anointing of the elders and the prayer of faith, according to the instructions in James 5:14 and 15; and fourth, by the laying on of the hands of them who believe, and whom God calls to that ministry, as the Lord commands in Mark 16:18 and in other places.

A. But are the people healed in this way in these days?

B. Yes, in thousands of cases. I have myself laid hands upon many hundreds of thousands of persons, and I have seen the Lord's power manifested in the healing of great numbers, many of whom are living witnesses in many countries, who have testified publicly before thousands, and who are prepared to testify at any time. This ministry is being exercised by devoted Christians in many parts of America, Europe, Australasia and elsewhere.

A. Is it not the same as Christian Science, Mind Healing etc?

B. No. Divine Healing is diametrically opposed to these

diabolical counterfeits, which are utterly antichristian. These impostures are only seductive forms of Spiritualism. Trance Evangelism is also a more recent form of this delusion, and it deceives many.

A. But how shall I obtain the necessary faith to receive healing, which faith I am at present conscious I do not possess?

B. It is written, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17) Our Missions are held for the express purpose of teaching fully the word of God on this matter and I very heartily invite you to attend the meetings which are announced for Zion Tabernacle. All are welcome and there are no charges of any kind made, for all God's gifts are free gifts. Salvation is the first of these, without which you cannot be healed through faith in Jesus. All the costs of this work are covered by the free-will offerings of the people who attend these meetings, and others whom the Lord leads to help; but the poorest, who have nothing to give are as heartily welcome as the richest.

A. Do you see the sick and lay hands upon them in this Mission?

B. Yes, after we feel satisfied that they are fully resting in the Lord alone for the healing, we see privately so far as time permits, those who attend; but under no circumstances do we claim the power to heal any; for "power belongeth unto God.

A. Have you any writings upon this subject which can be purchased?

B. Yes, these can be obtained at the office of Zion Publishing House, 1207 Michigan Ave., or at Zion Tabernacle, 1621-23 Michigan Ave. Chicago. Ill. But the best book on Divine Healing is the Bible itself, studied prayerfully and earnestly.

We extend to you a hearty invitation to attend the meetings, which are free to all. Our prayer is that you may be lead to find

in Jesus Christ our Lord and God, your present Savior from sin, your Healer from sickness, your Cleanser from all evil, your keeper in the way to Heaven, your Friend and your All for time and eternity. We pray that these words may help many who read, and that our little conversation may bear fruit in leading many readers to look to Jesus only.

Hush every lip, close every book
The strife of tongues forbear;
Why forward reach, or backward look
For love that clasps like air,

The healings of Christ's seamless dress,
Is by all beds of pain
We touch Him in life's throng and press
And we are whole again.

ISAIAH, CHAPTER XL.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God.
“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of Jehovah’s hand double for all her sins.

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of Jehovah, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

“And the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.

“The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: Because the spirit of Jehovah bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

“The grass withereth the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

“O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain, O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

“Behold, the Lord Jehovah will come with strong hand and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him and His work before Him.

“He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

HE IS JUST THE SAME TODAY

BY THE REV. JOHN ALEX. DOWIE

Have you ever heard the story
How our Lord before He died
Laid His blessed hands in healing
Upon all who to Him cried?

How the sick and all oppressed ones
He rejoicing sent away?
O, I’m glad, so glad to tell you,
He is just the same today.

Let me speak to you of Jesus, kind reader of these pages.

In simple, honest words, with tenderness and love, I want to tell you glad, good news. Christ changes never, and as He was on earth in ages long gone by, He is unchangeably the same even here and now. The Word which never dies is true,

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to day and forever.”

All His life and ministry were beautifully described by Peter thus:

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the Devil.” (Acts 10:38).

“Teaching” patiently, “preaching” boldly, He went about with constant sympathy,

“Healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness among the people. (Matthew 4:23, 9:35.)

He is the same today as when He trod the Holy land, blessing the fainting, scattered, burdened sheep of God with words of life.

And still He journeys over all the earth and never wearies of His loving task. He binds up still the broken, bleeding hearts, He still delivers from the tyrant's fetters, and from Himself, the Fountain, healing virtue still is flowing. With outstretched hands He stands, quick to respond to thine appeal and banish all thy woe. Unseen but "with us alway," as He said, He stands beside thy bed of weary pain. Loved ones bend over thee, and minister with sympathetic care; but nearer than all beside is Jesus, thy Saviour and thy Healer still. The Hand that cleansed the foulness of the leper's flesh and made it sweet and clean; the Hand that made the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the lame to leap, the dumb to speak; the Hand which raised the dead to life is here, no vanished Christ have we. Oh, wherefore doubt, and wherefore seek at other hands, from surgeon's knife, or poison draught, the healing which He died to bring to thee, to me, to all mankind, in every age, in every land, in every clime? Christ changes never.

Early in 1876, one noontide, I sat in my study in the parsonage of the Congregational Church, at Newtown, a suburb of the beautiful City of Sydney, Australia. My heart was very heavy, for I had been visiting the sick and dying beds of more than thirty of my flock, and I had cast the dust to its kindred dust into more than forty graves within a few weeks. Where, oh where was He who used to heal His suffering children? No prayer for healing seem to reach His ear, and yet I knew His hand had not been shortened. Still it did not save from death even those for whom there was so much in life to live for God and others. Strong men, fathers, good citizens, and more than all, true, faithful Christians, sickened with a putrid fever, suffered nameless agonies, passed into delirium, sometimes with convulsions, and then died. And oh, what aching voids were left in many a widowed, orphaned heart. Then there were many homes where, one by one, the little children, the youths, the maidens, were stricken, and, after hard struggling with the foul

disease, they too, lay cold and dead. It seemed sometimes as if I could almost hear the triumphant mockery of fiends ringing in my ears whilst I spoke to the bereaved ones the words of Christian hope and consolation. Disease, the foul offspring of its father, Satan, and its mother, Sin, was defiling and destroying the earthly temple of God's children, and there was no deliverer.

And there I sat with sorrow-bowed head for my afflicted people, until the bitter tears came to relieve my burning heart. Then I prayed for some message, and oh, how I longed to hear some words from Him who wept and sorrowed for the suffering long ago, the Man of Sorrows and of Sympathies. And then the words of the Holy Ghost inspired in Acts 10:38 stood before me all radiant with light, revealing Satan as the defiler and Christ as the Healer. My tears were wiped away, my heart was strong; I saw the Way of healing, and the door thereto was opened wide, and so I said, "God help me now to preach that word to all the dying round, and tell them how 'tis Satan still defiles, and Jesus still delivers, for "He is just the same today."

A loud ring and several loud raps at the outer door, a rush of feet, and then at my door two panting messengers, who said, "Oh come at once. Mary is dying; come and pray." With just such a feeling as a shepherd has who hears that his sheep are being torn from the fold by a cruel wolf, I rushed from my house, ran hatless down the street, and entered the room of the dying maiden. There she lay, groaning, grinding her clenched teeth in the agony of the conflict with the destroyer, the white froth, mingled with her blood, oozing from her pain distorted mouth. I looked at her and then my anger burned. "Oh," I thought, "for some sharp sword of heavenly temper keen to slay this cruel foe who is strangling that lovely maiden like an invisible serpent, tightening his deadly coils for a final victory."

In a strange way it came to pass; I found the sword I needed was in my hands and in my hand I hold it still, and never will I

lay it down. The doctor, a good Christian man, was quietly walking up and down the room, sharing the mother's pain and grief. Presently he stood at my side and said, "Sir, are not God's ways mysterious?" Instantly the sword was flashing in my hands—the Spirit's Sword, the Word of God.. "God's way! I said, pointing to the scene of conflict. "How dare you. Dr. K—, call that God's way of bringing His children home from earth to heaven? No, sir, *that is the Devil's work*, and it is time we called on Him who came to "destroy the works of the devil" to slay the deadly, foul destroyer, and to save the child. Can you pray, Doctor; can you pray the pray of faith that saves the sick? At once, offended at my word, my friend was changed, and saying, "You are too much excited sir, 'tis best to say God's will be done," he left the room. Excited! The word was quite inadequate, for I was almost frenzied with Divinely imparted anger and hatred of that foul destroyer, disease, which was doing Satan's will. "It is not so," I exclaimed, "no will of God sends such cruelty, and I shall never say God's will be done to Satan's works, which God's own Son came to destroy, and this is one of them."

Oh, how the Word of God was burning in my heart: "Jesus of Nazareth. . . went about doing good, and healing *all that were oppressed of the Devil:* for God was with Him."

And was not God with me? and was Jesus there and all His promises true? I felt that it was even so, and turning to the mother I inquired "Why did you send for me? To which she answered, "Do pray, oh pray for her that God may raise her up. And so we prayed. What did I say? It maybe that I cannot recall the words now without mistake, but words are in themselves of small importance. The prayer of faith may be a voiceless prayer, a simple, heartfelt look of confidence into the face of Christ. At such a moment words are few, but they mean much, for God is looking at the heart. Still I can remember much of that prayer unto this day, and asking God to aid I will endeavor to recall it.

I cried:

"Our Father help! and Holy Spirit teach me how to pray. Plead Thou for us, Oh Jesus, Saviour, Healer, Friend, our Advocate with God the Father. Hear and heal, eternal One! From all disease and death deliver this sweet child of Thine. I rest upon the Word. We claim the promise now. Thy word is true, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Then heal her now. Thy word is true, "I am the Lord, I change not." Unchanging God, then prove Thyself now. Thy word is true, "These signs *shall* follow them that believe, in My Name, they *shall* lay hands on the sick, and they *shall* recover." And I believe and I lay hands in Jesus' Name on her, and claim this promise now. Thy word is true, "The prayer of faith *shall* save the sick." Trusting in Thee alone, I cry, oh save her now, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

And, lo, the maid lay still in sleep, so deep and sweet that the mother said in a low whisper, "Is she dead?" "No," I answered in a whisper lower still, "Mary will live; the fever has gone. She is perfectly well and sleeping as an infant sleeps." Smoothing the long dark hair from her now peaceful brow, and feeling the steady pulsation of her heart and cool, moist hands, I saw that Christ had heard and that once more, as long ago in Peter's house, "He touched her and the fever left her."

Turning to the nurse I said, "Get me at once, please, a cup of cocoa and several slices of bread and butter."

Beside the sleeping maid we sat quietly and almost silently until the nurse returned, and then I bent over her and snapping my fingers said, "Mary!" Instantly she awoke, smiled and said, "Oh, sir, when did you come? I have slept so long." Then stretching out her arms to meet her mother's embrace, she said, "Mother, I feel so well." "And hungry, too?" I said, pouring some of the cocoa in a saucer and offering it to her when cooled by my breath." "Yes, hungry, too," she answered with a little laugh, and drank and ate again, and yet again, until all was gone. In a few minutes she fell asleep, breathing easily and softly. Quietly thanking God, we left her bed and went to the next room, where

her brother and sister also lay sick of the same fever. With these two we also prayed, and they were healed. The following day all three were well, and in a week or so they brought to me a little letter and a little gift of gold, two sleeve links with my monogram, which I wore for many years. As I went away from the home where Christ as the Healer had been victorious, I could not but have somewhat in my heart the triumphant song that rang through heaven, and yet I was not a little amazed at my own strange doings, and still more at my discovery that

HE IS JUST HE SAME TODAY.

And this is the story of how I came to preach the Gospel of Healing through faith in Jesus.

That very day I went to the cemetery and laid in the grave the bodies of three who had died two days before; but I rejoice to add that in the more than twelve years of ministry in Australia which followed, I only buried five, although ministering to many, many thousands. And yet it was not all at once that I could discover who to teach the lessons that I learned that day. Not until six years after did I fully enter upon the ministry of healing as a part of the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to preach which I was duly ordained twenty years ago. In these twenty years I have prayed, and in Jesus' Name have laid my hands upon tens of thousands of sick ones, and, so far as man can judge, by far the greater part were fully healed. These witnesses have testified in thousands and the record of their testimonies has gone forth to many lands. We have left our friends and home to carry Leaves of Healing from the Tree of Life to every nation we can reach. We have never proclaimed this Gospel in any city or country where God has not confirmed the word with signs following, although in some places it is still true as nineteen centuries ago, "He could not do there many might works because

of their unbelief." We bring this Message to this city, and to thee, kind reader. It will give us joy to tell it to all who will come. Salvation and healing are FREE, for God never sells His gifts. "Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Zion Home, 12th St. And Michigan Ave., Chicago, is the headquarters of the Christian Catholic Church and Divine Healing Mission, and Zion Tabernacle, 1621-1623 Michigan Ave., is seated for over 3,000 person. Zion Publishing House sends forth our Little White Dove, LEAVES OF HEALING weekly, telling of the work as it goes forward, and ever increasing thousands gather around the work in Zion.

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Let the words abide in thy heart.

HE IS JUST THE SAME TODAY..

And if thou wilt believe Him, first for Salvation and then for Healing, thou wilt go onward in the King's Highway of Holiness, singing the familiar words with a new meaning, as thou goest along the way through earth to heaven;

Thou, O, Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

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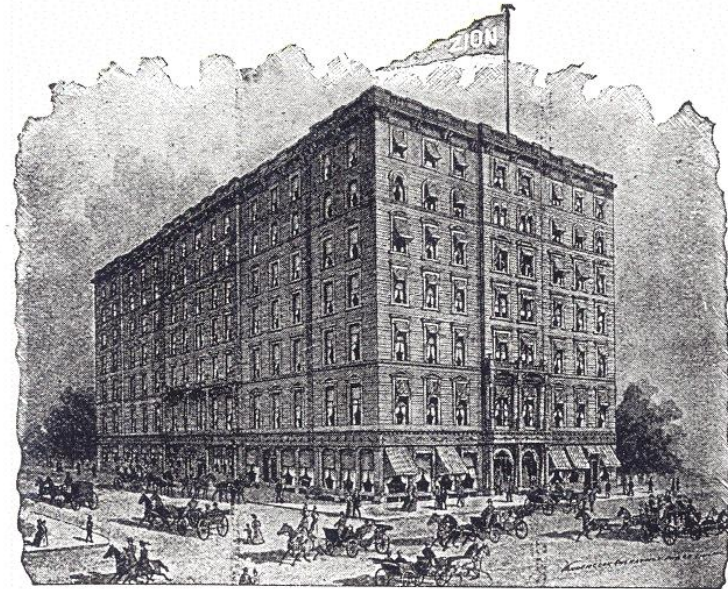
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Guests coming from the South will find the Illinois Central Railroad to be the most convenient route to ZION, and their baggage will be removed, without charge, immediately on their arrival.

Guests coming from the North and East can check their baggage on train to ZION, and then transfer to Illinois Central at Grand Crossing or Blue Island.

Guests coming from the West and Northwest are advised to take a Parmalee Transfer Coach to ZION at any of the depots where they arrive.

TERMS TO GUESTS will be forwarded on application.