

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH AND HEALING

A Visit with Mrs. Victor Paul Wierwille

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I called Mrs. Wierwille, as Staff members at The Way International headquarters often do when faced with sickness or questions about health. I knew that many went to Mrs. Wierwille because of her simple, practical insight into God’s Word and belief in His power to heal. Now I needed help.

“Since I was a child, I’ve had a real interest in people being well,” says Mrs. Victor Paul Wierwille, First Lady of The Way International. “That’s why I became a nurse.”

Mrs. Wierwille received her R.N. degree from Deaconess Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and practiced three years of general duty before her family and the work of the ministry claimed most of her time. She maintains her registered status and is active in the field of health care within the ministry. She combines practical knowledge with an understanding of the spiritual enablements God has given her and His will concerning healing.

Sitting in the soft lamplight of her living room, Mrs. Wierwille asks what’s bothering me. She asks questions and lets me talk. Then she shares the simplicity of God’s Word and will and gives me practical suggestions, emphasized by incidents from her experience in ministering to others. She calls in Louise McGlothen, her housekeeper of over seventeen years, and the three of us hold hands while Mrs. Wierwille prays for me. She gives me a warm hug, and her final exhortation is, “Keep a merry heart.” She repeats this whenever we see each other in the weeks to follow.

I know God’s will for me is health. Even so, sometimes I don’t feel healthy. Knowing what is available from God, I tend to feel like a failure when I don’t manifest that perfect health. Mrs. Wierwille often helps to correct this kind of thinking as she works with believers who need deliverance.

“The first thing I do when someone comes to me,” Mrs. Wierwille explains, “is to take that person to a quiet place where just the two of us can talk. I determine how he feels about his troubles, what his mental attitude is, so I know how I can build him up with positives and steer his thinking back to the logic of God’s Word.”

Mrs. Wierwille often works with people on two points. Number one is self-condemnation. They feel bad about themselves for being sick, forgetting that they’re still sons of God and that he still loves them. “Before we knew the accuracy of God’s Word,” she recalls, “we thought that keeping ourselves condemned was a wonderful, humble thing, because that’s what we were taught.” Now she reminds me, “Who is it that condemns us? It

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wouldn't be God – He justified us! We work from where we are now, not from what we did *not* do yesterday. God is interested in us where we are today.”

The second point Mrs. Wierwille makes is that the spirit of God quickens our mortal bodies. “When you're born again of God's spirit, you have Christ in you – his eyes behind your eyes, Christ behind every cell in your body. Believe that the spirit from God is quickening your body, making it alive and healthy.”

Both of these truths are found in Romans chapter 8, a chapter often recommended by Mrs. Wierwille as daily reading. Here, God tells us plainly that we've been delivered. “God has made it so easy for us,” she says. “We just have to think of ourselves as God thinks of us.”

I know that when I feel sick it can be difficult to think and believe the positive statements and promises of healing in God's Word. Sometimes I try to struggle through on my own, not wanting to involve anyone else in my dilemma.

Mrs. Wierwille shows me that when you're very sick, you are not going to feel like praying, giving, or believing. You need help to do these things. “If you've ever had pain and tried to get your head above it,” she shares, “you know that you need outside help. How wonderfully God has designed the Church as the Body of Christ, with Christ as the head and all of us members in particular. As James 5:15 and 16 describe, we work together to keep each other built up. No one stands alone.”

Over the years, Mrs. Wierwille has learned principles that she applies in working with people to help them get the deliverance they want.

First of all, they do have to *want* the deliverance. She lets people come to *her* with their needs. She explains, “In the Gospel accounts, I haven't found any place where Jesus went out of his way to heal anyone who didn't come to him looking for deliverance. You'll see many who need help, but unless they come to you, there's not much you can do.”

She says that when we deal with others who need help, we ourselves should be built up with the Word of God and have confidence in our God-given ability. Being born again of God's spirit, we have his power over us. We have to know that this is what God's Word says and believe it. We must study God's Word daily so that we're prepared to minister.

“I encourage being in fellowships where God's Word is taught, says Mrs. Wierwille. “As we take advantage of every teaching that's available, it helps build or renewed minds so that we can have confidence in God's ability to deliver. Each fellowship is like a healing service, because God's Word heals. And being united in prayer at these fellowships brings deliverance beyond our expectations.”

When Mrs. Wierwille meets with someone who needs healing, she has confidence that God works in her. She believes that He will bring to her mind the things she should think about and cover. “Several sick people come to me each week for help,” she explains, “and it all works out so easily.” Things come to my mind, and say them – simple things; nothing so extraordinary. This is God working.”

One day a young man stopped by to see Mrs. Wierwille. He was going home early because he had such a severe headache he couldn't work. She saw that he just needed to let go and laugh. “Well, I guess God's out of business then,” she remarked after he'd told her his

trouble. He laughed long and hard, and then went back to work. The pressure was off, and his headache was gone.

Mrs. Wierwille keeps it light. She knows that a cheerful heart has a powerful and positive effect on our health. “Think of how quickly a blush comes on the face with a thought,” she tells me. Our thought processes affect the thousands of chemical reactions that constantly go on in our bodies.

Proverbs 17:22, in the Rotherham translation, says: “A joyful heart worketh an excellent cure, but a stricken spirit drieth up the bones.” It is crucial to guard our hearts. Our believing and our actions emanate from that deep, innermost part of the mind, the heart.

Someone who is sick particularly needs to hold the right thoughts. The one working with him must be aware of the importance of words. A seriously ill person might ask, “I’m not going to die, am I? I don’t want to die.” What kind of picture does that paint? Help him change his negative statement to “I want to live.” Mrs. Wierwille advises, “Don’t say ‘*my pain*’ or claim the symptoms or disease as your own. They are foreign invaders. Give them no place.”

When caring for someone who is ill, she brings his mind to the Word in every way she can think of – with the pictures on the wall, the music in the background, reading aloud, taped teachings, prayer times. He needs a specific personal goal, a picture of how he wants to see himself and what he will do once he’s healed. He is encouraged to spend five minutes every day picturing and concentrating on this goal.

Thankfulness is the frame of mind to maintain. In Exodus 3:14, God says “I am that I am,” correctly translated as we understand it, “I shall become what I shall become.” We can be thankful always, trusting in this promise as well as many others. In every circumstance, God will become for us what we need Him to become. God wants to supply *all* the need we might have. Our vision can be above and beyond our circumstances no matter how bleak the situation seems.

Serious illness puts a weight on the family and everyone involved. They need all the little things we think of to cheer them, like flowers and cards, but most of all God’s Word and our prayers. Mrs. Wierwille recalls an incident of a long, drawn-out illness that challenged the spouse to renew his mind according to God’s Word.

“One day his head was just hanging and his shoulders were stooped. I shared this verse with him.

1 Corinthians 10:13:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

This man’s eyes lit up as he believed what God’s Word said he could do with the power of Christ in him. He became very strong in the situation. The nurse told me how wonderfully he helped with his wife that day. God does not promise to restrain the adversary from tempting us, but rather that every believer has the ability to overcome the temptation he faces. Every believer has the faith of Jesus Christ and the potential to be more than a conqueror in every situation.”

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When Mrs. Wierwille prays for me, she has Louise join her. She consistently includes another person when she ministers to or prays for someone. She explains, “I know that when two or three agree as in Matthew 18:19 and 20, there are powerful results, and the person helping learns and gains experience. Ministering is standing in Christ’s stead, operating the manifestations of holy spirit. It is by revelation that you minister healing. God will tell you who to minister to. If He doesn’t then you simply pray for the person. Real prayer is believing. You can expect things to happen when you pray.”

Every situation and each individual is different. Mrs. Wierwille does not rely on similar cases or past patterns in determining what to do for me. “We have the written Word, and we have Christ in us,” she says. “We can do what God asks us to do. You are there with another person, and God says to do something for him, you do it. If not, there are plenty of promises in God’s written Word that you can claim and that God has guaranteed.”

Mrs. Wierwille admonishes, “Seeking help from physicians and other health-care professionals does not exclude God from working in the situation. When you go to a doctor, you want help, so do what he says. If a doctor suggests something drastic for your life, then you should get a second opinion. But don’t always be running from one to another, never following any instructions. If you can have a doctor with the spirit of God in him, that’s the best. But if not, find someone you can trust and have confidence in.”

It’s always God first. I learn from Mrs. Wierwille that when we need healing we go to God first in prayer, and He remains first in our hearts and believing as we take whatever further steps are needed. No matter what steps we take to get the deliverance, God is the Source of our healing.

I ask Mrs. Wierwille how to stay healthy. “Taking care of yourself, with good physical habits of food and cleanliness, is important,” she answers. “But mainly, for myself, I just keep from being burdened. I leave the burdens on God’s shoulders. We can’t carry them all anyway, so give them to God. Stay light, keep a merry heart, and do your best to stay healthy.”

Mrs. Wierwille’s love and care for me are apparent. As I leave the soothing atmosphere of her home, I feel at peace, comforted, and confident of my deliverance. I’m inspired to see myself in a better state of health than ever before, and today it is becoming a reality. I see the importance of physical health in being our best for God. God knows it’s important. He has devoted much of His Word to incidents and promises of healing. Mrs. Wierwille has a love and understanding of this field, and the principles that she has mastered in caring for others are ones that each of us can apply.

“Everyone has a part, a very vital part, in the working of this family,” Mrs. Wierwille states. “God will be glorified by us, His family, as we work as a family to keep each other happy and blessed.”