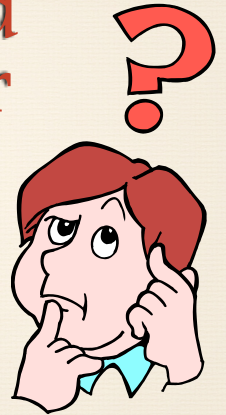


# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*John 5:1-9*  
**Lesson #17**  
**Praying for Healing**  
**11/08/2015**

## How should we pray for healing?



## The Gospel of John

### Healing words 5:1-9

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Ministry to the disciples	Ministry to the world of sinners
1-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-21
Sins				Sermons	Sacrifice
5:1-9 Ministry				Private ministry	Paschal ministry
Jerusalem				Jerusalem	
About 3 1/2 years				Only a few days	

### John 5:1-9

“<sup>1</sup> After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. <sup>3</sup> In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters; <sup>4</sup> for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.



“<sup>5</sup> And a certain man was there, who had been thirty-eight years in his sickness. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, “Do you wish to get well?” <sup>7</sup> The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, “Arise, take up your pallet, and walk.” <sup>9</sup> And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and began to walk. **Now it was the Sabbath on that day.**”



## Observations

- The following context indicates that the healing simply sets the stage for other issues (like the Sabbath).
- It appears that Jesus did not heal the whole "multitude".
- The healing angel (vs.3b-4) is not in the oldest and best manuscripts.
- Jesus brings healing words with no clear indication of faith on the part of the one healed.

**Rule #1** *Realize that God does not always need faith or prayer in order to heal.*

## Mark 11

"22 And Jesus answered saying to them, 'Have faith in God. 23 Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him. 24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.'

- Jesus often used hyperbole as in Matt.5:29-30.
- A wise father wants his child to ask in faith but will do what is best for the child and in keeping with the bigger picture of life.
- We can be thankful that this "promise" is not to be taken too literally.

**Rule #2** *Know that we have an intimate audience with God through faith in Christ.*

**Some passages include conditions that focus on more than our faith.**

## John 15

"7 **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples."

## 1 John 5

"14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that , **if we ask anything according to His will,** He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

**Rule #3** *Don't be too presumptuous about knowing God's will.*

- God's declared will is not always His decreed will.

## 1 Timothy 2:4

"who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"

- Even Jesus saw God's will as dynamic.

## Luke 22:42

"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but Yours be done."

- God's will can be effected by our choices.

## James 4:3

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures (**natural desires**)."

**Be careful of dangerous assumptions**

1.

It is always God's will to heal when and how we want.

2.

God has secured our healing in this life through the Cross.

3.

God has promised healing to all who ask in faith.

4.

Those who disagree with this teaching are robbing God's people of their right to promised health.

**The two possible results of not believing in God's will**





**Rule #4 Read the Scripture carefully to refine your expectations.**

*Deuteronomy 7:14-15*

"You shall be the most blessed of peoples, with neither sterility nor barrenness among you or your livestock. The Lord will turn away from you every illness."

**Is freedom from illness promised to us unconditionally?**

**All Scripture is written  
for us  
but not to us  
or about us.**

*Romans 8*

"<sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, **even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.** <sup>24</sup>For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

**This life will call for patience, forbearance, and pain as we wait for Christ's return.**

**Painful circumstances can have hidden blessings.**

*2 Corinthians 12*

"<sup>7</sup> And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, **a messenger of Satan to buffet me** - to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."



**Many believe that Paul had an eyesight problem.**

*Galatians 4*

"<sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a **bodily illness** that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in **my bodily condition** you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup> Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have **plucked out your eyes and given them to me.**"

**Paul was not perplexed by unresolved suffering or illness.**

*1 Timothy 5:23*

"No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and our frequent ailments."

*2 Timothy 4:20*

"but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus."

*Galatians 4*

"<sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe,"



## Common sense analogies can keep us from false expectations.

*Matthew 8:17*

“in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ‘He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases.’”

*The atonement removed our illnesses in the same way it removed our sins*

- **Past** - The curse of sin is gone.
- **Present** - The power of sin is broken.
- **Future** - The full removal of sin awaits the resurrection.

## Rule #5 As a general rule - if something is “a concern” or source of anxiety - pray.

*1 Peter 5*

“<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> **casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you. . . . <sup>10</sup> **After you have suffered for a little while**, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

**Patience in taking our concerns to God in prayer is to be expected.**

## Reducing the dissonance when God does not heal

1.

We need a theology of death and suffering as well as healing.

2.

We need well placed hope, as well as deep faith.

3.

We need to keep the main thing the main thing and tell the truth.

4.

We need to cultivate Biblical expectations that include both healing and also holiness.

## Remember

**Rule #1** Realize that God does not always need faith or prayer in order to heal.

**Rule #2** Know that we have an intimate audience with God through faith in Christ.

**Rule #3** Don't be too presumptuous about knowing God's will.

**Rule #4** Read the Scripture carefully to refine your expectations.

**Rule #5** If something is “a concern” or source of anxiety - pray.

## How should we pray for healing?

1.

Pray to be aligned with Christ's values.

2.

Pray to be sensitive to the core needs.

3.

Pray with humble submission to God's sovereign purposes.

4.

**Cast all cares on God with faith that He will bring His blessing.**