NORTHERN LIGHTS---THE TWO EDGED SWORD
SURGERY AND SPIRITUALITY

At the time of my graduation in Medicine, which doubtless surprised the Reed clan and even myself, dear Uncle Scott approached me with a beautiful mahogany box. In it were the shining German steel instruments, many with ebony handles, originally owned by my great grandfather, Dr. Peter William Reid of Ontario and later, Michigan. Among the rather primitive instruments were a saw, a trophine, plus a large assortment of various knives, including a long two edged amputation knife, glistening as if it had never been used. I've often thought in my surgeries how interesting it would be to use the various instruments but have elected not to take them from their precious box, to contaminate them with the massive array of those things we use day by day in our modern operating rooms.

The two edged knife, like a two edged sword, is capable of cutting in two directions. We are told that the Word of God is a two edged sword cutting between the mind and the spirit. Most of Medicine still uses only the traditional scalpel which incises only one way. Thus, in Medicine, we incise into mind or body, the so-called psychosomatic area of man. The scalpel only cuts and dissects the flesh, the natural man, the person of education, profession, or labor. It knows not the realm of spirit, so the great sword rests day by day in its scabbard, sharp and beautiful, rarely if ever put to use.

From the spiritual viewpoint, the pastor or priest who does not use the two edged sword, utilizes his own strength, his own intellect, his own erudition, his own personal prowess however great that may be. He does, however, fail to liberate the incarcerated spirit of man from its dominance and imprisonment by the psyche, the great and destrucive mental power of the Adamic soul of man.

No matter how hard the minister may try to have a moving of God's Spirit in his church, he will always fail until he determines to wield the two edged sword of the spirit, the Word of God. This transition in modern man, whether he be priest, physician, or layman, is most difficult in an era of almost total emphasis upon the educational, medical, and ecclesiastical systems and their concentration upon the psychosoma, the carnal mind, (Romans 8:6).

Looking at the problems of modern man, the educated person in authority seeing and diagnosing the ills of modern man and society "heals the wound of the daughter of God's people lightly and neglectfully" (Jeremiah 6:14), mistaking the severity of the situation. This being so, the infection spreads and becomes more and more severe, and all of society begins to suffer and to face imminent death.

The great two edged sword is required, radical surgery, liberation of the imprisoned, atrophic, malnourished spirit of man. So liberated, the spirit of man can then be anointed by the Holy Spirit, allowing the advent of supernatural healing, wisdom, and power. There must be soul surgery, cutting the tentacles of the soul which crush spiritual potential. We must pray "set our spirits free that we may worship Thee."

Liberty means much more than man being free to go his own way, to allow sexual promiscuity, sodomy, aberrant sexuality, indulgence in mind altering drugs, alcohol, and animalistic non-creativity. In II Peter 2, we read, "These people are like unreasoning beasts, mere creatures of instinct...railing at things of which they are ignorant... They count it a delight to revel in the daytime. They have eyes full of harlotry. They promise liberty while they themselves are the slaves of depravity and defilement." True liberty means being free of satanic influence and evil, going from the paralysis of the intellect and spirit to the joyous freedom and superior mentality of the sons of God. Those who have elected to go the way of the world, have taken on intellectual blindness (II Corinthians 4:4). Those who have decided to follow Jesus have taken the promise of God's peace and power and have indeed entered into eternal life in the here and now. Surgery is required but the surgery of the soul is a truly liberating and joyous experience available to all who seek and ask.

"Here O Lord we present unto Thee ourselves, our souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto Thee... that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed through His most precious blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us." Amen
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The Falling Leaf

A brightly painted red and green - and orange leaf
Picked up by a gentle breeze as it began to fall
Flew up and down - across the meadow rising, dipping
Dancing - truly not heading toward the green and beckoning earth.
I knew it no longer was alive. Autumn had come.
The wind had severed the glorious happy leaf from twig and branch.
No source of life - and yet it danced, pirouetting, whirling
Into the distance - beyond sight and knowledge
Over the horizon, still rising. Then descending to the beyond.

So it was that the young doctor, the earliest day of premature Autumn
Was swept by the Holy breath of God away from twig and branch
He fell and then leaped upward praising and singing.
Dancing and falling, rising and dipping, upward - upward
Caught by the wind, going higher - flying outward - sighing.
Over the horizon, away from our sight, away from pain and sorrow.
Like the brightly colored Autumn leaf and yet not earth bound.
Heading - joyously not toward earth but toward the new life given.

Given to all who, severed from the branch of earthly life, breathe deeply of the wind of eternity, the everlasting life given to those who love.

William Standish Reed, M.D., M.S.

As I saw at the cemetery a single leaf fall - not really falling but -dancing in the sunlight on dead and dying day, the day of the funeral - of Dr. Chris Wallace, a 46 year old friend who died of melanoma in November in Appleton, Wisconsin.

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January 1995

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