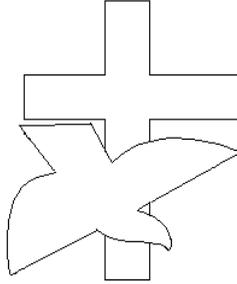


# **Divine Healing Ministries**



## **Peace through Surrender**

**Joel chapter 2**

*'I will repay you for the years the locust has eaten'*

**A personal experience**

**Eric Lewis**

## NEW BEGINNINGS

I was forty years of age before I realised that, without God, I was going nowhere. When I gave my life to Jesus it was because I had run out of ideas on how I could improve myself. I had heard people say that He takes us as we are and when I considered the shape I was in at that point, I knew that I had come off best in the transaction.

I had glanced at an open copy of the Good News Bible lying on our kitchen table and God spoke to me through a simple line drawing of a man leaving a heavy load at the feet of Jesus. The reading was from Matthew 11:28:30:

*‘Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in spirit and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy and the load I will put on you is light’.*

Every attempt I had made to shoulder my own burdens had failed miserably. I was tired, angry, disappointed and lost, A successful job, an expense account and a company car hadn't brought peace of mind and, in my attempt to prove something to somebody, I didn't know whom, I leaned increasingly on alcohol.

So my journey in faith started at the kitchen table, where the Holy Spirit opened my eyes, ears, heart and mind to show me truths that I had doubted all my life. I was drawn to prayer from the beginning of that journey and I found the relationship with Jesus to be more real than anything I'd previously experienced.

He listened; He made his presence felt through the power of His Holy Spirit. He filled the room where I sat quietly in the evening with such power that it blew my mind.

## **HEALING**

I became self-employed around this time and would not have survived the tightrope of financial and personal stresses, had it not been for the sure and certain faith that the Holy Spirit was in charge. Time after time I came to the point where the survival of the business looked hopeless and Satan whispered that I was on my own and had failed. But, even when my knees were shaking and I couldn't see the light, the Holy Spirit held me up and the gift of Faith which he gave me at the beginning became stronger with each testing. Even in the eye of the storm He brought His peace. After some years of learning and growing I felt drawn to the Healing Ministry. My first visit to a healing service in St Finnian's Church on a Tuesday evening made an impression on me which will remain with me all my life. There was such love and peace and, again, that awesome power!

My own need for healing was brought sharply into focus after a period of time in the Healing Ministry. I began to recognise things which triggered unhappy and negative reactions in me. I became more conscious when I prayed that my usefulness in this ministry would be limited if I failed to deal with them. To bring the touch of Jesus to others I had to be open to the unhindered power of the Holy Spirit.

My search for answers and release began during a quiet time of prayer. When I asked God to use me more powerfully, He showed me that I was carrying a great deal of baggage, which I

held in both my conscious and sub-conscious mind. There were experiences from the past, some of which had lain dormant for years but still had the power to burden me. He showed me that I needed to ask for cleansing of my earthly body, my mind and memories before I could be at one with Him in the Spirit. He spoke of the need for purity and led me to a reading from Romans 8:6, *‘to be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace’*.

I asked Him to bring me into a closer relationship with Him and to remove the blockages that remained between us. My mind was instantly taken back to the time of my birth and, at the same time, I was gripped by very real fear. It had often been the case when I closed my eyes in prayer that I felt myself to be in a long dark tunnel with a tiny light far ahead. When the experience was repeated on this occasion, God showed me that my fear had begun before birth. At a late stage during my birth my mother underwent an emergency caesarean operation. There were fears that she might die and for three weeks she was unaware of my birth and was too ill to see me. All the anxiety in my family had been directed towards my mother. I had been a healthy baby but only my Heavenly Father knew that the fear and rejection I’d felt since childhood stemmed from these earliest experiences. I couldn’t remember a time when I hadn’t been afraid of people and of life in general. I didn’t feel I fitted in anywhere and often wished I’d never been born. It was a binding fear which prevented me from expressing myself, either verbally or in the written word. I struggled helplessly through school and was often told by my parents that I was *‘stupid’*. Today if I hear this being said to a child I’m reminded of the power of these negative words. If said often enough, the deep wounds they inflict can be carried into adulthood. As I prayed I recalled many childhood

memories. They were vivid and painful but as I surrendered each one, the Holy Spirit gave me a freedom to forgive and the pain left.

My childhood fears and failures resulted in deep feelings of inferiority, which I carried right through my teenage years and into my twenties. My father had his own business but he decided I should serve my apprenticeship with another company. Here I found myself under the supervision of a man whose resentment of my father, of which I'd known nothing, resulted in his instant dislike of me. My hopes of finding some independence and self-respect quickly disappeared. I simply became the subject of his derision and a target for his daily criticism and sarcasm. I was more than ever convinced that I didn't belong anywhere and would be better off dead. In the silence, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit, I surrendered these years also and finally forgave the foreman for the part he'd played in my continuing battle. Again the peace came and the memory was put to rest.

I prayed that whatever cords still bound me to that fear would be severed and that I would be freed from anything on my mothers' side of the family which was not in His perfect will for me.

After a brief time of rest, I recalled threads, which ran through every part of my father's family, where anger, jealousy, dissension, and a lust for money had come down through several generations. Recognising how easily I was aroused to anger, and how I had striven for financial success in order to prove myself, I asked God again to sever these generational sins and to release me from their destructive power.

He showed me Galatians 5:19-20:

*‘What the human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry and ambitious’.*

As I prayed and waited I felt the powerful peace of the Holy Spirit replace each negative emotion with love. I spoke directly and audibly to address each sin of which I was aware - *‘I bind you in the name of Jesus Christ - I rebuke your destructive powers at their root cause - I send you to the place appointed by Jesus’.*

I felt lighter as I handed over each period in my life and prayed this prayer. I also prayed the good feelings associated with times of love and contentment within my family would become more manifest in my memories and would preserve what was good in my family history.

By the time I was twenty-four I had married Elizabeth and I felt for the first time that I was in a partnership and that I could make up for the years the locust had eaten. When our first baby was born I celebrated with some friends. I invited them to help me **‘wet the baby’s head’**; we had quite a few drinks during this celebration. I had plans about the kind of relationship I’d have with my new son but no thoughts about inviting God to be part of our family. Three days later we were told that Simon had severe problems **with his head**. He was mentally and physically handicapped and died when he was two years of age. During his short life and right up until the evening of my healing prayer,

twenty-five years later, I had carried my own guilt, mistakenly believing that my drinking to '*wet his head*' had been responsible for his microcephalic head and his subsequent handicap.

As I prayed for forgiveness and gave the burden of my guilt to Jesus, I left behind the most painful memory I had and experienced the love and forgiveness of my Heavenly Father.

I asked that God would remove, seventeen generations back, any habits, or unclean spirits, which had been passed down to me. I believe these spirits have the power to oppress us with everything that is the opposite of God's truth. Fear, jealousy and anxiety are all powerful spirits with which the enemy attacks, but through prayer, the light and power of the Holy Spirit can remove them and replace each lying spirit with the truth of the living God.

## **ALL THINGS NEW**

I asked the Holy Spirit for the gifts of spiritual wisdom and of discernment to enable me to recognise enemy spirits when they were at work. In the authority of the name of Jesus, these gifts are powerful weapons of prayer. I had seen them used to release many people from the oppression of spirits. I sought the power of the Holy Spirit to fill the voids left in me where dark feelings and emotions had been. I prayed for the healing of broken relationships in my past and for forgiveness where my attitudes were wrong, and I understood, perhaps for the first time, the power of the words in the Lord's Prayer... '*as we forgive those who sin against us*'. Many of the memories I had relived were acutely painful and I had been reluctant to bring them to the surface again. But Jesus had walked back with me and every step brought me new life.

The presence of God in the room at the end of these prayers dispelled all doubts that I had ever harboured about His power. I had been alone with Him, in my own armchair, for nearly three hours and in the silence of that time He had released me from painful emotions that had weighed me down for almost half a century. I prayed through Ephesians 6 and fitted myself in the whole armour of God to protect the healing He had given me and to equip myself for battle.

Since that time some years ago, in many different places, I've shared a small space with others who were too tired to carry their burdens any further and who experienced the same healing touch of God's Holy Spirit.

We are naturally cautious about unearthing deep wounds and Satan will undoubtedly urge us to keep them buried where they can continue to harm us but Jesus provides the way of freedom to the captives and **HE CAN SET US FREE**. If you feel you can hand over only a small part of your burden at a time, He will restore you one step at a time. The battle is ongoing, and the enemy will try to keep you bound, but prayer is the most powerful force in the world and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we can walk into the freedom promised by Jesus.

*'Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of His mighty power. Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the devil's evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the*

*heavenly world, the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armour now! Then when the evil day comes you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground'.*

Ephesians 6:10-13

For the first time in my life I was where I belonged and, like the man in the line drawing, I had left my burdens at the feet of Jesus. If you don't want to pray alone, then ask someone you trust to pray through your worries, anxieties or fears with you. It doesn't matter how long you have carried them. Jesus will take their weight and you will have His peace.

**GLORY TO GOD  
WHOSE POWER WORKING IN US  
CAN DO INFINITELY MORE  
THAN WE CAN ASK FOR OR IMAGINE**

## **HOW TO PRAY FOR YOURSELF**

Find a quiet place where you will not be disturbed and where you can sit comfortably, in a favourite armchair perhaps. You might want to disconnect the telephone and have a cool drink to hand to refresh you during your prayer. Plan so that you are not limited by time and can allow the Holy Spirit to lead you gently through prayer without the need to hurry.

This is a time when the enemy may try to discourage you and prevent you from bringing your burdens before God. The line in

a chorus which says *'Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way'* comes to mind.

Wait quietly for Christ to minister to you. Ask Him to cleanse you with His blood, from any sins you commit against your body, from the sins harboured in the thoughts of your mind and memories and also to cleanse your spirit so that you will be a clean vessel. In this way there will be a freedom for His Spirit to move.

Picture yourself meeting Jesus and being taken into the throne room of God. His promise when Jesus died, and the curtain in the Temple was torn apart, was that believers now had access through Him to the Holy Place where the Spirit of the Living God dwells. Settle in your mind the issues you want to bring before God and ask the Holy Spirit to show you where to begin.

Ask Him to give you total recall of everything you want to surrender to Him.

If He brings you back to the time of your birth and you have any sense of fear, pray for its removal. If you experience feelings of happiness and joy, thank God for these and ask Him to make them fruitful in your life.

Any hurtful feelings you have can be released through crying.

Tears are a form of healing and should be allowed to flow. Equally when you recall good times and blessings from God, thank Him for them. Don't be afraid to take time to express these feelings.

Move on when the Holy Spirit prompts you.

When you want to remove unwanted spirits - use the words '*I bind you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. In the power and authority of Jesus' name I loose you from my body, mind and spirit and I send you back to the feet of Jesus who has provided a place for you*'.

You may find that there are spirits that are reluctant to go and leave you. This is often the result of our having sins that we enjoy holding onto. Lust, resentment and jealousy may have a foothold in our lives but, although we might prefer to overlook them, they **have** to go. We need to ask Jesus to help us to let these go once and for all if we want to enjoy a deeper relationship with Him.

Letting go of any resentment, jealousy or relationship problems, asking for forgiveness for these and also forgiving those who have hurt us, are powerful decisions which open up the way for us to receive the peace of God.

If you become tired, rest for a short time and give Him thanks as He releases His power and healing into your memories and emotions.

Pray through any passage or word of Scripture He brings to your mind.

If you come to the end of the session and find you have only gone part of the way through your life, ask God to protect the healing He has given you and return again to pray at another time.

If you have prayed right up to the present in your life, again ask for God's protection of your healing both now and in the future. Ask Him to fill the dark places which were in your spirit with His Holy Light and thank Him for His life-giving Spirit of freedom and truth.

Read Ephesians Chapter 6 when your prayer finishes and pray the whole armour of God into place and protect the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The areas we need to cover when we pray like this are:

- Back to the time of our birth.
- Seventeen generations back on both our mothers and fathers side of the family.
- Recognition of traits, habits or weaknesses which we may have inherited and which are not of God.
- Relationships through childhood to maturity, at home, in school, at work and in Christian Fellowship.

The fruits of this deep prayer journey will be a greater love for people, and a deeper peace in everything you do.

## **'Love'**

*'I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy*

*gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains - but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned - but if I have no love, this does me no good.*

*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.*

*When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am a man, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only*

*partial; then it will be complete - as complete as God's knowledge of me.*

*Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love'.*

1 Corinthians 13

**Heavenly Father,**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, send the power of your Holy spirit to bring Your peace, healing and love.**

**Amen**

# **INTERDENOMINATIONAL DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES**

## **Healing Services**

Every Monday night at 8 pm in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast  
Every Tuesday night at 8 pm in St Finnian's Church,  
Cregagh (not July and August)

## **Intercession Service**

If you would like prayer for yourself or for someone else you  
may ring 028 9031 1532  
Just leave your first name and what you would like prayer  
for, and we will pray every day for a month

## **Personal prayer for God's strength, peace and healing**

Monday to Friday 10 am - 1 pm (by appointment) at  
32 Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES  
Telephone: 028 9031 1532

## **Drop In Centres**

St Peter's Cathedral, Falls Road Tuesdays 10.30 - 12 noon  
Shankill Methodist (corner of Berlin Street)  
Thursdays 10.30 am - 12 noon

## **Holy Communion and prayer for healing**

Every Monday at 1 pm in St George's Church, High Street,  
Belfast (near the Albert Clock)

**Divine Healing Ministries**

**32 Townsend Street**

**Belfast BT13 2ES**

**Tel: 028 90311532**

**E-mail: [divinehealing@live.co.uk](mailto:divinehealing@live.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.divinehealingministries.org](http://www.divinehealingministries.org)**