

# Scriptures for Healing: *The Church*

*We are the Church—the ecclesia, the “called out ones.” We have been equipped with powerful gifts and entrusted with awesome responsibilities. Right from the beginning the Church won the pagan Roman world to Christ by bold preaching combined with unprecedented displays of love and supernatural power: Those early believers loved the outcasts, healed the sick and drove out demons. That was meant to be just the beginning of wonders...[1]*

**Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

## The Command to Heal

**Jesus sent out the disciples during His earthly ministry** (the first two passages) commanding them to “heal the sick” as well as witness to the coming kingdom. Those early disciples were in some way anointed, authorized and empowered to do what He was sending them out to do. Nothing has changed! Jesus still wants the sick to be healed by us, just as He also wants us to be witnesses. He is certainly anointing, authorizing and empowering us to do what those pre-cross disciples were able to do.



Can anyone honestly believe that our position after the cross and Pentecost is less than that of Jesus' followers who didn't have “saving faith” and lacked the indwelling Spirit?

***Clearly, the Lord has equipped us to do what He has commissioned (commanded) us to do.***

**These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Matthew 10:5-8 ESV**

**After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest... Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal**



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the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' Luke 10:1-2, 8-9 ESV

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:14-18 ESV

## **The Power of the Believer—Our Access to the Holy Spirit**

**The power of the believer does not come from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit alone.** Jesus commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem and pray for power from on high. Let us remember that these were the same men that He had breathed upon in the Upper Room on the evening of His resurrection, saying "Receive the Holy Spirit."<sup>[2]</sup> You can't possibly be more born again or more indwelt by the Holy Spirit than that. Yet, Jesus was saying in effect that even that was not enough. He had something else "up His sleeve"—the empowerment promised by the Father.

**When it came on the day of Pentecost,** Peter didn't hesitate to say that this was the promise of Joel that the Holy Spirit would be poured out "upon" believers in the Latter Days."<sup>[3]</sup> This "clothing with power" upon believers is often called the baptism in the Spirit. But by whatever name it may be called, one thing is clear: this experience of empowerment a) does not come "automatically" with conversion and saving faith (it didn't for the disciples) and b) according to Jesus it requires further seeking and prayer on the part of those who are already born again (He required it of His first converts). With this baptism of power, healings began to happen along with great boldness in witnessing. *Why would we imagine it would be any different for us?*

**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:45-49 ESV**

**And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will**

you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:4-8 ESV

## **The Authority of the Believer—Our Position in Christ**

**Our position of authority is based upon two things: *the Atonement and Justification*.** Because of the Atonement, healing is now available to everyone! At the cross of Christ the Father was "in Christ reconciling the world to Himself"—not counting anyone's sins against them.<sup>[4]</sup> By the "stripes" of Jesus everyone on earth was healed.<sup>[5]</sup> Just as everyone is now "pre-qualified" for the total forgiveness for their sins, so too everyone is also "pre-qualified" to receive immediate healing for their body. ***Every issue of salvation was settled at the cross.***

**We are God's ambassadors** seeking to make known what God did for everyone through the cross of Christ.<sup>[6]</sup> We are also Jesus' agents sent out to minister faith, healing and salvation—all of the benefits of His work. By faith we have been reborn "in Christ" so that God can now do through us anything He did through Jesus.<sup>[7]</sup> By justification God has given us the same position and favor as He gives to Jesus. That is how thoroughly the Atonement has "seated us" in Christ.<sup>[8]</sup> Jesus has not only given us the commission to heal everyone, He has given us permission to forgive everyone.

Among other things our position in Christ means that ***we are intended to pass on all of the benefits of the Atonement to everyone***, not wondering whether "they qualify" or whether "God wills it." His will is to forgive, save and heal. His plan is to do it through us. He has "pre-qualified" everyone. Doubts only get in the way.<sup>[9]</sup> Even a little doubt or a smidgen of unbelief can block a whole lot of faith. That is why it really helps to search the Word to gain clarity about the truth of God's desire to heal people today. ***Jesus even fully expects that we will do more than He did!***<sup>[10]</sup>

**Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:11-14 ESV**

**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. John 15:16 ESV**

**Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV**

**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 ESV**

**Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV**

**Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone 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. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:13-16 ESV**

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## Scriptures and Foot Notes

- [1] “The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:9 ESV
- [2] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.” John 20:19-23 ESV
- [3] But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:14-17 ESV
- [4] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ESV
- [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 ESV
- [6] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV
- [7] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV
- [8] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6 ESV
- [9] I’m not saying that I don’t have doubts to deal with, but that when they come up, they get in the way if we don’t find a way to get rid of them and replace all doubt with confident, believing faith.
- [10] We have Jesus own statement in John 14:11-14 as well as the promise of Haggai that the “latter” glory of the people of God will surpass anything that came earlier: “The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:9 ESV

