

20221030 Christ's Healing Power Pt2

Introduction/Review Pt 1

Last week- started two part series- divine healing.

Goal: give us reasons- believe- God heals today.

4 guidelines-foremost being-use scripture- define what you believe- not your experience/feelings

We developed the Biblical principle that healing is part of Christ redemptive work on the cross.

It is just as much God's will to heal the body as it is to save man from his sin.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Some say this is spiritual not physical healing.

Interpreted in the NT ...

Matthew 8:16–17 (NASB95)

16When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.

17This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."

Divine healing is benefit of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

We also saw that sickness/disease were always considered a curse- never a blessing.

Jesus never taught anyone to resign themselves to being sick.

Faith and Unbelief

Healing requires- level of faith on someone's part.

In Mk 5- Jesus commended- woman w/issue of blood- told her- your faith has made you well.

Mk 2 Jesus saw- faith of- four men who lowered their friend through- roof so Jesus- heal him.

Mat 17- disciples were not able to heal a boy.

They believed- God's will- heal-asked Jesus why?

Matthew 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Q: If Jesus was telling them- problem was their small faith- then why did He tell them it only takes small faith to move mountains?

Mat 21- Jesus cursed a fig tree and it withered and the disciples were amazed ...

Mat 21:21 And Jesus ... said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen.

If Jesus tells us to believe without doubting then it must be possible to believe with doubting.

In Mark 9 a father brings his son to Jesus who had demonic seizures that tried to kill him.

The father asks Jesus to heal him ...

Mark 9:23–24 (NASB95)

23 And Jesus said to him ... All things

are possible to him who believes.”

Jesus had the power/willingness to heal but He cast the responsibility on the father/his faith.

24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief.”

The father had faith but also unbelief in his heart.

Romans 12:3 ... God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

It may not be that we need more faith- it may be unbelief in our heart that is hindering our faith.

Just like weeds in a real garden compete with good plants for moisture/light/nutrients-

unbelief in our heart competes w/our faith.

Unbelief also comes much like faith does ...

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

What are we listening to/watching- is it building up our faith or producing unbelief/doubt?

Unbelief is really belief in the wrong direction. Andrew Wommack

Bill Johnson says ...

Unbelief is not necessarily the absence of faith, it can be the presence of unbelief.

Consider what we hear/see- media/movies/music We are surrounded by a materialistic/rationalistic world view- matter/reason define everything.

So much of what we hear/see is eroding our faith.

Smith Wigglesworth was a man who moved in miraculous healings. Someone went to visit Wigglesworth at his home and he had a newspaper under his arm. The man asked if he could come in and

visit with him and Wigglesworth said he could come in but he needed to leave the newspaper outside.

Why? Its contents fueled unbelief/doubt.

2 Cor 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Be careful what- allow in through- eye/ear gate.

Bring every thought into alignment w/God's Word.

How to Exercise Faith

Definition of faith- faith is a relationship with God.

Faith comes from-Word, Christ being-Living Word

For- healing ministry prosper- must pursue God-

not just healing- relationship w/Living Word.

1. Revelation of God's Love

A complete revelation of how much God loves us will elevate our level of faith.

Gal 5:6 ... faith working through love.

A revelation of how much God loves us will boost our faith/confidence in His Word/its promises.

This is why being in- Word and Prayer- important.

2. Personal Sanctification

Too often we see our life/physical body for our own satisfaction- not for- Lord's purposes.

The more we set ourselves apart for God- spirit, soul, body- more- will experience- power- God.

Often when we are sick we are preoccupied with the condition of our body.

If we have given our bodies over to God then it is His responsibility/leave the care to Him.

Change your focus from- earth to the heaven.

Sanctification may involve repentance/confession of sin- dying to self and looking to Jesus.

3. Speak to the Mountain

Mk 11:23 “Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

Mountain- whatever problem you may be facing. Already mentioned- Jesus spoke to a fig tree. Here Jesus told His disciples-speak to- mountain.

He did not tell them to speak to God about the mountain- He told them to speak to the mountain/problem.

There are many areas of life where we must appeal to God for insight/wisdom/deliverance. But there are other areas where we have been given authority- one of those areas is healing. There is a place to speak to an illness/disease, in the name of Jesus- and ...

>command it to be gone

>command the disease or sickness to respond to God’s healing power

>to speak to the reality of 1 Pet 2.24 that healing was provided 2000 years ago

4. Stepping Out in Faith

What does it look like to put our faith into action?

Luke 17:12–14 (NASB95)

¹²As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him;

¹³and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

14When He saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they were going, they were cleansed.

Healing often involves an act of faith.

Jesus did not heal them and then tell them to go. He told them to go first, before being healed and then present themselves to the priest.

They were healed as they took the step of faith. They obeyed Jesus' words over natural wisdom- to not go to- priest until they were healed.

Perhaps, like the lepers, there is a place for us, under the leading of the HS- take a step- faith.

I am not suggesting we pretend we are not sick or stop medication without a doctors advice.

One step of faith- stop talking about your sickness/declare God's Word over your life.

We have more faith in being sick than healed.

5. The Prayer Offered in Faith

James 5:14–15 (NASB95)

14Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

James says with assurance that if we pray in faith God will heal the one who is sick.

The prayer offered in faith- not limited to- elders- we can pray- prayers of faith over one another.

To pray in faith must push unbelief out of hearts.
God gives to people according to their faith- you
can believe God heals/not-according-to your faith

Possible Hindrances to Healing

Most people do not want to be sick.

**Psalm 118:17 I will not die, but live, And
tell of the works of the Lord.**

God created us to live eternally and that is
somehow programmed into man's DNA.

Jesus did not heal every sick person in the world-
but He did heal all who came- Him for healing.

Understanding- Christ died for our sins as well as
our healing- key to praying in faith for healing.

Possible reasons people are sick/not healed ...

1. Personal sin

Not all sickness is because of personal sin.

We have a real enemy/we live in a fallen world.

Man- sick for 38yrs- Jesus healed him ...

**John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in
the temple and said to him, "Behold, you
have become well; do not sin anymore,
so that nothing worse happens to you."**

Sin can open the door for the devil to oppress us
with sickness/disease and hinder our healing.

However these verses do not say that God sent
the sickness or disease as punishment for sin.

God is not out to get us when we sin.

However, if there is sin in our lives, confession of
sin is an important part of- healing process.

There are also times that we reap what we sow.

We can see this for example with ...

>sexual promiscuity can result in sexually
transmitted diseases

>obsessive use of alcohol, drugs, smoking-
can damage our bodies in various ways
These are- result of disobeying- natural laws God
set up in creation- not God making people sick
Jesus- walking by a man- had been born blind ...

John 9:2–3 (NASB95)

²And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”

Immediate assumption- man-blind because of sin.

³Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Jesus was simply saying that ...

>sin was not the cause of his blindness and
>God would be glorified by healing him

It does not say God made him blind- birth defect.

Whatever the reason- God can heal/willing- heal.

1 Cor 11- taking communion in-unworthy manner.

Is this- warning- unbelievers not- take communion
because- not covered by blood of Christ.

Is he speaking to believers who have some
unrepentant sin in their lives?

Is he talking about those- harbor unforgiveness or
resentment- other members of- body of Christ?

Whatever the situation- serious to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:30–32 (NASB95)

³⁰For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

³¹But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

32But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Here sickness appears to be a judgment of God. Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves/judge rightly- if judge ourselves rightly- not judged. In any case we know ...

Lam 3:33 For He does not afflict willingly Or grieve the sons of men.

It is not God's heart/desire to afflict men and He does not do it without significant provocation.

2. Unbelief

Already talked about this in detail.

It is unbelief- hinders- miraculous works of God. Jesus is Savior of- whole man- spiritual/physical. Healing- like spiritual salvation- obtained by faith. Unbelief hinders our faith and the work of God.

3. We are in a spiritual war

In this war- we have a real enemy- Satan/demons who use all types of weapons against us.

Sickness may come as a result of this spiritual battle we are in ... Satan- steal, kill, destroy.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Jesus defeated Satan at the cross but we still battle with- world/our flesh/demonic.

Therefore there is a great need for us to ...

Jam 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

4. We live in a fallen world

Many difficulties we experience are the natural results of living in a fallen world

A wound gets infected, not because of sin/demon, but the result of the corruption in this world.

Germs, bacteria, viruses were corrupted as a result of the fall and can harm our bodies.

We might have an accident and be injured.

We cannot totally escape the reality of what it means to live in a corrupt/fallen world.

But we can always appeal to God for healing.

What About Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

2 Cor 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

First, unless you have been given great revelation like Paul, then you do not have a thorn in-flesh

Various beliefs concerning Paul's thorn ...

>Luther/Calvin- temptation or unbelief

>severe physical ailment- ie. eye defect

>infirmity of temper- Paul would give in to

>refers to the people who persecuted Paul

Nu 33.55- referring to Israel allowing enemies to remain in- land- calls them- thorns in your side.

I personally am not convinced- Paul's thorn was a physical ailment that God would not heal.

Conclusion

I understand that we will not experience the fullness of eternal life this side of heaven.

Starting with our new birth we should be laboring to experience as much of- KofG as possible.

Matthew 6:10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Includes appropriating all-God has-divine healing. Jesus atoning work on the cross paid for sin and all its effects, which includes physical healing. I do not believe that sickness is God's desire for any part of His creation.

There are some difficult Bible verses ...

>Trophimus was too ill to travel- 2 Tim 4.20

>Epaphroditus was gravely ill- Phil 2.30

I believe both of those were eventually healed.

But if someone is sick it does not mean that it is God's will for them to be sick ...

>we have freedom to make choices- could affect our physical condition adversely

>real spiritual enemy- steal, kill, and destroy

>we live in a fallen world

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God can use anything in our lives for good, but it does not mean- everything comes from God.

We can learn/grow through pain and suffering.

The Bible treats suffering different from healing- it does not say we will not suffer BUT the Word assures us of healing through Christ/cross.

In the end, the ultimate healer is Jesus Christ and it is to Him that we make our appeal.

Let us together, as the church- press in like the women with the hemorrhage of blood- and

touch the hem of Jesus garment.
And may our testimony be like hers- that power
proceeded from Jesus and healed many.

Healing Room

We have a healing room here at the church.
I want to alleviate any reasons someone might
have for not going to the Healing Room ...

1. you take medicine and you are afraid
people will judge you for that- NO
2. you are afraid you will offend those
praying for you if you are not healed- NO
3. you control symptoms w/medication so-
do not see a need to be prayed for- NO
be healed so do not need medication
4. if you are sick it does not mean you ...
 - >do not have faith
 - >have some hidden sin in your life
 - >no one is going to judge you

The Healing Room is open the 3rd Saturday of
each month from 11am to 2pm.