Abiding and Health Part #1

Pastor Ron Susek ©Golden Quill Publications

Text: John 15:1-11

- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
- **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
- 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
- **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Introduction

Dr. Haig is an assistant clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

David's Death

- > Cancer filled his body and ate most of his brain
- > David lost contact in the final weeks of life
- > Dr. Haig made his final visit . . . Knew David was close to death
- Wife asked: "Do you know where David is?" Dr. Haig saw her cross and said, "I don't know where he is but I know where he is going." Departed the room.
- Next morning a nurse said, ""He woke up, you know, doctor—just after you left—and said goodbye to them all. Like I'm talkin' to you right here. Like a miracle. He talked to them and patted them and smiled for about five minutes. Then he went out again, and he passed in the hour."
- <u>Dr. Haig continued</u>: "What woke my patient that Friday was simply his mind, forcing its way through a broken brain, a father's final act to comfort his family. The mind is a uniquely personal domain of thought, dreams and

countless other things, like the will, faith and hope. These fine things are as real as rocks and water but, like the mind, weightless and invisible, maybe even timeless. Material science shies from these things, calling them epiphenomena, programs running on a computer, tunes on a piano. This understanding can't be ignored; not too much seems to get done on earth without a physical brain. But I know this understanding is not complete, either.

"I see the mind have its way all the time when physical realities challenge it. In a patient stubbornly working to rehab after surgery, in a child practicing an instrument or struggling to create, a mind or will, clearly separate, hovers under the machinery, forcing it toward a goal. It's wonderful to see, such tangible evidence of that fine thing's power over the mere clumps of particles that, however pretty, will eventually clump differently and vanish."

▶ <u>Dr. Haig Concludes</u>: "But many think the mind is only in there--existing somehow in the physical relationship of the brain's physical elements. The physical, say these materialists, is all there is. I fix bones with hardware. As physical as this might be, I cannot be a materialist. I cannot ignore the internal evidence of my own mind. It would be hypocritical. And worse, it would be cowardly to ignore those occasional appearances of the spirits of others--of minds uncloaked, in naked virtue, like David's goodbye."

Note: I believe that what Dr. Haig calls the "mind" was in actuality David's "spirit" breaking through the physical deficit

A Man is Tripartite

(The "Trinity" of Man: Body, Soul and Spirit)



Biblical Evidence

Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

<u>1 Thessalonians 5:23</u>: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole <u>spirit and soul and body</u> be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

B Before Adam's Fall



Vital Notes:

- > The Spirit is primarily where we relate to God
- o <u>John 4:19-24</u>: "The woman [Samaritan] said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.
- **20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.'
- **21** Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.
- 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
- 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'
 - Your spirit is what enters the presence of Christ until your body is raised in the resurrection
 - Your spirit is the deepest part of your being
 - o There are no spirits floating around planet earth

> The Soul

- Conscious thoughts
- Emotions
- Impacted and Developed by the Outside World Around Us

> The Body

The Vehicle of the Spirit and Soul

Special Note! These are not distinct divisions. All three interrelate.

- I.e. The spirit and soul has direct interaction with the body
- Mankind in Completion: Before the fall, God communicated with mankind Spirit to spirit. The spirit of man dominated the soul and the body to live in loving compliance with the will of God while enjoying perfect union with God.

C Adam's Fall



Notes Jesse Penn Lewis quotes Fausset

- The spirit sank into the soul
- The soul sank into the body
- The body became dominant

Scriptural Evidence

- Genesis 3:9-11 "But the Lord God called to the man and said to him,
 "Where are you?"
 - **10** And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."
 - 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
- Genesis 6:3 "Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

D Consequences of Adam's Fall



Body Demands Dominate

- While there is proper care for the needs of the body, we tend to be consumed with giving it far greater attention than we give to God
- Cosmetics: up to 66 billion worldwide each year

- <u>Food</u>: Few of us give the body what it needs, rather, we respond to its cravings with "comfort" food
- <u>Sex</u>: Intended by God for procreation and pleasure in marriage, we have reduced it to an industry, stirring self-destructive passions and behaviors
- Steve Jobs Quote on Death: "People who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there." (Stanford University Commencement 2005)

> Soul Demands:

- Our emotions become distorted by the things we see and experience in the world, We then believe our emotions more than we believe the Word of God. Our emotions then formulate erroneous thoughts about God.
- Our emotions tell us we know all about other people when we generally do not. We make improper judgments about them:
 - He / she is proud
 - He / she power hungry
 - He / she could be mean

> Spirit is Starved

- Worship: is reduced to a "soulish" experience
 - Music likes and dislikes divides churches and generations
 - Much so-called worship is no more than playing to people's "soulish" cravings
 - Jesus had no praise band or choir as he worshipped his Father in his spirit while praying in the mountains
- Meditation: This is replaced with flooding our "soulishness" with TV, sports—the desires of this world
- Prayer: is not seen as an absolute necessity for survival
- <u>Doctrine</u>: has been reduced from something we do to something we debate

 REDEMPTION

Proper Order

Restored

E Redemption

SOUL

SPIRIT

BODY

Notes

- Paul's Ending: "1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Living in the fullness of our redemption is only possible by abiding in Christ
- Colossians 3:1-4 "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
 - 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
 - 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- Colossians 3:12-17 " Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
 - **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
 - **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
 - **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
 - **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 - **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Call to Action

Notes

A great amount of sickness both in soul and body is directly related to the spiritual neglect of the spirit.

- ➤ There seems to be evidence that even when the mind that functions in the brain diminishes, it is still fully intact in the spirit
 - Thus, we are told to talk to people who are in a coma
 - Perhaps we should keep saying spiritual things past a fading mind as well. Perhaps the mind in the spirit understands perfectly well what we are saying

Dr. Scott Haig M.D

Quote #1: "What woke my patient that Friday was simply his mind [spirit], forcing its way through a broken brain, a father's final act to comfort his family. The mind is a uniquely personal domain of thought, dreams and countless other things, like the will, faith and hope. These fine things are as real as rocks and water but, like the mind, weightless and invisible, maybe even timeless. Material science shies from these things, calling them epiphenomena, programs running on a computer, tunes on a piano. This understanding can't be ignored; not too much seems to get done on earth without a physical brain. But I know this understanding is not complete, either."

Quote #2 "But many think the mind is only in there--existing somehow in the physical relationship of the brain's physical elements. The physical, say these materialists, is all there is. I fix bones with hardware. As physical as this might be, I cannot be a materialist. I cannot ignore the internal evidence of my own mind. It would be hypocritical. And worse, it would be cowardly to ignore those occasional appearances of the spirits of others--of minds uncloaked, in naked virtue, like David's goodbye."

<u>Vital!</u> The more we build our spirits in spiritual things, the more <u>balanced</u> we well be in our <u>souls</u> (mind & emotions), and the greater our potential for physical health and healing.

Example: Mother.

- Broken home
- Orphanage
- Deep wounds
- Beat cancer twice
- > 90 years old
- Attitude and gratitude

David's Story

The Brain: The Power of Hope By SCOTT HAIG M.D.

Monday, Jan. 29, 2007

Dr. Haig is an assistant clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

David's head was literally stuffed with lung cancer. I was called in to take care of his hip and pelvic bones broken by the growing metastases. His seeming nonchalance about the pain and the surgery was clearly out of concern for his beautiful, young family--his wife Carol, [who is] a nurse, and his three kids, who were there every night. He couldn't keep up the carefree charade over the next two weeks, though, as his speech slurred, then became incoherent. He stopped speaking, then moving.

I dreaded making rounds on a patient for whom there was no good news, no good plan. When his doctors rescanned his head, there was barely any brain left. The cerebral machine that talked and wondered, winked and sang, the machine that remembered jokes and birthdays and where the big fish hid on hot days, was nearly gone, replaced by lumps of haphazardly growing gray stuff. Gone with that machine seemed David as well. No expression, no response to anything we did to him. As far as I could tell, he was just not there.

It was particularly bad in the room that Friday when I made evening rounds. The family was there, sad, crying faces on all of them. I fussed with the hip a bit. His respirations had become agonal--the gulping kind of breathing movement that immediately precedes death. I knew Carol had seen this and that she knew what it meant. I said something inane and slid out the door fast, looking importantly at the papers in my hand, striving for the nice, empty corridor. But Carol came after me, needing to catch me away from the kids. Her eyes red-rimmed, she asked me where her husband was. I had noticed the cross around her neck. I said I wasn't sure where he was, but I was pretty sure where he was going. She wanted to believe me, and I think she did.

Saturday morning the sun poured in as I checked the room. The bed was at chest height, made up and empty, with clean, fresh sheets over the vinyl mattress. As I turned to leave, I was blocked by a nurse, an older Irish lady with a doleful look on her face. She had taken care of David last night.

"He woke up, you know, doctor—just after you left—and said goodbye to them all. Like I'm talkin' to you right here. Like a miracle. He talked to them and patted them and smiled for about five minutes. Then he went out again, and he passed in the hour." My eyebrows went up.

Two weeks later I saw Carol in the lobby. It was busy and very public. But before her last "God bless you," I couldn't help asking, "Uh. Carol, did ...?"

She knew my question. With a wide, knowing smile, she nodded and said, "Oh, yes, he sure did." And I believed her.

But it wasn't David's brain that woke him up to say goodbye that Friday. His brain had already been destroyed. Tumor metastases don't simply occupy space and press on things, leaving a whole brain. The metastases actually replace tissue. Where that gray stuff grows, the brain is just not there.

What woke my patient that Friday was simply his mind, forcing its way through a broken brain, a father's final act to comfort his family. The mind is a uniquely personal domain of thought, dreams and countless other things, like the will, faith and hope. These fine things are as real as rocks and water but, like the mind, weightless and invisible, maybe even timeless. Material science shies from these things, calling them epiphenomena, programs running on a computer, tunes on a piano. This understanding can't be ignored; not too much seems to get done on earth without a physical brain. But I know this understanding is not complete, either.

I see the mind have its way all the time when physical realities challenge it. In a patient stubbornly working to rehab after surgery, in a child practicing an instrument or struggling to create, a mind or will, clearly separate, hovers under the machinery, forcing it toward a goal. It's wonderful to see, such tangible evidence of that fine thing's power over the mere clumps of particles that, however pretty, will eventually clump differently and vanish.

Neuroanatomy is largely concerned with which spots in the brain do what; which chemicals have which effects at those spots is neurophysiology. Plan on feeding those chemicals to a real person's brain, and you're doing neuropharmacology. Although they are concerned with myriad, complex, amazing things, none of these disciplines seem to find the mind. Somehow it's "smaller" than the tracts, ganglia and nuclei of the brain's gross anatomy--but "bigger" than the cells and molecules of the brain's physiology. We really should have bumped into it on the way down. Yet we have not. Like our own image in still water, however sharp, when we reach to grasp it, it just dissolves.

But many think the mind is only in there--existing somehow in the physical relationship of the brain's physical elements. The physical, say these materialists, is all there is. I fix bones with hardware. As physical as this might be, I cannot be a materialist. I cannot ignore the internal evidence of my own mind. It would be hypocritical. And worse, it would be cowardly to ignore those occasional appearances of the spirits of others--of minds uncloaked, in naked virtue, like David's goodbye.