

# Student Booklet for Elijah House School of Ministry Courses 201 & 202 Facilitated Schools

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## **Mission of Elijah House**

Elijah House is a nonprofit organization, founded by John and Paula Sandford, who are committed to the principles of Malachi 4:5,6 and Matthew 17:11: to call God's people to *"restore the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers"* and to *"restore all things."*

Elijah House serves to inspire and educate individuals and churches to confess their sins, forgive one another, and equip one another for ministry. We are called to be instruments of writing, teaching, prayer counseling ministry, and healing, *"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:12). Simply stated, Elijah House has one goal: to unite people with Jesus so all may experience the transforming power of His death and resurrection.

## **Vision and Purpose for Elijah House Schools**

The Elijah House School for Prayer Ministry (formerly called "Elijah House Training for the Ministry of Prayer Counseling") was created from the ministry of John and Paula Sandford. In prayerfully planned instructional and ministry settings, we impart "Keys of Knowledge," opening the heart to receive truth, renewing the mind, resulting in life transformation through Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are co-workers with Christ, working to "restore" broken and hurting hearts and reconcile relationships. In keeping with the Elijah House mission, our vision for the school is to equip, encourage, and release "Ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:18 – 20), who will pick up His mantle and continue His mission of restoration and healing.

## **School Goals**

- To provide Scriptural foundation for Sanctification and Transformation
- To provide a safe setting for building relationships, learning, and practicing prayer ministry in small groups
- To offer students the opportunity to experience personal healing through small group ministry from their peers
- To teach, model, and provide opportunity to practice ministry to one another according to the Word of God and in the power and sensitivity of Christ through the Holy Spirit

## **Who Should Attend the School?**

We all walk daily among the spiritually wounded, the broken hearted, the depressed and the discouraged. Whether problems developed in reaction to offenses in relationships, divorce, trauma, loss, abuse or being neglected; some of us carry a burden to help and heal those invisible injuries. Sometimes, people react to that hurt by forming addictions, often, people think that spiritual pain is just a normal part of life and should simply be accepted. Lives can be crippled by things that were never resolved.

If you are a person who is burdened with seeking to minister healing to life's hurts, leading hearts into holiness and wholeness, and restoring healthy relationships with God and others, this school is for you.

## **What Can I Expect From This Course?**

This school will help you discover scriptural answers to many questions we all have about life,

God, others and ourselves. Have you ever wondered why we think, feel, speak and act the way we do? Jesus desires to bring us into wholeness through true change and breakthrough at the heart level. He wants to equip you with greater vision and hope for the future — to take you into a deeper, more exciting and fulfilling love relationship with Him. Most importantly, this school will prepare, empower, and release you into a new anointing to help others to find the same blessings in their lives.

Each lesson you will gain understanding and be given principles of healing that will enable you to bring others into a transformed life. (Along the way, you will begin the healing process regarding issues in your own heart that you may not have known were there!) Small group sessions are a very important part of your training experience, because it is in small groups that students are activated into one-on-one ministry (as well as receive ministry from one another). Small group sessions are where the lessons are put into practice. Many find that in our schools, they are exposed to their own hidden opinions and attitudes of the heart for the first time, and that can be unsettling. Elijah House makes every effort to make our small groups a safe atmosphere for sensitive parts of our hearts to be exposed.

Because of time restraints and your group is learning together, not all of your personal life issues will be dealt with during the course of the school; but some healing will happen. This is a lifelong process. We simply give you the tools to further your healing, restore your relationships, and especially, to minister to others. Many seek further prayer counseling once the school is complete. If you already know of significant life issues that need to be addressed, prayer ministry or counseling prior to your enrollment in the school is advisable and always beneficial.

**Your School Fees** include a tuition which is paid to Elijah House for ongoing support and materials development, compensation to your facilitators or instructors, facilities costs, and a student study guide. School fees vary by type (live or video) and location.

## **Course 201 & 202 Format**

Course 201 & 202 School of Payer Ministry consists of 50 lessons. Each part is offered in a 25-teaching segment.

### **Course 201 Instructional Hours**

- 25 Lectures @ approximately 1 hours = 25 hours
- 2 Prayer Ministry demos = 3 hours
- 9 Small Group Sessions @ approximately 2 hours = 18 hours
- Graduation = 2.5 hours
- Homework Assignments @ teacher's discretion
- Total Hours of **Basic 1** Instruction & Practical Experience = 48.50 hours

**Course 202 Instructional Hours (an additional)** = 48.50 hours for a total of 97 hours

## **College Accreditation**

Elijah House schools provide substantial training and experience in the Elijah House model of prayer ministry which is a form of pastoral counseling. We are not an accredited institution offering college credit. However, for those pursuing degree programs, college accreditation may be available through their college, graduate program, or seminary. Many higher education institutions acknowledge and give credit for prior learning which can include work experience and non-accredited courses like this one. Contact your registrar and ask about their Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), Recognized Prior Learning (RPL) or Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) programs. Your certificate of completion and a copy of our syllabus serve as documentation.

### **General School Requirements**

- **General Admission Policy**

† Acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior at least one year prior to enrollment.

† Must be a member of a Christian church in good standing, participating in regular worship and church ministry opportunities.

† Must submit an application with recommendations from one character reference and pastoral leadership (application and reference forms may be obtained from the school facilitator).

† The facilitator will provide dates, times and cost of the upcoming school.

- **Attendance** is required for all lectures and small group sessions.
- **Small group** participation is an essential part of the educational process. Groups consist of students within the school. This is a time to practice and apply principles being taught to areas in which the Lord is revealing a need for healing in your own life. For confidentiality, we try to provide separate groups for people coming from the same church. We also place couples in separate groups. We ask that prayer concerns be confidential within each group.
- **Homework:** Teachers or facilitators will assign written homework at the end of the lessons.
- **Reading:** In order for you to fully comprehend the material taught, we require the following books. They will be part of the homework in the facilitated schools.

*Transforming the Inner Man (201 & 202)*  
*God's Power to Change (201 & 202)*  
*Growing Pains (201 & 202)*  
*Letting Go of Your Past (201 & 202)*  
*Deliverance and Inner Healing (201 & 202)*  
*Restoring the Christian Family (201 & 202)*  
*Choosing Forgiveness (optional)*

*Healing Victims of Sexual Abuse (202)*  
*Why Good People Mess Up (202)*  
*Elijah Task (optional)*  
*Waking the Slumbering Spirit (optional)*  
*Life Transformed (optional)*  
*Healing Women's Emotions (optional)*

### **Graduation Requirements**

1. Student actively participates in small group ministry, and participates in each small group role: seeker, prayer minister and intercessor. Protects confidentiality of all fellow students.
2. Student demonstrates ability to put what he/she has learned into practice in personal life and in ministering to others.
3. Student demonstrates growth as a result of school participation.

### **Major Areas of Training**

Elijah House training is based in the perspective of a pastor seeking to help the people of his congregation, and is rooted in John and Paula Sandford's experience as pastors helping people apply scriptural principles to their lives. What began as one pastor's heart cry for his congregation, has grown into many prayer ministers in full time ministry to individuals. It has led to the systematic design of these training courses for equipping others to effectively minister to some of life's most private wounds and sins. Today, Elijah House training helps Christians adjust their life into truly aligning with godly destiny and purpose.

Elijah House training equips believers to address a wide variety of issues which impede Christian growth and maturity. The training helps students to understand how our human spirits work, how spiritual wounds can be healed, and how we can nurture our spirit in God. Many issues that arise in pastoral counseling involve family dynamics, so that restoring healthy relationships is an emphasis in the lessons. The developmental process of maturing as an individual can be hampered in many ways, and we teach how to identify those hindrances, and how to help believers overcome them. Idolatry of various forms can creep unnoticed into a believer's life, whether that idolatry is financial, sexual, occult, or false views of God. Lessons specifically address those idolatries, as well as individual and corporate mental strongholds which allow those things to exist in the life of a believer. We teach gentle and effective approaches to abuse victims, trauma victims, shame and depression. Students are equipped with tools which are especially oriented toward involving the Holy Spirit in the healing process, and an awareness that it is God who heals. As ministers, we assume the position of being present with the seeker, praying with them and praying for them as the Holy Spirit does his work.

Above all, Elijah House training places an emphasis on the imperative of Godly character in ministry. This type of ministry requires being called to a devotion of love for God's people which confronts appropriately but also protects confidentiality to make sure that healing of life's most fragile parts can take place.

## **Course 201 Lesson Briefs**

201 is a prerequisite

Lessons are order subject to change

### **Biblical Basis of Elijah House Ministry**

True healing isn't fixing something broken so it's good enough to work; it's being freed from its power so it can no longer rule us. God's laws and principles affect sanctification and transformation in our lives. The cross of Christ and His shed blood are the means to stop the sinful habits that plague our daily lives.

### **Bitter Root Judgment and Expectancies**

Judgments are not only conscious actions, but also lodged in our heart, repressed, and unexpressed. Once formed, judgments reap negative results. Bitter roots defile, and may be the most powerful negative force in our lives, bringing destruction to ourselves and those around us. Only through repentance at the cross can they be removed.

### **Ministry Tools #1: The Simplest Tools, Following the Holy Spirit, Interviewing**

There is no formula for how to do prayer ministry! One size does not fit all. Students will learn

ministry skills, but more importantly how to read the heart, and then combine ministry skills and heart messages into the one-of-a-kind approach each person deserves.

### **Inner Vows and Heart of Stone**

When we hurt, we often vow to do something to keep ourselves from ever being hurt again. But since inner vows spring from bitterness, they don't protect us at all. Instead, they lock us into behaviors we don't want. Renouncing inner vows at the cross sets us free.

### **Heart and Mind (Guarding the Wellspring of Life)**

What is the difference between living from the head and living from the heart? And what is the heart anyway? Why do some people soak up love, while others are unable to accept or even feel love? A new understanding of heart and mind will change the way we see prayer ministry.

### **Foundational Lies**

In reaction to hurt, we often form lies about God, the world, others, and ourselves. God created each one of us with our own "song." Foundational lies silence that song. This lesson explores foundational lies – what they are, how they affect us, and how to get free from them.

### **Ministry Tools #2 – Following the Holy Spirit**

How does God speak to you? Does He speak audibly? Internally? Does He speak through; dark speech, symbols or dreams? How does He speak to you in prayer ministry?

### **Bitter Fruits**

Bitter fruits are the negative present-day patterns of behavior that spring from bitter roots. Before we look for bitter roots, we must learn why it's important to fully understand bitter fruits.

### **Accomplishing Forgiveness**

Until forgiveness is affected in the heart, the law of sowing and reaping must roll on to its inevitable conclusion. Forgiveness is central to being made whole. This lesson makes the necessity of forgiveness clear and how to accomplish it.

### **Repentance and Restitution**

True repentance requires not only confession of wrongdoing, but understanding how sin hurts others and God, a willingness to make restitution that heals the hearts of those we have wounded.

### **Rightly Expressing Emotions**

We are often taught to believe that certain emotions are always wrong. We repress, hide, or deny them, instead of accepting them as God-given messengers. This lesson reveals how to bring emotions into the light, process and truly resolve them.

### **Honoring Father and Mother**

Honoring father and mother involves more than forgiving them. We need to see not only the bad they have done us, but who God designed them to be, and learn to maximize that without minimizing our own pain. This will cultivate in us a heart that can honor others in all of our relationships.

### **Unmet Needs**

When basic human needs go unmet, we may believe lies about and form bitter roots toward ourselves and others. This lesson deals with identifying needs, the results of believing the lies and finally, the healing that leads to wholeness.

### **Shame**

Shame causes us to build walls of protection around our heart, and hide from God and others. This lesson explores how shame affects our lives, families, churches, generations and culture, and how to find its root causes so that we may effectively minister and bring healing.

### **Praying to Release Trauma**

Trauma comes in many forms: physical, loss, betrayal, etc. this lesson defines trauma, explains why some people are more susceptible to it, and reveals how to pray to release it.

### **Burden Bearing**

This lesson explores the character and experience of persons who temperament causes them to attune themselves to others and pick up unwanted burdens, and how wounding occurs when this is done in the flesh. It also explains how to bring healing so that burden bearers are lifted up, not weighed down, as they carry to the cross in prayer only those burdens which only God places on our shoulders.

### **Deliverance and Inner Healing**

This lesson shows how demons take advantage of root issues, and how dealing with roots lays the groundwork for casting away demons. It also lays out principles for effective and lovingly administered deliverance.

### **Performance Orientation**

Our mind and spirit may know the free gift of salvation, but our heart retains its habit of earning love by performance. There is a way to escape that trap.

### **Parental Inversion and Substitute Mate**

Some of us grow up taking care of our parents, rather than vice-versa. This can cause all sorts of bad fruit in our adult lives. This lesson discusses how to heal the effects of taking on a role that was never our own.

### **Reconciling to God (Healing Spiritual Rebellion)**

Do you accept the life God has given you – your face and body, talents, family, country, etc.? Discover the fruit of spiritual rebellion, and how to turn and embrace life.

### **How We See God**

If our hearts are pure, we are able to comprehend the glorious nature of God, and relate to Him in a blessed intimacy. But judgments towards parents and others can color our perceptions of Him. Repenting of these judgments enables us to see God as He is.



### **Common Errors of Ministry**

This lesson describes some of the many mistakes prayer ministers make, and how to avoid them.

### **Sealing Our Healing**

Prayer and healing are not “magic,” nor can they be substitutes for the work of discipleship to which He calls us. This lesson illustrates numerous disciplines by which we can maintain our healing and strengthen new and healthy patterns to replace the old.

### **Reconciliation**

Who are you at odds with? What have you done to reconcile? The very goal of inner healing is reconciliation with God and others. This lesson explores the good guy/bad guy roles we so often assign, and how to use our healing to free others from these.

## **Course 202 Lesson Briefs**

202 is a prerequisite

Lessons are order subject to change

### **Restoring Childhood Foundations**

Beginning with basic trust, we must build each stage of our life on the one that went before. A poor foundation, in any stage of childhood, can negatively affect us throughout our adult lives, impacting our ability to relate to one another and, ultimately, the Lord. Through inner healing, we can rebuild each part of our foundations.

### **Prenatal & Childhood Issues, Part One**

This lesson presents both the scriptural base and modern research supporting the idea that what happens in the womb can affect us throughout life. Inner healing can repair the harm that has been with us from the beginning of our days.

### **Prenatal & Childhood Issues, Part Two**

This lesson explores the conditions, symptoms and healing of several common in-utero experiences, how they affect us in later life, and how to bring healing.

### **Identifications of Love**

When we do not receive enough love, sometimes we latch on to the few “packages” love comes in instead of remaining open to love in all its forms. Formed in childhood, these packages are idols which define and limit our idea of what true love is, and deny us the full joy of giving and receiving it. Inner healing can open our hearts to love in it many forms.

### **Denial**

Central to our healing is willingness to be known by ourselves and others. God calls us to “walk as children of light” (*For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth*, Ephesians 5:9, NIV). When we live in denial, we walk in darkness and untruth, and cannot fully receive God’s healing power.

### **Profile of the Abuser**

This lesson brings insight and understanding through a typical life history and character of a sexual abuser and teaches how to extend God's healing love and grace while holding abusers accountable for their actions.

### **Healing the Sexually Abused**

The sexually abused often live with a barrage of emotions that keep them in bondage to the wounds of the molestation. This lesson explores the aftermath in the adult life of a child who was molested, and shows that through inner healing, any wound, no matter how deep, can be healed.

### **Emotional Abuse**

Arbitrary, inconsistent, or abusive parental discipline can damage the emotional well-being and security of a child. They destroy the natural sense of justice that God imparts to our being. This lesson explores healthy and appropriate forms of discipline necessary to raising children, and explains how the effects of bad discipline can be healed.

### **Spiritual Slumber**

Spiritual slumber is a condition in which a person is unable to attune himself to God and others, access creativity and inspiration, maintain emotional perspective, thrive in the midst of illness, and live from a working conscience. To avoid pain, some people make inner vows that shut off these abilities. This lesson explains the symptoms of spiritual slumber, and how to reawaken the spirit through inner healing.

### **Spiritual Captivity**

Unlike one who spiritually slumbers, a person in spiritual captivity is still able to sense the life around him, but because of inner vows that distance him from life, he feels as if a wall separates him from direct participation. In this lesson, we explore the symptoms, and how to bring a person out of captivity.

### **Generational Sin**

Scripture testifies that the effects of sin can pass from one generation to the next. In this lesson, we look at ways we are defiled through generational sin. Through prayer, we can help free families from their generational patterns of destruction.

### **Healing Common Sexual Experiences**

In this lesson, we discuss the common sexual experiences of childhood and adolescence, including potty training, genital play, pornography, and masturbation. Mishandled by parents and tabooed by society, common sexual experiences can often lead to shame in adulthood. Healing of adult sexual sin will often necessitate recognition and healing of these earlier roots.

### **Healing the Effect of the Occult**

Occult involvement causes much destruction, especially generationally. Examine with us the many effects of occult involvement, as well as how to pray for healing and hiding in God.

### **Sexual Addictions**

Those who minister to persons with sexual addictions know how prevalent it is, even in the church. This lesson brings insight and understanding about how inner healing can remove the roots of this devastating problem.

### **Depression**

Some Christians do not understand how incapacitating depression can be. In this lesson, we learn what depression is and how to bring healing to a depressive in a way that does not strain his depleted emotional resources.

### **Fractured Heart and Relationships**

A heart that is whole is able to fulfill its destiny. Inordinate bonding, over-dependency and inappropriate touches have the capacity to fracture identity and hinder us from reaching our destiny. In this lesson, we learn to identify a fractured identity and its fruit, how it became fractured, and the steps necessary to bring healing and wholeness.

### **Unresolved Grief**

Any type of major loss invokes intense emotional suffering called “grief.” This lesson discusses the stages of grief and those most susceptible to suppressing grief. And it explains why people suffer from delayed or prolonged grief, and how they can be freed from that through inner healing.

### **Homosexuality**

Though the Bible clearly defines homosexual behavior as sin, as ministers of the Gospel, we must learn to respond and stand lovingly in truth. This lesson outlines the contributing factors and consequences of homosexuality, yet gives hope and healing through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Spiritual Adultery**

When allowed to continue, spiritual adultery inevitably leads to physical adultery. This lesson outlines how this happens and how to bring healing. It also gives guidelines about what to do when spiritual adultery occurs in the prayer ministry relationship.

### **Sources of Sexual Issues**

In this lesson, we discuss experiences in childhood and adolescence that can affect our sexuality, including potty training, genital play, pornography, and masturbation. Mishandled by parents, common sexual experiences can often lead to shame in adulthood. Healing of adult sexual sin will often necessitate recognition and healing of these earlier roots.

### **Burnout**

This lesson discusses the physical, emotional and spiritual conditions associated with burnout. We'll explore its causes and possible prevention, and specify what is needed to help bring healing.

### **Making Healing Relationships Safe**

If not handled rightly, closeness and intimacy between people in ministry situations may give

rise to inappropriate attachments, dependencies, or confusion from transference in relationships, which can lead to spiritual adultery. This lesson offers insights and help for prayer ministers in dealing with these situations and their aftermath.

### **Cutting Free**

We will look at the principles of leaving and cleaving, and discuss these principles in the context of spiritually and emotionally leaving our family or origin and/or former position in order to step into God's call for our life. We will also look at the importance of individuation and examine some difficulties that may occur in relationships when this doesn't happen at the appropriate time in a person's life.

### **Care and Feeding of the Spirit**

This lesson shares many ways parents can nurture the spirits of children. But these are not for children only. It is not enough to bring bitter roots to death; we also need to feed our spirit with that which brings life.

### **Healing Our Children's Hearts**

As our hearts are healed, we are able to heal the hearts of our children (both biological and spiritual) and provide a way to remove roots of bitterness before they fully take root. We are thus enabled to fulfill the mandate of Malachi 4:5-6!

## **Prayer Ministry in Practice – What I Can Do With This Training**

Having completed an Elijah House Training Course, how can you now apply what you have learned? Before you can answer that, it will help to honestly answer the following questions for yourself:

- Has my own healing progressed to the point where I am stable and healthy enough to minister to others?
- Have I adequately grasped the approach presented in the course to be effective in helping others deal with their issues?
- Have I developed a habit of handling confidential information with integrity, and protecting the person(s) involved?
- Am I under pastoral covering?
- Am I under accountability to a church, or ministry?
- Do I have adequate personal support and intercessory prayer cover to deal with the spiritual warfare involved?
- Do I have personal intercessors who help guard me in the midst of the spiritual warfare involved in prayer ministry?
- (**Note:** although the training you have received from Elijah House is an invaluable foundation for prayer ministry, please understand that the Elijah House 201 and 202 certificates are not an official endorsement of one's readiness or qualification to minister to others.)

There are four ways in which one can employ Elijah House prayer ministry training:

### **1. Casual Ministry**

Anyone who has been exposed to Elijah House training is likely to encounter moments where the principles they have learned may be helpful to someone they know. It is our sincere hope that your exposure to Elijah House principles will have prepared you to be “instant” in that season and be able to help those you know and love as a “prayer minister of the moment.”

Let the quality of your rapport with a seeker determine how you minister. For issues you are ready to handle, your friendship may be the very thing that is needed, and your ministry can be of tremendous importance and great blessing. For issues you are not yet ready to handle. Your training may equip you in how to advise your friend, how to refer them to a person skilled in ongoing prayer ministry or, in case of mental illness, a mental health professional. Even in those cases, your friend will need to know that you are present to support them and intercede for them, even if they are processing their tough issues with someone else.

### **2. Ministry Team**

This type of ministry should be under the direction of your pastor or ministry team leader. This could include altar ministry or teams that do ongoing scheduled sessions. You might have to educate the pastor or ministry leader about Elijah House and our training. It might help to share that the training you have received is a form of pastoral counseling that was developed by a pastor. It is very important that you be clear that your intent is to support your pastor or ministry leader in the context of their vision and mission. Some churches will not want Elijah House prayer ministry operating in their fellowship, and it is important to honor that. Other churches will leap at the opportunity and give you more to do than you can handle!

A good use of Elijah House prayer ministry within a church or ministry is to minister as a team member to help ministry members or pastors deal with common and reoccurring inner healing issues. A volunteer ministry team can take a lot of pressure off the pastoral staff by reducing their volume of pastoral counseling. This can help to allow pastoral staff to focus on other pressing issues. The trust that is developed may lead to the pastor or ministry leader referring to you, and perhaps even consulting with you about cases they are working with. This may also provide a doorway for you to become a support for the pastor, and to be there when he or she experiences personal issues.

### **3. Facilitate Schools**

Once you have completed both Training Courses 201 and 202, read all of the required reading books, and have practiced prayer ministry to the point of becoming confident in prayer ministry; becoming a video school facilitator can be a rich and rewarding avocation. Video school

facilitators are authorized by Elijah House through an application process to conduct official Elijah House schools of ministry. Facilitators are also authorized by the pastors of their church to conduct Elijah House training in the church facility. Facilitators oversee and administer the student registration process, presentation of the lessons, and small groups. For more information about becoming a video school facilitator, please email: [schools@elijahhouse.org](mailto:schools@elijahhouse.org).

#### 4. **Ongoing Prayer Ministry as a Profession**

Completion of Training Courses 201, 202 and 300 series internship is highly recommended prior to attempting to set up a professional practice as a prayer minister.

There may come a time when you have done enough prayer ministry that you are able to begin doing ongoing, scheduled sessions. In such a case, it is wise to maintain a separate office that is not a part of your home, or at least a place within your home that is specifically designated as prayer ministry space. We also recommend a separate email and phone for your ministry. There are two primary reasons for doing this. First, doing this provides clear separation between work and home life. In general, this is good spiritual hygiene. Secondly, it provides safety for yourself and your family. You don't want to be put into a situation where you have to say tough things to a seeker, or minister to one who turns out to be more emotionally unstable than you had thought, and then have your family at risk (either emotionally, spiritually, or physically) because the seeker didn't like what you said, or because of the seeker's instability.

Establishing your own personal accountability team is especially important for persons doing ongoing prayer ministry. You'll need to surround yourself with persons who can help you with your own spiritual hygiene, persons who can provide prayer ministry for your own issues. Prayer ministers routinely do spiritual warfare for the benefit of others, and often feel defiled or spiritually attacked in the process. It is imperative that you have a team of people around you who can help you with that warfare, and who can observe your life and notice when you are having problems.

## **ELIJAH HOUSE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

By John Loren Sandford, Co-Founder, Elijah House, Inc.

The Holy Spirit has led Paula and me to believe fully in the simple orthodoxy of the major creeds of the faith—the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, the Augustinian and Wesleyan Confessions, etc. This means that for us the Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God the Father that He died on the cross for our redemption, was raised again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He has given us His Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit that we might serve Him and His Kingdom. We believe we are called to be faithful members of His Church, regularly attending worship and submitted under the care and covering of pastors and elders. To us, the mission of the Church is all-important—to evangelize, teach and heal until He returns. Therefore Elijah House remains orthodox in all respects, that we might be a faithful part of His mission to prepare God’s children to live and fellowship with the Father throughout eternity.

In response to the dual mandates of Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 17:11, which is the mission of Elijah House, we are called to be instruments of writing, teaching, prayer ministry and healing. We believe all teaching and healing is an expression of the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither teaching nor healing is something we do, but rather the work of the Holy Spirit. This is especially true in inner healing—the internal cleansing of our “vessel” by the Holy Spirit.

“Inner healing” is a misnomer and not a term of our choosing. Healing seems to imply that something is broken, so we need to repair it. But God does not intend to fix us—to put new patches on old garments. He means to slay us on His cross and raise us anew in Him. As prayer ministers, this calls us to constant death of “self” on the cross in order that we not lay practiced programs on people, but attempt to allow the Holy Spirit to write His lessons in the hearts of His children. He is not putting His laws in our minds, but writing them deep in our hearts.

“Inner healing” is the application of the blood, cross, and resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ to deep wounds and practices in our hearts, setting us free to walk as God intended when He created us. These are applied by prayer ministry, but it is prayer which is the basis of all our ministry.

“Inner healing” is actually sanctification and transformation. Sanctification is the process in which the Holy Spirit brings us daily to more and more death of “self” on the cross and to the newness of life in Him. Transformation is the process of sanctification in which the Holy Spirit transforms all our degradations to glory, our weaknesses to strengths, and our deserts to gardens of blessing.

This means Satan has won no victories whatsoever. Romans 8:28 is true—“All things do work together for good of those who are called according to His purpose.” Therefore we are not problem-centered, nor do we attempt or want to change our life history. But we allow the Holy Spirit to change history’s effect in our lives so all areas of our life can be cherished and valued as we are changed by Christ from one degree of glory to another into His likeness. (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Elijah House is called to “leaven the lump,” until all of the Church is better equipped (Ephesians 4:12) as His instrument for the sanctification and transformation of God’s children, and until the Church stands in unity of purpose and faith, prepared and glorified as the Bride of the Lord for His return.

