



# TAKE UP THY SWORD



A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)*

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## Holy Wholeness

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it (1 Thes 5:23-24).*

Pizza is my favorite [carnal] food, but I can't eat a large one in a single sitting. However if any little piece was missing upon delivery, I would be very upset! So how does God feel when we arrive at His throne with 'missing pieces'? We're supposed to obey, praise, and seek Him with our whole heart. Wholeness can be defined as the state of having all the correct elements or parts – being complete, full, intact, or perfect. We read this in the New Testament:

*... The trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:3-4).*

At a prayer conference not too long ago, I learned that perfection does not solely equal flawlessness; it simply means that something is properly operating in the divine purpose for which it was created. Perhaps that sheds some light and lessens the pressure from this passage: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt 5:48). We cannot look to man as an example of righteous, purpose-driven living because we can only be "perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col 1:28). As Apostle Paul preached in Athens:

*For in Him we live, and move, and have our being... For we are also His offspring (Acts 17:28).*

We constantly hear prayer requests for those who are sick in body, but that is not the only type of healing that takes place in order for us to be 'made whole'. God heals all of our wounds because we have to endure many afflictions (Ps 34:19). King David explained it this way:

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise (Ps 51:17).*

How can the Lord fix something that hasn't been broken? I was not able to say, "I am like a broken vessel" (Ps 31:12) until I experienced the chain of bondage, pain of divorce, and rain of bills! Here are the primary areas where we need healing and wholeness while our Father is shaping and molding us "as the clay is in the potter's hand" (Jer 18:6):

- 1) physical – we need to eat right and exercise
- 2) spiritual – we need to be set free and delivered
- 3) emotional – we need to maintain a level of peace
- 4) financial – we need to be good stewards of our seed

Similar to many aspects of this Christian walk, there is a process to reach that destination called wholeness. This scripture can give some hope along that road:

*... Despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For He maketh sore, and bindeth up: He woundeth, and His hands make whole (Job 5:17-18).*

Because Satan is always trying "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10) the manifestation of the promises of God, we have to fight against lack and call forth restoration. The Lord is always there to lead, guide, and protect us; so when we have to go into the enemy's camp, the victory is surely ours:

*And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great... nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all (1 Sam 30:19).*

When Jesus Christ walked the earth, people looked to Him as their healer (Jehovah Rapha/Rophe). So let's allow the determination of a certain unnamed woman to activate that same measure of faith in us:

*"For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:28).*

In the fifth chapter of Mark, we're introduced to a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. After spending all of her money on doctors who only made her condition worse, she heard about Jesus' power and decided to press through the crowd to at least touch his garment. She instantly knew that she was healed; and when Jesus asked who had just tapped into His healing virtue, she fearfully came forward and told Him her story. "And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (5:34).

When we're feeling incomplete, we can always reach out to the Lord and be "made perfectly whole" (Matt 14:36)!

**THUS SAITH THE LORD: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2).**

**PRAYER:** *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments (Ps 119:10).*

**"Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):**

Numbers 32:11-12; Psalm 34:18, 147:3; Joel 2:25-26; Mark 6:56, 10:51-52; John 5:2-4; Acts 4:9-10, 9:32-34; Colossians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 5:10