

The Faith to be Healed

One thrilling aspect of the millennium will be God's presence amongst His people and the healing on a vast scale that will result. Isaiah 35:5-6 '*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.*'

How we all look forward to that day, when all people will be released from the bondage of sickness and disease! And yet my brethren today I want to show you that **we** need not wait until then, if only we are prepared to believe the words of Jesus Christ – words which all too often we have failed to put together, words we have read over but failed to understand. In fact Jesus always intended that the firstfruit harvest have access to miraculous Divine healing as a sign of His presence in God's church.

We understand so much more than most people of God's Law and way of life, that it often makes us more conscious of our failings. We are so much more aware of our sins, our weaknesses, and we have doubted, not at Christ's *ability* to heal, but His *willingness* to heal us.

Today, I want you to cast that doubt aside brethren. Why did God create your body with such marvelous natural healing power? He wants you to be 100% healthy! He **made** you to be healthy and to feel well, to be whole spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. That's why we never need avoid medical help. Doctors can help you to understand the way your body works. They can give useful advice and treatment, but in the final analysis they can only work with Gods natural healing processes.

When you think about it, we accept that God has given man knowledge and gifts which all of us accept and use. I need to wear glasses to correct short sight. We visit the dentist to keep our teeth in good order; if we break a bone or have a car smash, we accept hospital treatment without question.

Most of us wash and clean minor cuts and grazes, put on some antiseptic cream and a band aid and expect God to heal through the inbuilt healing process He has placed in our bodies.

Over the years, mankind has learned to use various plants for healing, such as 'knitbone' for broken bones, foxgloves (digitalis) for heart troubles and aspirin from the willow bark to relieve pain. And nowadays these natural remedies have been refined into potent pill and drug form. This God expects and sanctions in Revelation 22:2, '*On either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*'

Now some would suggest that we should rely upon Christ alone to heal our every health problem, but think back to the miraculous healings He performed. They were all *major* health problems for which in those days there was no treatment – blindness, leprosy, the deaf and dumb, paralysis and hemorrhaging – no mention of minor ailments at all.

It seems that God expects us to utilize the knowledge and gifts he has given us, while keeping our bodies as healthy as we can by good diet and exercise, without polluting them with unnecessary drugs, abusive alcohol use, smoking or unclean foods.

If we need treatment for a health problem, a doctor's help and advice can be instructive and useful, *while at the same time* asking God's blessing and help upon His healing process, but in the end doctors can only do so much, even today, while *nothing* is beyond God's healing!

Then, **we** have access to God's supernatural, unlimited ability to restore what He has made, because we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Jesus Christ was healthy in every way. He never sinned or became sick. Sickness comes upon us because we live in a sinful world. We have mistreated and polluted the world, and we have polluted ourselves with sin.

Spiritually and morally we are none of us whole, and so physically we become sick too, though

sometimes our sickness derives from what we have done to our polluted environment. No doubt then, that sin is the source of our sickness and disease.

Either way it is never, ever, God's will for us to be sick, and we must understand that Jesus gave His life to bring us salvation, not just for our spiritual future, but for our physical body as well. To be made whole again **we must repent and be forgiven:** Psalm 41:4 *'I said [David] Lord be merciful unto me: heal my soul [body] for I have sinned against thee.'*

In Isaiah 53 we are told that Jesus died not only for our sins, but He carried away our sicknesses, infirmities, grief's and sorrows as well! Verse 4-5 *'Surely he hath borne our grief's, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.'* The word grief's here in verse 4 means sicknesses or diseases and 'sorrows' means 'pains' in the Hebrew.

In other words the price He paid dealt with our disease, sickness and pain just as much as it did with our sins! Does anybody doubt that our sins can be forgiven? Then equally, why should we doubt God's will to heal us - His desire for us to be healthy? Notice verse 7, *'He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth'*. Jesus, between His arrest and his death on the stake was oppressed and afflicted so that we can also be set free from the oppression of evil forces and depression which can torment those not fully protected by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did nothing of His own will. John 6:38 *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."* He spoke only the words His father gave, for as John 10:30 says, *"I and my Father are one."*

Sickness entered the world with sin, but God explains it is in His nature to heal us, his people. Exodus 15:26 *'And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.'* And Exodus 23: 25-26 *'And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.'*

The implication is that healing is dependent upon obedience. God never changes. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and he wants you 100% well because he is our Healer. Jesus has always taught His people to step out in obedience to His word. So it was that **Abram left** Babylon, as the Lord had told him, *"to go to the land that God would show him."* So it was that in Hebrews 11:11, *"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."* **She believed!**

The facts said they were too old to have children, but God promised them a son and God cannot lie. We have to learn to look beyond the facts, to Jesus Christ and His promises. Facts are not the ultimate truth for believers, because we look to God's word, His promises, and the Power of Jesus Christ instead. Matthew 28:18, *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*

We don't deny the facts, but we recognize that God has the power to change the facts. **Any** symptoms we might display are insignificant when compared to this mighty power given to Jesus Christ our Saviour, bearing in mind that, in old age, we all have to die, eventually.

Jesus got that message over to His disciples in feeding the 5000. The disciples looked at the 5 loaves and 2 fishes and said "No way!" Jesus understood the power of God available to Him and blessed the food, so that all ate and left over 12 baskets of remains. He did this to show us the power of faith over visible facts. We must put our faith in Jesus, as He placed His in His Father's will to heal every person who came to Him for healing. Matthew 4:23-24. Jesus healed them all.

In Matthew 8:2, a leper came to Jesus for healing. *'And behold, there came a leper and worshipped him saying, Lord, IF thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.'* Have we said that brethren? We know He can heal but we question His will to heal. To say, "if it be your will" when you have read the promises and know the character of God, will undermine **faith**. Jesus, in His reply, simply removed the IF in verse 3. Because His Father always wants to heal, Jesus always wants to heal. He turned nobody away, ever. A Roman centurion came to Jesus. Matthew 8:6, *'And when Jesus entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, "Lord my servant lies at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented."* Jesus always responds to those who come to him. He did not heal all the sick in Israel, but he did heal ALL who came to him. And Christ has power over any disease you can suffer. One word from Him is enough to effect your healing. Jesus always acts according to the faith expressed, - verse 13, *'Jesus said, "Go thy way, and as thou hast believed so be it done unto you. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."*

On another occasion, a paralytic man was brought to Jesus on a stretcher. It was FAITH that brought the man to the healer. Faith means trusting God, trusting in what he has done and what he has said. Jesus realised this man's problems were spiritual as well as physical – he perceived the man needed forgiveness. Is this not true of all of us? But in this case Jesus believed the paralysis was the result of guilt. There was no long prayer. Jesus said, *"Your sins are forgiven."* Matthew 9:2. Jesus had the authority to forgive and equally the authority to heal. Matthew 9:6, *"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy) Arise, take up your bed, and go unto your house."*

The man responded with faith – he *acted* on the word of Jesus and was healed. Are we as ministers of God to say only, "Your sins are forgiven you in Christ Jesus", when a person requests anointing, without verifying our commission by also saying, the equivalent of "Get up and walk?" It is a matter of BELIEF for both of us! When Jesus was called by Jairus to lay hands on his daughter, Jesus responded immediately, but before he reached and healed her, a woman with an issue of blood reached out to touch him. Her faith was made manifest in her action, but she wasn't the only one healed in this way.

Luke 6:19, *'And the whole multitude sought to touch him, for there went virtue out of him, and HEALED THEM ALL!'* Never confuse faith with hope that something MIGHT happen in the future. Jesus says BELIEVE that we have received the answer and it will be ours. Sometimes we may be healed instantly, but sometimes we need to continue to have faith in our healing until the healing is completed. During this time we must not doubt, but continue to thank God for his unbreakable promises to those who believe, his children. At Jairus' house, Jesus cleared out the scorners: Matthew 9:24-25, *'He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ...'* He wanted all unbelief removed, Mark, 5:36, 41-42, *'But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe." ...Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded.'*

Jesus could respond to the father's faith, but what if we feel we lack that kind of faith? Then we must confess our sin of unbelief in Christ's plain words. Let Him forgive your unbelief and THEN ask for the gift of FAITH through the Holy Spirit. Read again God's promises to heal. It is possible to have great faith in his ability to heal, but not faith in his promised WILL to heal, and the source of this doubt and much of the sickness that results is SATAN.

Satan is a thief and a liar. He sets out to destroy faith and cause fear and anxiety in our lives. Sickness can begin as a negative seed planted in your mind by Satan. Never tolerate such negative thoughts.

Luke 10:19, *"Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* This means that believers are given authority over demons - Mark 16:17, *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils."*

We have no need to fear them, or their influence. If you are ever troubled by such negative thoughts about

sickness you can drive them out with authority in the name of Jesus. If you are in private don't be afraid to speak out aloud; we need to be positive about our God promised health and protect it. Now that we know that it is God's will that we be healthy and that Christ WILL do what he has promised, what should we do ?

Matthew 17:20 *"For verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* Remember the occasion when his disciples were unable to heal a child possessed by a demon? Jesus explains why sometimes our prayers go unanswered verse 17, *'And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me."* It is because of our *unbelief* in his power and will to heal. He is not referring to physical mountains here brethren, but what seems like huge mountains to us – cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, etc. Christ is telling us that if we BELIEVE God's word, if we have FAITH rather than HOPE we can expect supernatural intervention and healing.

Once again it boils down to believing and trusting in Christ's words. Each of us can have the kind of faith required if we will follow these steps.

1. Know your God Understand his revealed character, from the Bible – the fact that He calls himself, *"the Lord that healeth thee."* If you are sick, don't look at your own unworthiness but at His Grace. If we waited until we deserved healing we would wait forever. Instead, believe what he has said to his church. John 14:11-12. *"Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father."* Christ has given power to his followers! Have we believed brethren, or just read over it, almost as a fairy tale?
2. Live out His words : I John 3:21-22, *'Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.'*

We need to obey so that our hearts do not condemn us. Unconfessed sin can steal our confidence before God, as we pray. Obey then, repent, and please your God.

- a. GIVE God gives and He wants us to be like Him. If we are ever short on *receiving* what we need from Him we should consider what we are *giving* to Him. Malachi 3:10. Every one of us can give, even the poorest – Mark 12:41-44, *'And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.... Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."*
- b. Forgive
"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us."
- c. Right family relations 1 Peter 3:1-7, especially verses 1 & 7. *'In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives... You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.'* Women today sometimes wear the trousers because all too often their men won't! Too many men fail to take full responsibility for their family and fail to lead, as they should.

3. We must look beyond the mere facts, to Jesus

Let's not have more faith in the symptoms and the doctor's prognosis than in Christ's given power and will to heal. Some will only believe when the symptoms are gone, but Faith believes *before* the event, knowing that God *will* carry out his promise. Sometimes there can be even an

intensification of symptoms before healing but always we must keep our eyes on Jesus, Matthew 14:30-31, *'But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?'*

1. Never let the facts overwhelm you.
2. Look to Jesus in faith.
3. Call out to God in Jesus Christ's name for all the power needed to save you.
4. Simply BELIEVE and carry out God's instructions - you must **step out** in faith.

Every one of God's ministers has been commissioned by God to bring healing to His people, though others have also been given the gift of healing. God's ministers anoint with oil as a biblical symbol of the Holy Spirit and lay on hands to release the power of God in that person to heal them. So when you get sick, come to God's minister for anointing! James 5: 14-15, *'Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him....'*

If the patient believes he has received the healing, whether he feels anything or not, God will honour that faith and His own promises, clearly given here, and he or she will be healed!

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when you pray **believe that you receive them** and you shall have them."*

We all of us need to take courage in those words brethren. We need to repent of our unbelief in Jesus Christ's words and boldly claim those promises without fear of failure, so that miraculous power can accompany our witness to the world. For too long we have been afraid to believe.

We proclaim forgiveness of sins through Christ's sacrifice, but the miraculous healings have not been as evident as they should be to the world. Mark 16: 17-18, *"These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues [languages]; they will remove serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them in any way; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* Every true Christian can expect to see miracles in his or her life!

Let's take Jesus at his word brethren, and these signs will surely follow our work, in confirmation of its truth, and we won't be waiting unnecessarily for the miraculous healings of the Millennium!

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