

HEALING

unplugged

*Conversations
and Insights from Two
Veteran Healing Leaders*

BILL JOHNSON
AND RANDY CLARK



Chosen

*a division of Baker Publishing Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Bill Johnson and Randy Clark, *Healing Unplugged*
Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2012. Used by permission.

© 2012 by Bill Johnson and Randy Clark

Published by Chosen Books
11400 Hampshire Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438
www.chosenbooks.com

Chosen Books is a division of
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available for this title.

ISBN 978-0-8007-9527-6

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations identified NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The internet addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers in this book are accurate at the time of publication. They are provided as a resource. Baker Publishing Group does not endorse them or vouch for their content or permanence.

Cover design by Kirk DouPounce, DogEared Design

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

I dedicate my portion of this book to Cal and Michelle Pierce, who head up the International Association of Healing Rooms based in Spokane, Washington. They have paid a big price to bring healing to nations all over the world with both purity and power. I have been greatly impacted by their faith and devotion. I honor their efforts for the King and His Kingdom, and I am privileged to call them friends.

—Bill Johnson

I dedicate this book to all the students who have been part of our Global School of Supernatural Ministry, to the men and women who have served me as my interns or personal assistants and to the pastors and itinerant ministers of our Apostolic Network of Global Awakening. You have been part of my life and have challenged me to keep pressing in for more.

I also dedicate this book to my wife and children, who have shared me with the world, which is my parish.

—Randy Clark

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments 11
Introduction 13

Part 1 Randy Clark Interviews Bill Johnson

1. Going after Healing 21
2. Growth spurts in Healing 31
3. Operating in the Unusual 49
4. Electric Experiences and Breakthrough Events 55
5. Seeing and Hearing God Move 67
6. Keeping the Testimony 71

Part 2 Bill Johnson Interviews Randy Clark

7. A Hunger for Healing 87
8. Launched into Increase 107
9. Reaching New Realms 117
10. Breakthrough Insights and Increases 129
11. The Worship and the Glory 137
12. Learning to Follow God's Lead 147
13. Spectacular Stories 157

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Randy Clark for the honor of his friendship. I also want to thank Jane Campbell of Chosen Books, along with her amazing staff, for serving both readers and authors well. I am in your debt.

—Bill Johnson

I want to thank Bill Johnson, my apostolic overseer and friend. Thank you for challenging me to step out of my comfort zone in regard to the ministry of healing. You have been such an encouragement to me.

I want to acknowledge Jane Campbell, who greatly encourages me and who believed in this book when I shared my idea for it. Also Trish Konieczny, whom I totally have enjoyed working with as an editor, and the whole staff of Chosen Books, who have exhibited such professionalism in their work. You are a great team to work with. Thanks for believing in Bill and me.

—Randy Clark

INTRODUCTION

From Bill Johnson:

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

No one has had a greater influence on me as it pertains to the lifestyle of miracles, signs and wonders than Randy Clark. I have ministered with him all over the world and have been greatly impacted. His lifestyle and message have shaped my thinking and behavior. I have heard some of his messages more times than I can count, yet they never get old. In fact, I am challenged every single time he speaks. The standard he holds for his personal life, the way he honors people, and most of all, his commitment to honor and follow the Holy Spirit have inspired me beyond words. *Iron sharpens iron*. I have heard that concept taught many times in the church, but it is usually a description of how God can use our differences to improve one another's personalities and giftings. While that is true, I do not use it in that sense. My edge is sharper, my resolve is stronger and I am better in every

way because of Randy's patient instruction, both to me and to the people we serve.

This interview concept was Randy's idea. This kind of interaction is really my favorite way to learn and communicate truth. Initially it was not intended as a book, but instead as a potential DVD project to help train people (specifically his students) in this kind of ministry. The presence of God became so obvious and strong during these interview times, though, that we knew He was up to something more significant than we originally had planned.

The conversational nature of our interview project ensures that it remains practical and intensely honest. It was refreshing to be part of this. The text in these pages is taken directly from our interviews, though we have changed a word or phrase as needed to help the reader capture the intended message more accurately, since conversation does not always translate well into print. (We also have added a few parenthetical explanations where needed.)

Randy and I have partnered together for life and ministry in covenant friendship for the past fourteen years. I believe it is a God-ordained partnership where each of our strengths adds to the other's overall success in life. Iron truly sharpens iron, and it is a great blessing.

From Randy Clark:

This book is based on two interviews about the healing ministry. I interviewed Bill Johnson; I then had Bill interview me. Our two interviews are part of a set of twelve interviews that I conducted with people noted for healing. In addition to Bill and me, the interviews involved Dr. Heidi Baker, Dr. James Maloney, Ian Andrews, Todd White, Jim and Ramona Rickard, Leif Hetland, Cal Pierce, Henry Madava, Omar Cabrera and Carlos Annacondia. I did these interviews because I believe

that people just starting out in the healing ministry or desiring to have a healing ministry could gain much from the wisdom of these men and women who have strong healing gifts. If the normal person interested in healing could interview these highly gifted men and women, what a great advantage it would be. This project was a way to give them that opportunity.

When I had the opportunity to interview famous healers, I usually asked them questions about the same five areas:

1. What is your story? How were you called into the healing ministry and what major events or experiences have been part of your call?
2. How have you grown in the area of healing and miracles, and what have you learned?
3. Have you experienced any breakthrough events that caused you to see an increase in healing?
4. How have you developed your ability to see and/or hear in the Spirit?
5. Would you share with me the four or five greatest stories of miraculous healings or deliverances you have experienced?

Since I was so interested in these questions, I believed many other people interested in healing would be, as well, and would learn from the answers these gifted people could offer. These are the basic questions Bill and I asked each other in our interviews, although we also covered some other interesting topics relating to healing along the way, as you will see.

Initially, I recorded these interviews to be used in the new Christian Healing Certification Program I was developing to offer online that would involve components for physical healing, inner healing (or soul care) and deliverance. But after Bill and I completed our interviews of each other, I was so excited about the content of the interviews that I contacted Jane Campbell of

Chosen Books and told her I believed these two interviews would make a great book. As you can see, she agreed. If this book is as well received and as helpful to those interested in healing as I think it will be, I have ten more interviews waiting. I will follow through with my main purpose by using these interviews in our online courses, and I believe I will also use them in our nine-month residency school in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, the Global School of Supernatural Ministry. But my hope now is that these interviews also will turn into a valuable set of teaching tools in the form of books like this one.

I interviewed Bill at our Voice of the Apostles conference in October 2010, late one night between 11:30 P.M. and 1:30 A.M.—after a long evening at the conference. He needed to get up in three or four hours to fly home, but we felt as though the interview was so important that we needed to do it anyway. Our schedules were crazy with so many meetings that finding a time when we were together and had video equipment available was a challenge, but we did it. Bill interviewed me at my School of Healing and Impartation: Deliverance, Disbelief and Deception conference in Abilene, Texas, in November 2010. Again, it was late at night because it was the only time we could find. The Global School of Healing and Impartation conferences are packed with six lectures a day for four days, and I had meetings at each mealtime in Abilene. But we both believed the interview was so important that we had to do whatever was necessary to get it recorded. The book you hold is the result of our determined efforts.


Bill and I have known each other for about fourteen years. We have served each other in ministry, and we greatly respect each other. I have gone to Bill's church, Bethel, many times and have also spoken for him in his school, Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry, on which we patterned our Global Awakening nine-month residence school. Bill in turn has committed to serve

me by speaking in about five of my schools or conferences per year. The Holy Spirit has truly drawn the two of us together. Early on, a prophetic minister looked at Bill and “saw” him turn into me. Another time, a prophetic minister saw Bill and me as joined at the hip. Another prophetic minister told Bill he believed God wanted us to work together on a book. And Bill’s personal secretary believed that God showed her in the Spirit that Bill and I were to work together. I am excited that these interviews are one way we are doing that.

This book is a very close rendition of the interviews Bill and I conducted with each other. However, since verbal communication and written communication are so different in style, some editing was done to make for easier reading of our spoken words. Occasionally this book will differ from the videos in places where, on reading the actual interview transcripts, we caught a mistake. Those we corrected in this book version. Additionally, we added a few notes for the readers that clarify some of our spoken references in the interview process. I believe these notes add some important information and make some of our statements much more meaningful.

We made a careful effort, however, to keep the text of this book as close to our actual interviews as possible. The book and the recorded interviews therefore follow each other closely and could be used together easily to supplement each other. Having a written copy of this healing information on hand to study and refer back to will be valuable. So will watching a recorded version, in which you will feel as though you are right there with us, taking part in our conversation and getting to know us better. (These conversations were recorded in HD.) Both versions will give you a real-life glimpse into what taking part in a healing ministry involves and will show you how very powerfully the Spirit of God is working in healings today.

PART 1



RANDY CLARK
INTERVIEWS
BILL JOHNSON



1

GOING AFTER HEALING

Randy: Tonight I'm interviewing Bill Johnson, a man who has greatly encouraged me in the ministry of healing. I know what Bill has to say tonight will greatly encourage all of you who are watching these interviews on DVD or reading about them in our book *Healing Unplugged*.

Bill, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your crazy schedule to take part in this interview, especially as late as it is right now. I think it's 11:30 at night here. We're in Baltimore, Maryland, for the Voice of the Apostles conference, and we just got out of a wonderful service with Heidi Baker. I know you're tired.

Bill: I'm glad to do this interview, Randy. I think it's important.

Randy: I know it's in your heart and my heart both to provide these next generations coming up with materials they can use to minister effectively. If they can learn from these interviews some of the spiritual principles that you and I learned by long

experience, and sometimes by trial and error, they can minister to more people more effectively and more quickly.

To get started with this interview, Bill, the first thing I want to ask you about is your life story. How did it happen that you began to feel this call, this burden to pray for the sick? What did God do? Were there any experiences or circumstances you can think of that were connected to this call? Could you tell us about it?

Bill: I grew up in a home where we believed in healing; the practice at our church was to pray for the sick. I don't remember ever seeing anyone healed; it was more like we believed in it, so we did it. But I don't remember growing up with any expectation that something would happen. And we were usually too afraid to check people out after we prayed. When we did, we never saw anything.

Still, a belief that healing could happen was in my DNA. I grew up that way; my family history is very strong in that area. Even though healings didn't seem to be taking place when I was growing up, I remember hearing stories about healings that took place in a previous generation. That probably played a huge part in my life because it planted seeds in me. I knew healings hadn't just taken place two thousand years ago, or just overseas in Africa or Brazil or somewhere. I knew they had taken place here in the United States, even if they had happened years before.

And I just got hungry. You keep reading the gospels and you find that healing never leaves the gospels—it's always there, on every page. At some point you have to deal with it. You either have to turn a cold shoulder and think, *This is just not for me; it's not for this time*. Or else you're obligated to pursue healing and find out more about it. I wound up telling myself, *I may stink at this, but it's pretty clear that we're supposed to do it*.

I remember one of the real trigger points for me. Someone gave me some books from John G. Lake. Now you can get his books all together in one big volume that Roberts Liardon put together. But these were little booklets, and they messed me up huge because I read them and realized, *This is extreme*. And it put such an appetite in me that I just couldn't stand it. So I actually started taking time in services and trying words of knowledge. I didn't do it well, but I did the best I could, calling out whatever seemed to come to mind. Then we'd pray for people, and still nothing seemed to happen.

In 1987 I went to a couple of John Wimber conferences. One was specifically about healing, and the other was about something else. Something happened to me at those. I never received prayer; nobody ever prophesied "you'll have a healing anointing" over me or anything. I never had an experience like that. I just got dissatisfied that I was living a Gospel that didn't include healing, but Jesus modeled a different kind. And that just messed me up inside. I pastored for a while, pursuing healings in meetings and stuff, and still never saw anything happen. But we still went after healing because we believed it was right.

The healing conference was both wonderful and frustrating. It was wonderful because of what I saw happen. It was frustrating because it was the only time I'd ever been to a conference in my life where every single teaching I heard was something I had taught before. It was weird—they even used some of the same illustrations that I thought were mine! That has to be divinely orchestrated. It was frustrating because I had no evidence for what I believed. I had no fruit. I believed in healing, so I'd teach on it, but still nothing happened. Obviously it wasn't doctrine itself that was the problem. I came home from that conference with a conviction that I was obligated to seek fruit for what I believed.

It was not enough for me just to have good theology and even go through the motions of praying. I'd read something, I'd get really encouraged, we'd faithfully pray for people for a while, then, when nothing happened, we'd back off. Pretty soon I wasn't praying for anybody unless they asked. And then I'd read something else or I'd get stirred up out of the gospels, and I'd go after it again, but still nothing happened.

When I came back from that Wimber conference, I knew it was not an option—I couldn't back off ever again. Healing had to become a part of who we were. There were still seasons of ups and downs, but I realized that I was obligated to require fruit for what I believed. It's a hard thing to teach anybody about, because it's hard to describe what goes on inside of you. But there's almost this idea, *Wait a minute, I don't have to settle for fruitlessness*. And so you cry out to God in private and you take risks in public, and that was it. My first miracle was in a store. I knew the owner, so I went by to see him.

"Bill, I'm going to have to retire," the owner told me. He was only in his forties. He said, "I've got arthritis so badly I can't use my tools; I can't even take boxes off the shelves."

The store was full of people, so I didn't pray with him. Since I'd never seen anything happen, I wasn't real courageous about it. I did have that conviction in me, though, because I'd just gotten back from Wimber's deal. So I returned to the store the next day, and no customers were there. I was really thankful. The owner brought up his health issues again, and it was as if God was helping, shoving me over the edge.

I said, "Dave, I believe God wants to heal you. Could I pray for you?"

"Sure," he said.

I said, "Would you sit down?" I didn't know what to do, so I just put my hands on his elbows and his hands, and the best

I knew how, I asked God to heal him. I rebuked arthritis, and he started moving around. The guy was absolutely, stunningly healed. I was shocked! He was shocked!

This has been quite a few years ago, 23 years now, and he still talks to friends about that day Jesus healed him. At first he thought *I* was a great healer. When I came back to his store some weeks after he was healed, I asked him, “How are you doing?”

He replied, “You’re a great healer.”

You can’t expect the world to have good theology, as messed up as we are ourselves sometimes, so I let him talk. Then I said, “David, thank you so much. I know you’re trying to encourage me and compliment me, and I appreciate it, but what happened is the Holy Spirit gives these gifts that Jesus has to people, and He let me deliver one to you. And it was really because Jesus walked into the room.”

The next time I saw him after that, he said, “Bill, you’re a great—” and he stopped himself. “I was visited by Jesus,” he said instead.

Dave’s healing was a real breakthrough moment for us because I saw it could happen. And right after that, we started seeing more. I was so hungry for healing that one of the things I did was teach a class on healing. I figured, *I’ve got to do something here to create more momentum to get breakthrough.* We used Wimber’s stuff and Mario Murillo’s and Charles and Frances Hunter’s. It was about as diverse a spectrum as you could possibly get. We’d use their material, and we’d copy them. If they did something, we’d do it right after them. The Hunters would hold out their arms, so we’d hold out our arms. Wimber would do his thing; Mario would call out words of knowledge. Literally, twenty of us in a room would watch these people on a video, then I’d say, “All right, let’s do what they do.” We’d get up and mimic them, and we started seeing breakthrough all through the church.

It was contagious because it never was just me. It started with everybody, all those people together in the class. That became a cell group that started spearheading things. It was wonderful, and it started because I saw it in the gospels but not in me, so I was trying to get something to ignite a fire in me. I didn't know how. I didn't know anything about impartation, so I read John G. Lake, and that ignited something in me. Then going to the Wimber conferences and seeing this stuff was actually working finally brought me hope that this could happen in my lifetime, that I could see fruit for what I believed.

Randy: Is there any significance that the way the first healing happened wasn't in church, it was with a lost person? Or was that just a fluke? After you came back from the conference, had you practiced by praying for people in church, yet still you saw nothing? I want to make sure I'm representing this correctly—that the first healing was a lost man outside of the church, not the first person you prayed for after you got back?

Bill: You've got it right. The first healing was the lost guy in a public place, not someone we prayed for in church.

Randy: Is there any significance to that, do you think, or was it just a random thing?

Bill: I think it was extremely significant, and it has had a tremendous effect on how we live now. Just a little background: The church *was* strong in worship, extremely strong. It was very healthy and also had developed a very strong prophetic culture. We were accustomed to seeing bizarre things happen out in public while praying with somebody or ministering to somebody. When the miracle happened, that was a crowning touch. We knew this stuff had to be taken outside of the church.

I think it was a setup by the Lord. In fact, I have no question about it because seeing that happen planted in me a priority focus on getting it outside the church. And *then* we started seeing it in the church.

Randy: You must have been so excited. This was at Weaverville, up in the mountains, correct?

Bill: Yes, Weaverville. I had been there for nine years by this time. Pastoring, going up and down about praying for the sick—trying to go after it, getting discouraged, going after it, getting discouraged. So finally there was this beginning! I just couldn't believe it. I remember praying for another guy on the street who walked with a major limp and watching God touch him. And praying for a relative of his in a hospital who just had this encounter with God. We just started going for it. It was wonderful.

Randy: After you personally got the breakthrough, did it start in others quickly, too?

Bill: As I said, we had that class of about twenty people, so we were all learning the same stuff. We all realized we didn't know anything, so we watched those videos and copied them. Then we'd take it from the class into the church and do the same thing.

One guy had a serious back injury. He couldn't bend over, pick up a chair or anything. He was a big weightlifter guy totally out of commission. He was permanently laid up and in a lot of pain. After our class started, there was such a momentum that the cell group leader called him up and said, "Don, you need to come this week. You're going to get healed."

Don came and got healed. The next day, he split two cords of wood. If you've ever done that, you know that will kill a good back!

That momentum started hitting in the church. Let me add that when we came back from the Wimber conference and started praying for people in the church, they had started falling, too. We hadn't seen that before—that is, I had seen it, but it hadn't happened when I prayed for people. We started seeing that, too, so there was enthusiasm in the room just because we knew God was doing things.

Randy: To follow up on what you said, before you went down to see Wimber in Anaheim, as a pastor, you hadn't yet seen people in your church in Weaverville fall. You came back to your church, and they started falling when you prayed, right? You didn't talk about falling, right, so no one could say it was the power of suggestion—it was just a new thing? Do you think there was some type of anointing just from being in Wimber's service?

Bill: There had to be. We were different when we came back. And there was no impartation prayer at the conference. When I teach on impartation now, I talk about the importance of the laying on of hands, but there's something you can get in a room without that if you learn how to receive the grace that's being ministered. There are several ways to receive an impartation; in community you can receive it. That happened to us. We didn't know anything, not even the concept of impartation. But when we got back, stuff was happening that none of us had ever seen before in our ministry. In fact, the church I was pastoring contained the most spiritually *ungifted* group of people when I arrived in 1978. It was much different at that time. They were wonderful, loving people, but had no gifts of the Spirit at all. So it was an uphill battle, but we were gaining momentum. The prophetic was strong, and in worship we learned things were in the anointing, in the presence of God.

When people started falling, losing their balance, we thought, *Wow, we've never seen this before!* And it happened with all of us who had been down there at Wimber's; we just picked something up.

Randy: That's exciting. It sounds as though there are some parallels in our lives, yours and mine—a lot more than I realized!