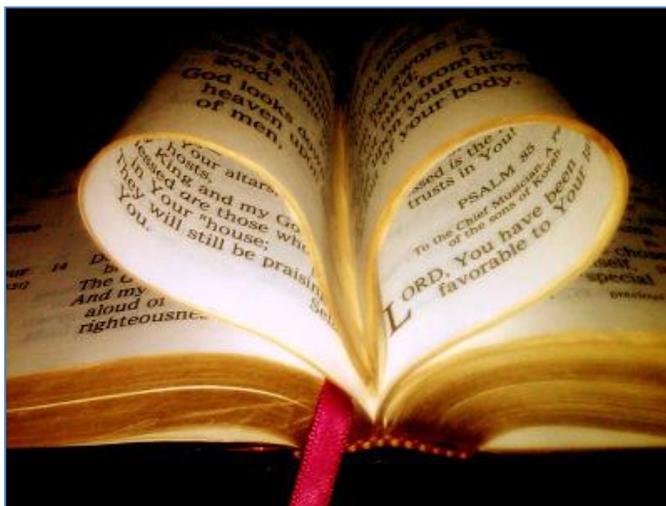


SCRIPTURES FOR HEALING

The scriptures show us what God has done in the past, explain the mysteries of suffering and restoration to us, and build our faith to believe for what God desires to do in the present - even through our prayers, even in our situation.¹ Although the Bible can be an intimidating book to read and comprehend, always keep in mind that it is a love letter written to you by your very Best Friend, who is also the Lover of your soul. Never give up this quest to learn the truths He would teach you, so that you can grow into all that He has for you.



Throughout the ages, believers have provided us with living demonstrations that incredible things happen when faith connects with the Word of God. Since our salvation (which includes healing) comes to us by grace through faith, it is essential that we feed our faith with God's Word.²

"For I am the Lord, your healer." Exodus 15:26 ESV

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Interested in Going Deeper?

Consider taking our free [eCourse for Healing](#). We have designed a complete series for personal transformation, 'Matters of the Heart,' to help Christians gain emotional freedom and inner healing. In all there are 24 Main Healing Lessons and 24 Head to Heart Guides to help you bring your heart to God and receive His Great Heart for you in return!



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About the Author: [Steve Evans](#)



For over a decade Steve Evans and [Healing Streams](#) have been helping people recover inner peace and freedom through the free eCourse for healing, [Matters of the Heart](#). Through Forerunners4Him he has been showing how we can be saved for heaven and teaching the way to live a Spirit-filled life on earth. Go now to receive a completely free primer, [Getting to Heaven](#) and/or an introduction to [Living in the Spirit](#) at our website.



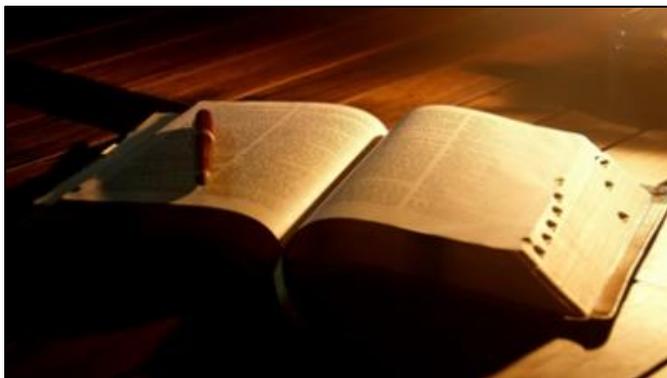
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CHAPTER ONE

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS IN SCRIPTURE

The scriptures provide three sets of powerful truths which we will need in order to pray and believe for healing with confidence. We need to know what our Lord has written about His desire to heal us. Can we count on Him to “take our side”—desiring to see us healed, despite our less than perfect spiritual condition? Fortunately for us, our God has not only revealed His will in the matter, He has also demonstrated His position and power, so that we can have great confidence in seeking His help. Finally, He has shown us how to participate with Him as faith partners who trust and obey His leadership. Such confidence grows in us as we study and take to heart the insights we can glean through God’s Word.



It is helpful to keep in mind that the healing journey will also be used by the Lord to free us of false beliefs and wrong ways that we may not even be aware of.

When He has our attention and we are looking to Him for answers and for help,

this naturally becomes a teachable moment. Jesus was never one to pass up such an opportunity! He may use this time of seeking Him to lead you on paths of discovery of Biblical truths that will bear no direct relationship to your condition. But He may also lead you into times of refreshing and cleansing that will free your body of some of the dead weight in your soul (so to speak) that is dragging you down. Interior peace and freedom powerfully energize our immune system (see [Disease and Dis-ease](#)). For this growth into greater wholeness, we will need to combine Holy Spirit given insights with faith in God’s Word.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV

1. The Truth of God's Perfect Will

It is God's desire to heal, not afflict.³ Confusion over this simple truth can become a terrible stumbling block. God is not the author of death or disease -- these consequences of sin came in through our fall from grace. It has never been God's desire to see anyone afflicted with disease. Sadly, human sins have created many ways for the consequences of sin to come into our lives.⁴ Our own wrong choices, the sins of people in the world around us, the sins of our ancestors impact our lives in many negative ways. This grieves our Father as much as it does us!

Because of free will and real world conditions (see [Truth or Consequences](#)). God has to allow sin and its consequences to be in operation on the earth (disease for instance), but that certainly doesn't mean He desires it or causes it. In fact, His words and actions prove that He wants to heal.⁵ If we are not sure of this, then we will pray for people with a divided mind, as if



we were somehow going against what God really desires. Such conflicting doubts are deadly to prayer.⁶

Our fight is not against God (as if He has to be made willing to heal us). Our fight is against the powers and principalities of the dark kingdom, whose calling cards are death and disease.⁷ Their MO (modus operandi) includes tempting us to blame God for the very things they are doing. The Book of Job is an excellent example of how this works. We are clearly shown that it is Satan who attacked Job.⁸ Job, however, didn't understand the underlying spiritual realities and ended up blaming God for all his afflictions. The Lord healed Job anyway, but in the meantime, Job presented a sad spectacle of faithlessness and false belief.⁹ His suborn rebellion may even have delayed his healing. Let us avoid Job's error by steadfastly believing this foundational blazing truth: There is nothing of darkness about our God.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5 ESV

2. The Truth of God's Own Actions

Our God not only tells us that He desires us healed and whole, He proves His words with powerful demonstrations of His will. Throughout Biblical history, God has healed many times and in many ways. God healed people under the Old Covenant, mainly through the prophets. Jesus healed multitudes of people during the three all-too-brief years of His ministry. On many occasions this included everyone who was brought to Him. The disciples also healed people under Jesus' leadership and direction.

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. Matthew 10:1 ESV

Later, when they became the apostles, these same men healed people by the Holy Spirit's empowerment, beginning mere days after Jesus ascended. The entire Book of Acts records the astounding depth and breadth of their supernaturally gifted ministry. If the Early Church was meant to demonstrate to us what fully empowered Christianity is like, then healing and deliverance must be included in the picture. Here is just one example.

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. Acts 19:12 ESV

Why would the Lord do any of this, if He was only concerned with saving souls for heaven? As a pastor once quipped, all He would need in that case is one minister to bring us to conversion and another to shoot us right on the spot. In fact, Jesus is deeply committed to healing our bodies as His actions have proven. Again and again, in the gospels we see Jesus teaching, healing and casting out demons. It is as if, after the long centuries of watching our sad condition from heaven, He couldn't wait to get right to work healing as many of us as He could while He still had the time to work in Person. How can we imagine that anything has changed? Is He not

the One who is the same yesterday, today, forever?¹⁰ Rest assured, dear saint, about this foundational truth: The God who healed in the Bible is still God today.

"For I the LORD do not change." Malachi 3:6 ESV

3. The Truth of God's Decision to Act Through Us

Now it is our turn. Jesus is in us just as He was in the apostles. His work continues through us.¹¹ This means that just as Jesus desires to save the lost through us, He also desires for His healing ministry to take place through us. Clearly, we cannot heal anyone apart from His authority and power, but He has given these to us and desires us to use learn how to use them (see [Commanding Prayer](#)). The simple truth is that we cannot do anything apart from Him, but He doesn't expect us to depart from Him. According to Jesus, we cannot do anything of value apart from Him.¹² Therefore, one goal of our healing journey (and every other journey in life) needs to be learning how to abide in Christ. Any born again child of God can do this! We do this by trusting Jesus with what He allows and being willing to do anything He asks.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 ESV

By living in and through Him, Jesus fully expects that we will be able to do "greater works" than He did and that the Holy Spirit at work in us will work through us.¹³ Amazingly, He has given us tremendous power and authority to pray for our own healing and that of others. This doesn't mean that our God can't still reach in out of the blue and heal anyone He wants to by His own sovereign decision and mighty power. Of course, He can! However, the scriptures are also clear that He has called us to be vessels through whom He can act. Hence, we will likely make much better progress if we learn the ways of getting with His program. Let your faith be activated by this third foundational truth: The God who works healing wants to work through us.

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 Path of Effective Prayer

Jesus is our Teacher; He is also our Example. He shows as well as tells us how to live the new life of faith and how to accomplish our assignments. Since all of us are called to pray for healing according to clear directives in the New Covenant, we would be wise to pay close attention to how Jesus and others accomplished healing and deliverance. These living examples will be instructive for seeing how He would likely want to work through us now.¹⁴ As you go over the healing scriptures that fill the next five lessons, seek to gain "eyes to see and ears to hear" how the Master and His companions did things. This is the way of a disciple.

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40 ESV

CHAPTER TWO

OLD TESTAMENT HEALING SCRIPTURES

In the Old Testament period God "set the stage" for what He would be doing later on through Christ. He clearly announced the connection between sin and disease, He presented Himself as both Savior from sin and Healer of disease, and He demonstrated His ability and willingness to save and heal by many miracles, signs and wonders.¹⁵

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. Psalms 107:19-20
ESV



Prayers for Healing

We can learn so much just by listening in on the conversations of others (not snooping, but with their permission!). Especially when people are talking to God our own unvoiced questions might be answered. Their communications and how the Lord responds open vistas of possibility for us, such as: "You mean, I can talk to God like that?" or "Is it really ok to ask such a thing?" So, let us listen in, watch, and learn. It will surely be our turn soon.

Abraham's Prayer for Abimelech

The very first person God called to follow Him, just happens to also be the first person through whom the Lord healed someone. Coincidence? This should give us all a wonderful reassurance. Abraham was far from perfect, but he was willing to believe God at His Word -- that God would do what He promised.¹⁶ Apparently, that was all God needed to declare Abraham righteous, grant him right standing, and use him as a vessel to help those around him!

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. For the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife. Genesis 20:17-18
ESV

The Healing of the Leper Naaman

Without a doubt Elisha was both meek and mighty. In God's kingdom, meekness before God is a prerequisite for spiritual power. Yet, here he is up against his opposite: Naaman, the Syrian commander who holds worldly power and shows himself arrogant before God. Naaman flatly refuses to do what the prophet tells him! It could have ended there, but he repented of his anger and turned back to do as he was told. This shows us the readiness of our God to forgive those who repent and more. As Jesus pointed out, this unbelieving Syrian was the only leper Elisha



healed, despite there being other lepers in Israel.¹⁷ Evidently, the Lord is perfectly willing to heal even those who don't know him, or barely know about Him, as well as those with anger issues. That should give us all hope!

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 2 Kings 5:9-14 ESV

The Prayers of the Psalmists

The Book of Psalms puts champions of prayer and praise on display before us, so that we can learn and be encouraged by their ways of approaching God. For one thing, they don't try to hide the way they feel from God. He already knows, so they set everything before Him – all of their complaints and well as whatever they may need to confess. We see too that for them confession has two dynamic sides: confessing their sins and also confessing the goodness and faithfulness of their God. These are excellent prayers to take to heart and repeat with hope-filled faith. The same God who listened to them and healed them is the same One who is listening to you. Give God everything in your heart, holding nothing back, especially God's rightful praise. That is the message of the Psalmists.

O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. Psalms 6:1-2 ESV

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. Psalms 30:1-3 ESV

As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" Psalms 41:4 ESV

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalms 103:2-5 ESV



Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalms 147:1-3 ESV

Hezekiah's Tearful Prayer

Never underestimate what your tears mean to the Lord. Watchman Nee called tears "liquid prayers" because God listens through them to what our heart is seeking to express. David was a man of war, but he was also a man of tears who drenched his bed with tears at times, crying his heart out to the Lord. Never cry your tears as if they are falling into an uncaring void. Your Great Friend is listening to every tear and storing them in His bottle.¹⁸ The Lord sent the prophet back to Hezekiah with a reverse decision, all because the king gave the King his tears.

"Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you." 2 Kings 20:5 ESV

Jeremiah's Desperate Prayer

People who hated his ministry put Jeremiah through some terrible ordeals, including casting him into a muddy pit and mocking him for his faith when he was down. Perhaps, it was there that he took ill. Fortunately, we see by this heart-felt plea that Jeremiah kept his faith and his focus on God. Jeremiah is absolutely clear in his own mind that God can indeed heal and save Him. He is equally convinced that since he is living with God at the center of his praise (all he holds dear), he believes God will save him ("for you are my praise"). No matter what we are going through, our God will always (eventually) prove His faithfulness, if we don't quit and give up. Keep putting the Lord first, and He will take care of what concerns you.¹⁹

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the Lord? Let it come!"
Jeremiah 17:14-15 ESV

Promises of Healing

Promises play such a key role in the spiritual life. Learning how to hold onto God's promises, especially when they don't seem to be coming true, is almost the most important thing practical we could learn. Believing the promises keeps our hope alive for as Paul pointed out, "Hope that is seen is not hope."²⁰ Believing the promises also keeps our faith active and faith is the "substance" God uses to bring what we hope for towards us.²¹ Standing on the promises with confident hope and faith, therefore, enables us to live in the meantime. We even enter into the very presence of God and reap our inheritance of peace, joy and other good things by means of His "precious and very great promises."²²

In the passages that follow, look carefully for the promises that the Holy Spirit may be flagging for you. Anything that gets your attention, or makes you pause and think, or tugs at your heart, just may be a specific promise of God intended as a lifeline for you to hang on to. Get a good grip on God and His grace by means of these promises!

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. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the Lord, "and I will heal him. Isaiah 57:18-19 ESV

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. Jeremiah 33:6-8 ESV

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. Hosea 11:3-4 ESV

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely; for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel; he shall blossom as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive-tree, and his smell as Lebanon. Hosea 14:4-6 ASV

Healing with Conditions?

It must be said that *sometimes* the Lord lays conditions down which must be met, before what He desires to do can take place. This is certainly true of healing – at times. How are we to know if our situation of sickness is one of those times? The devil is expert at raking Christians over the coals, breathing fiery threats (like Job's accusers) that we are sick because of something we did and unless we confess up, God will be mad, and the sickness will remain.

First of all, God took His righteous anger out on Jesus and has nothing of it left over for you – that's the gospel truth! He loves and forgives us and wants to heal us. Nevertheless, this may be a time of discipline. One way to know is clarity. It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict us of sin. Just ask Him to reveal if there is anything to confess. Either a specific sin will come into focus or the fog of confusion will remain. That fog of generalized wrongness is always from the Enemy. Clarity about a sin to confess is always from the Lord. For more on discerning between the two see [Conviction versus Condemnation](#).

There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer." Exodus 15:25-26 ESV



"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

"Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal." Job 5:17-18 ESV

A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God. "Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we come to you, for you are the Lord our God. Jeremiah 3:21-22 ESV

An Extraordinary Healing Event

While in the wilderness (think dry, dreary, dreadful journey) the people murmured and complained against the Lord. Please note that this is the opposite of the Psalmist's approach! In response and as a form of chastisement, the Lord sent a plague of fiery serpents. Blessings are consequences of our actions that we like; chastisements are consequences we don't like.²³ This is clearly a case of "to whom much is given, much is required."²⁴ The children of Israel were given the cloudy pillar by day and the fire by night. They were treated to the greatest continuous display of sovereign, supernatural power the world has ever seen. Their extremely faithless response, therefore, called forth a most severe consequence.

The point is that God didn't want to see His people sick and dying. They brought it on themselves by the way they chose to behave. Nevertheless, God already had the cure in mind. His idea of a gracious remedy turned this whole sorry episode into a fantastic living picture of the Messiah's future work. Jesus alluded directly to this incident when He said that if He was lifted up (wrapped in sin like that serpent on the pole) He would draw all men to Himself.²⁵ Don't ever mistakenly think that your sins and misdeeds have outfoxed God. He can make even our worst segue into His best. He seems to delight in doing so.

And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. Numbers 21:7-9 ESV

A Word about O. T. Language

The Old Testament passage quoted below is truly scary and even bizarre, if it means what it seems to mean in bare-knuckled English. How do we make sense of it? No less an authority than the Great Reformer himself, Martin Luther, cautioned that we should only read the Old Testament through the lens of gospel glasses.²⁶ By the gospel, we know that the Father is perfect love, that He is the Author of life, not death, and that it is the thief who comes to "kill and destroy."²⁷ When I read a passage like this (there are not many of them), I see it as the Father

taking ultimate responsibility for all that happens on the earth, like a captain choosing to go down with the ship. He doesn't cause people to sin, but sin brings forth death. He is not the agent of temptation, sin and death, Satan is. Nevertheless, He oversees and overrules the free will decisions of people and demons, so He assumes ultimate authority for what He has to allow. This may be a fine distinction, but it has always suited me just fine.

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

Deuteronomy 32:39 ESV

Healing Only Slightly

Would it be sufficient to lift people's spirits with a quick prayer and a pat on the back, but leave them confirmed in the sickness? Would it be sufficient to patch a wounded heart with a few platitudes, but still leave the person joyless and dragging? Let's take it a step further: Would it be a sufficient healing, if a person recovers from a disease, but not from the sin-sickness of living apart from God and His ways? The Lord says He wants His healing to go deep. He evidently desires us to be fully healed in [body, soul and spirit](#).

They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Jeremiah 6:14 ESV



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CHAPTER THREE

SCRIPTURES OF JESUS IN ACTION

Jesus is a living demonstration of the unseen Father's will and desire. Jesus said that He always did what the Father wanted Him to do. That certainly includes the healings Jesus did. But how did He do them? As our Example we can try to imitate Him from the outside by "copying" the outward ways that He lived and ministered, or from the inside by seeking to adopt His same internal stance. Both ways are valid, however, the latter way yields extraordinary results!

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38 ESV

The Healing Ministry of Jesus

By observing from the outside, we can see in these passages how often Jesus healed people and how great was His power. But what we don't see is the inner mystery. Jesus, in coming to earth, left behind all the trappings of what it means to be God. To use Paul's phrase, He "emptied Himself" of things like omniscience (all knowing), omnipotence (all powerful) and omnipresence (being everywhere at once).²⁸ He became just like us! Otherwise, He could never have been our human representative at the cross.



How, then, did He do what He did? Jesus said He always looked to the Father for guidance about what to do.²⁹ Additionally, He only began doing miracles after He was baptized by the Holy Spirit when the Spirit descended upon Him and remained.³⁰ So, He was led step by step by God the Father and He was supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit, including the full operation of the nine power gifts that are available to us.

This means that He never acted in any way that we cannot act. Because we are born again by faith, we too can receive guidance from above. We too have [the Holy Spirit indwelling](#) us, enabling us to live in union with Jesus. Further, if we have been [baptized by the Holy Spirit](#) we also have the same empowerment that Jesus and the Apostles enjoyed. This inner mystery of Jesus, transferred to us, makes our new life in Christ both possible and glorious!

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27 ESV



The Centurion's Servant

The key to this passage is the unquestioning faith the centurion had in the authority Jesus possessed: “Only say the word.” This shows us the role our faith has – at times – in the healing process. It also shows us the kind of faith Jesus is looking for. Even a little doubt can spoil a whole lot of faith. The centurion brought faith with nothing doubting to the table and Jesus’ response was immediate and positive. Sadly, Jesus could easily marvel of the Church today that, like Israel before us, we often don’t have this same caliber of faith. Fortunately, faith is not the only element in the mix, but we need to note how decisive a role it plays when present and work with our faith to grow it.³¹

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 'Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.' And he said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' But the centurion replied, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.' When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith... And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.' And the servant was healed at that very moment. Matthew 8:5-10, 13 ESV

The Sending of the Twelve

Jesus spent some of His valuable time training His disciples how to heal people and cast out spirits. Don’t you expect that He still is doing this? Indeed, He is training all of us who are willing. Remember that His last words on the mount in Matthew were that He now has (thanks to His death and resurrection) “all” authority.³² This authority is just as available to those who are “in Christ” now as then. Note also that there is a connection between evil spirits and disease. No doubt evil spirits can cause mental illness, but according to scripture, they are also the culprits behind certain diseases. Many of us have learned to take authority over the dark kingdom when we pray for healing, for example: “Satan, I bind you and your works in Jesus Name and spirit of infirmity or of (name the disease) you must go now in Jesus Name.”

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction... 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 10:1, 5-9 ESV

The Sending of the Seventy-two

The Lord evidently didn’t limit Himself to the hand-picked and personally-trained twelve. He sent out seventy-two “others” to join in the fight. The moral? It is easy to be a recruit in this army:

Just be available! In fact, He specifically commanded all of us to pray for the Lord of harvest to send out many more laborers, so great is desire to see His work advanced. Do not mistake this as a harvest of converts only. The seventy-two came back bursting with joy to see that demons had been subjected to their commands. Demonic deliverance and healing go hand in hand in the gospels. In fact, as the gospel advanced through the Mediterranean Basin, those two supernatural signs went first and converts followed. In our day this is called “power evangelism” and it still works powerfully for advancing the kingdom.

We should also note how Jesus shapes their faith. Not content to simply let them have their joyful victory their way, He corrected them that the real key is not that demons were subjected to them, but that they had been rightly submitted to the Father (with “names written in heaven”) due to their willingness to trust and obey His instructions. He goes on to extoll the simple faith of “little children” which found a home in the hearts of these disciples. Such humility and purity of heart helped them move in the authority He gave them with such power that Satan fell “like lightning” from his seat of power. Want to turn the tables on the Enemy? Just become like a little child!³³ It’s what Jesus wants for all of us.

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... The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. Luke 10:1-2, 17-21 ESV

Healing on the Sabbath

This is one of several instances where Jesus appeared to break His own rules. All of Israel knew that no work was supposed to be done on the Sabbath. Jesus knew there were legitimate exceptions. Healing is evidently one of them. This is important for us to know, because at times the way healings happen (and don’t happen) seem to break all the rules. Who is a good candidate for healing, when is a good time, what is a good method are “rules” we may have lodged in our head without thinking about it. That is, until they get dis-lodged by healing happening in a radically unexpected way. Don’t box Jesus in! Trouble is, we may be doing just that out of religious habit like the ones who opposed Jesus in this passage. It’s best to expect to be surprised and “Let the Lord be the Lord.”

He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?' - so that they might accuse him. He said to them, 'Which one of you has a sheep, if it



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falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.'

Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. Matthew 12:9-13 ESV

Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law

In these parallel passages we see Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. This was a woman with a servant heart. We know this because just as soon as she was healed she "rose and began to serve them." Jesus certainly didn't heal her so He could be served ("He came not to be served, but to serve"), but perhaps He healed her so that she could be released into her gift.

Remember, there are no hard and fast rules here. Nevertheless, there are certain conditions which seem to attract the grace of God. One is our willingness to live for God and others, not sheer selfish desires. For instance, there was a wealthy man who fill his barns and decided to live only for his own pleasure. That night "his soul was required of him."³⁴

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.' Matthew 8:14-17 ESV

Another interesting point is the way that the healing of this one woman spread like wildfire through the community. That very evening the house became filled with people wanting prayer. The whole city beat a path to her door! Let God use you to spread the word when someone you have been praying for is healed. Prepare to take advantage of the possibilities of harvest that even one simple healing can uncork. Often the faith released by a healing testimony will enhance the faith of others and they too will be in a much better position to receive.

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. Mark 1:29-34 ESV

Healing the Paralytic

Jesus intentionally confounded and complicated this moment. By His own admission, all He needed to do was say, "Rise, pick up your bed and go home." Everyone would have been happy. But no. He brought theology into the equation by tying this healing to the forgiveness of sins. Does that mean all sickness is the result of a person's sin? No, but it might be. There was another situation where it wasn't caused by sin.³⁵ Nevertheless, in this case it was. We would be



wise to always seek the Holy Spirit if a sickness stubbornly clings to a person. The curse cannot come to anyone without a cause.³⁶ That cause just may be their own sin, known or unknown. Unforgiveness is a sin which many don't see as sin. Yet, it is one of the great mischief makers blocking prayer and blocking the grace of God for healing.³⁷ Always check for that one!

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.' And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, 'This man is blaspheming.' But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' - he then said to the paralytic - 'Rise, pick up your bed and go home.' And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:1-8 ESV

This parallel passage makes it clear that Jesus was using the healing moment as a vehicle for driving an unwanted point into the minds of some of the people present. He was pressing them to confront their own unbelief in who He was and who was giving Him authority. Miraculous healings and demonic deliverance stir up a lot of controversy. You would think that everyone would be thrilled that someone just got free. The Lord knows better. He sees our hearts with a jeweler's eye and knows which flaws are ripe for exposure. Be ready for this. Know in advance that not everyone will pat you on the back, if God does something dramatic for someone through you. Still, the sight of people walking away in freedom is worth the hazing.

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, 'Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' - he said to the paralytic - 'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.' And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!' Mark 2:1-12 ESV



Healing a Mute Man

Once again, Jesus gets slammed for doing the work of God. Sure, some people thought He hung the moon (“Never was anything like this seen in Israel”). Others howled that He was serving Satan (“He casts out demons by the prince of demons”). If you are seeking healing and/or seeking to serve the Lord, you need to know that contradicting messages will dog your steps. Make up your mind in advance, as Jesus apparently did, that you are only going to listen to messages that come from God. Develop your discernment about the voice of the Lord and the content of His messages by studying what He has already been expressing to us through the scriptures. In the end, these are the only words that matter.

Speaking of words, this passage shows us Jesus healing a man who cannot speak up for himself. Think what that means. He can’t describe his condition, or give his history with it, or say how he feels about it, or indicate his level of faith or spiritual understanding. We get used to having these sorts of questions asked and answered, but they aren’t always necessary. At other times we even see Jesus asking questions like these, so there is nothing wrong with asking them. They can help raise our faith and compassion, depending on what we hear. Still, it’s a good rule to know that God knows and that’s all that matters. Sometimes, too many words can put a damper on the moment. It’s best sometimes to strike when hot, especially if you sense a leading of the Spirit warming your heart.

As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, 'Never was anything like this seen in Israel.' But the Pharisees said, 'He casts out demons by the prince of demons.' And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. Matthew 9:32-35 ESV

Healing All Manner of Sickness

We have a tendency to think that the situation we’re facing is a hard one – that it will be hard for God to overturn this disease or rescue this life. Some things certainly seem to take time. Jesus even says some things only come about with fasting and prayer. These are probably concessions to our lack of faith and spiritual understanding. Not to His. Indeed, we see Jesus in this passage healing every “hard” kind of condition you could name. Except for one: hardness of heart, the hardness that springs from unbelief. So, let us ever be on watch against the thought that something we are dealing with is too hard for the One who does all things well, the One for whom nothing is impossible.³⁸ “I believe, help me overcome my unbelief,” is a good Biblical prayer whenever something looks too hard for faith to carry.³⁹

Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw



**the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing.
And they glorified the God of Israel. Matthew 15:29-31 ESV**

Healing an Epileptic Boy

Jesus doesn't show what we would call frustration very often. Here, His first rebuke ("O faithless and twisted generation") is directed toward the disciples who couldn't accomplish this healing, not the father who brought the boy to them. The second rebuke is to the demon. Never is the father rebuked. He came in simple faith and loving concern. We can always approach the Lord with confidence on that basis. The disciples, however, are subject to strong correction. Remember, that these same fellows like to argue about who's going to be top dog in the kingdom. Pride goes before a fall, and often gets spanked on the way down. When the (humbled) disciples approached Jesus later, He was gracious in His reply, but still pinned the problem on their "little faith."

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:14-20 ESV

A parallel passage in Mark adds further details to this event. We are shown that the boy suddenly got worse when He was brought to Jesus and later after ministry, even appeared to be dead! Be ready for this. It doesn't always happen (thank God), but sometimes people get worse at first, rather than better. Try not to let that throw you. If it happened to Jesus, it just might happen to you. In any event, the Lord stayed calm and focused, asking questions to understand the situation better (see note on Healing the Mute Man above). Only moments before, He dealt with the disciple's lack of faith. Now, it is the father's turn who handles the challenge beautifully with those immortal words: "I believe; help my unbelief!" That one phrase, uttered in humility and desperation, has rescued untold millions of us, by showing the better way to go.

Next, we note the concern of Jesus to take care of the deliverance before the boy could be made too much of a public spectacle ("when He saw that a crowd came running..."). Try to preserve the dignity and privacy of individuals you are ministering to. This can't always be achieved but needs to be as important to us as it was for Jesus. Finally, in private conversation Jesus tells the disciples what they should do to grow their faith: Pray! Well, we don't get better at any activity without a lot of practice. However, this translation leaves out what the King James includes: Fasting. Without a doubt fasting strengthens the arm of prayer. Let the Holy Spirit show you when and how.

And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." Mark 9:20-29 ESV

Healing Demon Possessed Men

There are so many startling things about this passage. A whole herd of pigs is driven wild by the demons infesting one man. True, he too had been driven wild by them, but was in some way managing to live with them inside. For the pigs that was not an option – they preferred death by drowning. This shows us our capacity for infestation by the kingdom of darkness and our amazing ability to cling to life. Jesus with very few words and in mere moments of time, cast out all the demons and restored the men/man to their right mind. Wouldn't it be great if we could empty our insane asylums the same way? On the other hand, what Jesus did terrified, or offended, the townspeople so much they "begged" Him to leave. How strange is that? They seemed to prefer the previous situation to the present one.

And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, 'What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?' Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, saying, 'If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.' And he said to them, 'Go.' So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region. Matthew 8:28-34 ESV

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with

shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.' For he was saying to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!' And Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is Legion, for we are many.' And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, 'Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.' So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea. Mark 5:1-13 ESV

Healing Multitudes at Gennersaret

This passage in Matthew follows the demoniacs' deliverance by six chapters. Perhaps, that gave the city folk sufficient time to adjust. Previously, they begged Jesus and His disciples to leave. Now, when they recognized Him, they brought "all who were sick." The lesson here may be to never give up on the people in any region, in any group. Even if groups or individuals reject the Lord and His works at first, they may still come around. Further, it seems that their expectancy level was so high that touching the fringe of His garment was all the people need do to activate their faith for healing. Keep in mind that the "magic" is not in the garment, but in the power of faith to draw in the healing power of God. Perhaps, by leaving the healed demoniac behind (against his wishes), Jesus sowed a living, exuberant witness into the community, which bore fruit with this healing revival.

And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. Matthew 14:34-36 ESV

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. Mark 6:53-56 ESV

Healing Blind Men

At first glance these three different episodes could all pass for the same event, remembered slightly differently. Or, the Holy Spirit just might be showing us that Jesus did a whole lot of healing and that sometimes those healings had many elements in common. And why not? At a church service in Brazil in 2006, the healing evangelist called for all the deaf people to brought

to the front. In a small church of under 100, six people were led forward. All of them received full hearing back that night! I think I was shocked more by the number of deaf people in so small a group than by the healings themselves which followed similar patterns. When commentators make a fuss over “difficulties” or “discrepancies” in texts like these, it’s a fair suspicion that they have little practical experience with the supernatural working of God. No matter what the climate of unbelief around you may be, no matter what the “wise” may say in their skepticism, if you want to see God move, then move the doubts to the side.

These blind men certainly carried no scruples about how they would be seen by others. They couldn’t see the disparaging looks that may have been in the eyes of some as they created a holy ruckus. They literally turned a blind eye to any doubters that may have been present and kept their faith focus on Jesus. What they exhibit is something that prayer warriors of the past called “importunity” in prayer. Webster defines it as “troublesomely urgent: overly persistent in request or demand.” They were bordering on making a nuisance of themselves! Such [Persevering Prayer](#) is one of the five main ways of praying for healing. The others are Petitioning Prayer, Rebuking Prayer, Commanding Prayer and Submitting Prayer. See [Prayers for Healing](#) to learn about all five and then add to your arsenal any that may be lacking or under developed.

And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David.' When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then he touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith be it done to you.' And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, 'See that no one knows about it.' But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. Matthew 9:27-31 ESV

And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' And stopping, Jesus called them and said, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him. Matthew 20:29-34 ESV

And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' And Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.' And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And the blind man said to him, 'Rabbi, let me recover my sight.' And Jesus



said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way. Mark 10:46-52 ESV

Healing of Jairus' Daughter

The Lord will work with us to grow and liberate our faith. That's the encouraging message of this healing journey. Right at the beginning we see Jairus with faith for the healing and the two set out, along with much of the town in tow. On the way – it is a genuine journey towards the hoped-for healing – the procession is interrupted by a woman with an issue of Blood. She takes up precious time, possibly drains Jesus' healing power ("virtue had gone out of Him"), and renders Him ritually unclean by her "illegal" maneuver. How would you feel about those unwanted delays? Anxious? The father's worst fears strike home when someone arrives to say it's too late, "Your daughter is dead." How his heart must have plummeted! Seeing this, Jesus immediately steadies and strengthens him: "Do not fear, only believe."

When they arrive at the house, Jesus reassures the father again that his daughter is only "sleeping" -- a reassurance the father receives but others reject. Those unbelieving servants are themselves rejected and ejected. Seeing, however, that the man's faith has been sufficiently strengthened, Jesus brings him into the room for a first-hand view of the miracle that loving father longed to see. Know that this same wonderful Lord will be working with you to strengthen your faith as well, even if He also lets your faith be challenged by unexpected twists and turns, delays and set-backs. Hang in there with Him!

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.' And he went with him... While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, 'Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha cumi,' which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 ESV



Healing a Woman with a Discharge of Blood

The message here is faith and patience. Rick Joyner of MorningStar says that you could fill a stadium with messages about prosperity but call it “Faith and Patience” and no one will come. Yet, it is through faith and patience that we inherit the promises of God.⁴⁰ This woman certainly did. Wait a minute you might quibble. How was she being patient? The word for patience in scripture is also often translated as perseverance or endurance, or long-suffering. Get the picture? Perseverance is what we call it when our usual level of patience is really being put to the test. This woman persevered in faith for many years, hoping and believing that God, who gives us doctors, would one day heal her through them.⁴¹ Then, she heard about Jesus and decided to make an end run around the medical profession. She brought hope and faith to the table that twelve years of daily disappointment had not defeated but intensified.

She also had to press past two obstacles. One was the Lord’s seeming indifference. Jesus was on the way to heal Jairus’ daughter. He was going right past. Sometimes it feels like that, doesn’t it? That God isn’t interested in us, or that He is somehow passing us by without a care for our concern. Press in anyway. Seek to touch His heart of compassion. And don’t let other obstacles get in the way. This woman’s issue of blood was a major obstacle. Under the Old Covenant it rendered her unclean, excluding her from even being out in public. Yet, she pressed past that barrier, too. By the way she came forth in “fear and trembling” when Jesus called her out, it’s clear that she understood the risk she had taken: By touching Jesus she made Him ritually unclean, too. How would He handle that? Never fear how the Lord will “handle” you. He loves you and loves seeing you scrambling past obstacles to get to Him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.' And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my garments?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.' Mark 5:24-34 ESV

Healing the Blind Man at Bethsaida

Now, doesn’t Jesus surprise you by the strange ways He goes about healing people? Why not just “touch” the man as He was asked to do? Why not pray for everyone right where they are? Why lead this one out of town? Why not just lay hands on everyone and make the same prayer? Why spit on His eyes?!? All this should caution us that God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be working with us in unpredictable ways if we are willing and able to listen to Their

step by step guidance. There are even celebrated cases in church history where a man was healed of cancer by being punched in the stomach and a baby was drop-kicked into total health.⁴² Please don't try it yourself! These examples are only mentioned to prove the point that the Lord is still leading people in ways that absolutely break the mold.

Another point of tremendous importance is that even Jesus didn't always see healing happen immediately. Everybody's first thought is that if God is going to act it will be dramatic and immediate. Thank God for this story! Here the fellow acknowledges that some healing has taken place, but it is far from complete. So, Jesus prayed a second time. Then, the full victory came. This is immense encouragement for those of us who pray for healing. It really takes the "pressure" off to know that you can keep praying and that sometimes the healing will come slowly, non-dramatically, and progressively. You not only can keep praying, you can stop the process and ask how they are coming along, then get right back to it. In fact, if even a little movement in the direction of healing can be honestly reported, that becomes a huge faith-builder both for the one receiving prayer and the one giving it. Enhanced faith always releases more spiritual power. Since it worked for Jesus, let it work for you!

And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, 'Do you see anything?' And he looked up and said, 'I see men, but they look like trees, walking.' Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home, saying, 'Do not even enter the village.' Mark 8:22-26 ESV

Healing a Man with Hearing and Speech Problems

This healing is very similar to the preceding one, except that here the person has speech and hearing problems, and the other was blind. Again, we see Jesus doing something wildly unconventional. There is nothing in the literature about putting fingers in the ears and spitting, then touching the tongue. What's more, if someone tried to do that to us, we would recoil in shocked disbelief that anyone could be so gross. Nowadays, our customary protocol is to request permission just to lay one's hand on someone's shoulder. Can you imagine the scene if the minister said, "May I have permission to put my spit on your tongue?" It may be that Jesus would never lead us to do something so offensive to health and privacy concerns. But He may. Once thing is certain: If you want to see healing and deliverance happen for yourself or for others, be prepared to step outside your comfort zone. Way outside at times. The saying is: If you've got no guts, God gets no glory." (Ok, I just made that one up.)

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no

one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.' Mark 7:31-37 ESV

Only a Few Healings in Nazareth

We close this review of Jesus' healing ministry with the woeful recognition that even Jesus could not fully overcome the climate of unbelief in His hometown. He only managed to heal "a few sick people." Most of us would settle for that! Nevertheless, for Someone of the caliber of Jesus this is a genuine and unexpected setback. It shows us the key role that a faith community can play in advancing or inhibiting what God desires to do. Perhaps, inhibiting is putting it too mildly. It may not be within our power to start a true revival, for that is a sovereign work of God, but it is certainly within our power to shut it down.

Things like unbelief, a critical spirit, division, etc. quench the Holy Spirit.⁴³ They can easily crush the living daylights out of the sweet, tender buds of childlike faith and expectancy. There were times when Jesus and the Apostles put skeptics out of the room when they got ready to pray for healing.⁴⁴ We can certainly do that, but what do you do about a faith community with a climate of unbelief about it? You can't put them all out! And if the need for healing is immediate (as it usually is), then fasting and praying for transformation of the local church isn't a practical option. The answer is to seek the Lord where He can be found.⁴⁵ Jesus may not be moving in your church for healing. Get prayer there anyway. Who knows what God might do? But hedge your bet by going to churches, or ministry events, or conferences where the Lord is raising people up for supernaturally gifted ministry.

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, 'Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.' And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. Mark 6:1-6 ESV



CHAPTER FOUR

SCRIPTURES OF THE DISCIPLES IN ACTION

The disciples are the close circle of Jesus hand-picked followers that He was training to believe what He believed and to do the works that He did which included the 'children's bread' - healing and deliverance.⁴⁶ The Holy Spirit recorded occasions which demonstrate both their success and their failure while they were still 'babes in Christ.' This is certainly intended to be an encouragement to us: We too are disciples, hand-picked by Jesus and we too experience failure along with success. May we learn from both.



The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' Luke 10:17 ESV

Lessons the Disciples Can Teach Us

The disciples who walked with Jesus during His three years of ministry were given authority by Him to heal 'every disease and affliction' and to cast out spirits. But they were not always successful as their failure to liberate the demonized boy demonstrated. We can draw some encouraging insights from these two glimpses into this seldom recorded aspect of the disciple's lives:

1) Saving Faith Is Not Required

Not a single one of these first disciples were born again or had 'saving faith' at this point in their lives, yet they were still empowered by Jesus to pray for healing and deliverance. Apparently, Jesus is so willing to heal people that He will work through the prayers of anyone who is willing, even if they have a still undeveloped faith relationship with God.

2) Moral Perfection Is Not Required

Even Judas, who later betrayed Jesus, was among those who were sent out working miracles. Moral character is always desirable, but apparently perfection is not necessary for being a vessel of God to heal and liberated others. I note this not to promote apostasy, but to counter the enemy's accusations that you may not be 'mature' or 'worthy' enough to be used by God. Don't wait for moral perfection to arrive before you set out to be used of God.

3) Steady Success Is Not Required

We are shown that even the disciples who walked with Jesus and who would become the mighty apostles of the early church, nevertheless, experienced failure and perplexity



all along the way. That should encourage us to keep trying to be used and seeking to learn the ropes.

4) Being 'Somebody Special' Is Not Required

Jesus entrusted the healing ministry to untried new recruits that He had just invited to walk with Him. These were ordinary people like all of us. They only became extraordinary long after they began following Jesus and seeking to be of service to Him. Jesus seems to love to release people into ministry, even if it means that they will get in over their heads at times.

Three Instructive Episodes

We don't see the disciples in action nearly as much as we see Jesus. Naturally enough, the main message of the New Testament is about the Lord and, even there, the gospels don't give us nearly as much about Him as we would like to have. Even so, a loving Father has given us all we really need to get us up and running.

1. The Sending of the Twelve

At the end of Matthew Chapter 9 Jesus made His famous declaration about how ready the world was for harvesting and good it would be for people to pray for laborers to be sent forth to do that work. Evidently, He prayed. Did the disciples? It takes a lot of faith-courage to do town to town evangelism, especially when it's never been done before. By anyone. Jesus doesn't hesitate to send them out. Notice that He didn't call for volunteers. It's best in the healing ministry as in any other, to seek to stay under The Mercy and under The Obedience. This simplifies matters immensely. Notice, too, that He didn't give them very much in the way of training. They are to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons." But how? No manual has ever been found that carries that part of the instruction. Be assured of this: Reliance upon the Holy Spirit, compassion for the ones in need, and faith-boldness count for far more than head knowledge. Jesus has given us authority just as He gave it to them. What He can't give us is their pluck and courage. We will have to grow that ourselves with His help!

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 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 10:1-9 ESV



2. The Sending of the Seventy-two

These seventy-two “others” are not even a part of the inner circle of the twelve disciples we usually think about. We don’t even know their names. They form a kind of second wave for the healing revival Jesus is releasing. Or perhaps, a second string. Presumably, they have had even less training than the twelve. Those happy few were privileged to walk within ear shot of Jesus and could crowd around Him at the campfire to get the inside scoop on how He did what He did. Not so for these “others.” The seventy-two would likely have felt somewhat on the outside looking in, watching Jesus and His chosen twelve from a distance. Nevertheless, these obstacles – which seem large enough to us – didn’t cause them to stumble. They plunged into their assignment without hesitation and returned triumphantly. How would you like to have Jesus rejoicing over your efforts? May we learn from this that it doesn’t matter what we seem to have going for us or going against us. It only matters that we embrace the faith-adventure Jesus sets before us.

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... The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. Luke 10:1-2, 17-21 ESV

3. Disciples Unable to Heal a Demonized Boy

Even the best trained disciples can have an off day. Remember, these disciples are that hand-picked core group Jesus was personally training. You can’t get a better Instructor than that. Yet, they still failed to accomplish this healing. Apparently, Jesus expected that they could. Hearing their Master’s disappointment expressed so sharply and publicly must have been hard for them to bear. It even seems out of Character. This is the One of whom it is written that there is no condemnation in Him for those who are being redeemed by Him.⁴⁷

If this passage is of concern to you, I want to say that Jesus has had plenty to be upset with me about over the years, yet I have never known Him to express even the slightest frustration with my bumbling efforts. So, be encouraged. Besides, everything in a rebuke depends upon the tone of voice and the eye contact. I can’t help but believe that there is a wink in here that we can’t see. Even so, the message should be clear that the problem with healing is never God’s lack of willingness or ability, but our “faithless and twisted” ways. Now, that’s something we can work on.



And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.' And Jesus answered, 'O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.' Matthew 17:14-20 ESV



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CHAPTER FIVE

SCRIPTURES OF THE APOSTLES IN ACTION

After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus His close followers are no longer called disciples. They have become the apostles, the "sent ones" who are now fully commissioned to carry on in the Lord's absence the work He trained them to do: preach the good news and heal the sick. To their number others have been added, most notably Paul of Tarsus. The Church is launched with signs and wonders; so is its healing ministry.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. Acts 2:42-43 ESV

The Healing Ministry of Peter

This healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple illustrates a primary characteristic of how healing is to be done under the New Covenant. Peter builds faith with his words, sees faith rising in the man, senses the leading of God in the moment and then boldly [commands healing](#) to take place in Jesus Name. He later explained to the Jewish authorities that the healing had happened through the power of Jesus Name. Unlike much of traditional church praying, however, Peter used the Name -- not in petition to the Lord -- but in command to the man and/or his body.



Peter spoke with boldness based upon his faith-confidence in his power and authority as a follower of Jesus. Upon returning from imprisonment Peter acknowledges in prayer that the power that his words had released which healed the lame man was not his own but belonged to God. It was God's "hand" working through Peter and the boldness that was in him and in his words. Naturally enough, Peter is praying now for more boldness so that more of God's power will be released. The "scary" thing about praying for healing this way (the New Testament way) is that it puts us out there in a place of risk, where genuine boldness is needed.

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand



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and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Acts 3:1-10 ESV

In the next chapter, another characteristic of the healing ministry is revealed: It brings conflict and controversy, even among the faith community. Some of the Jewish people saw the miracle and believed that God was doing a new thing through these followers of Jesus. Others saw the same miracle and wanted to silence the apostles and bring their healing ministry to an end. We should expect this and be ready to do what Peter did. He used the attention that controversy always brings as a spotlight to showcase the gospel message he carried. This isn't possible if we find ourselves shocked and confused by controversy, wounded by accusations, or made fearful by opposition. So, let us keep praying for boldness (and compassion) to find the right way to say the right words!

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:5-12 ESV

This concluding section shows us how wonderful it is when we stand our ground in prayer and faith. Not only will we see the Lord coming to our rescue, we will find ourselves drawn deeper into the mystery of His love and power. The Lord "shows up" with such evidence of His presence that they are "filled with the Holy Spirit" and went out testifying with boldness. Pause for just a moment. Let us remember why they were filled with fresh boldness. They had been praying for it! Why? Because in the face of the conflict and controversy, they probably didn't feel bold. We ask for what we don't have, right? So, it is with us. We may not feel bold when opposition or discouraging times come, but that's the best time to pray for what we don't have and desperately need: fresh boldness!

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was



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shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31 ESV

Peter Is Joined by Others

As the revival intensified in Jerusalem not just Peter alone, but others of the twelve, perhaps even all of "the apostles," began seeing signs and wonders happening as part of their ministry. This is attributed, not to their prayers to God, but to their "hands," indicating that the healing was somehow seen as taking place directly through their faith-activity. Why were the healings taking place in Solomon's Portico? Jesus taught there! It provided a natural place just outside the courts of the Temple where people could meet and be instructed. In addition, such close proximity to the inner courts provided an atmosphere of worship, making both teaching and healing more effective.⁴⁸ Just as Jesus both taught and healed, so did the apostles. In fact, the two go dynamically together. The building of our faith comes by the word and healing miracles dramatically confirm the Word being taught.⁴⁹

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Acts 5:12-16 ESV

Peter's Ministry on the Coast

At Lydda Peter speaks the command of healing directly and boldly to the bedridden man. Then immediately he gives Aeneas a way to act upon both his own faith and Peter's: "rise and make your bed." Perhaps by this time in the revival a faith-expectancy has gathered around Peter as one through whom the Lord has consistently worked. The still small and young Christian community has been seeing signs and wonders taking place like an advancing tide. Surely people had heard the reports about Jesus healing "everyone" who had been brought to Him. Now Jesus' disciples and other followers are doing the same things He did! This was surely building a community of faith that fully expected and joyfully welcomed the miraculous. This is exactly opposite to what Jesus encountered in his home town of Nazareth, where he was once driven out and where he could do few healings "because of" their unbelief.⁵⁰

**Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Acts 9:32-35
ESV**

When Peter is brought to the bedside of Dorcas who had died, "something" moves on him to put the others outside and seek the Lord for the dead woman to be raised. Peter had seen Jesus do the same thing with Lazarus and with the son of the widow at Nain. What was he thinking? What was it that moved upon him? How did he sense a leading of the Lord in this situation? Why this woman and not Stephen, the first martyr, who had died earlier? We are only shown that he kneels in prayer to the Lord, then "turning to the body" he speaks forth the words commanding life. We are being shown "how it's done," but we are not getting all of our questions answered! Praying for healing is (in the best sense) a faith experiment with our own faith as the necessary catalyst. It is trial and error with lots of probing of God and His Word; lots of earnest seeking for more boldness and faith-confidence; lots of joyful, surprise-filled moments of success.

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner. Acts 9:36-43 ESV

The Healing Ministry of Philip

The healing revival spreads beyond the walls of Jerusalem and the close circle of those who originally followed Jesus. Philip is neither an apostle, nor even a former disciple of Jesus, but one of the new converts who came in after the events of Pentecost. Yet, even with one who stands in the same relationship to Jesus as all of us (ie. knowing Him only by faith), deliverance and healing springs forth. Philip leads with preaching the word and we can well imagine that it is with boldness, based on his approach to the Ethiopian eunuch. Boldness with the Word can stir faith to receiving healing; Philip evidently moved with boldness to take advantage of the Holy Spirit's availability: the people paid close attention to his words and his acts (the signs that "he did").

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. Acts 8:4-8 ESV



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The Healing Ministry of Paul

The first healing that happens in connection with Paul is his own. Blinded in the aftermath of the revelation he received on the road to Damascus, Saul (later Paul) is healed by the Lord through Ananias. Ananias clearly knows He is being sent by Jesus to lay hands on Saul to heal him and we are shown him doing just that with great boldness. We, too, have been commissioned by Jesus to heal. Ananias had a direct vision of Jesus to inflame his faith; we have the Word of God to confirm ours. Perhaps we need to pray to become as fully convinced as Ananias was that Jesus wants to work through us to heal the persons He sends us to. For his part Saul was probably wide open for receiving anything the Lord might send his way. His world had been turned upside down which opens us to new possibilities, while his faith would have been soaring in the wake of the fresh revelation he had received.

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. Acts 9:10-19 ESV

Paul's Method of Praying

Paul's way of praying for healing fits the pattern we saw with Peter. Although he prays at times to the Lord to get things started, the healing itself takes place as he lays hands on the person and speaks to them of their condition. In his letter to the Romans, Paul makes it clear that the deeds, signs and wonders (which surely included the healings) took place by "joint venture" with the Lord. God did them, but He did them through Paul.⁵¹ That's a different thing than saying, "God did these things at my request." There is also another pattern. In this first passage from Acts 14, not only did Paul have to press forward despite intense opposition, he stayed there a "long time." Such perseverance evidently paid off for many signs and wonders took place. Here then is the pattern: preaching the Word, opposition, faith, perseverance, boldness, prayer (by command and laying on hands), then healing. That's a lot to work through, but it seems to be a typical New Testament pattern.



Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. Acts 14:1-3 ESV

Some things cannot be sufficiently explained or taught in a classroom. How can you teach exactly what to look for in order to see that a person has “faith to be made well”? All we can say is watch for a look of expectancy, or intensity, or inquisitiveness, or desperation, or hope. We can also say if they look blank, or hardened, or angry, or if they are picking up stones they probably aren’t ready to be healed. Fortunately, we have the same Holy Spirit who was able to help Paul recognize the moment as had earlier helped Peter with the lame man at the Beautiful Gate. The tricky part is not getting the prompting, for it is the Holy Spirit’s delight to give it in a way that we can receive it. He is the Best Teacher on earth. No, the tricky part, is not being so caught up in our own agenda for how the meeting or the moment is going to go. If we aren’t careful we’ll go rushing right by the little nudge intended to get our attention. Paul got the nudge and leapt into re-directed action.

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And 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 began walking. Acts 14:8-10 ESV

Most of us ministers should all thank God that we haven’t killed someone with boredom, yet. Paul did (just joking, of course). But it didn’t phase him. We are told that the young man was “taken up dead” which doesn’t mean he was carried upstairs while dead, but that death had taken him away. So, Paul went downstairs to the rescue and announced the young man’s recovery. Did he pray for that recovery? Probably he did. Perhaps, as he “went down” or as he took him “in his arms.” Either way it was a miracle which shows us two things. Paul did not sink into confusion, condemnation or self-doubt as some of us might over such a situation: preaching so long someone fell asleep and fell to their death. That might sink our confidence in God, but we see no sign of it in Paul. He knew and believed in the grace of God for his life and for our lives like nobody else (other than Jesus). Hence, a miracle could happen through his wide-open faith. The other thing we see is that he went right back to preaching and “conversing” with them until daybreak! Evidently, many in the Early Church had a deep and abiding desire to be taught the things of God. This, too, is a necessary pre-condition for an atmosphere of faith for healing.

And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. Acts 20:9-11 ESV



Because scripture does not say all we would like it to tell us, we can easily be tempted to fill in the blanks with our own reasons and explanations. The early Quakers called Satan “the Reasoner” because his reasons led Eve away from the faith position God had earlier revealed. Here the temptation is to figure out how Paul was healed without a prayer being said. What was going on? Was it the Angel who shielded him? Was it Paul’s deep faith that forged the shield? Or his commitment? Certainly, the Lord is a shield to those who fear Him.⁵² Still, we suspect that many who love the Lord might not have been so well shielded. Was it Paul’s abiding sense of destiny and his faith that nothing could stop his assignment from being completed?⁵³ Perhaps. We just don’t know. This, too, is something we have to learn to get used to: Not having all the answers! Just keep walking forward in faith anyway.

After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. Acts 28:1-6 ESV

Paul seems never to have passed up an opportunity to lay hands for healing on someone. He hears that his host’s father is ill and immediately goes to pray for him. We might imagine that he was so eager because he knew his prayers were always going to be answered. He never had to worry about being made to look a fool. But that can’t be it. No one except Jesus could have had such an absolute assurance that every prayer would be answered and yet in Nazareth, even Jesus wasn’t able to heal many people.⁵⁴ Perhaps, it was as simple as this: Paul wasn’t worried about failing because he wasn’t worried what people might think. Perhaps, he only cared about what God would think, if he didn’t give it his best shot. The “no guts, no glory” rule applies here in spades: if we’ve got no guts, God gets no glory.” Martin Luther said that faith is a “bold, daring confidence in the grace of God.” This is surely the message of the apostles. Let’s set sail with them!

Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 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. And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed. Acts 28:7-10 ESV

CHAPTER SIX

SCRIPTURES FOR US IN ACTION

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.⁵⁵

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 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.

Unless it has vastly improved in our favor. 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?



In Matthew’s account of the twelve disciples, we see Jesus linking the healing mission to a bold proclamation of the kingdom of God being “at hand.” This

is the kingdom that we now know is always with us and around us, because of the indwelling Spirit.⁵⁶ They didn’t know that! Yet, they went out in obedience to Jesus’ command, not knowing even the half of that greater perspective which we enjoy on this side of the cross. In Jesus’ famous prayer, He told us to pray that God’s kingdom would come “on earth as in heaven.”⁵⁷ Believing this, we can have great faith-confidence that our Father desires heaven’s perfect health to come to us on earth, just as it already does for everyone in heaven.

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

Luke’s account of the seventy-two shows us that we don’t even have to be on the first string! The hand-picked twelve had already been sent out. Now, it was time for the “others”—all seventy-two of them. This second group had been waiting patiently on the bench for their turn



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on the playing field. Speaking of playing fields, this one -- the harvest field – evidently requires lots of prayer. Perhaps, while the seventy-two were waiting their turn, they were praying. God moves when we pray, but He can also use our prayers to get us moving: “Lord, send someone else. You know how shy I am, or how busy!” And He taps you on the shoulder anyway, throws the ball to you and out you go. This passage shows us that it is not our level of training, or our natural abilities, but His calling and our willingness that matter. These seventy-two make no excuses and show no sign of hesitation. Let us also embrace the adventure. He is certainly anointing, authorizing and empowering us to do what those pre-cross disciples were able to do.

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

We need to know that Jesus still wants the sick to be healed by us, just as He also wants us to be witnesses. It is not one or the other. In this sending passage from Mark, Jesus commands the eleven and through them, all of us, to “go into all the world.” The assignment? To proclaim the gospel of course. But not only that: They were to cast out demons, speak in tongues and pray for the sick. With that we could empty the pews in many churches. Getting to heaven is what many Christians signed on for but getting heaven to earth is why Jesus recruited us.

Clearly, the Lord will equip us to do what He has commissioned us to do. That’s where this sending passage gets sticky. Certain mainline Protestant denomination (not naming any names) are all onboard with the commission in Matthew 28 which only mentions preaching and teaching. However, to do this Great Commission, the baptism in the Spirit is required. How else can we pray in tongues? Not only that but casting out spirits and praying for the sick happen so much more frequently in those faith communities who believe in and practice the “second blessing” as the Lord’s chosen path to spiritual empowerment. For more on this please see [The Baptism of Power](#) at forerunners4Him.org.

Later, 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 receiving 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.”⁵⁸ 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.⁵⁹ 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.⁶⁰ By the “stripes” of Jesus everyone on earth was healed.⁶¹ 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.⁶² 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.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴ 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.⁶⁵ 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!⁶⁶

Our Assignment and Equipping

Jesus makes the startling claim which is also a prophetic prediction that a day is coming when His followers will do "greater works" than He did. What did He mean by that? Does it mean greater in the sense that there will be far more of us praying for healings and miracles and seeing them happen, than even He could accomplish during His glorious three years of ministry? Or, does it mean that miracles even greater in magnitude will happen? We don't know, but we are looking forward to finding out. Few believe that this prophecy was fulfilled by the apostles or the Early Church. That glorious time was a wonderful foretaste, but the best is yet to come. You and I are living at the cusp of those last days prophesied so long ago, when the glory of the latter house will exceed that of the former.⁶⁷ Every need we see, every opportunity we have to pray for healing, takes us one step closer to the fulness of what Jesus set before us. Let's keep practicing and pressing in for that ultimate break-through.

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

In this next passage, we see our commission. It is directly from the One who chose us. Jesus chose us to bear fruit and is working with us to help our fruit abide. This promise literally covers the map. Every aspect of our faith journey falls under the scope of this abiding promise: Jesus is with us to help us with "anything" we ask in His Name. We need the fruit of His Spirit in our lives, right? We also need the fruit of good deeds. (Let this article, [Talent, Fruit and Gifts](#) bring fresh insight.) Above all, our interest here is in the fruit of healed and restored lives and bodies.

The key is going to be growing the kind of faith-confidence that anything we ask in Jesus Name, will be done for us by the Father. If this was as easy as adding "the Name of Jesus" to the end of every prayer, we would see the entire Christian world healed and whole by now. That

just isn't happening. The secret may be in learning to "abide" in Jesus. Unless we abide in Jesus none of the fruit of the Spirit "remain" in us – the peace sails out when anxiety barges in. Joy leaves when anger arrives. Doing His works requires abiding in Him – to some degree. Only the Lord knows that equation, but we can know this one: To do what He did, it only makes sense that we learn to live as He lived. That way He can live through us now and work through us now, so much better. As John the Baptist said, we must decrease that He might increase.⁶⁸

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

Paul gives us the clearest picture of the equipping that comes through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. These nine gifts of the Spirit were evident in Jesus' life after the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. At Pentecost, the apostles began moving in the same supernatural ministry as Jesus as soon as they, too, were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Often called "[Manifestation Gifts](#)" these "activities" of the Spirit are essential for supernatural ministry and miraculous healings. They are never under our direct control. The gift is given – manifested -- as needed in the moment. Nevertheless, there is much that we can do to learn about them, receive them, cultivate them and be ready to operate in them. As with so many other things in life (sports for instance), if we want to get good at something it takes practice and it also helps to hang out with others who are doing the same thing. Churches and conferences where these gifts are in operation are, perhaps, the best place to go to grow in these gifts or to receive healing through those who already walk in them.

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 apportions to each one individually as he wills. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV

This passage from Paul's letter to the Corinthians shows us what the apostles expected to see in a typical church of their day. We have fallen quite a way from that good beginning. Take time to go over this list slowly with the churches of today in mind. Paul isn't expecting that anyone would have all the gifts or that everyone would have any one of them. But he certainly seems to take it for granted that every one of these gifts and positions is filled and functioning in the local church. That cannot yet be said of many of our churches. Let us hope the good change is coming. In the meantime, the Lord can meet us where He places us and lead us if we are in the wrong place. Seek Him. Just realize what we are up against, so to speak, when we seek healing in the present-day church. We are not yet restored to the level of the Early Church, but the Lord is working with us. That day will come, and He can still do mighty things with an expectant and believing heart. Many of us believe that a great healing revival is on the horizon. We who are

seeking healing, or seeking to grow at praying for healing, are helping prepare the way for the next move of God.

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

Paul takes the lid off with this soaring praise to the One who can do “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” In business terms, this is God’s way of saying that we have been leaving a lot on the table. He has so much more for us than we are (so far) able to access or receive. But we are learning. One of the major learning points for the Body of Christ in the last few decades has been that this power we seek is “at work within us.” For centuries the Church had been trained to go to God in petition alone, when seeking healing or any other answer to prayer. Now, we are seeing that more results come our way when we pray like Jesus and the apostles did. They didn’t just petition God, they rebuked disease and demons away and they commanded healing and miracles to come. This is a sea change for our little ships of faith. It puts us into uncertain waters but brings with it the promise of new horizons to explore. Follow this link for more on the [Five Biblical Ways to Pray](#).

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

James packed a lot into this brief passage. His expectation is that our first line of defense is to do our own praying: “let him pray.” However, as we know we can be stumped in prayer, so when outside help is needed, go to the “elders of the church.” This probably meant men in a position of church leadership but can be interpreted broadly to mean those who like elders, have an ability, or calling, or experience which recommends them to you for their prayers. Anointing with oil is advised, but it is the “prayer of faith” that brings the saving help.

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

Everywhere we go, we keep coming back to the central role of faith. However, we need to understand that the faith needed is of a special kind. We may not be able to describe what it is exactly, but God certainly knows what He is looking for.⁶⁹ Healing is not a reward for proper faith. It is an activity that happens through faith -- through the right kind of faith, because faith is the “substance” of things hoped for.⁷⁰ All of salvation comes to us through faith: Healing is no

different. The saving help of healing comes through a special quality of faith that cannot be faked, or worked up, or imitated. Jesus said to work at our faith.⁷¹ Indeed, all who seek to be vessels of healing work at holding a faith-expectancy in their hearts. All who desire to receive, may likewise work at holding faith expectancy in their hearts, too. But there is no precise pattern or guarantee. There is mystery. And there is promise. And there is time to keep growing.

A further point from James is the thorny connection between sin and sickness. Not all sickness may be due to a person's sin by any means. Some sickness come to us when someone we are helping sneezes on us! But modern medical science has been uncovering the connection between sickness and what we could call sinfulness. Being anxious or afraid, being jealous or resentful, are conditions that few would want to call sins. They are, however, sinful conditions of the heart. They certainly aren't righteous conditions of the heart. Whatever is not of the deep peace of Christ, throws us into stress of one kind or another and it is stress that pulls down our immune system and comprises our health where so many diseases are concerned.

James doesn't know our science, but he does know that disease comes in through what's wrong in us, not through anything wrong with God. His conclusion? God definitely wants to heal us. We may, however, need to repent of an action or an attitude, confessing to one another and praying for each other. Begin by checking for unforgiveness, fear or depression. These attract illness like magnets. For more on this see [Disease and Dis-ease](#).



SCRIPTURES AND ENDNOTES

Foundational Truths in Scripture

¹ Scriptures for healing are faith builders: So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 WEB

² For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 WEB

³ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalms 103:2-5 ESV

⁴ Read Deuteronomy to see how the curse of disease is not something that God wants for any of us - He desires that we listen to His voice and walk in His ways so that He can shower us with blessings. However, He "sends" disease as a consequence of our sins. He is no respecter of persons: even the covenant people receive the curse and its consequences if they choose not to seek God, listen to His voice or obey Him.

⁵ There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer." Exodus 15:25-26 ESV

⁶ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:5-8 ESV

⁷ For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 ESV

⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job 2:6-7 ESV

⁹ This is just one of many passages that could be cited showing how Job let go of faith and began blaming God: Behold, I cry out, 'Violence!' but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice. He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths. He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head. He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, and my hope has he pulled up like a tree. He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as his adversary. Job 19:7-11 ESV

¹⁰ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 ESV

¹¹ In His conversation with a non-Jewish woman who was seeking healing for her daughter, Jesus called the ministry of demonic deliverance "the children's bread." Children's bread indicates that healing and deliverance are not only for the "children" of the covenant, but also that such supernatural working is meant to be as commonplace and life-giving as our daily bread: And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Matthew 15:22-25 ESV

¹² "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5 ESV

¹³ "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 14:12-14



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

¹⁴ "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

Old Testament Scriptures

¹⁵ Read Deuteronomy to see how the curse of disease is not something that God wants for any of us—He desires that we listen to His voice and walk in His ways so that He can shower us with blessings. However, He "sends" disease as a consequence of our sins. He is no respecter of persons: even the covenant people receive the curse and its consequences if they choose not to seek God, listen to His voice or obey Him.

¹⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6 ESV

¹⁷ "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." Luke 4:27 ESV

¹⁸ You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? Psalm 56:8 ESV

¹⁹ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 ESV

²⁰ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25

²¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 ESV

²² His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:3-4

²³ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ESV

²⁴ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. Luke 12:48 ESV

²⁵ And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." John 12:32 ESV

²⁶ Here is the quote that I have heard for years, but I can't find the source to confirm it: "A Christian should read the Bible through the lens of the gospel." Even if Luther didn't write this, it nicely describes his approach to reading scripture by seeking an interpretation of each passage that also fits with Christ and the gospel.

²⁷ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10 ESV

Scriptures of Jesus in Action

²⁸ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:7 ESV

²⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. John 5:19 ESV

³⁰ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' John 1:33 ESV

³¹ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." John 6:28-29 ESV



³² Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:16-18 ESV

³³ And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:2-4 ESV

³⁴ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' Luke 12:18-20 ESV

³⁵ And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. John 9:2-3 ESV

³⁶ As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come. Proverbs 26:2 KJV

³⁷ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25 ESV

³⁸ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." Mark 7:37 ESV; "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37 ESV

³⁹ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24 ESV

⁴⁰ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:11-12 ESV

⁴¹ I know that there are purists out there who believe it is wrong of people to go to doctors, rather than exclusively to God in prayer, but that doesn't seem to be the position of Jesus, who when He had the chance to disparage the medical profession, merely used it as a wholesome analogy: And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17 ESV; See also Matthew 9:12. Then, there is Luke whom Paul calls the "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). In addition, the Lord asks a rhetorical question: Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? Jeremiah 8:22 ESV. Here again there is no reproach that the medical profession of their day had balms, just that this wound could not be cured by them. We can go to doctors. They may help us heal. But it is God alone who does the healing, so we should always be looking to Him and leaning on Him.

⁴² Extraordinary things like this happened in the ministry of [Smith Wigglesworth](#) (1859-1947).

⁴³ Surrounding the warning not to quench the Holy Spirit are specific things not to do. We should avoid them at all costs! : See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:15-21 ESV

⁴⁴ One example is the healing of Jairus' daughter: They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, 'Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Mark 5:38-40 ESV

⁴⁵ "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. Isaiah 55:6 ESV

Scriptures of the Disciples in Action

⁴⁶ In His conversation with a non-Jewish woman who was seeking healing for her daughter, Jesus called the ministry of demonic deliverance 'the children's bread.' Children's bread indicates that healing and deliverance are not only for the 'children' of the covenant, but also that such supernatural working is meant to be as commonplace and life-giving as our daily bread: And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely



oppressed by a demon.' But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she is crying out after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' And he answered, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.' Matthew 15:22-25 ESV

⁴⁷ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1 ESV

Scriptures of the Apostles in Action

⁴⁸ The Lord says that He "inhabits" the praises of His people. Such infusions of the presence of God cannot help but enhance everything we may be doing: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. Psalm 22:3 ESV

⁴⁹ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. Matthew 13:53-58 ESV

⁵¹ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience-by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God-so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Romans 15:17-19 ESV

⁵² You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. Psalm 115:11 ESV

⁵³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. Act 27:23-25 ESV

⁵⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. Mark 6:4-5 ESV

Scriptures of Us in Action

⁵⁵ "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

⁵⁶ One quick way to see this reality of the kingdom being with us is through Paul's description which links the kingdom of God to the Holy Spirit's power and presence. And we know where that is: it is right inside every believer! For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17 ESV

⁵⁷ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 ESV

⁵⁸ 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

⁵⁹ 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

⁶⁰ 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

⁶¹ 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

⁶² 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

⁶³ 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

⁶⁴ 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

⁶⁵ 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.

⁶⁶ 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

⁶⁷ 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

⁶⁸ “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 ESV

⁶⁹ Jesus was looking for a certain kind of faith. He saw it in the men who lowered their paralyzed friend through the roof: And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” Luke 5:20 ESV. That Jesus is looking for faith all over the earth is attested to by Luke also: I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” Luke 18:8 ESV

⁷⁰ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 ESV

⁷¹ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” John 6:28-29 ESV

