

## **Andrew Murray Describes Ministry at Bethshan**

In a book recently published, entitled, *Andrew Murray and His Message*, we read: 'When in England he was led to consider afresh the whole question of faith healing, a subject on which he had often thought since his student days. After much prayer and consideration, and after much consultation with the widely-known Pastor Stockmayer, Mr. Murray decided to enter Bethshan, a home opened in London by Dr. Boardman for such suffering believers as wished to be instructed in Biblical teaching on disease and healing, in answer to the prayer of faith as understood by these devoted servants of Christ. Here he remained for some weeks, and in the mercy of God left it completely healed so that never again was he troubled by any weakness of throat or voice. His throat, in dependence constantly upon the Lord for its use, in spite of the heavy strain constantly imposed upon it, for the rest of his life retained its strength till the end, and his voice retained its clear, musical, penetrating quality.'

Mr. Murray himself wrote thus about his stay at Bethshan: 'When I arrived my mind was chiefly set on the healing; faith was a secondary consideration, which was to be employed simply as a means of healing. But I soon discovered that God's first purpose was to develop faith and that healing was a secondary question. God's purpose with us, as with Abraham, is, first of all, to make us true believers. Disease and cure, to His mind, derive their importance from the fact that they can awaken in us a stronger faith. Faith again is of value in His eyes, not merely as the means by which we obtain a blessing, but especially on the pathway to a fuller fellowship with Himself and a fuller dependence upon His power.'

Mr. Murray further states that Dr. Boardman remarked to him: 'In faith healing there is the same contrast as in spiritual life between feeling and believing. The body must be brought under the same law of faith as the mind; it has been redeemed, and is now possessed by the Holy Ghost in quite the same way as our spiritual mind. Faith healing, he added, 'has a much higher aim than the mere deliverance of the body from certain maladies; it points out the road of holiness and full consecration which God would have us follow.'"

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