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SPIRITUAL SURGERY

By Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: I've read many Christian books in my lifetime and I've always been fascinated by accounts of spiritual visions given by the Holy Spirit. Several times I've read where a person had a vision of Jesus and angels operating on them, performing some type of surgery—spiritual surgery.

I've always wondered what Jesus and the angels were doing for those people. Were they very special people? Does Jesus operate on only a few chosen ones? Is this type of operation unusual or common?

I think it's highly unusual for someone to “see” what God is doing as he works on their spirit being to perfect them into the image of Jesus. But we don't have to “see” the spiritual surgery to experience it. I believe God lets a few people “see” a process that is happening to a great many of God's children, perhaps to all of God's children.

One thing was always clear. After the “surgery” the person who received it was closer to the Lord and more like the Lord. Something else is clear to me, and that is, we ALL would greatly benefit from a spiritual surgery performed on us by Jesus and the angels who serve him.

There are FOUR basic functions of surgery, four different things a spiritual surgery could do. We'll look at each of those four. There are also three requirements to meet if you'd like to have a spiritual surgery.

1. WHAT WOULD JESUS TAKE OUT?

Many surgeries are performed to take something out of the patient. A tumor might be removed. A dead kidney might be removed. Polyps in the colon might be removed. A bad tooth might be removed. If a child swallowed something that got lodged in his or her throat or intestine the surgeon would take that thing out. You get the idea. A major function of surgeries is to take something bad out of the patient.

However, a natural doctor could not “see” hatred, envy, jealousy or prejudice. If something of this nature were in a believer, it would take a doctor with “spiritual” sight and spiritual tools to get this kind of spiritual cancer OUT of the patient.

**** A lot of people begin to perceive a natural problem but don't deal with it, thinking it will go away. They allow physical problems to get worse because they have a fear of going to a doctor and finding out that something is really wrong. Perhaps they are just so busy that their physical health is not a priority to them. The urgent has replaced the most important in their lives. Maybe they fear the cost. Maybe they hate hospitals and doctors and figure they are way better off just staying away from the medical community.

If that is true in the natural, and I'm sure you would agree that it is true for many, do you think that avoidance of spiritual surgery is even more common?

My point is this: If you allow yourself to get in touch with your inner self—you may detect that something which is IN YOU should come OUT of you. A first step to health and wholeness is to realize when SOMETHING IS WRONG inside of you.

So my question is, WHAT WOULD JESUS TAKE OUT OF YOU if you requested his help?

**** Before you answer that, perhaps we need to admit that WE NEED his help. If your appendix was about to burst, would you operate on yourself? Of course not. But when it comes to getting out anger, rage, sadness, hopelessness and things like that—we often overestimate our ability to fix it ourselves. Perhaps this is the reason only a few people have ever perceived that the Lord is operating on

them. **James 4:6 AMP God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace (continually) to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it.)**

**** NOW, WHAT MIGHT THE LORD TAKE OUT OF YOU? It would be humbling to make a list of things you believe the Lord needs to take out. Just writing out such a list would be an act of humility, putting you in a position to receive God's gracious help.

Your list might include: sadness, weariness, negativity, frustration, hopelessness, and anger. Someone else's list might include things like judging others, trying to control others, anger that others aren't performing properly. Someone else might write down things like fear, worry, and anxiety.

The apostles have given us some short lists to give us some ideas of things we may need the Lord to TAKE OUT of us.

1 Peter 2:1 **Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind.**

Ephesians 4:31 **Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.**

Peter and Paul are saying that there are different kinds of malice and different kinds of slander. Whatever the kind—it needs to GET OUT.

James 1:21 **Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent.**

**** WRITE A SHORT NOTE TO THE LORD. Dear Lord, I'm not the great physician. You are. You KNOW what is in me that should come out. However, here's what I THINK needs to come out of me and I'd sure appreciate your help. I'd love an operation where you and the angels would take this out of me. I'd certainly sign the permission slip to give you the right to operate on me. Would you please TAKE OUT the (write your own list.)

2. WHAT WOULD JESUS PUT IN?

Some surgeries put screws in broken bones, or put in a pace maker in the heart, or a metal plate in the skull that's been damaged in a wreck. Rods might be placed in a leg. In some cases, the doctor might put in a NEW HEART or some other organ like a kidney. It takes an organ donor for that to happen. In our case, Jesus died and rose again to provide us as many new spiritual organs as we would ever need—AND THERE IS NO WAITING LIST.

Ezekiel 11:19 **I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.**

Ezekiel 18:31 **Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?**

**** *I have a new "proverb" or a new faithful saying:* UNDERSTANDING IS BETTER THAN ANGER. It's easy to get angry at people we do not understand. If we could only understand where they are coming from, what they are going through, what's happened to them in their childhood, that pressures they are facing—it would help us in our efforts to have patience and avoid judgmental and angry thoughts and words.

**** UNDERSTANDING is on my list of things I'd like the Lord to PUT IN. Solomon put that on his list. **1 Kings 3:9 NIV So give your servant a discerning heart.** Many translations including the ASV, BRG and Darby translations say, **"Give your servant an understanding heart."**

God certainly answered this prayer. What do you supposed it looked like in the spirit when God gave King Solomon this understanding heart? Did it look like a surgery? Did it look like a heart transplant? It happened, yet he didn't wake up in a recovery room. Likewise, we can ask for a spiritual surgery, have it happen, and only be aware of the outcome and result. These kinds of spiritual surgeries happen in the realm of the Spirit—and our natural mind and body can be completely unaware it has happened. But we can perceive the results of the wisdom, peace, joy, or understanding God has ADDED.

The early church prayed that God would add BOLDNESS to their lives. God poured out his Spirit into them and they were all filled with boldness and spoke God's word without fear of reprisal. Acts 4:13 NLT **“And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.”**

Galatians 5:22 NLT **But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

**** The Lord is more aware than we are of what we really NEED to have added to our lives. However, he works on us with our permission and cooperation. Therefore, it would be a good idea to make a list of things you'd like the Lord to ADD to you in a spiritual operation.

3. WHAT WOULD JESUS FIND IN EXPLORATORY SURGERY?

A third kind of surgery is when the doctor and his or her team operate to find a problem. Of course, God knows what our problem is before the surgery starts. In our case, we have to give him permission to probe deep into our minds, our sub-consciousness, and the hidden motives of our hearts and REVEAL to us just what is in there causing our problems.

**** ARE YOU SURE THAT THE OTHER GUY NEEDS EXPLORATORY SURGERY MORE THAN YOU DO? I believe the humble person would say, “We all need God's exploratory surgery and I'd like to get in line first!”

Psalms 139:22-24 NLT **Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.**

**** Did you catch that? The Psalmist was asking for EXPLORATORY BRAIN SURGERY! He was saying, “I think I have some problems in my thinking, Lord. There seems to be a lot of anxiety in my life, and I suppose it's coming from wrong thinking. Would you please examine all my thoughts and show me what ones need to be changed?”

Proverbs 16:2 NIV **All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord.**

**** Have you seen the commercial where someone stays overnight at the Holiday Inn Express and then thinks they are so smart they can perform brain surgery or pilot an airplane? In the same way, there is a lot of overconfidence when it comes to judging the motives of someone's hearts. You and I are not capable of doing exploratory surgery. WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR GOD TO DO THAT.

1 Cor. 4:5 NIV **Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.**

**** I've been reading a book called CONTROLLING PEOPLE. A major premise of the book is that controlling people think they can know what's going on inside of another person. They pretend they know the motives of other people and pretend they know the inner reality of others. This is something all controlling people do. If a person would obey the Bible and refuse to JUDGE people's motives, they could NEVER become a controlling person. I'm not aware of any scripture that says, “Don't try to control other people.” Instead, God goes to the very root of control and just says, “Don't judge other people.”

**** What does that have to do with EXPLORATORY SURGERY? If you are in conflict with others, it could be that you are either trying to control them or you are allowing them to control you. What is reality? Have you signed up on the list of those appealing to God for exploratory surgery? My name is on the list. A suggested prayer for each of us: “Please Lord, Search my heart and my mind. See if there's a problem inside of me that I haven't been aware of.”

4. WHAT WOULD JESUS REPAIR?

Many surgeries are the kind that repairs something torn or broken. Psalms 34:18 **The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.** Jesus said that he was the fulfillment of this scripture, **“He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,”** (Isaiah 61:1).

**** I once had a crushed spirit and I can tell you that a human spirit is crushed when they believe, “God has failed me.” This is a lie, of course. God never fails. But he does fail to do what we expect, if those expectations are too low or too little. He sometimes jumps over what we are believing for in order to do something bigger, better, and eternal. When this happens, it can look as if God has completely failed us.

**** Don Cox used to tell a story of a man named Jacob Snyder whose mother was a great woman of faith. She was in a communist country and led her children on an attempt to escape. They were captured and put in a round building made of cement blocks. She asked God to put a hole in the wall of that building. That night, when others were asleep, she told the children, “We’ll crawl around feeling the wall until we find the hole I asked God to put in the wall.” What faith! They found a hole and crawled out!

However, they eventually came to the border, which was a river. It was heavily guarded and as they lay in the tall grass by the riverbank they watched as others tried to swim to safety and were shot and killed. Her little girl was in pain from a broken leg, suffered in the escape. After three days without food, she said to God, “I’m going to ask you for just a few more things. Please don’t let it get colder. Please don’t let the wind come up. And please don’t let the clouds cover the moon.”

Almost as soon as she finished this prayer clouds covered the moon, the temperature dropped dramatically and a fierce wind began to blow. Jacob heard his mother say to God, “Lord, I thought I’d never say this to you, but as far as I can tell, YOU HAVE FAILED ME.” Immediately there was a loud crash as the largest tree on the riverbank blew down forming a bridge across the river. God spoke to Jacob’s mother, “I had to cover the moon so the guards wouldn’t see you. I had to lower the temperature to bring the wind. I had to bring the wind to blow down the tree that will allow you to cross the river. Now go, escape to freedom. I never fail.”

The older you are, the more likely it is that you are in need of some kind of spiritual surgery that repairs hope, that repairs dreams, that repairs a vision, that repairs a broken heart or a crushed spirit.

**** This is the kind of surgery that is usually needed when we cry, “LORD, I HURT!”

Does your hope need repair? Does your courage need repair? Do your optimism, faith and courage need repairs? What about your joy? Has something been broken deep inside, something disconnected?

**** In the book CONTROLLING PEOPLE I’m learning that when children are controlled tightly by a parent they learn to disconnect from themselves. This disconnection messes with their ability to have good relationships with others and they often become controlling people themselves.

**** If you suffered from years of being controlled by someone, there is probably some kind of DISCONNECT that needs repair so that you can know the real you and so that you can avoid trying to control others.

**** In many cases, then, we really don’t know what it is that needs to be repaired. We only know our symptoms. We might even imagine that the problem is all in other people. It would be a good idea to ask Jesus to REPAIR any part of your heart that has been BROKEN. Ask him to REPAIR your spirit if it has been crushed.

**** If you feel like your heart has been ripped in pieces, Jesus came to BIND UP the broken hearted. He can stitch your heart back in such a way that it’s as good as new, perhaps even better.

5. DON’T PICK THE WRONG DOCTOR.

**** Many of you may have heard stories where people claim to have been abducted by space aliens and often these stories include descriptions of the aliens performing operations on the captive. I don’t believe there are space aliens, but I do believe there are vast numbers of fallen angels and demonic forces. I don’t think all the stories of people being operated on by space aliens are just fiction. Rather than saying that all these people are delusional, we should consider that if Jesus and holy angels can perform a spiritual surgery that improves people, the devil and his forces could also do spiritual surgeries that harm and oppress people.

While the number of people who claim to have been abducted by space aliens is increasing, the vast majority of people never “see” with their spiritual eyes when the devil is “operating” on them. When the devil operates, he does the opposite of what Jesus would do. 1. The devil takes out good things that ought to be there—like hope. 2. The devil puts in things that should not be there—like rage. 3. If the devil does exploratory surgery it would be to find out the deepest dreams and desires of the heart and then crush them. 4. The devil doesn’t operate to bind up. He operates to create further rips, separations and brokenness.

**** I don’t suppose that any of my listeners would summon the devil intentionally, calling him to come put something bad in them, or take something good out of them, but it’s not hard to do. If you say, “I wish I was dead,” you are summoning demons that will work to kill you. If you say, “I hope you drop dead,” you are summoning demons just as a witch would curse someone. WATCH YOUR WORDS. If you are careless with your words you may be summoning the WRONG DOCTOR!

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Matthew 12:37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

Luke 19:22 His master replied, “I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant.”

Matthew 12:36 KJV “But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.”

**** YOU COULD BE A BIGGER NUT THAN THE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY WERE ABDUCTED BY SPACE ALIENS!

How so? Just as most people do not perceive a spiritual operation from God, so most people never perceive a spiritual operation from the devil. But many people are inviting the devil to put bad things in them and to take good things out of them BY THEIR WORDS. And because of their words, they might end up more messed up than the person who says they were abducted by aliens and operated on. Those people, if not delusional, ACTUALLY SAW something happen in the spiritual realm. Most people don’t see it and most are totally unaware of it.

**** BE SURE OF THIS, YOU ARE CHOOSING YOUR DOCTOR IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM BY YOUR WORDS. Choose carefully!

6. WHY DOES ALL THIS MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE?

In our world, the biggest problems are always the ones INSIDE us. That seems hard to believe when currencies are failing, credit is collapsing, and economies are being crushed. The whole financial system of the world is spiraling into global depression. Society is becoming unhinged from reality when they think they can choose their own sex. I heard that California is giving prisoners sex change surgeries on the taxpayer’s bill! Free sex change operations for prisoners in California. Certainly, that is unhinged!

All around us more and more people are coming under the influence of evil spirits. The spirit of lawlessness is the spirit of anti-Christ. All around us we see an erosion of respect for the laws that have kept our nation a place of justice and peace.

We are tempted to wonder, “What will we eat? What will we wear? How will we pay the bills? How will we survive?”

I ask myself, “What kind of advice can I give to my partners and those who hear me? Even the best investment advisers are trembling at the unraveling of the world financial system.

So I pray a simple prayer: Lord, what would you like to say to your people? If you’ll tell me what to say, I will say it.”

Here’s what God has given me to say. You have the very best SPIRITUAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE UNIVERSE. It’s free! It’s very costly, but Jesus paid the cost!

You can give God the legal right to operate on you, spiritually. Your prayers can give God the permission to 1. Take out the bad 2. Put in the good. 3. Explore and show you the root of your problem. 4. Repair anything damaged.

Let's assume you already have had all the bad taken out. There is **NO LIMIT TO THE GOOD GOD CAN PUT IN YOU**. He wants you to be filled to all the fullness of Christ!

If Jesus were put in the midst of famine, drought, war, currency devaluation, stock market collapse, a credit freeze, or social unrest—would you worry about Jesus? No, he'd be fine. You are sure of it. Well then, let us ask God to put **IN** us all the character qualities that make Jesus who he is. Let us ask God to take out everything bad. Let us ask God to examine us so that we aren't like so many others, blaming our problems on others rather than dealing with our own sins and shortcomings. Let us ask God to repair the damaged hope, the damaged faith, and whatever brokenness has come to us in the course of our lives on earth.

Jesus said, **"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world"** (John 16:33 KJV). I used to think, "Big deal. How does that help me? Jesus overcame the world and now he's reclining on a couch eating grapes with the fragrance of trillions of flowers in the air and countless angels serving him. How does that help me? I'm still stuck down here!"

WHY SHOULD WE BE OF GOOD CHEER? Because Jesus will **PUT INSIDE OF YOU** the overcoming virtues he has if you'll just ask.

We would pray, "Lord, make the problems go away." God would say, "No, I want to make you bigger than the problems."

We would say, "Lord, I need silver, gold, a farm where I could grow food, more stored food, a better gun, more ammunition, a survival bunker, lots more money, and security in the flesh."

God would say, "What you need is to **FIRST SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** (Matthew 6:33). Being full of my overcoming virtues is what will help you overcome the world. Having stored food won't take away fear. But my courage will. Having a bigger gun won't give you peaceful security. But hearing me speak to you my promise that I'll be with you—that will create the faith you'll need. I am able to put into you all the things that overcome the world. That is why you should **CHEER UP**. I have overcome the world and I'll put in you the overcoming virtues that are mine to give."

Jesus has overcome the world; therefore the victory over the world is his to give—to us! In this life we'll have tribulation around us, **BUT INSIDE OF US** we'll have what it takes to overcome it—because it's already field-tested! Jesus already field-tested these virtues! There is no **MAYBE** as far as their ability to help us overcome. Our good cheer is not based on delusion or false hope. **JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD** and he desires to put the virtues that overcome the world into all of his children—all who will **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

7. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

I'm glad you asked.

You should make a list of things you want Jesus to take out of you.

Make a list of things you want Jesus to put into you.

Ask God to examine you and show you any problem in your heart or mind.

Ask God to repair everything that feels broken and ripped inside of you.

BUT WHEN YOU ASK, YOU MUST BELIEVE.

James 1:2-8 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

WHAT DID THAT JUST SAY? It says you need to ASK God for the inner strength you need and he WILL put it in you. He's generous. He will do it for you. **** In the past I've asked God, "Would you come with the angels and operate on me?" (I had read in Any Schiesler's book, I SAW THE LORD that Jesus and the angels had operated on her. What God has beamed into me is this, *"I've already operated on you many times although you did not perceive it, and I'll operate on you again, as many times as necessary. Just trust me, praise me, and desire me. I want to put everything inside of you that you will ever need. I'll be enough for you."*

Jesus said, "**Be of good cheer—I have overcome the world.**" James says the same thing, "**Consider it pure joy when you face trials.**" Why? Because God will put into you all that you will possibly need to overcome. JUST ASK and praise him, believing that HE LOVES YOU as much as he loves Jesus.

MY FINAL CONCLUSION:

If this is so easy, why don't more people become outstanding overcomers? Here's my opinion: Very few people ask for all FOUR kinds of surgeries. Some might ask Jesus to take something bad out of them, but fail to ask Jesus for the kind of surgery that puts good things in. Most people are not thorough when listing what they want OUT and what they want God to PUT IN. If they ask for one kind of spiritual surgery, they leave out the other three kinds.

Few people ask for all four kinds of surgeries.

Few people ask for them on a fairly regular basis. Intestinal polyps may have been taken out a few years ago, but perhaps they have grown back and need to be taken out again. In the same way, perhaps you were delivered from bitterness years ago, but some may have grown back.

Few people are really EAGER for God to do exploratory surgery on them. Most would rather NOT find out where their perceptions are OFF, where their actions are wrong and where their words are causing them trouble.

Few people realize the immense value of this kind of free spiritual medical care that is available if they will just ask.

Finally, few people really CHEER UP thinking about the Great Overcomer putting in them everything needed to overcome in life. They find a little cheer in the idea of a future heaven, but haven't been cheered that we too can overcome the world by faith in the One who conforms us to his own image.

Tribulation and trouble of all kinds are coming to America, and to the world. It cannot be avoided. Jesus said, "**In this world you will have trouble and tribulation.**" But we can all take CHEER in the comforting thought that God will not turn us away when we ASK for the spiritual operations that will give us the ability to also OVERCOME the world by faith in Christ. "**This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith,**" 1 John 5:4 NIV.

I LOVE YOU.

GOD BLESS YOU.