

deeper

word faith life

Season 5

Healing

Angels

The Devil and Demons

Strongholds and Spiritual Warfare

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Episode 1 - Healing

Historically there has been quite a lot of confusion and misunderstanding around the subject of healing, and this has led to an increase in false teaching and subsequent disillusionment within the Body of Christ. People get hurt when the absence of a healing is blamed on their lack of faith or some secret sin in their life. On the opposite side of the scale, people tend to just accept sickness as their lot in life and never engage their faith. We would like to present a sane approach on the subject, which we hope will bring a better understanding and more freedom to press into God in faith.

But first we need to set a platform based on 3 core truths:

God is _____ - God does what He wants, by His own determination, in His own good time. We can't demand or order Him to do anything. We can't bargain with Him, we have nothing to bargain with. We don't fast as a type of hunger strike to get what we want. Our lives are in God's hands, but we can be assured that we are in very good hands.

Exodus 34:6-7 NIV

"... The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin..."

We know that God's dealings with us are always good, kind, loving and merciful. In fact, He treats us the best we could ever imagine being treated. It really is all about perspective, something God has infinitely more of than we do.

God Alone Does the _____ - There is no secret formula, no silver bullet, no series of hoops we have to jump through. It is solely a work of God. Like everything pertaining to our life and relationship with God, we respond in faith.

Exodus 15:26 NIV

"... for I am the Lord, who heals you."

Psalms 103:2-3 NIV

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,"

Acts 9:34-35 NIV

"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord."

Healing is a _____ of the Kingdom of God - Healing is part of our inheritance as believers. We know that the Kingdom is present now, but also not yet. We embrace the "already" and the "not yet" of the Kingdom and we live our lives in this eschatological tension. Healing needs to be viewed and appreciated through these Kingdom lenses. There are many times when we do receive healing presently but ultimately we will be healed completely for all eternity. Jesus' death and resurrection has permanently secured this for us. The Greek word [SOZO] which means [saved, healed and delivered] is where we get the word salvation from.

Hebrews 6:5 NIV

"... who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age..."

We cannot dictate or control healing, we should also not roll over and accept or surrender to sickness. We must pray for healing with conviction, authority and expectation, yet remain humble and honest, leaving the results to God, and people's dignity in tact.



The Gifts of Healings

1 Corinthians 12:4-6,9 NIV

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit.”

It is important to note that healing is the only gift [CHARISMA] that is in the plural, [CHARISMATA]. It reads the gifts of healings. The individual who receives such gifts does not perform the healings, but simply delivers the gifts to others, much like a delivery boy. The person does not become the healer, but rather passes on the healings to others. Though the gifts of healings are many, the person God uses is one. To one person, from the one Spirit come multiple gifts. This suggests that as there are many types of sicknesses and diseases, the many gifts healings are needed.

Matthew 4:23-24 NIV

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them.”

Gifts of healings are wholly supernatural endowments. They are not natural skills or abilities, but instead are completely divine in origin and character. They come directly from the exalted Lord Jesus, where He freely moves through a person to bring about healings. Gifts of healings May use natural elements like a human touch or various materials.

Jesus often used a human touch when healing people, especially when dealing with leprosy. His disciples used oil to anoint sick people for healing.

Mark 6:13 NIV

“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

The anointing oil is not the healer.

In Paul’s ministry he laid hands on people for healing.

Acts 28:8 NIV

“His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.”

Paul’s hands did not cause the healing, but it simply provided a tangible human contact.

James says the following:

James 5:14 NIV

“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Again, the anointing oil is not the healing agent, it simply represents the healing by the Lord.

James is also not meaning here that only elders in the church can be used in healings, any born again believer can and should pray for the healing of a sick person in the church or family.

So natural means may be used, but there is no scriptural evidence that they in themselves have any power to heal. Most of the healings recorded in the New Testament make no reference to the use of any natural means. The laying on of hands, the anointing with oil, the touch of an affected area of the body, may all be used, but it is definitely not a requirement. The person bringing the gifts of healings may simply pass it on by speaking it.

Acts 9:34 NIV

“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.”



Immediately Aeneas got up.”

The method of healing is not important, but rather it is the One who does it - Jesus Christ.

There is a close relationship between the gifts of healings and the gift of faith. They are separate distributions by the one Lord, but they do work in close connection with each other. Where the gift of faith is present, there is an atmosphere conducive to healings.

Acts 3:6-8,11-12,16 NIV

“Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.”

Jesus alone is the healer and only by faith in Him, and in His name, can a gift of healing be imparted.

It is important to state here that it is simply untruthful and dangerous to say that a healing has occurred when there is no evidence of such a healing. To say, “You are healed, so claim your healing in faith.” is a disservice to the one prayed for and the one praying. People can end up being in a worse physical condition if they go around saying, “I believe I'm healed.” even though the symptoms persist. Just because you pray for a sick person, doesn't mean they are instantly healed. Healings, particularly of a life threatening illness, must be confirmed medically.

What About Doctors and Medicine?

We don't know why instances occur where sick people who are prayed for don't get healed. This should not stop us from trusting God in prayer for the sick to be healed. It has to do with the core truths we mentioned at the beginning; God is Sovereign, God Alone Heals, and the nature of our experience of The Kingdom of God.(The now but not yet)

When healings do not occur supernaturally, we should see a doctor and take medicine. This should not be seen as a lack of faith or as God's second best. Medical science is a gift from God, and it is also biblical.

2 Kings 20:7 NIV

[Then Isaiah said, “Prepare a poultice of figs.” They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered.”

Luke 10:33-34 NIV

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.”

1 Timothy 5:23 NIV

“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.”

We know that Luke was a medical doctor, we certainly don't here of him being against supernatural healing, nor of him being pushed aside as second best.

Harold Horton wrote, “ Medicine and surgery is the world's way. God's way, the only way revealed in the Word, is healing by supernatural divine power. These two ways are entirely opposed.”(Gifts of the Spirit)



This view has wrought havoc in many situations where people with medically treatable diseases have rejected treatment believing that God works only supernaturally. As a result unnecessary deterioration and many times death has occurred.

If this view is carried to its logical conclusion, it must mean then that no believers will ever die, even of old age. This we know to be untrue.

God has provided medicine from created things and gifted men and women to help people through times of sickness with their education and knowledge of the human body and mind. We should not see it as a lack of faith to go to a doctor, or to take medicine. Our faith always rests in God, because He alone can heal.

Although God's will is perfect health, this does not mean that human life will be free of all sickness. We will not be free of all sickness any more than we will be free of all sin. God in Christ does bring salvation from sin, yet sin remains in even the most godly believer. Only in the world to come will we know perfect holiness. The same is true of perfect health. We have yet to receive what Paul called, "the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23) We live our lives here on earth in the tension of the Kingdom being already here, but not yet.

Memory Verse

Matthew 4:23 NIV

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

