

Waking Up the Nation,  
One Reader at a Time...

# PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

## Give Attention to My Word



*by Joan Vetter*

Working in temperatures over 90 degrees, covered with perspiration and mulch, I realized I had made the right decision to go work in the backyard. By the time I finished I was well! Just before I went outside, I had convinced myself that I was sick.

Last Saturday night I accompanied my daughter and granddaughter to the ER. Lauren had symptoms of meningitis - fever of 104, severe headache, and nausea, and she couldn't bend her chin to her chest. The doctor diagnosed her with a virus in the meningitis family and said to keep an eye on her.

There is much about this story I should have kept my attention on....First her temperature when we reached the hospital (after giving her Motrin at home)

was normal! Second, she could bend her head (of course we don't know if this was God's intervention or just her fear of having a spinal tap). And she looked and acted completely normal the next day.

However, instead of keeping my attention on God's grace and goodness, my mind began to lie to me. I imagined some of the symptoms attacking me, and I was about to give in to them when I made my choice to go out in the heat and work in the yard. Now, you may chide me and say that was foolish, but I feel completely fine now!

Often Jesus would speak the words, "According to your faith be it done unto you." But most people think our healing is up to God - maybe He will heal us and maybe not. Hardly a week goes past that I don't hear someone say they are waiting on God to heal them.

I'd like to challenge you - to read carefully the story of the woman in the Bible who had been bleeding for twelve years (Mark 5:25-34). Maybe she had been praying for healing, but it seems like perhaps she had just heard that Jesus was a healer. For it says "When she heard about Jesus." Now what did she hear? She must

have heard He healed people because her words were, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Then we read that immediately she stopped bleeding when she touched Him - and immediately Jesus knew that power had been released from Him.

When He discovered that she was the one who drew this power out He never rebuked her. He said, "Daughter, your faith had made you well."

Often people are diagnosed as attention deficit. Let's not be attention deficit with the Word of God. In Proverbs 4:20 God pleads with us to attend to His Word. Attend means to listen, concentrate, focus, keep your mind on, think about and apply. As the times get more difficult, it is time to switch Kingdoms. And to so concentrate on God's Word that we understand and focus on His truth. The doctor may tell you that you have an incurable disease, but what does God's Word say? In Psalms 103:3 it says that He forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases.

I am surely not an advocate of ever saying to people that they don't have enough faith. Yes, it takes personal faith to receive, but I see it more as a personal knowing that God is good, He

is powerful, and He cares about us. It is by the Spirit of God and His Word that we come to that realization, and then we automatically invite Him into every situation.

Sometimes the manifestation of our healing will come as a surprise. I heard of a man who passed out in a church service. He was a diabetic, and believing God for his healing. When they checked him out they realized he didn't need insulin any longer, so the shot he normally gave himself every morning is what caused him to pass out. Now he is off the insulin. Also, our pastor's wife had rheumatoid arthritis - was prayed for - and suddenly one day she just realized the symptoms were gone.

Interestingly, whenever she gives her testimony of God healing her the symptoms try to return.

Sometimes our belief is stretched, but when we see Him come through for us it broadens our understanding of His goodness and power. For instance, last evening my daughter called for prayer. At 105 degrees, their air conditioner had gone out. She had to get ready to teach on Monday and the kids were heading back to school. Also with two daughters in college they really didn't have the

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money for this emergency. Laurie's request was, "Mom please pray that the air conditioner will start to work again." Remember the woman with the issue of blood? Jesus said, "According to your faith be it done to you" So I prayed - trusting in His ability to do even what seemed impossible in my mind.

When we got home from church there was a message on our answering machine: "Mom, by the time the air conditioning repairman came our air conditioner was working, and he didn't even charge us." It did quit again on Monday, however our specific request was answered - to God be the Glory!

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