

## **Why doesn't God heal more often? 1 of 4; What is healing for? - 20200815**

Hi all,

Prayers for healing are probably the single most common type of prayer request I receive, along with questions as to why God doesn't heal x loved one, or why doesn't He heal the person who is asking me the question. This 4 part series will answer some of those questions, but the topic is too large to cover in detail.

For those interested in learning how the Lord does heal, how He maneuvers us into position to be able to receive healing, you may be interested in my teaching series called 'Healing School' and the follow up to that, 'The Most Important Thing I've Learned about Healing', available in CD or MP3 formats.

### **Why healing?**

In the largest sense the healing of a body or soul (emotions) is because God is working to restore the wholeness the earth had before Adam and Eve sinned. Sickness, disease, wrong thoughts and wrong emotions entered the world with sin. The cross and resurrection started the movement if you will, back to wholeness, making God's wholeness available to all mankind.

Also, He designed the human body to heal itself - we can see the whole earth is geared towards healing. Land that had been abused is 'reclaimed by nature' and restored to abundant life over a period of time. So in that sense the whole of creation was made to heal, to return itself to a natural order and balance. In that general sense our bodies, being of the earth, seek wholeness, seek restoration, seek that balance and the peace that comes with it.

The evidence the Father God provides that He will bring a day where we all will be healed, including creation, is the life and times of Jesus Christ. He is the Father God's proof of His love for us, of His good will towards men, and His promise to make all things right.

The New Testament makes clear it is not the cross that is that proof, but the resurrection that is the proof. The resurrection proves the Lordship of Jesus, containing therein the assurance God will judge the world and make all things right. (Acts 17: 24-31)

### **A claim requires witnesses to verify such a claim**

If someone is accused of shoplifting there must be evidence, there must be a witness against them. It can't be just their word against the clerk's word. Besides the clerk catching them perhaps store security guard caught them with items in their pockets, perhaps surveillance video recorded their actions. But there has to be a witness or two before that person can be brought before a judge. If not, it is just their word against the store clerk and nothing can be proven. No one can be brought before a judge on the basis of 'he said, she said' - there must be other witnesses.

God the Father is dealing with eternal life, therefore such a claim requires that He provide proof, that He offer eye witness testimony to substantiate (support) the claims of His Son, Jesus. It would be unfair that a person's eternal destiny be decided without evidence to support His claims.

We have the Word and the Spirit. God is not a mind that we should reason with someone into eternal life. You can't argue a person into believing. But Jesus said in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit - He is real, solid, but in the Spirit realm. Therefore it is both the Word and the Spirit that agree and work to provide evidence to the claim of Jesus and eternal life. The Spirit provides Life to God's Word, and the claims of the True Word, the Person of Jesus Christ.

### **Who is the eyewitness for us, some 2000 years after the resurrection?**

In Acts 5:32 Peter is giving a defense before the Jewish leaders about the life and ministry of Jesus, saying this: "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, who God gives to those who obey Him."

The Holy Spirit was an eye witness - at the cross. At the resurrection. He came on Pentecost to fill believers. He is the timeless eye-witness who saw it all. That is why some 2000 years later, in our time, when you heard of Jesus something burned in you, something wouldn't let it go, you sensed something, somehow, was real and genuine about the claims of Jesus.

That 'something' was the eyewitness, the Spirit of Truth bearing witness that the claims your friend or that preacher made about Jesus, was true. You acted on that sense not realizing you were heeding an eyewitness account of the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and gave your heart to Him. That was the first instance perhaps of you aware God was dealing with you, and communicating to you - because the Spirit was an eye-witness to the life of Jesus.

In Acts 2:33 and 3:15 and the aforementioned 5:32 and elsewhere, Peter and the others say they were witnesses of the resurrection from the dead by Jesus - and my point is that by the Holy Spirit, you and I are also witnesses of His resurrection. We have the Holy Spirit in us who was there, who testifies and 'bears witness' with our spirit that we are His children and that all the claims of Jesus are true. We have Him inside us as proof, for the Father does not want anyone to believe without providing proof of His claims.

### **The foundational reason healing...**

The Father supports the eye witness of His Spirit about Jesus by providing healings, signs, and wonders. In Acts 4:33 it says, "With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord...."

In Acts 3:15-16 Peter gives another defense of his faith concerning the healing of the lame man: "...and God raised Him from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this, therefore it is through faith in His name this man stands before you whole." (He also restated it in 4:10)

Peter said the healing of the lame man is evidence that God raised Jesus from the dead. Healing is evidence.

In Acts 8: 1-12 we are told the persecution that arose after Steven's death (in chapter 7) was so intense that every single disciple of the Lord moved out of Jerusalem, except for the apostles. The amazing year of love and miracles during the year between Pentecost in Acts 2 and 8:1 had come to an abrupt end as they all moved out of the city for fear of their lives, most of them to Judea and Samaria.

Based on the family they continued meeting in their homes, and Philip came up to Samaria to preach Jesus among his friends, and also for the local people who were overrun with all the new people moving into the region and wondering what it was all about. Acts 8: 5-8 tells us Philip 'preached Christ' to them, and they believed 'hearing and seeing all the miracles he did', and v12 says, "...they all believed the things of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ..."

Notice the name of Jesus and their believing was tied to hearing and seeing the miracles that were done. The testimony in Acts is that healings and deliverance is first and foremost evidence of the resurrection of Jesus to the unbeliever.

Long time ago I knew a man named Les who owned a furniture store. He had a back injury that prevented him from lifting, so one day he hired 2 college students to load a truck full of tables and chairs he had bought for his store. As they loaded they told him about Jesus, concluding with: "If what we said is true, God is willing to confirm what we told you about Jesus. If He heals your back as a confirmation that what we said of Him is true, will you believe?" He was a man of his word and agreed. As they laid hand on him, his back was instantly healed, and he kept his word, praying the prayer of salvation. His Jewish wife became a believer as a result as well. I worked for him about 1 year.

But there are accounts in the New Testament of God healing believers...aren't there? What provision is there for healing for those of us who already believe? Is healing available as a 'fringe benefit' of believing? We'll pick it up there next week. Until then, blessings,  
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### **Why doesn't God heal more often? 2 of 4: Healing and our responsibility?-20200822**

Hi all,

Last week I shared how healing is first and foremost a confirming sign of the resurrection of Jesus. But what about we believers? Doesn't healing belong to us?

### **Healing questions - down to the nitty gritty**

When we move from healings being a sign to unbelievers to confirm the claims of Jesus, to healing being one of the 'benefits' of being a believer, the responsibility for healing shifts from God to us. But many believers are still mentally looking to God for a sovereign move as He would for an unbeliever. Often they end up having a crisis of faith, not understanding what is at work. Let us examine elements of our responsibility.

### **The prejudice and strife of the Corinthians**

In I Corinthians 3: 3-15 Paul reveals there are some in Corinth living in envy, strife, and divisions. He tells them that is wood, hay and stubble that if they carry it in their hearts all the way to death, when they stand before the Lord all that will be burned away from them. He says they will be saved, but as ones having been through a fire.

Later in I Corinthians 11: 17-31 he reveals some have such envy, strife and divisions that they won't have the Lord's Supper nor meet with other believers. They met off to themselves first, and then came together for the main meeting. He tells them they have their homes they can eat and drink it, but they need to come together with everyone else instead of being off by themselves, rightly discerning the body of Christ, who made us one in Him.

The background of the church in Corinth is told in Acts 18, where we see Jews, Romans, and Greeks all meeting together in the house of the Roman, Justus. We know historically that Corinth was a sea port with a wide range of social levels, from ship owners to sailors, from store owners to clerks and all of various races. Culturally the upper Roman classes did not meet with lower classes, and Jews would never mingle with Gentiles - and then they came to Jesus and started meeting in Justus' home. So they had a lot in their hearts to deal with.

When Paul addresses the prejudice - racial and socio-economic - of some, he said because they had not "discerned the Lord's body, many of you are weak and sickly, and many have died early." We would say today that their immune systems were compromised because of hate, strife, and prejudice, and that made them weak, sickly, and even many had died prematurely as a result of illnesses their now weakened immune systems couldn't handle.

But if your friend, say a Spirit-filled Roman who took sick, you would not immediately think of relating their hatred for Jews as the reason they got sick. You would pray for them, you might lay hands on them, command some unknown demon out just in case one was the cause, and offer prayers for your friend, wondering why God wasn't healing them. You might even anoint them with oil, wondering where is healing?

Healing is available, but their prejudice, envy, strife, hatred, or other condition of their emotions and heart, prevent them from receiving. If they died you might never know why God didn't heal them. Paul urged the Corinthians to "judge yourselves, for if we judge ourselves we won't be judged of the Lord." The Lord allowed them to die early rather than have their hatred carry them off into deeper sin. That is His judgement on the matter, according to Paul.

Summary: We are responsible for walking in love, and to hold onto sin is to open ourselves to illness that God won't heal, because our heart is our responsibility. To heal a person in bitterness and hatred would only enable them to continue deeper in sin, and God won't be a part of that. So He lets them experience the consequences of their heart.

### **Another example: Sins against the body.**

Paul says in I Corinthians 6:18 that sexual sins are sins against the body, and are manifest in the body. That is a general principle he lays out in the larger context: Sins against the body stay in the body.

Francis Hunter, who along with her husband Charles, were well known back in the charismatic outpouring of the 1970's for their healing ministry. She told the story of the woman who came to her frustrated, saying: "I cast the calories out of my desserts, but I've still gained 10 pounds (5k), what am I doing wrong?" Francis told her we can cast demons out, but calories are our responsibility. A moment on the lips is forever on the hips - that sin against your body stays in your body.

The same is true of abuse of drugs or alcohol, overwork, smoking, or even over exercising. Running or jogging or lifting weights too much as well. Whatever sin against our body we do, that sin stays in the body. That means it is our responsibility. You can't be 110 pounds (50 kilos) overweight with sore feet and joints and look to God to heal those feet and joints - He can give grace, but you over-ate so you must take that weight off. Otherwise, to heal you God is enabling the abuse of the body and enabling you to add still more weight to those overworked joints.

An orthopedic surgeon told me for every 5 pounds (2.2k) extra a person weighs, it exerts 100 pounds (45k) of force on each knee with every step. That means 50 pounds overweight (22k) adds 1000 pounds additional (453k) force with every step taken. That's our responsibility not God's.

### **Jesus healed people who needed healing through no fault of their own.**

What we see in the gospels is Jesus healing injuries not caused by sins against the body. The man with the withered arm in Mark 3: 1-5 was no doubt an injury for it was described as 'withered', meaning it had been whole, but something happened to make it unusable. In Matthew 15:30 it says Jesus healed the maimed, which is injury. We see healings of the man born blind, the lame, deaf and dumb and so on, conditions caused through no fault of their own. We don't see Jesus healing people who caused their own illness by neglecting or abusing their body.

Faith is not something we hide behind because we are afraid to go to the doctor. Nor can we claim faith when healing by doing some practical things is within our ability. A missionary friend once observed the reason for the many miracles they saw was simple: There were no doctors, pharmacies, or medicines where they lived so God healed them. But when all those things became available to the people, the number of miracles became fewer. How do we balance medicine and God and our fears, and is there healing for conditions received before we knew the Lord?

We'll pick up there next week, until then, blessings,  
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### **Why doesn't God heal more often? 3 of 4, Old body, ignorance - 20200829**

Hi all,

This series is about obstacles that stand in the way of healing, not so much about how to be healed. I do have a series called 'Healing School' for those interested.

Learning of possible obstacles is helpful, though there is no one 'magic key' that unlocks healing for all. As we've seen with the Corinthians, issues of the heart can be a reason the body gets an illness, something only recently 'discovered' by medical science.

### **Ignorance isn't protection**

We've also seen that sins against the body stay in the body, meaning it is our responsibility to deal with, not God's. The trouble is, ignorance does not prevent us from suffering injury, sickness, or disease. In the late 1800's 'radium pills' were offered for health, and smoking was promoted as healthy. It wasn't until people started dying they realized they were wrong - but that ignorance didn't prevent many good people from being sick and dying early.

That means today in our realm we may have things which make us sick or give us a chronic physical ailment, but we are ignorant about what caused it. It leaves us wondering how God could let this happen. But we live on a fallen earth in bodies that are of that fallen earth. That means genetics and environment and things we eat and breathe and touch and smell can all play a role.

And because we procreate which is passing on our genes to our offspring, anything flawed in those genes gets passed on. It isn't always the devil or a curse, sometimes is just basic procreation.

It isn't that God isn't around, it is that we are on a fallen earth in bodies of that earth (which are therefore temporary and transitory), so there are things here which afflict us. When we add in a very evil devil walking around looking for whom he may devour, it further complicates the issue.

### **Don't be in fear and hide behind 'faith'**

I've also known many people who proclaim faith because in truth, they are afraid to go to the doctor because of what they might say. Or perhaps they suspect they would need surgery or procedures that would mean a massive change to their lives. So in fear, they proclaim faith - but that's not faith, that's foolishness. I've never seen God heal someone who used so called faith to hide behind their fears. I have seen Him walk with a person through surgery and procedures as He asks them to deal with their heart. Always be honest with the One who knows your thoughts before you form them in your mind.

And there is spiritual pride at times too - I've known several people who were diagnosed with cancer but chose no treatments at all, choosing what they called 'faith' because people looked to them as examples of 'faith people' so to speak. But God resists the proud, and when they rejected medical treatment they took their lives into their own hands, and died early.

When our boys were young we followed this general guideline: We'd lay hands on them for healing, but if they weren't improved by the next day we went to the doctor. I'm not being a good father if I'm letting my child suffer just because I want him healed by faith but its not happening. We follow that general rule with ourselves as well.

### **I got this condition before I knew the Lord - can I be healed?**

The question of the 'old football injury' or other condition received before you knew the Lord, that stays with you or rises up in later years to require surgery or other treatment begs the question, would God heal me?

Consider that not a single person healed in the gospels was born again. Whatever they needed healed of, the condition was acquired before they met Jesus. Upon meeting Jesus those conditions were healed. So why cannot a believer upon meeting Jesus expect healing? Yes, a believer can expect healing to be available to them for a 'before Christ' condition.

But from what I've seen, once we choose a medical route, God's grace is there to walk with us. And He seems to move in the same way over years with a person. Each of us have patterns in our lives of how the Lord deals with our hearts, our bodies, our emotions - If He healed you 1 way a few years ago, from what I've seen, He is likely to do that same thing this time. If it is no surgery and slow recover, it will repeat. If it was surgery but full recovery, it will repeat. Just an observation - learn how He deals with you, look for patterns over years, and go that route for He will often be there.

### **Drawing the line between aging and believing for healing**

As I mentioned above, our bodies are of the earth, therefore on their way to assuming room temperature. Scientists tell us after about age 35 the body starts declining and anyone over that age can testify to that fact. So where does healing enter the scene if part of what is going on is a natural decline in a bodily system?

I've shared before how in years past I would get vertigo when I got very tired. Not dizziness, but vertigo, which is very different. In dizziness the room spins, in vertigo you don't know which way is up or down, left or right. It happened during an EU conference in the Netherlands a few years ago. I could feel it starting on Thursday the day before the conference started.

We opened the meetings that Friday, and in the evening worship I was fighting it. Suddenly my eyes were opened to His realm and I saw the Lord. Others either saw or felt Him as well. He came over to me and told me some personal things, direction for life sort of thing, and went around to the others.

By Saturday morning I could hardly stand up, but made it through breakfast and the morning session. I was to have a Q&A session that afternoon, but could barely get out of bed, so I asked Barb and Brian to take that session. While in bed I asked the Father what was going on, telling Him: "The Lord was here last night and He could come over and talked to me, He could have healed me, why didn't he?"

The Father responded: "You did this to yourself. I've been dealing with you for some time about taking a day off each week, but you've ignored me. Barb has been telling you too to take a day off each

week, and you've even disobeyed your own wife. Your body is going the way of the earth; you need to learn to adjust. You've done this to yourself."

As I said, this series has been about possible obstacles to healing, intended to provoke thought and introspection. I must have been about 40 years old before I realized there were some things that I just wouldn't know this side of heaven. Resting in that, combined with resting in His faithfulness, have given me so much more peace than what I had earlier in my walk with Him.

Verses like Deuteronomy 29:29 bring peace now instead of a drive to push the limits: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things revealed belong to us and to our children..." (Which is a great verse to pray for your children, that He will reveal to them what they should know). But I'm content that there are secret things I won't know until being on the other side.

And Acts 1:7: "It is not for you to know the times and seasons which the Father has put within His own authority."

There is peace in that - peace is ceasing from our own works, to rest in Him. Next week some things the Lord shared in visitations about healing and Him dealing with us. Until then, blessings,  
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### **Why doesn't God heal more often? The key to it all, 4 of 4 - 20200905**

Hi all,

Paul was filled with and moved by the Holy Spirit when he commanded a temporary blindness to come upon Elymas the sorcerer in Acts 13:9-11. In Acts 20:8-10 raised Eutychus from the dead after he had fallen out of a 3rd floor window. He spoke of other signs, wonders, and 'mighty deeds' of his ministry in II Corinthians 12:12.

Yet in other situations no supernatural healing or miracle happened: He told Timothy to drink wine with his water for his stomach ailments in I Timothy 5:23. He also left Trophimus sick at Miletus in II Timothy 4:20, and in Philippians 2:25-27 he tells how Epaphroditus had been sick close to death, but recovered.

Miraculous healings seemed inconsistent in their day as well as ours.

### **The name of Jesus**

The name of Jesus is a common name to this day in its various forms around the world. In Spanish it is Jes'us (hay-sus), in Arabic it is Isa, in Hebrew Joshua, and the Greek from which the English 'Jesus' is derived, is Iseous. And many Christians address Him as Yeshua or one of its forms.

But it is just a name. Even in Jesus' time they had to add an identifier: "Jesus of Nazareth", as opposed to Jesus of Cana or Jesus of Nain. And in John 1:45 they needed to clarify it further: "Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph."

What is unique about our Lord Jesus is that the Father has endorsed His name, making it the highest and most honored name in the universe, in which one day "...every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:11

The Father's endorsement means His Spirit is forever part of that Name. Thus the Word (Jesus) and the Spirit are in agreement - and to 'work' or function, must be so. To try to move in the spirit realm without the Name opens oneself to error, and to try to use the name without the Spirit being part of it means failure.

The condition is the Father wills and moves by His Spirit when the name is used for His purposes, but if that use is not with the Father's will and purpose, His Spirit will not go with the use of the name.

### **The name is not a cure-all**

So today we have people who use the name of Jesus as a curse word - but the Holy Spirit is not involved with that.

In Acts 19:13-18 some used the name of Jesus to try to cast out demons, but the Holy Spirit wasn't in them so the demons didn't have to obey, and they were beaten by the man in whom the demon raged.

We also have Christians who don't have the slightest clue about that above, so they think they can command this or that in the name, without being taught one must know where the Father is going by His Spirit, for it is only the Word and Spirit in agreement that produces miracle power in the earth. There is a remnant of the old Word of Faith still around that thinks we just have to speak the name and command and it will happen, having never been taught the Spirit and Word are one. Faith is never independent of the Father's will.

You can command in the name of Jesus for a Ferrari to come to you, but unless the Father has included His Spirit to the use of the Name, nothing will happen. The name of Jesus must be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, for it is the Holy Spirit who actually does the healing or miracle.

In Matthew 12:24-33 Jesus was accused of using the power of Satan to cast out demons. Even they recognized Jesus was using some kind of power 'outside himself' to cast out demons. They said demonic power, but Jesus offered an alternative for them to consider:

"But, if I cast out demons by the Holy Spirit, then it means the kingdom of God has come to you."

We must also remember that in John 5:19 and 30 Jesus said He only did and said what He first saw and heard from the Father. Again, Jesus followed the Holy Spirit in all He did - the Word and Spirit are in agreement, are one.

### **Revelation required**

In Matthew 16:16-17 when Peter proclaimed: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", Jesus said the Father had shown it to him, and continued by saying he was just Peter (Cephas, a small stone), but upon this rock (Greek; Petra, mountain), He would build His church.

The mountain (rock) Jesus spoke of is the revelation from the Father that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. The flow of revelation being from the Father through His Spirit, to Jesus (Christ in us) to mankind. The whole kingdom of God is based on revelation from the Father by His Spirit that Jesus is Lord, and it all flows from there.

That is why when you have 'believed' for something after you have first received a peace or some revelation to go in that direction, it works out. But when you just do it on your own thinking that is the way to go, it falls apart or is difficult. One is decision making based on revelation received, and the other is just thinking the name of Jesus is independent from the Father's will and flow of the Spirit - which is wrong.

I've spent the 2 previous messages talking about hindrances to healing, but by far the biggest reason people don't see more miracles in their lives is because of what I'm discussing here: The lack of revelation.

Let's say someone gets a bad medical report, and immediately they ask for prayer. What I've seen is that when people get alone with the Father first, find their peace, find His will for them, the direction to go with it - that is when they see great grace and often either faster healing or dramatic healing. When no revelation comes, we proceed with what we know to do in the natural, trusting He is guiding and supporting us with His grace.

The whole kingdom functions by revelation. First invest the time in worship, prayer, putting yourself in a position to receive from the Father how He wants you to respond to the situation - and then use the name of Jesus for that purpose. That's how the kingdom works.

### **Lingering, tarry, wait on the Lord**

In about a month we are having our conference in Broken Arrow (suburb of Tulsa) and during that time every single person will have hands laid on them if they want. They will sit in a chair and several will

gather around, and then we will all linger, tarry before the Lord as we do so, to see what He would say to them. What are we doing? Are we offering our own words of encouragement? No. We wait in the presence of the Father, His Spirit among us and in us, to receive revelation that flows forth in the form of prophecy, words of knowledge and wisdom, mini-visions for them, and healing.

That's normal house church - when someone needs prayer we gather, wait to hear what the Father wants, THEN speak the name of Jesus. I learned this back in about 1974 as a teenager attending 'prayer meetings' in the charismatic renewal - and that's what made it so alive, so dynamic, so miracle producing - we knew how to gather and then wait and see what the Father wanted to do, what direction He wanted to flow.

It is the Holy Spirit who actually does the work. I use the example of a father telling his son to wash the car. The father wills the car to be washed. The son does the work of spraying the car with water, but it is the water that actually does the cleaning. That is how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work - it is the Spirit that gives life (John 6:63), it is the Spirit who actually displaces demons (Mt 12:28), it is the Spirit that recreated your spirit (John 3:3-5). It is not the name of Jesus alone, but the name of Jesus following the Spirit as the Father directs - the same pattern seen in John 5:19 - we do what we see the Father do. Father-Spirit-Son (body of Christ).

We are in Christ, so it is like that son being directed by the dad on where to aim the water - what part of the car needs the water. We linger before a person so we can hear from our 'dad' where He wants to direct the 'water' to cleanse a person, or heal them, or flow over them.

There is so much more that could be shared, but changing your lifestyle to be sure upon receiving news of any kind, to just keep quiet instead of spouting your opinion or what you think you need to do - just remain quiet and get with the Father to see what direction He wants to go - revelation is the rock, and it all flows from there, including using the name of Jesus whether for prayer, or against demons, or for healing. Revelation comes first.

Plenty to consider - new subject next week. Until then, blessings,  
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