



Healing Environment



Dr Cecil Stewart OBE

Healing Environment

I first experienced a healing environment when I was suffering with TB and severe depression. I had seen healing happen to others, both in the missions and in my own mother's life when she was instantly healed from duodenal stomach ulcers causing horrible pain and serious loss of weight due to being unable to eat properly.

On each occasion it was the word of God that awakened faith and brought an environment of healing. **Proverbs 4 v 22** shows how His word is life to those who find it and health to all their flesh.

The environment and atmosphere changes when we receive and honour the word to the point where we meditate upon it day and night, see **Joshua 1 v 8**.



Matthew 4 v 23-25 reveals how Jesus went about all Galilee preaching and teaching the word of God while healing all manner of sickness and diseases among the people.

Faith developed as He spoke the word, and remember **Romans 10 v 17** shows that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. This pattern was seen in the life and ministry of Jesus and also in the early church.

In this short hope builder, you will see how to develop a healing environment and experience transformation. Not only in physical healing but in healing of broken relationships, broken hearts and broken lives. Remember **Jesus came to heal our broken world.**

“ *...His word is life to those who find it and health to all their flesh.* ”

In **Acts 3 v 1-16** we have an excellent report of how Peter and John brought a healing environment to a man who had been lame from birth. Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer and noticed the man begging. Peter said 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk'.

Here we see the power of the name of Jesus and partnership. Peter and John went together to pray. Their minds and hearts were in tune with the Holy Spirit and the word of God, therefore, they were able to speak **life-giving words** which changed the whole atmosphere where this man sat begging.

It is important to notice also that they were in unity, they went up together. So much more is accomplished when we **work together in unity**.

Peter spoke in the name of Jesus and reached out his hands and lifted him up. Instantly he stood, walked and entered with them into the temple. All the people who saw it were amazed because they knew this was the man who sat there day after day.



The **good news** is that every believer can carry the same influence of the presence of God and bring about transformation to many in our world as we meet them in our daily lives.

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We can be so occupied with God's presence and word that we live in the good of His presence all the time.

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It is so encouraging to notice that lives can be **transformed** not only inside a place of worship, but also outside. God's word works in the marketplace, on the streets, everywhere people live. God's word works if we will exercise our faith and reach out to those around us.

Psalm 119 v 105 tells us 'His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path'. If His word is living in our hearts and we speak it in love and faith, then it will bring a change of environment and atmosphere where people can respond and receive the help they need.

We don't have to allow the enemy to take charge of our environment, in our homes, our workplace, in our relationships, or in our minds and lives.

We can be so occupied with God's presence and word that we live in the good of His presence all the time.

In **Philippians 1 v 12** Paul says 'But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel'.

Paul was speaking about some of the sufferings and imprisonment he had gone through and now he is testifying that even in the midst of adversity the kingdom of God is advancing.

When we have a **vision** bigger than our own environment it brings God's presence on the scene and lives are affected, not only through the words we speak but through the way we live.



One of my favourite portions of scripture over the years has been **Hebrews 10 v 35-39**.

‘Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul’.

Let me highlight some key points that will help you to live in a healing environment.

1. Daily routine

Peter and John went up to the temple daily at the hour of prayer, this was their routine. The beggar was expecting a handout but he got a hand up as Peter reached out in faith and lifted him, speaking in the **name of Jesus** over him, and then his feet and ankle bones received strength, and he was totally restored, no longer dysfunctional.

His life changed because he no longer had to be carried and laid at the gate to beg for a living. Once he responded to the words that were spoken by Peter it put him on his feet and gave him authority and power to live a totally different life. **Your future is seen in your daily routine.**

Matthew 6 v 33 reminds us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added. Peter and John were not just thinking of themselves, they had a vision to reach out to this man and gave him more than he expected. We are also called to lift up others, for example **1 Timothy 2 v 1-2** exhorts us to first of all pray for those in authority.



1 John 4 v 19 says 'We love Him, because He first loved us'. One of the things that brings about an awareness of God's healing presence is allowing His word to have priority in our lives day by day.

Then, we will be able to bring that influence of His presence out where hurting people are and change the environment from one of fear, doubt and unbelief to one of hope, faith and healing.

Matthew 12 v 13 shows how Jesus was speaking to a man with a withered hand and was totally healed when Jesus said 'stretch out your hand'.

It was impossible for him to do that but when he acted on the words of Jesus his hand was restored whole as the other.

Are there areas of your life that are dysfunctional? Or do you know people who struggle to live an overcoming life in faith?

Focusing their attention on the word and letting them know you love them can be the start of a journey toward total restoration.

Acts 14 v 9-10 reveals another situation where a man had crippled feet and Paul spoke to him and said 'stand upright on your feet' and he was immediately healed.

It is interesting to note that Paul discerned that he had faith to be healed. He had been listening to the word and faith arose to the point where he was ready to act on what he had heard.

We too can lift people up and help them stand on their own two feet physically, spiritually and financially. We are not here to put people down but to lift them up.

We are on this earth to bring people into fellowship with their creator, no longer separated through sin, but reconciled through the cross.

We are here with hands extended across all cultures to bring our hurting world into a healing environment, where they begin to function in the destiny God has ordained for them.



2. Who are your friends?

The right friends can lead you up into a life-giving environment. **Mark 4 v 24** reminds us to take heed what we hear. So remember if we are hearing the wrong voices we may make the wrong choices because the voices we heed influence the choices we make.

That's why Paul says in **Philippians 4 v 4-8** to think on things of good report. We have a choice, we can stop the thoughts that are weakening, confusing, and dragging us down by meditating on God's good report. Do not allow others to put negative thoughts in your mind. Put a notice on your ears 'No Dumping Here'.

Thoughts can be your friends or enemies. If we receive the wrong thoughts they will rob us of faith and hope and render us ineffective. Thoughts from Jesus and His word will build us up and make us strong for ourselves, our families and indeed for all we come in contact with.

Satan of course seeks to separate us from the Lord and from His word by making us so busy we have no time to sit and listen. When we spend time with the Lord first we get more done in less time and our lives are very productive and fruitful, see **John 15 v 4, Isaiah 40 v 31** and **Psalm 27 v 13-14**

3. Where is your focus?

What are your eyes looking at day by day? What do you look at most? Peter and John were looking to the Lord as they went up to the temple and therefore they noticed this man in need and reached out to him and brought about a transformation through the name of Jesus.

This is a picture of our hurting, broken world without purpose.

When Jesus comes on the scene and His word is honoured we rise up and find purpose, meaning and follow Jesus so we can do His will and reach others in our hurting world, see **Ephesians 2 v 10**.



When I received the devastating news in 2003 that I had an aggressive cancerous tumour and that they could promise me nothing, it was focusing on what God's word said about me that brought me through.

Proverbs 4 v 25 reminds us to let our eyes look straight on. Don't be distracted by what the enemy is doing or by what is happening in the world.

We know bad things are happening because many are not aware of God's good plan, but it is our great call and privilege, not only to share the word with them, but to be an example of what kind of life they could live and see there is a better way.

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The best way to draw attention to the cross is to live in the good of its provision.

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Colossians 3 v 2 says 'Set your affections on things above'. We have the power to focus on what we know is right but we must be determined and not allow our focus to be taken off what God intended.

1 John 2 v 16 shows us that the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

All of these things will weaken us and lead us astray but focusing on God's great **call and purpose** for us will maximise our lives every day and cause us to be a solution provider.

4. Get ready for results

Peter and John went to the temple that day in touch with the Holy Spirit, walking in communion with the Heavenly Father.

When they spoke in the name of Jesus they expected results and they got them when they saw the man raised up and walking perfectly.



The lame man had never known any other kind of life. Only struggling for survival and always depending on others to carry him, but now he was able not only to walk and jump, but he was able to follow them into the temple which reveals a changed life through becoming a follower of Jesus.

Our routine changes forever when we meet Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5 v 17** says 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new'.

All this is possible because Jesus took our judgement on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins with His own blood. It's the best news ever! See **Ephesians 2 v 8, Ephesians 2 v 13-18** and **1 Peter 2 v 24**.

We do ourselves a great favour when we live in a life-giving environment and allow God's healing, grace and mercy to flow through us. Bringing peace where there is turmoil, harmony where there is strife, hope where there is hopelessness and faith where there is fear.

Remember, we can bring a healing environment onto our streets on a one-to-one basis as we share the **love of God** with those we are led of the Holy Spirit to meet.

We see this happening by the grace of God through our television programmes weekly, and reports come in sharing how lives are transformed, and some people have fallen on their knees before the television set and prayed the prayer to make Jesus the Lord of their lives and of their challenges.

Finally, **James 1 v 25** shows that the person who hears the word and does it will be blessed in his deeds. May God bless you as you move forward toward a life-giving, healing environment.



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Christian Communications Network

468 Shore Road, Whiteabbey

Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim

Northern Ireland

BT37 0AB

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9077 9552

Email: admin@ccnorg.com