



Trouble Shooting

I. "If it's stuck, 'not working,' there is always a reason"

Software provides a good analogy. Sometimes the problem is very complex, but there is always a reason why something is not working.

"Trouble shooting" is not unique to Theophostic (Dr. Shapiro does this well in her EMDR training), but this is one of Dr. Smith's most important contributions to prayer for emotional healing. He is convinced that if complete healing does not come there is always a reason. Jesus will always bring complete healing when all problems and barriers are removed. The Theophostic manual and Dr. Smith's training teach much more systematic and persistent trouble shooting than I have encountered in any other teaching about prayer for emotional healing.

Both Charlotte and I have certain targets that are still stuck after a lot of work. We have patients in our practice that are still stuck after a lot of work. Nevertheless, we really believe that if the Theophostic process is not working there is always a reason.

1. More important than the teaching and conviction is the demonstration. We have watched Dr. Smith demonstrate this principle. When we watch him work we can see this principle unfold before our eyes. He will get stuck, but then systematically look for the reason and apply tools until things start moving again. He will get stuck again and again, but continue to apply this principle as he moves through layer after layer of interference, guardian lies, spiritual opposition, etc. The Lord always eventually shows up with profound healing. We have never seen the process fail in the 30+ hours of live clinical work we have observed. Ed tells us that he has discovered each of the tools he uses by first getting stuck (days and weeks and months stuck -- like us). He reports that he still gets stuck occasionally. We have just never seen it.
2. Our efficacy has steadily increased as we learn, practice, and resolve lies of our own that hinder our ability to facilitate effectively. We have had many experiences of being days and weeks (and months) stuck, but then finding the reason. When we find the reason and address it, the process works as advertised.

II. "It's not working, there is always a reason -- so who's fault is it?"

It is painful when any kind of healing prayer and/or ministry does not work -- for both the person facilitating and for the person receiving healing. With prayer for physical healing and in many other settings it is appropriate and important to come with an attitude of humility: "Sometimes we get what we ask for and sometimes we don't -- there's alot we don't understand. Let us be grateful when it works and humble when it doesn't." An important concern is that the Theophostic attitude can lead to blaming. When people are frustrated, in pain, and assuming "It should work, and if it doesn't there is always a reason," it is easy to go from "What's the reason/problem" to "Who's the reason/problem?"

An especially frequent problem with every kind of healing prayer is to question the faith of the person being prayed for if healing does not occur. One of the blessings with Theophostic, in my experience, is that the "reason" something didn't work HAS NEVER INCLUDED lack of faith on the part of the person receiving healing. Fears about "It won't work for me" can be addressed by targeting the trauma and guardian lies behind them. It requires little faith to focus the lies and stir up the darkness. The Lord seems willing to speak to people who don't even believe in Him, and it seems to require little or no faith to believe Him once He shows up and speaks (Jesus seems to be quite convincing, with no apparent need for "help" from the person receiving the healing). Dr. Smith and others routinely use Theophostic with unbelievers (as long as they are willing to try the process).

It is particularly painful and difficult when something remains stuck for days and weeks and months. I offer the following recommendations when this occurs:

- Consider both sides. Lies, wounds, triggers, and blind spots in the minister can be hindering the process. Factors in the person receiving healing can hinder the process. These are all possibilities to check when trouble shooting (and are discussed in Dr. Smith's training). It is a problem if the minister/facilitator is only willing to look for problems in the person receiving.
- Keep looking for the reason without blaming.
- At some point it is okay to say "This isn't working. We need to do something different." Good options include: 1. Taking a break to provide space for both to think and pray. 2. Obtaining consultation and/or supervision from someone more experienced. 3. Referring to someone else who might not have the same lies, wounds, triggers, and blind spots interfering with the process or getting in the way of seeing what is stuck.