Facing the Facts

I have allowed myself to be diagnosed this year. I have had proof that a character defect controls my life. It’s the disease of negativity. I see this even more being married to my dear husband who wakes up every morning like he was on a Hawaiian cruise. I see the ease of his God-given temperament— which just puts more light on my negativity!

Well-intentioned people try to help me. Statements like: “If you’re positive, good things will happen,” and “just be thankful.” All are true (I guess—smile) but somehow just doing those exercises takes every ounce of energy in me to do. So the question for me is how does one get healed from this disease?

I love God’s Word because He doesn’t pretend. He uses real people to demonstrate His ability to bring relief and peace into impossible situations. So I am going to share with you how God is healing me from negativity.

Romans 4:19-24 - Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead— since he was about a hundred years old— and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. This is why it was credited to him as righteousness. The words, “It was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness— for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

I’ve come to the conclusion about the disease of negativity: the first step in healing is to face the obvious facts just as Abraham did in Genesis 15.

It’s okay to face those facts, that’s not being negative, that’s being real. I see sickness around me... I see unmet emotional and physical needs of those I love. Yet I need to fully grasp His promises despite my feelings. Facing the facts also allows me to see that it is the Lord when things change — it’s certainly not me doing it. So I can go to Him in honesty and dependence.

* Then He really needs to show up.
* And He does every time I face the facts and look to Him.
* After all, He is the Creator.
* He is able to say the word and bring something out of nothing!
Testimony Time

This month we share excerpts from an inspirational and thought-provoking tract on healing by A. B. Simpson (1843-1919). He was a pastor and prolific author who founded the Christian and Missionary Alliance. The excerpts below are from a now public domain tract he wrote called, “Himself.” Simpson struggled with severe weakness and sickness for years before being healed by the Lord. The tract’s title comes from a passage on healing from Isaiah 53:4-5:

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

I wish to speak to you about Jesus, and Jesus only. I often hear people say, “I wish I could get hold of Divine Healing, but I cannot.” Sometimes they say, “I have got it.” If I ask them, “What have you got?” - the answer is sometimes, “I have got the blessing,” sometimes it is, “I have got the theory;” sometimes it is, “I have got the healing;” sometimes, “I have got the sanctification.”

But I thank God we have been taught that it is not the blessing, it is not the healing, it is not the sanctification, it is not the thing, it is not the it that you want, but it is something better. It is “the Christ”; it is Himself. How often that comes out in His Word - “Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses”; Himself “bare our sins in his own body on the tree!” It is the person of Jesus Christ we want. Plenty of people get the idea and do not get anything out of it. They get it into their head, and it into their conscience, and it into their will; but somehow they do not get Him into their life and spirit, because they have only that which is the outward expression and symbol of the spiritual reality.

I once saw a picture of the Constitution of the United States, very skillfully engraved in copper plate, so that when you looked at it closely it was nothing more than a piece of writing, but when you looked at it at a distance, it was the face of George Washington. The face shone out in the shading of the letters at a little distance, and I saw the person, not the words, nor the ideas; and I thought, “That is the way to look at the Scriptures and understand the thoughts of God, to see in them the face of love, shining through and through; not ideas, nor doctrines, but Jesus Himself as the Life and Source and sustaining Presence of all our life.”

For the complete “Himself” tract—go to http://www.biblebelievers.com/simpson-ab_himself.html

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My Stronghold
Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear’s story and book about his cancer battle, My Stronghold, A Pastor’s Battle with Cancer and Doubts. www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html
If you’re a cancer patient or caretaker, we’ll send the book at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story.
We want to be in your corner!

In His Grip—New
Terri and Joe Fornear’s new devotional with short encouraging lessons on their cancer battle: In His Grip, Meditations with the Great Physician. www.mystronghold.org/In_His_Grip.html
If you’re a cancer patient or caretaker, we’ll send the book at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story.
Stronghold Prayer Wall

Please join us in prayer for these warriors

Stronghold is reaching out to these individuals who are fighting cancer, or are survivors, and a few have other serious illness. We believe in the centrality of prayer for healing. Will you take a moment to intercede with us for these whom Jesus loves?

Mike D Michael Akadrianna Ethan Sandra Michael Lana Molly Liz Jenny Hollie Deb
Mr. W Robert Janet Myrna Steve Vicky Sheryl Leslie Susan Benjamin David Ria
John Mike Julie Don Cathy Harold Toni Michel Mary Sherri Linda Lorinda
Bill Debra Delora Will Donna John Barbara Sheila Dick Charandeep Casey Carolyn
Jon N Michael S. Kathy Kie Bonnie Joan Mark John Diana Barbara Jeff Roderick
Gloria Debbie Sherry Randy Debrah George Gail Stephen Lacey Glenda Kimberley Sue
Claudia Barb Adair Carlos Fred Dewayne Peggy Gindy Adrian Reb Marty Mary
Jeff Kent Matt Mike JL Richard Bunny Martha Daniel Dianne Carmela Jeff
Carolyn Ted Mike Tina Betty Nicole Beverly Robert Angela Brian Jan Dale
Laura Andy Mildred Trista Will Susan Brenda Florence Karen Richard Sherri Billie
Mary Sue Steve Anne Timi Celine Dennis Laura Diana Robert Melissa Sandie Jim
Ed Lois Fred Jordan Donna Pamela Deborah Sam Paula Eric Emily Ray
Milton Karen Raye Scott Phil Terry Joe David Jeff Cole Jeff Nicole Eva
Sara Pat Lois Maria Fred Chuck Larry Mike Claudee Bill Jeremy Jessica
Rex Jodie Gracie Jack Anna Darcy Julie Will Mary Jane Cristy Joe
Monette Susan Tom Naomi Ava Eloisa Helga Susan Marci Woody Michael Michael
Joan Hudson Johnnie Matthew Evelyn Matilda Lisa Joe Christi Kim Betty Robert
Brian David Linda Lori Dave Barbara Adrienne James Darlene L. Charles Josiah Andrea
Joanne Darlene Maurice Kristen Bill Jamie Pat Gayle Jim Betty Rachel Lorene
Kathy Lynda Gary John Lawrence Jackie Fran Elizabeth Mark Patsy Larry Mark
Sue Yvette Pat Leonard Kathy Sylvia Bryan Tommy Sarah Nick Glen Sharon
Garrett Sean Dylan Penny Sheryl Sue Brenda Charlie David Steve Brendan Keith Max
Kathy Frank Carolyn Betty Gipsy Tina Lanette John John John Sonja Gale Jeannine
Peggy Larry Rusty Lisa Jo Leonard Bob Peck Ron Cecilia Lynn James
Mr. L Lori Cindy Mechas Gino Jodi Kevin Tim Lenna Renita Virginia Macie
Becky Katrina Brian Phyllis Becky Johnny Eric JoAnne Amy Michelle Janet Phil
Frank Gregg Sherry Mike Kellison Itai Bob Glenzine Sandra Linda Sandy Molly
Randy Ruth Darelle Hal Linda Ken Judy Wendy Patricia Pam Jose Leonnard
Sam Sue Jennifer Frank Joyce Chris Philip Luciaetra Charles Ruth Allie Sharon
Mr. S Pete Agnes Evelyn Molly Tommy Harry Sherri Janet Briania Elaine James
Susan Gina Fred Mary Louise Danny Ed Karen Grace Christiana Robin Bo
Mrs. L Duke Dave Tina Dee Ann Mimi Mickey Clayton Ester Corrine Pat Rob
Priscilla Don Rose Randy Rachel Joe Cheryl Jim Dina Peg Laura Treva
Stephanie Jack Joanne Steve Maura Jimmy Margaret Nancy Chris Samantha Larry Phil
Lynne John Marilyn Kim Leon Heidi Lori Ben Rick David Gerry David
Bubba Richard Johnny Mary Jane Ann Carol Bob Robin Gina Mrs. R Stephanie Jeremy
Althea Lori Pat Carol Cynthia Michael Susan Suzanne Dave Jennifer Elaine Ruth Ann
Robbin Sheila Mary Rob Dallas Debbie Gail Bryan Andrea David Yolanda Karen
Correy Beverly Charles Andre Wayne Beth Susan Mitch Wendell Agit Sarah Carol
Angela Darlene Bill John David Kathy Brenda Lin Ann George Gene Mary Dell Phil
Maryann Cheryl Karen Linda Taylor Julie Shahundra Gwen Lynn Jim Nancy Danny
Bill Karen Betty Dorcas Keith Cheryl Becky Serenity Michael Saudra Bobbie Sally
Tina Jacob Mr. H Ivan Jon Sara Dana Henry Sally Chris Lucy Carl
Edward Rebecca Manuel Nancy Clark Terri Simone David Tommy Charlotte Cheree Deborah
Dianne Susan Bob Jessica Don Lilly Angela Tracy Robert Debbie Jay Denny Gay
Vicky Ms. M Nick Emily Joe George Fern Bruce Eddie Margaret Larry Jacques
Rachel Bill Bonnie Bob Sheryl Martha Charles John Karen Rockie Rosella Eloisa
Stephanie Sharon Misti Quentin Kenedy Susan Randy Marlene Jobi Maxine Bob Andrea
Judy Luke Kristina Donna Amy Rita Tom Ben Dennis Kate Ruth Mark
Terri Nancy Alfredo Christian Cindy Peter Kevin Sherri John Kathleen Anne Tricia
Megan Holly Virginia Kathy Pearl Kay Kay Seth Audrey David Jeffrey Joe Charlotte
Ruth Diane Linda Toni Dale Junie Nina Linda Linda Harold Ilaria Maurice Kim
Hank Allison Vicky Gloria Phil Bob Rosa Peggy Don Brian Carmen Susan
Tony Randy Inez Althea William Carolyn Kevin Jessica Diane Ken Trisha
Melody Nellie Kate Cathy Bill Helga Mickey Isabella William Dave Brandon
Susan Rick Debbie Grace Meg Jim Nikki Elaine Charlotte Kelly Jamie
Joseph Linda Sara Pam Tim Mark Carletta Joanne Angelie Justin Darlene

We try to maintain a balance of privacy and personalization. If your name or a loved one’s name appears here and you do not wish to be listed for any reason, please write and we will remove - jfor@mystronghold.org.