

deeper

word faith life

Season 5

Healing

Angels

The Devil and Demons

Strongholds and Spiritual Warfare

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Episode 2 – A Theology of Healing

Looking at Jesus' Ministry

Matt 4:23-24 NIV

"He went about preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people... They brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them."

When John's disciples were sent to ask Jesus if He was the one, He said of His ministry in Luke 7:22 "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up."

Jesus often used a human touch, especially when healing people of leprosy, (Matt 8:3) also fevers, (Matt 8:15) blindness, (Matt 9:29) and deafness and dumbness. (Mark 7:33-35)

Jesus illustrates the strong connection between faith and healing in the incident of the demonised boy who was brought to him. (Matt 17:16-20)

Jesus is our "exact representation" of the Father.

John 1:18 NIV

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

John 14:7 (NIV)

If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him."

John 14:9-11 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "Don't you know me Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves."

When we approach the Lord for healing, we often ask ourselves if it is God's will to heal? Based on the person and ministry of Jesus, our answer would have to be, absolutely yes it is! Jesus healed all kinds of sickness and disease, He wouldn't have done so if it weren't God's express will to heal. We can and should approach Him with a secure faith in His ability to heal.

Looking at the Disciples' Ministry

Mark 6:13 NIV

They "anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them."

It's important to note that this was happening in the context of mission. There are two contexts where healing happens; one is in the church or the body, and the other is on mission. Jesus sent out his apostles to "Heal every disease and every infirmity." (Matt 10:1) To the 70 he said, "Whenever you enter a town... Heal the sick..." (Luke 10:8-9)

After Pentecost there was a significant change in the disciples' ministry of healing. For example Peter and John encountered a man lame from birth on their way to prayer. Peter said to him "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6) The man was instantly healed.

Later on when Peter was talking about what had happened to the gathered crowd, he said, "His name, by faith in His name, has made this man strong... and the faith which is through Jesus Christ has given this man perfect health in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:16) Here Peter demonstrates the strong connection between healing and faith, both on the part of the person ministering, and the one receiving.



In verse 12 of that same chapter, Peter states that it was not them that caused the man to walk, but rather it was Jesus. Only God can heal.

In Acts 5:16 "the people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed."

On another occasion Peter simply said to the bedridden and paralysed Aeneas, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed . ' And immediately he rose."(Acts 9:34)

Later on in his life James wrote,
James 5:14 NIV

"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

Mark wrote that believers "will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:18)

We believe that this is still available for us today. Is it God's will to heal? Absolutely Yes it is!

These disciples could not have experienced these healings if it were no so.

Looking at Paul's Ministry

Acts 14:9-10 NIV

"Paul, looking intently at him, and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And he sprang up and walked."

Again we see there is this connection between faith and healing. Here Paul simply spoke it out. He also laid hands on people, "It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery; and Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him."(Acts 28:8)

Paul spoke healing and also prayed and laid hands on the sick. Is it God's will to heal? Absolutely Yes it is! Paul could not have seen these healings if it weren't so.

Looking at the Gift of Healing:

In 1 Cor12:9 we see gifts of healings [CHARISMATA], its plural. So the gift is not healings as such but the gifts of healings. The one who receives this gift does not directly perform the healings, but rather transmits the gifts, like a delivery boy who brings the gifts to others. Such a person does not become a healer, he only passes on the healings to others.

They are wholly supernatural endowments. They are not natural gifts, nor are they the result of honed or developed skills. They come directly from the exalted Christ. He freely moves through a particular person to bring about a healing. Sometimes they may use a human touch or natural materials, but these things are not curative in and of themselves. God is the one doing the healing.

Is it God's will to heal? Absolutely Yes it is!

How a healing is ministered should be as the Holy Spirit leads. It seems that the methods vary in the examples we've looked at. There is no recipe, no fool proof method, no fail safe formula. What counts is not the method of healing, but the one who does it - Jesus Christ.

When a healing doesn't occur, the gift of healing may have been in operation but there can be other factors that also come into play ie:

Faith on the part of both parties

Unconfessed sin or unforgiveness

God's timing in the "everything working together for our good" of Rom 8:28

All of these factors should never leave a person feeling without hope, confused or condemned.

If medicine is available it should be used. God definitely does use medicine and the medical profession to heal people. Paul instructed Timothy to "Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses."(1 Tim 5:23)



Here is an unmistakable endorsement of the use of natural products with medicinal properties to heal, even frequent illnesses. Paul didn't say, "I'm praying for your healing" or "if you have enough faith God will heal you" or "don't confess to being sick or you'll stay sick". He said, "use a little wine". This advice seems so unspiritual. Paul obviously never knew about the power of a positive confession.

Lifestyle illnesses are a big factor in our modern world. If we mistreat our bodies and then get sick, we can't even blame the devil. But we can repent of that lifestyle and still trust God for our healing.

We have many mental health or neurological challenges today such as Anxiety, Depression, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, where a person can't "claim" their healing or even stand in faith on their own. What about the aged who's bodies are old and less resilient, many of them succumb to one or other illness and eventually die. We throw ourselves on Gods mercy, as we do for salvation.

To state that a healing has occurred when there is no evidence of it is unethical and untruthful. We've got to be truthful before we get positive. Paul is so brutally honest, he says to Timothy, "Trophimus I left ill at Miletus." (2 Tim 4:20) He doesn't try to cover anything up. The truth is we all have occasions of illness, it's part of the human experience

What happens when people we've prayed for don't get healed. We know that it is God's will to heal, but we're not seeing it. It's cruel to teach that if you don't get healed, then it's due to the fact that you lack faith or that there is sin in your life. This teaching has heaped condemnation on precious people whom God loves dearly. We see from our examples that there were some, including Paul himself who struggled with unhealed conditions. Are we to conclude that Paul or Timothy lacked faith, or had some hidden sin that they were nursing?

The key to making sense of it all is found in that beautiful Greek word [SOZO] G4982, which means [Saved, healed and delivered]

When we are born again we are:

Saved from our sin and it's penalties which is ultimate death/separation from God

Healed of our all our disease

Delivered from the curse of poverty

Our salvation is therefore threefold, and all of it is completely the work of Jesus.

Matthew 9:22 NIV

"Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment."

We could say, "your faith has SOZOed you."

Mark 5:34 NIV

"He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

We could say, "your faith has SOZOed you." (Also Luke 8:48)

John 10:9 NIV

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture."

We could say, "will be SOZOed."

Acts 2:21 NIV

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

We could say, "will be SOZOed."

Acts 2:47 (NIV)

"Praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



We could say, "who were being SOZOed."

We know that the kingdom is here but it is not yet, we are saved and we are being saved and we will be saved.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

The root of sin has been cut off for the believer.

Do we still sin? Yes, of course we do. John says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.(1John 1:8)

Are we still in need of our Saviour even if we're saved? Yes, of course we are.

Are we living in total victory, in everything Jesus paid for, in every area of our lives this side of heaven? No, we definitely are not.

The same applies to our healing. We've been healed, we are being healed and we will be healed in the ultimate sense.

1 Peter 2:24 NIV

"He Himself bore our sins" in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed."

We should not become restless in our journey of faith but rather trust in his ability to take care of us. If someone presents with an illness, we pray for them, they should also consult a doctor, if there is no immediate or gradual healing after prayer and or medication, we should spend time with them helping them to rule out unbelief or unforgiveness. If there is still no result, we have to help them understand God working everything for our good, and the Kingdom is here but not yet. They should never feel like second rate believers because they haven't seen their healing. Faith and patience go hand in hand and if they do die from their illness, they should do so with the strength and courage that God freely provides by his grace. Our ultimate healing will be completely manifest in our new heavenly bodies one day. We must never lose sight of this fact.

Romans 8:28 NIV

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

James 1:2,3 NIV

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

We should not hesitate to move boldly and confidently into the area of praying for the sick. God will be glorified and people will be richly blessed.

"Doctors treat, God heals"

