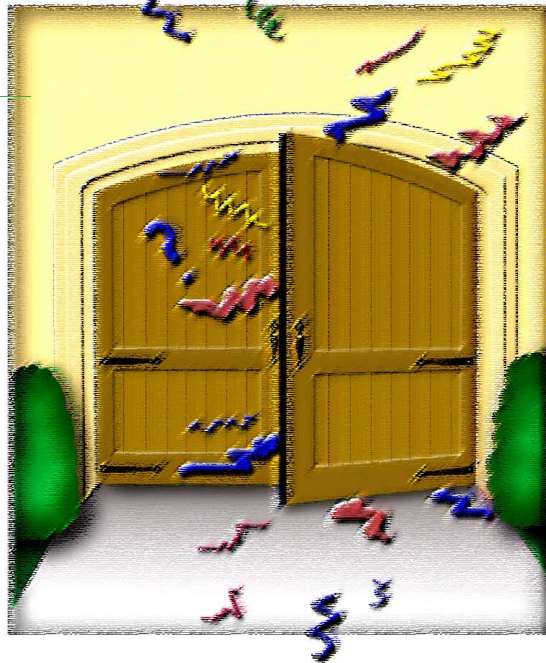


MAKING ROOM
FOR
HEALING



WHAT'S IN
YOUR GARAGE?



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Imagine, if you will, an old wooden garage with double wooden doors set at the back of a beautifully restored 1920s house. This garage has long past retired as a place to park the car and is now the repository of junk collected over the years. The new owners of this home set on a tree-lined city street now wish to restore the garage to its intended purpose.

First, the rusted hinges, which only open wide enough to allow a person to squeeze through, must be oiled and “worked” to allow the doors to swing wide. This done, the junk in the garage must be sorted through and discarded properly, saving only a very few “keeper” items. Finally, the walls must be checked for soundness, the roof checked for rain protection, and the floor reconditioned to make ready for the family car.

Imagine, further, that the owners chose any of the following three scenarios to substitute for the arduous task of properly preparing the garage for their vehicle.

a. The owners begin to speak to the car, demanding that it get into the garage. Of course, all the coaxing in the world cannot move a car; nor could the car enter the garage should the coaxing succeed, due to the junk that is still there. The owners grow quite angry at the car and begin to plan for the purchase of a new car, after having tried to back the car into the garage.

b. The owners open the doors and remove some of the junk at the front of the garage, enough to get the front bumper and part of the hood of the car into the garage. They walk away satisfied that this should be enough for their purposes. After all, a little is better than none; and besides, it is better than it was. That is progress, isn't it?

c. The owners, not having any idea what to do with the junk, decide to put it inside the car for now, anything to get the car inside the garage. Of course, there is no room for passengers inside the car, but they can deal with that later.

These are some of the ways that Christians approach the idea of healing. Here is the new Christian, restored to right standing with God and given a new spirit that is not of this world. He is more than a conqueror and able to withstand anything in life. **Jesus tells him that he has been healed and can keep on being healed; *only be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***

In our analogy, the old garage is the unregenerate mind of the new Christian, which needs to be “transformed” for the presence of the Lord, “transformed” for the new understanding of healing which Jesus has provided. Before the healing truths of Jesus can work in our bodies, we must make room for them. They cannot continue to be an ‘outside’ belief system if they are to be beneficial to us. **We must get the truths of God into our thinking. We cannot let the old, musty, junky ‘elements’ of this world fill up and junk up our minds.**

Not all the coaxing in the world is going to get the new car of healing into our minds and bodies. Getting mad at God or His gift car to us isn't going to help. All the prayers in the world that healing will come to us aren't going to help. ‘Redesigning’ the theory of healing so it might better fit is as useless as trying

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to coax the car into the garage. Getting another understanding of healing still will not solve the problem of the junk-filled garage (read: mind). What does work? Making room for the healing package. Clearing out the old stuff so there is plenty of room for the new.

Getting the doors open and getting the front of the car into the garage definitely shows an effort on the part of the owner toward the desired results. Nevertheless, we must not quit until the final results are achieved.

Putting the junk of the mind inside the new understanding of healing (the new car) will certainly make more room. But the healing can't carry you to where you need to go because there is no room. Formulas and stories of the past merely hold us back from simply taking the healing the Lord has promised.

All of this about cars and garages is my attempt to help you understand what Paul said, *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* (Romans 12:2) It is very important that we change our thinking concerning the redemption that Christ has purchased for us. Unless we get saved immediately after we leave the womb, there is years' worth of the teachings of this fallen world packed into our brains, teachings that highly affect how we receive the knowledge of our redemption. So Paul tells us that it is necessary, in order to *prove* (know) the will of God, to replace the knowledge of this world with the truth of God's Word. It doesn't just automatically happen.

That means we have to get the junk out of our minds. The only way to do that is to begin to fill our minds with the Word. Begin this

by concentrating on a certain issue that is confronting you; healing, finances, relationships, salvation, etc. Use the following example as a guide for any issue.

1. **Memorize and daily quote the Word of God** concerning your issue
2. **Deliberately replace the thinking of the world with that Word.** If you hear, "50% of people with this cancer die." Replace with, "I shall not die, but live and declare the glory of God." "With his stripes I am healed." (Note: you don't have to declare that the 50% statistic is wrong. Just declare that it isn't true about you, according to God's Word.)
3. Each time the thought comes, **repeat the above.**
4. **Listen to the Holy Spirit inside you.** If he begins singing a song you know which addresses your need, join in and sing the song with him.
5. **Be adamant.** This is your life involved here!
6. **Don't listen to others when they want to tell their horror stories** about the same condition. And believe me, when you begin to confront an issue, people will come out of the woodwork to relate stories. Don't insult them, they mean well – as the world knows it. Just don't listen, and be sure to **vocally counteract it with the Word of God.**

Slowly and surely, you will begin to get the junk out of your mind; and before you know it, the new understanding of healing, or provision, or relationship, etc. will have room to move in and be at service for your needs.

**Scriptures to consider
to make room for your healing:**

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, **And by His stripes we are healed.** —Isaiah 53:1,4,5 NKJV

He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions. —Psalm 107:20 NKJV

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, **And health to all their flesh.** —Proverbs 4:20-22 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Romans 12:1,2 NKJV

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live righteous—**by whose stripes you were healed.**

—1 Peter 2:24 NKJV

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