I. The inappropriateness of sickness

A. God wouldn't do that kind of thing!

"I believe that it is the plan of God our Father that no believer should ever be sick. That every believer should live his full length of time and actually wear out, if Jesus tarries, and fall asleep in Jesus. It is not—I state boldly—it is not the will of God my Father that we should suffer with cancer and other dread diseases which bring pain and anguish. No! It is God's will that we be healed." (Kenneth Hagin, "Healing: the Father's Provision," *Word of Faith* (Aug., 1977), p.9)

[Yet, Kenneth Hagen had four cardiovascular crises—in 1939, 1942, 1949, and 1973—including one time his heart stopped]

"The one major deception Satan is sowing in the church today is that our problems, our trials, and our temptations are sent to teach us and to develop us spiritually, mentally, and physically..." (Copeland, *The Trouble Maker*, p.7)

"I refuse to believe that my Heavenly Father would hurt me." (Copeland, *The Trouble Maker*, p.16)

[Job 1:20-22/2:10/2:3/42:11//Ex.15:26/I Cor.11:29ff/Gen.32:24-31/Hos.6:1]

B. The redemption from poverty, sickness and death:

"The basic principle of the Christian life is to know that God put our sin, sickness, disease, sorrow, grief and poverty on Jesus at Calvary. For Him to put any of this on us now would be a miscarriage of justice." (Copeland, *The Trouble Maker*, p.7)

"I have certain rights, called righteousness, in the Kingdom of God, and one of these is the right to a healthy body. Jesus has provided it for me and I take hold of it with my faith." (Copeland, *The Trouble Maker*, p.20)

[Healings are special acts of mercy, not granting of "rights' - Phil.2:25-27/Acts 19:11-12]

"It is wrong to have sickness and disease in our bodies when God laid those diseases on Jesus." (Kenyon, Jesus the Healer, p.44)

"Sickness does not belong to the body of Christ. It is not normal or natural." (Kenyon, *Jesus the Healer*, p.67)

[Romans 8:19-23/II Cor.4:16]

C. On earth as in heaven:

"What is Jesus' attitude? A good example is the Lord's prayer...He didn't just say, 'thy will be done.' He said, 'Your will be done on earth *as it is in heaven!*' Is there sickness and poverty and suffering in heaven? No! Then there shouldn't be any of that here on earth." (Copeland, *The Trouble Maker*, p.31)

"Sickness is in the world. It's not of God. It doesn't come from heaven. There is no sickness up there; it's of this world. There won't be any sickness in heaven." (Hagin, *Words*, p.25)

[Neither are thorns and thistles (Rev.22:3), nor hunger or thirst (Rev.7:16), nor physical death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev.21:4)]

II. The Faith/Confession formula:

A. The "Secret" of faith filled words:

"WORDS make us or break us.

WORDS heal us or make us sick.

According to the Bible, WORDS destroy us or make us full of life, happiness, and health." (Kenneth Hagin, *WORDS*, p.2)

"CHILDREN ARE A PRODUCT OF WORDS.

Words heal us or make us sick.

Words bless us or curse us...

Learn to make words work for you. Learn to fill words with power that cannot be resisted. The way you fill words with power that cannot be resisted is to fill words with love and faith." (Kenneth Hagin, *Words*, p.11)

"Proverbs 12:18 is a wonderful revelation, a marvelous truth: 'There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.' You are not going to have health unless you talk health." (Kenneth Hagin, Words, p.17)

"I never talk sickness. I don't believe in sickness. I talk health." (Kenneth Hagin, Words, p.21)

"Forty-five years ago, I was a Baptist boy lying on a bed of sickness when I received the revelation of God's Word. I began by acting on Mark 11:23,24, saying, 'I believe.'

WORDS WERE SPOKEN.

I said, 'I believe I receive healing for my deformed heart.

'I believe I receive healing for the incurable blood disease.

'I believe I receive healing for the paralysis.

'I believe I receive healing from the top of my head to the soles of my feet.'

And within the hour, I was standing on my feet.

I had learned the secret of WORDS—FAITH WORDS.

Forty-five years have come and gone, and I haven't had a headache. Not one...But if I had a headache, I wouldn't tell anybody. And if somebody asked me how I was feeling, I would say, 'I'm fine, thank you.'

I would speak the right WORDS, because Jesus said in Mark 11:23, 'he shall have whatsoever he saith.'" (Kenneth Hagin, Words, pp.6-7)

[Gen.42:36/Matt.8:25/

B. Faith and Prayer without confession are useless

"I never prayed in my life that either of my children would be saved. Not one single prayer. I never prayed a prayer that either one of them would be filled with the Spirit. They're 30-some

years of age today, and I don't believe I prayed more than half a dozen times for both of them in all these years.

Why? Because you can have what you say—and I had already said it! If I were to pray about it now, it would mean that I didn't mean it then." (Kenneth Hagin, *Words,* pp.9-10) [James 5:14-15/Acts 8:15/John 14:16/Luke 11:11)

"You won't get the blessings of God just because you have faith. You won't get healed or baptized in the Holy Spirit just because you have faith. You won't get answers to prayer just because you have faith. Most Christians think you will, but they are wrong. The Bible does not teach it." (Kenneth Hagin, *Words*, p.28)

[Gal.3:2, 9, 14/ Acts 14:8-9/James 1:5-7]

C. Do not detect symptoms—deny them!

"Confession always goes ahead of healing. *Don't watch symptoms—watch the Word; and be sure your confession is bold and vigorous.* Don't listen to people. Act on the Word. Be a doer of the Word. It is God speaking. You are healed. The Word says you are. *Don't listen to the senses.* Give the Word its place. God cannot lie." (E.W. Kenyon, *Jesus the Healer*, p.26)

"Real faith in God—heart faith—believes the Word of God regardless of what the physical evidences may be...a person seeking healing should look to God's Word, not to his symptoms." (Kenneth Hagin, *Real Faith*, p.13)

[There are times when God does not heal instantly John 11:6/II Cor.12:7-9/I Tim. 5:23/II Tim.4:20]

Healing is, therefore, not ours on a contractual basis to be claimed, but a mercy to be sought from God. It is often God's will to heal, but it should not be the obsession of the believer, any more than any other blessing should be. The believer's obsession should be the glory of God and to be resigned to God's will.